

2827 7TH AVENUE ROCK ISLAND, IL 61201 **309-788-3417** 

#### rockislandtownshipil.gov

ROCK ISLAND • ILLINOIS



## 



Now that the memorable Winter of 2018/19 has passed with its record setting wind chills, record low and low high temperatures and snow / ice that seemed would never melt, it's time for Spring, right? Perhaps we'll have one this year as opposed to last year's transition from Winter directly to Summer.

Anyway, we can always complain about the weather and our elected leaders, right? Well, you have the opportunity to vote again this year – for local leaders of the Rock Island / Milan School Board and Wards 2, 4 and 6 of the Rock Island City Council.

Election Day is Tuesday, April 2nd, with polling places opening at 6:00 a.m. and closing at 7:00 p.m. You can also vote early at the Rock Island County Office Building, 1504 3rd Avenue. There's no excuse not to vote. If you don't, you can't complain about decisions made in the future. Yeah, right!

See Joan Clark's Clerk's Corner (page 3) for more details about who is running for what positions and see page 7 regarding early voting.

Another civic responsibility is coming around as well – the 2020 Census. April 1, 2020 is officially Census Day, but you'll be hearing more about the Census between now and then. The Supreme Court will decide whether a question about citizenship should be on the Census or not; there will be local publicity about Census Bureau jobs and the importance of a complete count; Illinois may lose one (or more) Congressional seats; and Federal funding will continue to be directly tied to the Census.

Don't hesitate to complete the Census form. By law, Census information remains confidential for 72 years and data privacy is one of the prime missions of the Census Bureau.

More specific to the Township, you may have seen our building take on a new look. Thanks to assistance from Laborers Local 309, we had a new flag pole installed and they placed two benches in the Matthew Parker Memorial Garden, adjacent to our northern parking lot. Jeff Deppe played a key role in seeing that this was completed – on "Black Friday", November 23rd, just before we enjoyed nearly 14 inches of snow two days later! Thanks go to Jeff and his crew for making this happen. The Township made a \$500 donation to the Local 309 Veterans Assistance Fund.

You should also check out our newly painted building exterior. Scott Decorating completed this project last Fall, using a color scheme suggested by local artist / muralist Sarah Robb. There was quite a change in appearance.

We said goodbye to the Roofers Union, who moved to larger space in another Rock Island location, but we were able to provide expanded office space for DeLaCerda House, one of our existing tenants. QCGeneral recently completed a contract that joined what had been two separate offices into one space for DeLaCerda House.

This Spring, our parking lots will be sealed and striped by FW Asphalt. We'll also be bidding sidewalk work to eliminate some drainage issues. We'll continue to be good stewards of our property.

In addition to our "regular" programs such as General Assistance, Work Readiness, Emergency Assistance, etc., the Township continues to cultivate partnerships with local organizations and service providers who can address the needs of Township residents. These include the City of Rock Island's Library, Parks and Recreation Department and King Center, MetroLINK, Activate Rock Island, the Rock Island / Milan School District's Leadership Team, other Rock Island County Townships, among others.

Finally, I invite you to attend our Annual Town Meeting on **Tuesday, April 9th at 6:01 p.m.** to hear what Rock Island Township offers to its residents.

Alan M. Carmen Township Supervisor

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SPRING | SUMMER

#### **Mission Statement**

To professionally, courteously, equitably and efficiently administer general assistance, property assessment and other programs and to properly maintain the Township Hall and property for the benefit of Township residents and the building's tenants.

### Rock Island Township Trustees



Heather Gray Trustee



James "Jim" Kerr Sr. Trustee



Rita Kirk Trustee



Vincent G. Thomas Trustee

## 

Brenda L. Carmen \\\ Assessor

This is our spring issue of the Township newsletter. The winter brought us snow, blizzard conditions, sub-zero temperatures, ice, wind, sleet and potholes. Spring has many connotations, like spring fever; spring to mind; spring into action; hope springs eternal; no spring chicken; spring ahead, fall back. And all this talk of spring leads into April when our



federal income taxes are due and then April showers bring us May flowers and property tax bills.

The most often asked question is "I just received my tax bill, is it too late to appeal?

Yes, it is too late to appeal. Assessments are finalized at the end of each year. They are certified to the Department of Revenue and then the Rock Island County Clerk begins the process of calculating the tax bills. The files are closed and it is too late to change assessments. An incorrect opinion on the value of your property does not justify a corrected bill. However, if there is an error in the calculation of your bill because of an exemption that you qualify for and that exemption was not applied to the bill, we may be able to correct the tax bill. The sooner you contact us about it, the better.

#### **EXEMPTION REMINDERS**

■ If you are a new homeowner who just purchased your home in 2018 and it was your principal residence on January 1st of this year, you should come in and sign up for the Owner-Occupied exemption which will lower the tax bill that you will receive in 2020.

■ If your 65th birthday is this year, you will qualify for the Senior Homestead Exemption. You will need to bring proof of age with you when you apply.

■ If you are over 65 years of age, have occupied your home for two consecutive January firsts and the total income for all the members of the household is \$65,000 or less, you may qualify for the Senior Freeze.

If you own and occupy the property as of January 1st of the assessment year and are disabled, you might qualify for the Disabled Persons Exemption.

As always, if you need to renew or apply for an exemption and are unable to come to our office call 786-2961 and make an appointment for us to come to you.

## 

Joan Clark W Town Clerk

# April 2, 2019 is Election Day

The two elections that will impact our township the most are the Rock Island City Council Election and the Rock Island/Milan School District #41 Election. Both are non-partisan.

The Candidates seeking your vote for Rock Island City Council are:

#### Ward 2 (4 Year Term) - Vote for 1

•	•			
Virgil J. Mayberry	559 22nd Avenue	Rock Island		
Declared Write-in Candidate				
Randall Hurt	850818th Street W	Rock Island		
Ward 4 (4 Year Term) – Vote for 1				
Don Mewes	3305 25th Street	Rock Island		
Jenni Swanson	2514 22½ Avenue	Rock Island		
Ward 6 (4 Year Term) – Vote for 1				

Mark B. Poulos	1414 35th Street	Rock Island			
Declared Write-in Candidate					
Tom Benson	4506 7th Avenue	Rock Island			

#### The Candidates seeking your vote for the Rock Island/Milan School District #41 Board are:

#### 4 Year Term - Vote for 3

Sheleigh Martin	3212 Integrity Way	Rock Island
Megan Wilson	1817 W 3rd Street	Milan
Linda K. Dothard	1615 14th Street	Rock Island
Kale Benjamin Mayberry	2809 12th Avenue #603	Rock Island
Laurie Figley	2845 11½ Avenue	Rock Island
Tiffany Stoner-Harris	1517 40th Street	Rock Island
Michael R Matherly	803 20th Street	Rock Island

Deciding to become involved in the election process is a difficult decision to make. It takes determination, hard work and a real desire to make our community a better place to live.

On behalf of the Rock Island Township Board we wish all of the candidates who desire to serve our community the very best. We applaud your courage and look forward to working with you in the future!





#### You don't have to wait around for your ride with *our new app*. Real-time tracking Accurate arrival times Useful alerts





### FREE CITY LEAF BAGS!

Now that the snow has melted and our tundra has thawed, the City's Free Leaf Collection Program is ready to start. Free leaf bags will be available on Monday, April 8, 2019, with collection starting Monday, April 15, 2019 through Friday, May 3, 2019. The bags will be collected on your regular pick-up day. Pick up your bags at the Township Assessor's Office during regular business hours (8 -Noon; 1-4, Monday-Friday). Other locations are being verified.

#### 

#### ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

#### What are you doing on Tuesday, April 9th at 6:01 p.m.?

I know where I'll be – at the Rock Island Township Annual Town Meeting at 2827 7th Avenue.

This once-a-year event gives you an opportunity to hear about the range of services offered by and through Rock Island Township, including how many people benefitted and what it cost to provide these services.

So, please join us for this meeting. It will last about an hour and you'll learn about what your Township government does for you.

### Township Day 2018 \\\\\



Above: The Metro Youth's Dream Team prepare to perform.



Above: The Fire Department's pumper has complicated plumbing.

The weather wasn't perfect, but it was acceptable for outdoor activities and performances at our 3rd Annual Township Day event on September 29, 2018. About 200 residents enjoyed performances by the METRO Youth Drill Team, Kendall Davis of Master Design Boomerangs, and special guests the Hanson Family Unicyclists and Jugglers.

The Hanson Family put on a spectacular display of unicycle, juggling, balance and coordination skills that awed those in attendance.

There was also a Police K-9 demonstration, Fire Department vehicles on display and face painting by Elizabeth Russell.

Walking tacos were served by the seniors of the King Center's A.C.T.I.V.E. Club and useful information was provided by multiple agencies including the City's Library and Parks and Recreation Departments, Spring Forward Learning Center, Rainbow / Skip-A-Long Day Care, Urban Gardeners, Thy Loving Kindness Ministries, among others.

#### MORE PHOTOS FROM TOWNSHIP DAY 2018



Above: Christa Hanson shows off her balancing skills. Below left: Kendall Davis prepares to throw a paint stick boomerang. Below right: Officer Andrew Lawler and K9 officer Basco showed off their multiple talents.





### ROCK ISLAND LIBRARY EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

The Rock Island Library offers programs and activities for all ages at its 30/31 and Southwest Branches and the Main Library. They run from reading clubs and independent movie nights to job hunting classes and magic shows.



Go to www. rockislandlibrary.org for access to information about the Library's services, including Kanopy - its free, new streaming video service, programs for all ages, hours and more!



Regular Eye Exams Eyelid Rejuvenation Macular Degeneration Glaucoma Diabetic Eye Disease Cataracts Fashion & Specialty Frames Contacts Low Vision Dry Eye Hearing

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#### 2019-2020 BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING SCHEDULE

4th Monday every month, 4:14 p.m. at Town Hall<sup>\*</sup> Open to public.

April 9 (Annual Town Meeting; 6:01 p.m.)

April 22 May 20 June 24 July 22 August 26 September 23 October 28 November 25 December 23 January 27, 2020 February 24, 2020 March 23, 2020

\*Except May 20 rather than May 27.

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### VOTER REGISTRATION

Your Township office has several Deputy Registrars who would be happy to register you to vote, update your address, or change your voting status.

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Rock Island Township will be a proud co-sponsor again this year of the Park and Recreation Department's Spring Egg Hunt. It will be Saturday, April 13th, 9:30 a.m. SHARP, at Lincoln Park (11th Avenue & 38th Street). There are four age appropriate egg hunt areas, special prizes, a visit from a popular bunny and much more! This event is sponsored by Rock Island and South Rock Island Townships, Country Financial and the Parks and Recreation Department.

For more information, call 309-732-7275 (inclement weather, call 309-732-RAIN).



## Fright Night at Schwiebert Riverfront Park \\\\\\\\\



Assessor Brenda Carmen, Assessor Field Worker Christina Wilson and Supervisor Alan Carmen set up a booth at the Park and Recreation Department's Fright Night on Thursday, October 25th at Schwiebert Riverfront Park. Despite the cool and windy conditions, more than 1,000 princesses, ghouls, superheroes, zombies and other fanciful costumed youth got candy and had a great time.

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### EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

If you had an emergency that prevented you from paying your rent or mortgage or your utility bills (MidAmerican gas / electricity or City of Rock Island water / sewer), the Township may be able to assist. If you qualify, the Township could pay a maximum of \$400 towards those costs. You must have an income and show that you can pay future living expenses. Applications are accepted yearround and are available during our regular business hours.

We assisted 116 clients last fiscal year (April 2018 – March 2019), with an average payment of \$345.

If you qualify for our General Assistance Program, you are not eligible for the Emergency Assistance Program.

Call 309-788-3417 for more information.

#### GENERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

If you have applied for disability benefits but have not been approved, or are an unemployed single individual looking for work who needs temporary help, the Township's General Assistance may be for you. If you qualify, we can pay up to \$200 for rent, provide a \$10 food voucher at Hy-Vee or Target (in addition to your food stamps) and a \$57 Target voucher for personal needs. Contact the office during business hours (8 a.m. -Noon; 1 – 4 p.m.) to get more information.

#### TOWNSHIP GRANTS

We have limited funding to support agencies and organizations providing services and programs that benefit youth, seniors and veterans. Past grants were awarded to local food pantries, the King Center's A.C.T.I.V.E. Club, Spring Forward Learning Center, Urban Gardens, among others. If you are interested in receiving a grant application, contact the Township at 788-3417 or go to our website where you can download it.

#### SENIOR CARE VOUCHERS

If you are 65 or older and earn \$1,040 per month (or \$1,409 for a couple) or less, you might qualify for our monthly \$35.00 Hy-Vee Senior Cares food voucher program.

Call us at 309-788-3417 and an application will be sent to you. Once you have the required paperwork, call for an appointment where we'll review the details and see if you qualify. Our budget limits the program to 40 Seniors and there is a waiting list at this time.

### TRY-Play PROGRAM \\\

The Township Recreation Youth Play program provides scholarships to Park and Recreation programs and facilities. These include RIFAC, camps, inter-session programs, among others. If you are interested in becoming an American Red Cross Certified Lifeguard, and working as a lifeguard, TRY-Play can help offset some of the course costs. Contact the City's Parks & Recreation Department at 732-PARK (7275) for more information.

### **CENSUS 2020 \\\**

April 1, 2020 is Census Day! It's when all residents of the country are counted and other information is collected (income, housing, race, ancestry, family size, etc.). This important data is used to determine how many individuals each state has in the House of Representatives, how much money is available from the Federal government for education, housing, roads and bridges, among other things.

It's estimated that for every person counted, about \$1,500 comes back to the local community. That's \$15,000 per person over 10 years; until the next Census in 2030.

So, please complete the Census form when it arrives. It's critical to our future!

### VOTE! \\\

There are contested elections in City Council Wards 2,4 and 6 and the Rock Island / Milan School District #41 (vote for three of seven candidates). Early voting at the County Office Building (1504 3rd Avenue, Rock Island) can be done Monday – Friday, March 6th – April 1st and Saturday March 23rd and 30th from 8:00 a.m. - Noon.

Election Day is Tuesday, April 2nd. Polls are open from 6:00 a.m. -7:00 p.m.

For candidates' names and addresses, see the Clerk's Corner (page 3).

Do your civic duty and vote! Elections have consequences, with those elected making critical decisions about the City or Schools for four years.

#### **AFRICAN-AMERICAN** WOMEN'S HEALTH LUNCHEON 🕔

Unity Point Health is sponsoring a Women's Health Luncheon on Saturday, May 18, 2019 at Stoney Creek Hotel & Conference Center (101 18th Street, Moline, IL), specifically focusing on African-American women. Learn about breast and other cancer risk factors, healthy lifestyle information, etc. The event is free, but you must register to attend. Call 309-779-5796 or go to www.unitypoint.org/classes on or before May 10th.



309-793-6800 www.wiaaa.org

Aging & Disability Resource Center

- Caregiver Support and Services
- Options Counseling
- Senior Health Assistance Program & Senior Health Insurance Program
- Evidence-Based Wellness Program "A Matter of Balance"
- Educational Opportunity "Living and Learning Series"

729 - 34th Avenue, Rock Island, IL 61201

#### PARKS & CITY WEBSITES

Check out the following websites for information about city of Rock Island programs, services, activities, reports and initiatives:

> CITY OF ROCK ISLAND: rigov.org

> PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT:

rigov.org (click on the Community & Recreation / Parks link)

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#### WORK READINESS

MetroLink bus tickets are offered for a limited period of time to those looking for work and for the recently employed. Limited funds also are available to purchase work-related clothing, tools or certification costs (such as food handling).

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### **FREE NOTARY**

We will notarize your documents should that be needed.

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Left to right: Custodian Terry Harris, Michelle Harris, Trustee Jim Kerr, Assessor Brenda Carmen, Supervisor Alan Carmen, Town Clerk Joan Clark and Office Assistant Tim Smith prepared Lund Hall for the Senior Holiday Luncheon.

Our 17th Annual Senior Holiday Luncheon took place Wednesday, December 12, 2018. A wonderful holiday dinner and all the trimmings was enjoyed by more than 70 Seniors, plus volunteers. There was an incredible performance by the Rock Island High School Chorus and a special visit from Santa Claus. Gift cards and poinsettias were given away. Watch for details about our 18th Luncheon, set for December 11, 2019.



The Rock Island High School Chorus performed a variety of holiday inspired songs for our guests and volunteers.



Left to right: Assessor Brenda Carmen and Supervisor Alan Carmen enjoyed Rocky's Chorus performance.



Left to right: Supervisor Alan Carmen, Assessor Brenda Carmen and Town Clerk Joan Clark had a good time setting up the kitchen.

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#### Rita Kirk \\\ Trustee

In the busy world we often pass those in need and do not even notice. Would you like to help them and feel like you have made a difference?

The St. Joseph Evening Meal is just the place to get started. You, your family, or an organization (club, church group, neighbors, etc. – any group you meet with) are invited to cook and serve dinner to some very grateful people. You can do it once, more often if your group wants to, or make a monthly commitment. You can come by yourself and help another group to see if it something you would like to do.

INTERESTED? Call Rita Kirk at 786-3799. We have a place for you.

The St. Joseph Evening Meal, a Ministry of St. Pius X Catholic Church, provides evening meals for those who are hungry in our community.

For over 35 years the evening meal has been cooked and served by several churches of all faiths, fraternal organizations, retailers, and people just interested in serving the community. Last year over 11,000 meals were served. Guests are singles, families, and elderly many who are lonely or who may not be able to cook.

Rock Island Township's Lund Hall is perfect. Large enough to provide diners with plenty of space and yet is conveniently sized to allow easy fellowship one with another. Lund Hall is a good place to go to escape the heat of the summer and cold in the winter. The supervisors and cooks are



Left to right: Trustees Heather Gray, Vince Thomas, Supervisor Alan Carmen and Trustee Rita Kirk had a good time serving the Evening Meal.

Everyone is invited to the St. Joseph Evening Meals which are served promptly at 5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday.

If you, your family or organization are looking for an opportunity to volunteer by cooking or serving, call Rita Kirk at 309-786-3799.

welcoming and friendly. Their goal is to provide nightly a nutritious meal and a good dining experience.

The MetroLINK bus stops in front of Rock Island Township's 7th Avenue entrance making accessibility easy.

Meals are served promptly at 5:30 Monday though Friday.



#### At the Rock Island Public Library!

Summer Reading Challenge: June 1 to July 31 Register Online and At Rock Island Libraries, starting May 25. Reading challenges, fun, & learning for the whole family.

> Weekly Art, Math & STEAM-AZING for kids
> Special Performers: Duke Otherwise & Space Cadet Shows

- ★ Teen animation, Iron Chef & more
- ★ Early Learning: READY JET GO! Storytimes with WQPT; Play & Grow Times
- ★ Gettin' Stitchy crafts, John Deere Planetarium tour, String Art, Scratch Curbside

EXPLORE OUR UNIVERSE OF PHYSICAL ROCK ISLAND



#### ROCK ISLAND / MILAN SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Rock Island / Milan Public Schools Dates to Remember:

April 19 No School in observance of Good Friday

May 17 Half-Day Early Dismissal

May 27 No School in observance of Memorial Day

May 31 Last Day of School

August 2 First Day of School

> August 23 Half-Day Early Dismissal

September 2 No School in observance of Labor Day

September 20 Half-Day Early Dismissal

October 7 -October 18 First intersession

October 21 Second quarter begins

> November 11 No school in observance of Veterans Day



Family Fun Day at King Center

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Summer Day Camp for children age 6 – 14, living in the Rock Island / Milan School District, is offered at no cost to families. It runs from June 10 to July 26; Monday-Friday from 9am to 3pm. Registration is required, and space fills up fast. Registration forms will be available at the MLK Center (630 9th Street) starting on April 1st.

A Legislative Breakfast, sponsored by the Illinois QC Realtors Association and Friendship Manor, will be at the King Center on Monday, April 8th, 8:30 – 10 a.m. Community members are welcome to attend. For more information, follow us on Facebook and/or call 732-2999. Save the date.

Family Fun Day and parade is scheduled for September 21. The Drill Team Showdown will be on the evening of September 21 at Rock Island High School. If you want to have an entry in the parade or set up an information booth, contact us at 309-732-2999.

Registration for the King Center's After-School Program for the 2019 – 2020 school year begins on July 15. For more information, follow us on Facebook and/or call 732-2999.

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The Parks and Recreation Department is having its Spring Garage Sale on Saturday, April 27th from 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at Longview Park (1601 18th Avenue). Over 6,000 square feet of shopping for toys, trinkets, furniture, home décor, books, videos, clothes, antiques and much more. Clean out that basement, attic, garage and those closets. It's time to get rid of all that "stuff" you no longer want. Rent a space Park and sell it all. Spaces are available on a first register, first served basis.

Fees: 10x10 Space = \$20.00 10 x 20 Space = \$30.00 10 x 30 Space = \$45.00 Call 732-7275 to reserve your space.

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Greenbush Neighborhood residents are having a neighborhood clean-up on Saturday, April 20th. Meet at the Town Hall (2827 7th Avenue) at 8:00 a.m. and pick up your trash bags, grabbers and gloves. Refreshments will be served to give a boost of energy. Join us as we pick up trash in the neighborhood (5th – 9th Avenues, 24th – 30th Streets). How big an area is cleaned depends on how many volunteers show up. Call 788-3417 for more information.





Most couples wait too long to talk about it. Dignified, compassionate service.



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### MEETING SCHEDULE & HOURS:

The Rock Island Township Board of Trustees meets at 4:15 p.m. the fourth Monday of every month in the Town Hall, 2827 7th Ave., Room 7. Our meetings are always open to the public. Please join us to watch, offer comments, or ask questions. Our meeting agendas are posted on the Town Hall's bulletin board and our website **rockislandtownshipil.gov.** 

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### FACEBOOK PAGE

Check out **(and LIKE)** our Facebook page for the latest about Town Board meetings and agenda, and special announcements. You can also join our group; it's easy.

#### The Assessor's Office and Township administrative offices are open from 8 a.m.-Noon and 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday (except holidays noted below).

The building is open until about 6:30 p.m. or until those attending the evening meal have cleaned up and left.

Please note that the Food Pantry, Evening Meal and building tenants (Safer Foundation and Delacerda House) schedules differ. Call 309-788-3417 to see if they are open.

CLOSED: Good Friday, 4/19; Memorial Day 5/27; Independence Day 7/4; Labor Day 9/2; Columbus Day, 10/14; Veteran's Day, 11/11; Thanksgiving Day, 11/28 & 11/29; Christmas Day, 12/24 & 12/25; New Year's Day 1/1/20; Martin Luther King Day, 1/20/20; President's Day 2/17/20

#### BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

4th Monday every month, 4:15 p.m. at Town Hall\* Open to public.

\*Except May 20 rather than May 27.

# ROCK ISLAND TOWNSHIP \\\



We are very grateful to the Argus.Dispatch for all their help in making this newsletter possible. Jane Miller, Anna . McKay and Sarah Nimrick were responsible for ad sales, layout and printing. This newsletter will now be mailed to Rock Island Township addresses by J.V. Consultina (thanks Don Johnston!). Additional copies will be directly distributed to City Hall, King Center, local churches, Hauberg Center, apartment buildings and other locations.

If you are not in our Township as outlined by this map, then please contact South Rock Island Township at 309-788-0496.

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