

# THE RILEY REPORT

## News of the Township,

by Supervisor Karen Schnable



### Contact Numbers

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*Duane Dahlman*

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## The Role of Township Government

The role of township government is often misunderstood. There is a lot of talk about eliminating township government so it is important for everyone to understand the services townships provide. It is important to note that township government is funded with local property tax dollars and not state revenue. Eliminating township government will not help the Illinois budget crisis. Supporters of eliminating township government assume the services townships provide will continue, however they have no plan to assure that will happen. Are the legislators concerned about reducing your taxes, or looking to liquidate the assets of the townships and use those funds to pay state debt?

**Riley Township provides many services to the community, services that are not provided by other government agencies.** The town fund is responsible for disbursing general and emergency assistance to needy families, assessing your property, and maintaining the cemetery and Town Hall. The Riley Township Road District is responsible for 47 miles of Township roads. This includes the plowing, mowing and paving of these roads. If the township were eliminated, who would take on these duties? I find it hard to believe other agencies would assume these duties without an increase in funding, so until a plan is established, Riley Township appears to be the best option.

No one has made a credible argument that eliminating township government will save any taxpayer money. It is not clear who would take over our responsibilities and where the funding would come from. No one has proved that having a larger, centralized bureaucracy taking over township duties will make our services better or cheaper. Before any decisions are made, our state legislators need to address these issues or the only losers will be the people who live in the rural areas and rely on Riley Township for services.

## Attention All Seniors

I am very excited to announce that the Riley/Marengo Seniors program will continue for another year. This program is funded by a grant that was received from the County. For those of you who might not be familiar with the program, the seniors meet on the third Friday of the month at 10:30 AM. The activities, which are run by Senior Services, include free health screening for things like blood pressure and diabetes, a short speaker on topics that will be useful to our seniors, a FREE lunch, and an activity will also take place. This year's scheduled activities will include an earth day party in April, an ice cream social in May, a holiday party in December and various Bingo days with other activities in between. These have all been very popular events. If you know a senior that would enjoy getting out for an afternoon, encourage them to attend. If you have any questions regarding our senior days, feel free to call me at 815-568-7001



## Mark your calendars for these important dates

### Riley Township Board Meeting Dates

April 9, 2012  
May 8, 2012  
June 12, 2012  
July 10, 2012  
August 14, 2012  
September 11, 2012  
October 9, 2012  
November 13, 2012  
December 11, 2012

All meetings start at 7:00 PM at the Riley Town Hall

### Riley Township Plan Commission Meeting Dates

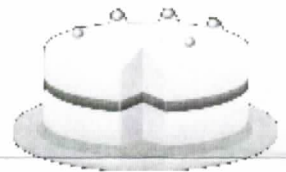
April 4, 2012  
June 6, 2012  
August 1, 2012  
October 3, 2012  
December 5, 2012

The Riley Township plan commission meets the first Wednesday of every other month 7:00 PM at the Riley Towns Hall to discuss any zoning changes within the Township. If you need to contact the board please call Supervisor Schnable at 815-568-7001.

## Senior Times, Locations and Dates

The Seniors meet at the following dates and locations at 10:30 AM

April 20, 2012 at the Riley Town Hall  
May 18, 2012 at the Riley Town Hall  
June 15, 2012 at the Marengo Township Building  
July 20, 2012 at the Marengo Township Building  
August 17, 2012 at the Marengo Township Building  
September 21, 2012 at the Marengo Township Bldg.  
October 19, 2012 at the Riley Town Hall  
November 16, 2012 at the Riley Town Hall  
December 21, 2012 at the Riley Town Hall



## Tired of Spring cleaning?

### Then come to our Annual Town Meeting!

As spring approaches many things come to mind, the return of the robins, tulips, daffodils and the Riley Township Annual town meeting. Every year since 1850, the electors of Riley Township have gathered to discuss the past and look to the future of the Township. Of course with any meeting, there is official business that needs to be conducted, but more importantly, it is a time to speak to your Township officials and in many cases, meet your neighbors. Much of Riley Township is rural, so there are many instances where our neighbors live miles down the road. This is an opportunity to meet the people you wave to as you drive by. As Supervisor I enjoy the annual town meeting. It is almost a social get together and an opportunity to exchange ideas about the future of the Township. It is also nice to get feedback from the electors who we represent. It is an opportunity for you to tell us what you like and don't like about the Township. Many things can be changed and unfortunately some cannot, but it gives everyone the opportunity to express their ideas. This years annual town meeting is on **Tuesday April 10th, 7:30 PM** at the Riley Town Hall, located on Riley Road. Together we can continue to make Riley Township a great place to live.



# The Unsung Heroes of Riley Township

I know many of you are familiar with the Township board because you see our names on occasion, especially during election time. But do you know there are many other people that live in Riley Township who dedicate their time with little or no recognition? These people serve on two of our unpaid township boards to assist us in making Riley a great place to live. Riley Township has two boards that are appointed at various cycles. One is the cemetery board. If you drive down Riley Road and look across the street from the Town Hall you will notice the prettiest little cemetery that looks like it was taken straight out of a Norman Rockwell photo. This cemetery is the responsibility of Riley Township, but is run by seven board members appointed by the Township. They take care of the cemetery to assure its grass is mowed, the graves are kept up, the bills are paid and it is following all the new regulations set forth by the state. These people spend one Saturday in the spring cleaning the cemetery and preparing it for summer mowing. This is a thankless job, but one that must be done to keep the cemetery looking as nice as it does. Many of these people have served on the board forever and I think it is time that we recognize them and thank them for their community service. Your current Cemetery board is Doug Borhart, Jack Burke, Clarice Dahlman, Karen Dornick, Bill Eschbach, Cary Mallory and Donna Oberg. I would like to personally thank them and everyone else who has served in the past.

The Riley Township Plan Commission is the other board that donates hours of their time to make Riley a better place. This board meets approximately six times a year to discuss the Riley Township plan and any zoning changes that come from the County. This too is not an easy job, as they must keep themselves up to date on current zoning laws, evaluate the effects of the proposed changes and remain objective as they look out for the best interest of the Township. It is important for the plan commission and the Township Board to understand that once the zoning is changed, it may be extremely hard or impossible to reverse. This board consists of five members and they are Richard D'Ambrosia, Jim Gallagher, Tom Hines, Louis Jurisch, and our newest member Bob Woodhouse.

I would like to personally thank them and everyone else who has served on these boards in the past. They truly are the unsung heroes of Riley Township and I take my hat off to them!

## Groundwater Protection in Riley Township

By Cathy Johnson



When we talk about "protecting the groundwater", we are referring to keeping any water that soaks into our ground clean and keeping enough of it so that in twenty years it will still be available for us to drink. Riley Township officials have been working with the County Water Task Force to do what we can to ensure our water is protected.

One issue we can work on together is: the use of **coal tar-based sealants**. Coal tar-based sealcoats are used on driveways, parking lots and playgrounds to beautify and protect asphalt. Over time, abrasion wears down the sealcoat and turns it into a fine powder that can be tracked in on shoes, picked up by wind and carried by rain run-off. The coal tar contains PAH (polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons) which are known carcinogens. Lake in the Hills which was part of a national study contained large amounts of PAH.

McHenry County including the municipalities is looking into establishing a ban on the use of coal tar sealants, but that will take a few years. Our need to protect our groundwater is too pressing so let's work on it ourselves. It is suggested you: Use acrylic asphalt-based or eco-friendly "green" sealcoat, Install a concrete driveway that lasts longer, Install a permeable pavement, Use a gravel driveway, Refrain from using sealcoat altogether.

Remember to dispose of excess driveway sealants appropriately. For information look in the County Green Guide, contact the Health Dept. 815-334-4585 or go to [www.mchenryh2o.com](http://www.mchenryh2o.com)

Spring ISSUE, 2012

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8910 S. Route 23  
Marengo IL 60152

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
WOODSTOCK, IL  
PERMIT NO. 50

Local Government  
at work



Your Riley Township Board of Trustees meet on the second Tuesday of every month. We meet at 7 pm in the Town Hall. All meetings are open to the public.

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**NEED A RIDE IN THE  
MARENGO—UNION AREA  
CALL**

**DIAL-A-RIDE AT  
1-800-273-5939  
(TTY) 1-888-454-4724**

Hours of Operation:

Monday—Friday 9:00—5:00 pm

Call Dial-A-Ride at 1-800-273-5939  
(last call for services taken at 3:30 pm)  
for more information.

FARES: Seniors 65+, People with Disabilities and Students—\$.75

All Others—\$1.50

Service Area : Marengo City Limits  
Village of Union, Township Limits of Riley  
and Marengo (yes, rural and unincorporated areas)

\*A portion of this service is subsidized by Riley Township

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**ANNUAL TOWN**  
**MEETING**  
**APRIL 10, 2012**  
**7:30 P.M.**  
**RILEY TOWN HALL**  
**THE PLACE TO BE!**