



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

rockislandtownshipil.gov



Supervisor's Message



One of the most significant things we can do as citizens is vote. We have the opportunity to do so again on **Tuesday, November 8**. There are many countries where elections offer no choice, where they are controlled by the ruling party or are forced to vote a certain way. We enjoy the freedom of choosing our elected representatives in America. Exercise this freedom and this right of citizenship. **VOTE!**

The Town Board had its audit presentation on August 22, covering our last fiscal year (April 1, 2015-March 31, 2016). There were no findings or concerns identified and the Township's finances are in order. We spent slightly over \$600,000 last year for all of our functions and programs — General Assistance and Emergency Assistance Programs, Assessor's Office, insurance, building maintenance and improvements, pensions, etc.

Our annual property tax levy has decreased each of the last four years, from \$548,362 in 2013-14 to \$529,835 in 2016-17; down 3.5%. We'll continue to control costs, looking for ways to provide high quality services and programs, while reducing expenses and being as efficient as possible.

We'll also continue to maintain and improve the Town Hall. Recent work includes tree trimming, carpet replacement (it was more than 20 years old and had hard use) and replacing two aging furnaces/air conditioners (one rooftop compressor was damaged by a storm; the compressor on the other one died. And, yes, we were able to recover some of the costs of the storm-damaged unit from our insurance carrier).

We want our building to be inviting, well-maintained and comfortable. To that end, we now have a TV in Lund Hall so when we are a cooling or warming center, or any other time, our guests can enjoy some entertainment. We also will use the TV and message board sign to publicize our programs and activities.

Since people get confused about what different governments do — or don't do — we are celebrating Illinois Township Day on Saturday, September 24 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. See the article on page 5 for more details. Come visit YOUR Town Hall and have a painless civics lesson.

Finally, the Township is grieving the loss of two long-time public servants. Matthew Parker, 90, passed away on August 4. Matthew was a Township Trustee for 36 years, serving from 1977-2013. He was recognized as Trustee of the Year by Township Officials of Illinois in 2008 and featured in this newsletter a year ago. Mr. Parker was a leader in the community and an incredible example of someone who put the needs of others ahead of his own.

Mike Markell, 65, passed away in May. Mike was president and founding member of Greenbush Neighbors, one of the city's active neighborhood associations. He was known for his innovative ideas that attracted people to events such as the Greenbush Fair and Trunk or Treat and for sharing successful strategies with others.

Both men will be missed. Our thoughts are with their families as they, and the community, deal with these deaths.

VOTE — November 8th

Alan M. Carmen
Township Supervisor

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Mission Statement

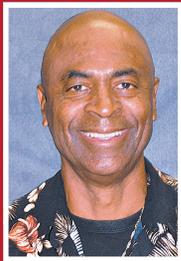
To professionally, courteously, equitably and efficiently administer general assistance, property assessment and other programs and to properly maintain the Township Hall and property for the benefit of Township residents and the building's tenants.

FALL | WINTER
2016-17

Elected Officials of Rock Island Township



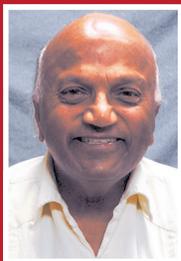
Heather Gray
Trustee



James "Jim" Kerr Sr.
Trustee



Rita Kirk
Trustee



Vincent G. Thomas
Trustee

Assessor's Office

Brenda L. Carmen \\\ Assessor

Assessments for the 2016 tax year payable in 2017 were turned into the county in June of this year which means that we are fast approaching Board of Review season.

With that in mind, here are the answers to some of the questions we are asked most often about the appeal process:



Q. How will I know if my assessment has changed?

A. If your assessment has changed, you will receive an Assessment Change Notice from the county, usually during the last week of September. The changes also will be published in the Dispatch/Argus. You will have 30 days from the date of publication to appeal.

Q. What should I do first?

A. Please call or visit my office before you decide to file an appeal so that we can be certain that we have all the correct information about your property. We will also make sure that you are receiving all the exemptions that you are entitled to.

Q. Where can I get the forms that I need to appeal?

A. Appeal forms and instructions can be picked up at my office or at the Board of Review office, 1504 3rd Avenue, 2nd Floor.

Q. Can I appeal at any other time of the year?

A. No. If you wait until your tax bill arrives, it is too late to appeal your assessment.

Q. Where do I find comparable properties for my appeal?

A. If you are looking for comparable properties to include in your appeal, our office has sales books showing every house sold in our township within the last 3 years. You are welcome to look through them. If you are filing with a current appraisal or a settlement statement, you won't need to find comparable properties.

Q. Can you provide me with any other information for my appeal?

A. When you find properties that you want to use in your appeal, we will gladly provide you with property record cards for any that are in our township. A property record card will show the size of the house, lot size, building characteristics, most recent sale, current assessment, etc.

Q. Do I need to hire an attorney to file my appeal?

A. You do not need an attorney to file an appeal, although you can have one if you wish.

Q. Where are the hearings held and how long do they last?

A. The hearings are held at the Board of Review Office and usually last about 15 minutes. The taxpayer is

given five minutes to speak, the assessor is given five minutes to speak and the remaining time is for questions.

Q. I work during the day and can't get to your office when you are open. How can I talk to you about my assessment?

A. We realize that working people can not always come to our office during regular business hours. From Sept. 20-Oct. 15, my office will remain open until 6 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays and on Saturdays we will be open from 9 a.m. until noon.

Q. When will I know if my appeal has been successful?

A. You won't know the board's decision until all cases are heard, so it may be February or March of next year before you are notified of any adjustment to your assessment.

Q. What if I don't agree with the board's decision?

A. If you disagree with the board's decision, you will have 15 days to appeal that decision to the Illinois Property Tax Appeal Board (PTAB) in Springfield.

If you still have questions, you can call my office at 309-786-2961 or email me at riassessor@sbcglobal.net. You can also talk to my chief deputy assessor Donna Jungwirth or my deputy assessor Connie Abernathy. They are also Certified Illinois Assessing Officers and can answer any of your questions.

Clerk's Corner:



Joan Clark \ \ \ Town Clerk

As I get older, I often find myself thinking about how much my life has changed. Some of those changes have made my life so much easier — others, I'm not so sure about.

Thirty years ago, I would have been sitting at my desk at the Community Caring Conference (CCC) working on a leaflet for a neighborhood meeting. It would have been drafted on a yellow notepad, typed by our secretary, burned on a stencil burner followed by printing. It was quite the ordeal. In total, it usually took a full day to get 150 — 200 half-sheet flyers ready to be distributed in the neighborhood. I won't even begin to describe the work that went into a board mailing, the newsletter or the writing of a grant application. The result was worth it, although, I wondered back then. Neighbors met in one another's homes. They got to know each other and found they were more alike than not. The crime rate dropped in the older neighborhoods (Rock Island Township), housing improved and a new sense of trust and caring developed. People who were apathetic became empowered by working together to resolve their issues. They found that working as a group on an issue that affected their neighborhood could get the attention necessary to create change. Leaders developed and took their seats on decision making boards — even the Illinois Supreme Court. Some names you will recognize easily: Illinois Supreme Court Judge, Thomas Kilbride (lived in west Rock Island and served as CCC's attorney and he was the township attorney), past Rock Island city councilman, first ward alderman and current township trustee, Jim Kerr; Rock Island Township trustee, Matthew Parker, Jr.; County Board member and township trustee, Rev. Gabriel Barber to only name a few — the list goes on and on. Our city became a better, safer place to live and raise a family. The very beginning of the CCC was based in Rock Island Township at the Church of Peace; but as the simple concept of getting to know your neighbor caught on, we received more calls from South Rock Island Township asking for help in organizing their neighborhoods. I could go on and on about organizing being the key to change, but I will spare you! When I left the CCC, we had organized 145 neighborhood block clubs along with groups in all of the family housing complexes. It saddens me to say through the years, a serious lack of funding has resulted in the organization's efforts being reduced more and more. Last year, the organization lost its entire staff and pretty much all of the neighborhood activity ended. Unfortunately, way too many worthy (necessary) organizations have closed their doors because they were deemed not a priority!

In 1993, I retired as the executive director of the Community Caring Conference. I started a new position as the director of programs and resource development for Rock Island Township. There, I spent the next 20 years working for (at various times) six of the county's larger townships. Part of my responsibility at Rock Island Township was to develop, write and implement programs for our clients. If you know anything about townships, you are aware that in order to qualify for township assistance, you must live in the township. Having worked in the township for fifteen years, I was familiar with many of its residents and their families. The state laws that govern township government are very strict. The township cannot duplicate existing services — so that means the people we serve are generally single, out of work, disabled and waiting for Social Security Benefits. They have nothing; no one to help them with the cost of rent, utilities, health care or personal needs. Rock Island Township provides a \$300.00 grant for its clients each

month. Clients do not receive cash — rents are paid for them and all other bills are paid by voucher. Township funds come from the residents of the township and, by law, must stay in the township to benefit its residents. Township government truly is an extension of neighbors helping one another. During my years at the township, I developed a number of work programs that were modeled in many other parts of the state. Those programs required clients to come to the township daily to look for work. Grants were written to pay for computers to assist them with their job search. It became a new form of empowerment for our clients! It has been my experience that after working with hundreds of clients, there are very few who do not want to work. With the help of the township, clients did overcome their depression and many find jobs.

I've devoted my "Clerk's Corner" article this month to Rock Island Township neighborhoods because recently I attended "Night Out" (an old CCC event designed to celebrate crime prevention in the neighborhoods.) Hundreds of Rock Island residents once attended the celebration. I was asked to take pictures of the event (some things never change). At first, I was a little disappointed in the turnout — but I reminded myself the event was put together by a small group of residents trying to rebuild the organization. There were many police officers, the new CCC board — but not a lot of residents. Gradually, more people and quite a few children came into view! I talked with many of them. The most memorable was Niki and her friend. Neither remembered the CCC. I told them the story and Niki rapidly told me about her preschooler son who had wandered away from her home last year. She frantically ran door to door asking neighbors if they had seen him. They had lived in the neighborhood for at least a year, but no one knew him. Finally, with help from the police, the child was found about a block from their home. What a difference a neighborhood block club might have made! There was no one to console her; no one offered to help look for her son. It had to be the longest hour of her life. Retired pastor Ken Kuenning, one of the CCC's founding leaders, did not give up. He talked with some of the old leaders of the organization, and as a group, they decided to see if maybe a way could be found to keep the organization going. The entire board of CCC was made up of volunteers. I'm proud to say it still is. Chairman Paul Fessler grew up in a block club on 14½ Street; his parents were very involved and his father Frank served on the

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HUGGING A HEDGEHOG: NOT EASY.

Riding Metro: easy.

 **MetroQC.com**

LIBRARY, 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:**
www.rigov.org

**PARKS AND
RECREATION
DEPARTMENT:**
www.rigov.org

*(click on the Community
& Recreation / Parks link)*

LIBRARY
rockislandlibrary.org

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).

FREE NOTARY

We will notarize your documents should that be needed.

Election

The General Election is Tuesday, Nov. 8. Polls are open from 6 a.m.-7 p.m. Rock Island Town Hall is a polling place — you can find your voting location on your voter registration card.

Early voting and absentee voting by mail starts on Sept. 29 at the Rock Island County Clerk's Office, 1504 3rd Ave., Rock Island. Call the County Clerk's office at 309-786-8683 or go to their website (www.votercounty.org) for an absentee application.

Voter registration closes Oct. 11. Grace period registration and voting is open Oct. 12–Nov. 8, provided you bring two forms of identification and vote at that time.

Go to votercounty.org or call 309-786-8683 for more information.



Make sure you're ready to vote!

We have several deputy registrars who would be happy to register you to vote, update your address or change your voting status.

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

Please join us on Wednesday, Dec. 14, 2016, for our 15th annual Senior (65+) Holiday Luncheon. We will serve a wonderful turkey dinner and all the trimmings, along with special visitors, Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus. There will be entertainment, gift cards awarded and poinsettias given away. No one leaves empty handed. The Township is pleased to provide a festive holiday meal for our seniors! Call 309-788-3417 to make your reservation.



OPPORTUNITIES QUAD CITIES

If you find yourself unemployed, underemployed, living in poverty or in need of a new start, consider attending the Opportunity Conference on Saturday, Oct. 29 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at 2nd Baptist Church, 919 6th Ave., Rock Island. Dr. Donna Beegle, who came from a multi-generational family in poverty, will explain her anti-poverty initiative that links people who have achieved success with those facing challenges. This

program may change your life ... for the better! For more information and to register, contact Loredia Dixon, SAL

Family and Community Services/Open Door Program at 309-793-8201.



Rock Island County Fair

Rock Island Township and other Rock Island County townships were represented at the 2016 Rock Island County Fair. This was an opportunity to share information about townships with area residents. Elected officials and staff were at the fair from Tuesday-Saturday enjoying the crowds and the smell of fried food.



Trustee James Kerr, Supervisor Alan Carmen and Trustee Vince Thomas braved the heat and humidity at the County Fair.



The Rock Island County Township booth at the 2016 County Fair.

ILLINOIS TOWNSHIP DAY

Rock Island Township will be celebrating Illinois Township Day on Saturday, Sept. 24 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Town Hall, 2827 7th Ave. There will be hot dogs, chips and drinks, an open house at the Town Hall, Rock Island Police K-9 demonstration and entertainment. Come meet your township elected officials, hear about the programs and activities we offer and visit the assessor's office to see information and pictures of your property. If you don't know what townships do, now is your chance to find out.



TRY-Play PROGRAM

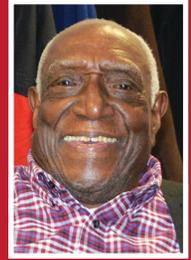
The Township Recreation Youth Play program continues to provide scholarships to Park and Recreation programs and facilities. These include Whitewater Junction, RIFAC, camps, inter-session programs, among others. If you are interested in becoming an American Red Cross certified lifeguard, and working as a lifeguard, TRY-Play can help offset some of the course costs. **Contact RICAP at 309-794-1100 for more information.**

MESSAGE BOARD SIGN

Our full color double-sided LED message board continues to be used extensively. We promote Town Board meetings, United Way's income tax program, holiday schedules, meal site and food pantry hours, school and library events, heating/cooling center use, among other events and programs.

If there is a community event that you want us to promote, let us know — 309-788-3417 or ritownsupervisor@gmail.com.

In Memory of



Matthew Parker, Jr.
(1925-2016)

Rock Island Township
Trustee 1977-2013
2008 Trustee of the Year
/ Award for Excellence
in Public Service —
Township Officials
of Illinois



LEAF BAG DISTRIBUTION

The Assessor's Office distributes the City of Rock Island's leaf bags.

**The 2016
Fall program
dates are:**

BAG DISTRIBUTION

begins Monday,
October 3

BAG COLLECTION

begins Monday,
October 10
through Friday,
December 2

**Come to Room 4
at the Town Hall
for your free bags.**

PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE BACK DAY

On **Saturday, October 22** from 10 a.m.- 2 p.m., you can turn in your unused or expired medications for safe disposal at the following locations:

MILAN MUNICIPAL CENTER/POLICE DEPARTMENT
405 1st Street
Milan, IL

ROCK ISLAND COUNTY JUSTICE CENTER
1317 3rd Avenue
Rock Island, IL

SILVIS POLICE DEPARTMENT
1040 1st Avenue
Silvis, IL 61282

No liquids, needles, sharps, or inhalers — only pills or patches, please.

Sponsored by the Coalition Advocating for Underage Substance Elimination.

Contact
Pam Ziegler
(309/732-2984)
or
Carlos Jimenez
(309/732-2995)
at the
King Center
for more
information.

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board. Phil Dennis lives in the Keystone Neighborhood; he is a retired teacher and also knows the benefits of neighborhood organization. Ethel Bassett, Mattie Seward, Jeff Barnes, Rick Miers and Jeffrey Novak all live in the neighborhoods and are committed to bringing the organization back. Lt. Rusty Hocker represents the Rock Island Police Department and knows how much an organization can and does reduce crime. Pat Ward, retired CCC executive director, has been a part of the organization since 1978 (38 years) and Judy Patch both represent the Church of Peace. Thank you to all of you! The group has raised a small amount of money to hire a part-time organizer. If you are interested in working with that organizer to develop or reorganize a block club, call Paul Fessler at 309-278-3285.

Back to the beginning of my article. Computers are a wonderful creation; I remember life without them! I did not use a yellow pad of paper for writing this article, and I did not need a secretary to type it. My picture was taken from a file and dropped into the article with a click of the mouse. Layout and printing will be done somewhere else! But what would I have written about? You can make Friends on Facebook — many you will never see and you can only count

on to wish you happy birthday. But you will never, never make a new neighbor, hold a clean-up, take food to a family going through a difficult time, or resolve a neighborhood issue. Such a loss!

I love Rock Island's history. At this time in my life, I'm in the right place — keeping track of the history of Rock Island Township. I will end my "Clerk's Corner" article with a quote from a long — time friend of mine, Fr. Jerry Logan. Fr. Logan attended my retirement celebration from the CCC and he said to me "You can take the neighborhood out of the woman, but you will never take the woman out of the neighborhood!" I laughed at him — today I'm convinced he was right! Fr. Logan was the pastor of Saint Joseph's Catholic Church in Rock Island. He passed away on February 9th, 2016 — his memory will live on in the hearts of our community for many years to come. He was a great friend of Rock Island Township.

LAST THOUGHT: Rock Island Township welcomes Father Anthony Coe. Father Coe is the new pastor of Sacred Heart Church (Rock Island Township is home to the Sacred Heart Food Pantry) and St. Mary's Church in Rock Island.

We wish you and your parish ministries much success.



TOWNSHIP FLAG ≡

Rock Island Township had Rock Island based Regalia Manufacturing create a flag using the Township's Rock Island Lines-based logo. The flag is proudly displayed in Lund Hall and on the Township's flag pole. It will also be part of the Parade of Flags at the Townships of Illinois' Annual Educational Conference in Springfield. James Kerr, Sr., township trustee and Air Force veteran, will be our proud flag bearer for this event.



Be Cool.

With A Rock Island Public Library Card

CHECK OUT SOMETHING COOL, WHETHER IT'S A BOOK, MOVIE, MUSIC, MAGAZINE, VIDEO GAME OR A CAKE PAN! LEARN TO READ. DO YOUR HOMEWORK. DOWNLOAD EBOOKS, MUSIC, MOVIES, MAGAZINES & MORE DIGITAL CONTENT. GET COMPUTER TIME. LEARN ONLINE, ANYTIME!

309-732-READ
www.rockislandlibrary.org



EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Town Board approved an Emergency Assistance Program in September 2015, with the Board allocating additional funds as part of the 2016-17 budget. We might pay your rent, mortgage or utilities (water/sewer or gas/electricity) up to a maximum of \$400 if you were unable to do so because of an emergency situation. An emergency could be a job loss or reduction in work hours, medical expenses, auto or appliance repair or replacement. We do not pay for those expenses directly, but cover rent or utilities if you used those funds to pay for the emergency.

If you qualify for our general assistance program, you are not eligible for the emergency program.

Application forms are available during regular business hours. We helped 50 applicants from September 2015 to March 2016. We hope to assist another 50 families during 2016. Call 788-3417 for more information.

FLU SHOTS

Rock Island County Health Department will offer flu shots at the Township from 10-11 a.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 21. Contact the Health Department 309-794-7080 for more information.

TOWNSHIP PARTNERSHIP FUNDING

Limited funding to support agencies and organizations providing services and programs that benefit youth, seniors and veterans is available. Past awards were made to local food pantries, the King Center's A.C.T.I.V.E. Club, Rock Island Little League, Community

Gardens, Rocktown 340 Basketball Club, and others. **If you are interested in receiving an application, contact the Township at 788-3417 or go to our website where you can download it.**

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 (in addition to food stamps) and a \$57 Kmart (Moline) voucher for personal needs. **Contact the office during business hours to get more information.**

HEATING/COOLING CENTER (Seasonal)

The Town Hall is open from 8 a.m. until about 6:15 p.m., Monday – Friday. Feel free to stop in and relax in Lund Hall, especially when our Midwest weather is extremely hot or cold. Read a book, watch some TV, have a friendly conversation or spend some quiet time. It's up to you. If you want to, stay for the St. Joseph Evening Meal (a Ministry of St. Pius X Catholic Church), served at 5:30 p.m.

FREE BLANKETS

Free wool emergency blankets should be available again, starting in November, and can be picked up during regular business hours. They are surplus from the Department of Defense and cannot be washed. **Supplies are limited.**

SHOOTING SPORTS
SHOOT • SHOP • TRAIN
512 12th St., Moline • 309-797-2222

Illinois Concealed Carry Classes Available Parts I and II. Call for Details!

<p>COUPON 20% OFF SINGLE ITEM Excludes Auto, Truck, Marine Powersports INTERSTATE Cannot combine with any other discounts or coupons</p>	<p>COUPON ONLY \$4⁹⁹ Watch Battery & Installation Expires 1/17 • Limit 2 INTERSTATE</p>
<p>COUPON 10% OFF Any Smart Phone Screen Damage Repair INTERSTATE Expires 1/17 • Limit 2</p>	<p>COUPON \$5⁰⁰ OFF Any Tool Battery Repair No Coupon required INTERSTATE</p>
<p>INTERSTATE BATTERIES 309-788-5677 4704 44th St., Rock Island AUTHORIZED DEALER Mon.-Fri. 8-5:30, Sat. 9-2</p>	<p>COUPON \$10⁰⁰ OFF Cell Phone Battery INTERSTATE Expires 1/17 • Limit 2</p>

SEE YOUR BEST AT ANY AGE

Visit Eye Surgeons Associates for all your eye care needs. Our board certified and fellowship trained doctors use the most advanced technology to treat simple and complex vision problems.

We offer eye exams and complete optical services including specialty frames and contacts.

Schedule eye exams for every member of your family.

(309) 793-2020 4731 45th Street Court, Rock Island
www.esaeyecare.com

Eye Surgeons Associates
Medical • Surgical • Optical
Providing Your Best Vision For Life

MEETING SCHEDULE:

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.



HOURS:

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.



Rock Island Township, IL

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, Roofers' Union and Delacerda House) schedules differ. Call 309-788-3417 to see if they are open.

CLOSED: Labor Day, 9/5; Columbus Day, 10/10; Veterans Day, 11/11; Thanksgiving, 11/24-25; Floating holiday in lieu of Election Day, 12/22; Christmas, 12/23-26; New Year's 1/2/17;

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

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

ROCK ISLAND TOWNSHIP



We are very grateful to the Argus/Dispatch for all their help in making this newsletter possible. A special thank you goes out to Jane Miller and Douglas Teggatz. Because of changes in the printing of the newspaper, this newsletter will go out to all the households in Rock Island. We wanted to include a map of Rock Island Township to help our residents know if they are part of our township.

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