

Will County Offers FREE Household Electronic Recycling Pick-Up

Will County now offers a new, convenient **electronic recycling pick up** service for **all residents with first floor entrances**. While the initial program will service all residents of **Channahon, DuPage, Homer, Jackson, Joliet, Lockport, New Lenox, Plainfield, Troy, and Wheatland Townships**; the program is expected to be available to **all Will County residents** by the end of this year.

The **Electronic Products Recycling and Reuse Act**, passed by the Illinois General Assembly in 2008, states some electronic materials will no longer be accepted at landfills beginning **January 2012**. Will County has been actively preparing for this new legislation, establishing electronic recycling sites at numerous key locations across the region.

This program is the **first free household pickup service** offered in Illinois.

Items accepted include: computers, laptops, monitors, printers, televisions, all types of telephones, answering machines, computer mouse devices, keyboards, zip drives, computer cables, string lights, microwaves, fax, scanners, MP3s, PDAs, video game consoles, video cassette players/recorders, DVD players and more. **There is a limit of 10 items per service call**, but future service dates can be arranged as necessary.

Drop-off services will remain available for apartment residents or anyone without front-door access. For details on the program, please contact the Will County Land Use Department at **815-727-8834** or visit www.willcountygovern.com.

To schedule a pickup, please call Vintage Tech Recyclers Toll Free at **877-786-4715**.



Rain Barrels and Composting

Collecting **rainwater** for use during dry months in **rain barrels** or other depositories is an ancient and traditional practice.

Historical records show that rainwater was collected in simple clay containers as far back as **2,000 years ago**.

With the rising price of municipal water and drought restrictions facing our community during the summer months, more people should consider turning to the harvesting of rainwater to save money and protect this precious natural resource.

Sources to purchase a rain barrel in Illinois can be found at: http://www.standingupforillinois.org/cleanwater/rb_whatertobuy.php.

But being "eco-friendly" doesn't end with water conservation. **Yard trimmings** and **food residuals** together constitute **26 percent of the U.S. municipal solid waste stream**.

That's a lot of waste to send to landfills when it could become useful and environmentally beneficial compost instead!

Composting offers the obvious benefits of resource efficiency and creating a useful product from organic waste that would otherwise have been put in a landfill.

The **Environmental Protection Agency** has basic information providing a description of what compost is and which materials should or should not be composted.

Visit www.epa.gov for more information.

New Building; Logo For Animal Control

Joliet Township Animal Control's newly remodeled building on McDonough Street has been well received throughout the local community.

Now, we're extremely excited to introduce our **new logo**. It features a dog and cat, which reflects our goal of finding homes for animals that need new families.

We encourage you to visit us on **Facebook** and read about animals that are available for adoption today, as well as pictures of recent adoptions and their stories.

Also, our animals are listed on **Petfinder.com** and **AdoptaPet.com**,



but the best way to find the right fit for your family is to come visit us at our new facility, spend some time with the animals and get to know them while they're getting to know you.

We are also looking for volunteers of all ages to help care for and play with our animals. Individuals and groups are welcome.

For more information on how to become a volunteer or our many programs and services, please contact the **Joliet Township Animal Control Center** on the web at www.joliettownship.net or call **815.725.0333**.

Your Joliet Township Government Officials Are Here To Serve You



Daniel Vera Supervisor, Beth Ann May Town Clerk, James Maffeo Hwy. Commissioner, Jim Brenzewski Accessor, Denise Winfrey Collector, Raymond Slattery Trustee, Suzanne Adamic-Albert Trustee, Robert Wisniewski Trustee, Jeffery Wallace Trustee

Design by J.V. Murphy & Associates | www.jvmurphy.com

Monday – Friday
8:30 AM – 12 Noon
1 PM – 4 PM

Office Hours

175 West Jefferson Street
Joliet, IL 60432
www.joliettownship.net
Phone: 815.726.4781
Fax: 815.726.4785



A Legacy of Service: Emmett McGuire

When **Emmett McGuire** passed away in 1968, he left behind a legacy of public service spanning several decades. McGuire served as **President of the Townships of Illinois (TOI)** in 1937-38, and also served two terms as **Joliet Township Highway Commissioner** from 1932-1943, and again from 1955-1967.

He was the father of **State Rep. Jack McGuire**, a former Joliet Township Supervisor, and current **Representative for the 86th District** since 1991. McGuire said he has referred to TOI many times as a supervisor and as a legislator. He continues to attend the Township Topics Day reception each year.

"Helping people in need through General Assistance was a part of my job as Supervisor, and TOI and their magazine provided information I needed," he said.

Jack McGuire has fond memories of his father's service to Joliet Township. "I can remember riding on the cinder truck with my dad on snowy days and nights," said Rep. McGuire. "Dad loved working for the Township, and I wanted to follow in his footsteps. He always said to work hard, listen to your constituents, respect them always as if they were your family and do the best job you possibly can to help them."

McGuire's oldest brother was a City of Joliet firefighter, rising to the rank of Battalion Chief, while his twin brother is a retired schoolteacher. "Township government is still a very important branch of local government with a true hands-on approach to public service," McGuire said. "Locally, we need to keep up to date on issues that affect our



State Rep. Jack McGuire (center, smaller child with apple) is shown standing in front of Emmett, his father, while twin brother Jim and brother Paul (deceased) are also shown.

constituents and the Township's elected officials that represent them." McGuire said. "In our rural areas, especially with the recent blizzard of 2011, it is comforting to know that the township is there to serve. I am sure that there was not one Highway Commissioner in the entire state that didn't work around the clock to keep the roads cleared. I learned from the best—my own father—who served as Highway Commissioner for Joliet Township, about hard work, dedication and listening."



Daniel Vera Supervisor

News From The Supervisor

161st Annual Town Meeting Held April 12th

Joliet Township has held an **Annual Town Meeting** every year since 1850. The meeting gives Township residents the opportunity to voice their concerns about the Township's operations.

By Illinois statute, the Annual Town Meeting is held on the **second Tuesday of each April**.

Once again, our meeting was held in the **Town Hall Meeting Room**. I am pleased to report that Joliet Township finances are in very good shape.

Your local Township Government provides services and support for a number of programs for its citizens including General Assistance, Property Assessment, Animal Control, Road and Bridge Maintenance, Youth, Senior and Disability Groups as well as other important community projects.

We are available to provide help to our neighbors in need, and we are dedicated to maintaining and improving the quality of life in Joliet Township.



Joliet Township Board attorney Frank Burkey chaired the Annual Meeting again this year.

News From The Highway Commissioner

Spring Rains Create Problem Areas



James Maffeo
Hwy. Commissioner

There's no doubt about it...it's been a very wet spring in **Joliet Township**. While local lawns and vegetable gardens appreciate our ample rainfall, the excessive water isn't beneficial if it ends up on our properties or in our streets.

That is why the recent heavy rains, area flooding and drainage problems are a top priority of the **Road District**.

Again this year, we have created a list of projects to be completed this season to alleviate both new flooding and standing water areas.

Additionally, Joliet Township has applied to **Will County** for a share of the **Community Development Block Grant** funds to support improvements on **Clairmont Avenue** in the **Ingalls Park** area.

So here's to a great growing season with a bumper crop of fresh, homegrown vegetables, brilliantly blooming flower gardens and a lawn that is the envy of the neighborhood.

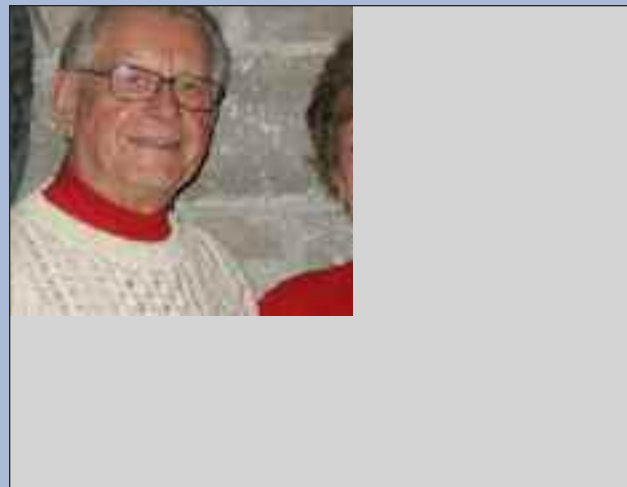
But should **Mother Nature's** rains keep coming, the Road District is working to minimize the damage throughout Joliet Township.



Foreman Eric Baranak and laborer Jaime Guajardo installing a storm sewer catch basin.



Township Road District Employees working on drainage ditch improvements.

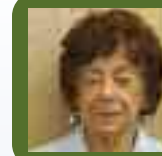


Norbert Zielinski, former Deputy Township Supervisor, recently was honored by the **Town Board** with a resolution acknowledging his **90th birthday**. In addition to his service with the Township, Zielinski has been a popular local musician for over **70 years** in the Joliet community. He is a devoted member of the Joliet Federation of Musicians, Local 37, and known to local music lovers as "Mr. Zee".



Supervisor Dan Vera, Trustee Ray Slattery and Clerk Beth Ann May attended the Historic Designation Celebration, held at the Joliet Are Historical Museum, on May 20th honoring the first Dairy Queen store, opened in Joliet in 1940.

Employee Spotlight



Name: Delores Barden
Title: Joliet Township Assessor's Office
Administrative Clerk



Delores Barden has proudly worked for four different Joliet Township Assessors in her tenure.

Delores Barden has worked in the **Joliet Township Assessor's Office** on and off since **1963**. Over the years, she has worked full time, part time and took some time off to raise her two children, **Michael** and **Sally**. She has proudly worked for four different Assessors in her tenure.

Delores has been married to **John Barden** for **61** years. She has eight grandchildren and four great grandchildren. Her duties in the Assessor's Office include creating maps and entering the many permits that the Assessor's Office receives from the various municipalities Joliet Township covers.

She enters legal descriptions of properties in to the computer system. Delores says the transition from paper to the computer is one of the highlights of her career.

When Delores is at home, her hobbies include sewing, knitting and gardening. If you have attended any of the local craft shows, you may have purchased some of her creations.

Delores' trustworthy companion **Molly**, a black lab, likes to take a daily ride with John to pick up Delores from work.



Beth Ann May
Town Clerk

Office Of Town Clerk Your doorway to Local Government

A Town Clerk is a...

Public Relations Officer

Must be dedicated to the community and possess the ability to listen and advise.

Recording Secretary

Authors the minutes, the only official record of the activities of Township Government. The resulting volumes are retained permanently for legal and historic purposes.

Records Management Officer

Custodian of all Township records, responsible for active files, storage and disposition of inactive records and the careful maintenance of archival material.

Election Coordinator

The Office of the Town Clerk serves as a location for voter registration as a Deputy Registrar.

Filing Officer

Maintains records of adopted Township Ordinances and Local Laws, Town Oaths of Office, resignations, petitions, proof of publications, annual budgets, fiscal reports, notices of lien and bonds.

Maintains public signboard and advertises and receives bids for purchase of materials for the Township.

Registration Officer.

Not less than 30 days before the caucus, the Township Clerk shall notify the chairman or membership of each Township Central Committee, their obligation to report the time and location of the political party's caucus. The Clerk accepts filings of nomination papers for candidates for Township Office and certifies candidates to the County Clerk.

Financial Responsibilities

The Clerk must annually certify to the County Clerk the amount of taxes required (Ley) to be raised for all Township purposes.

The Clerk must certify the Town and Road District Budget and file with the County Clerk prior to June 30 of each year.

The annual treasurer's report must be published in a newspaper and filed at the County Clerk within 6 months from the end of the fiscal year.

Road District Clerk

- Custodian of all records for the Road District
- Countersigns and keeps a copy of all warrants/bills
- Accepts and posts tentative budget
- Participates in bid process for road projects.

Important Tax Info

2nd Tax Installment Due:
September 1st, 2011

Will County Treasurer's Office
302 North Chicago Street
Joliet, IL 60432-4059

Phone: 815-740-4675
Fax: 815-740-4695
TDD: 815-740-4681

Office Hours:
Monday – Friday
8:30 AM – 4:30 PM

April Showers = May Flowers And tax bills, too.



Jim Brenzczewski
Assessor

Spring is in the air. Flowers are blooming, birds are singing and your **tax bill** has arrived in your mailbox.

Please remember to check the **exemption lines** to make sure you are receiving all exemptions that you are entitled to.

If your property was owner-occupied by January 1st of last year, you are entitled to a **Homestead Exemption** worth **\$6,000** off of your **Assessed Value**.

If you are age **65 or older**, you can receive a **Senior Exemption** worth an additional **\$4,000** off of your Assessed Value.

There is also a **Senior Freeze Homestead Exemption**. The requirements are as follows:

- Fulfill property residency requirements (Homestead

Exemption and Senior Exemptions)

- Maximum household income of **\$55,000**. You must include all persons using the property as their principal residence. Also, **100% of Social Security income**, not taxable amount.

- Complete and return application **each year** to either **Supervisor of Assessments Office** or your Township Assessor's Office.

Please remember this exemption **must be renewed and qualified for each year**.

The **Joliet Township Assessor** is responsible for the **total assessment part only**.

We are always available to answer any questions or concerns you may have about your property. Our phone number is **815-726-5446**.

You can also visit our website for more information at **www.jolietassessor.net**.

We will be happy to assist you any way possible. Please don't hesitate to contact our office.

The 2-question tax quiz:

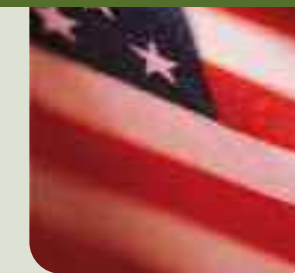
Q: If assessed value rises, do taxes have to rise?

A: No. Taxes only rise because of an increase in the funding needs of the various Taxing Districts.

Q: With assessments falling because of the market value of properties decreasing, will my taxes be lower?

A: Not necessarily. The tax rate is based on the funding necessary for the taxing bodies. Please check tax rates for this year and last.

In The News...Keeping Township Residents Informed



Flag Display Act

When a **service member** within any branch of the armed forces or a **fire-fighter** from Illinois is killed in the line of duty, **Governor Quinn** will order all entities within state and local governments to lower their flags from sunrise to sunset on the day of, and two days preceding, the funeral of the fallen. Anyone may participate in this observance by visiting **www.illinois.gov/news/flaghonors.cfm**



General Assistance Serves Township Residents

General Assistance is available to Joliet Township residents to assist with **rent payments** and **other living expenses**. If you are receiving monies from any other **state or federal assistance programs**, you are **ineligible**. You must fill out an application and meet with a Case Worker to determine your eligibility. Please pick up an application at our office any weekday from 8:30 am to Noon and from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm.



Spring & Summer Fun

Are you looking for fun spring and summer activities in the Joliet area? Click on **www.visitjoliet.org** to find a list of activities and events to enjoy from performances at the **Rialto Square Theatre** to programs at the **Trackman Planetarium** at **Joliet Junior College**, **NASCAR Racing** and golf specials at the three courses operated by the **Joliet Park District**.