



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

[rockislandtownshipil.gov](http://rockislandtownshipil.gov)



## Supervisor's Message



During the past four years, it has been my privilege to serve as Township Supervisor, working with a wonderful, creative and supportive Town Board, Clerk, Assessor and staff. Much has been accomplished. We reduced the tax levy by 4.5% during this time; completed a building remodeling, enjoyed four Senior Holiday Luncheons; published five newsletters; won two Mighty Message Awards from Township Officials of Illinois (one for our website that went online in 2014, the other for our LED message board sign); created a colorful and eye-catching logo and more!

In addition, we worked cooperatively with South Rock Island Township and the City to create the Township Recreation Youth Program (TRY-Play); provided financial support to the King Center's A.C.T.I.V.E. Club, Rocktown 340 Basketball program, Rock Island/Milan Little League, Papa's Helping Vets, Spring Forward Learning Center, Telecompioneers (Shoes for Children Program), SAL Child Development Center – Rock Island Campus and others.

We provide funding to three food pantries — 2nd Baptist Church, Church of Peace and Sacred Heart — that provide much needed food to more than 35,000 people annually. The Evening Meal, coordinated by St. Pius X Catholic Church, serves more than 12,000 meals per year. Hundreds of people per year make use of the Ethel Schurlock Giving Center where donated clothing is available. More than 50 clients per month qualify for our General Assistance Program — unemployed residents seeking jobs or people who have applied for Social Security Disability benefits, cannot work based on their physical limitations, and have no other source of income.

The bottom line is our services meet human needs — food, shelter and clothing. It's not the number of people we assist that is important, although we have more than 25,000 people per year come through our doors. It's the individuals we help — the young man who made a mistake at 18 years of age, was in prison for more than 15 years, but qualified for General Assistance, used our job search resources, found a job and dedicated himself to his new life. He was recognized as employee of the month, was promoted and is living independently.

It's about the woman who needed steel-toed boots, or the man who needed welding gloves, or the woman who needed hospital scrubs, all of whom made use of our Work Readiness Program vouchers and got what they needed to work and stay employed.

It's about the smiles on the faces of the World War II veterans, despite the painful memories and horrors of war, who were recognized for their service when Rock Island and South Rock Island Townships commemorated the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II at a breakfast event.

It's about the seniors who attend our annual Holiday Luncheon during a stressful month to enjoy a delicious meal, to have the opportunity to leave with a gift certificate or poinsettia, to listen to the talents of local high school choral groups and to appreciate the visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus.

It's all about the people, the individuals we can assist; the smiles on the faces of those enjoying the food and conversation at the meal site; the improved self esteem for those now gainfully employed; the feel of new shoes and socks on a child's feet.

*It's all about what Rock Island Township can do to help its citizens.*

**Alan M. Carmen**  
 Township Supervisor

## INSIDE:

### Assessor's Office

Rock Island Township Trustees ..... **2**

Clerk's Corner ..... **3**

Rock Island Township Home to the St. Joseph Evening Meal ..... **4**

Rock Island Township Salutes Veteran ..... **5**

2016 Township Officials of Illinois Annual Conference ..... **6**

Programs ..... **7**

Senior Holiday Luncheon Annual Town Meeting ..... **8**

Township Day ..... **9**

Neighborhood Associations & Community Caring Conference ..... **10**

Underwear Because We Care! ..... **11**

... and much more.

## Mission Statement

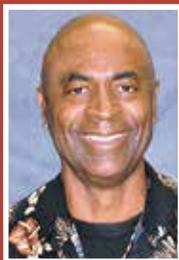
To professionally, courteously, equitably and efficiently administer general assistance, property assessment and other programs and to properly maintain the Township Hall and property for the benefit of Township residents and the building's tenants.

SPRING | SUMMER  
**2017**

# Rock Island Township Trustees



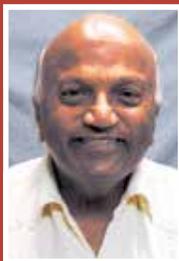
**Heather Gray**  
Trustee



**James "Jim" Kerr Sr.**  
Trustee



**Rita Kirk**  
Trustee



**Vincent G. Thomas**  
Trustee

# Assessor's Office

**Brenda L. Carmen** \\\ Assessor



## REMINDERS FOR SENIORS

You only have to sign up for the Owner Occupied Exemption and the Senior Homestead Exemption once. These two exemptions remain on your property for as long as you own it.

## THE SENIOR FREEZE EXEMPTION MUST BE RENEWED EACH YEAR

Senior Freeze renewal forms were mailed from the County Assessor's office a few weeks ago.

If you had the Senior Freeze last year, you would have received a renewal notice. However, if you didn't qualify last year because the combined income of everyone in your household exceeded the \$55,000 limit, you did not receive a renewal form.

Circumstances change. Perhaps Lady Luck smiled on you and you won some money in the lottery the previous year putting you over the income limit. Then, this year, your adult son or daughter saved enough money for their own place and moved out so their income no longer counts. (Hooray!)

For whatever reason, if you think you might qualify this year, gather your proof of income or your income tax return and pay us a visit.

We'll refigure everything and determine if you qualify for the Senior Freeze this year.

And don't forget: If you can't come to us, call 309-786-2961 and make an appointment for us to come to you.

## HELP US FIND SENIORS

The Senior Freeze Exemption and the Senior Homestead Exemptions are for seniors 65 years of age and older. We make every effort to find property owners who are over 65, by checking the birthdates on the registered voters' list and matching those up with our database of property owners. However, not everyone is registered to vote.

If you own your own home and are 65 or older or you have a relative or neighbor who fits this criteria, please call our office 309-786-2961 and ask about these exemptions or request a copy of our Exemption Brochure. You may be missing out on a reduction in your property tax bill.

## INFORMATION FOR NEW HOMEOWNERS

When a senior homeowner passes away, the exemptions will remain on the property until December 31 of that year. Here's an example

of what happens:

Mr. Smith, who is 94, passes away. Mr. Smith had three exemptions: owner occupied, senior homestead and senior freeze. Each one of these exemptions reduced the assessment on Mr. Smith's house which in turn, lowered his property tax bill. In June of 2016, Mr. Jones, who is 35, comes along and wants to buy the house. When he asks about taxes, Mr. Smith's son quotes the amount on the most recent tax bill which was sent to him in May of 2016. Remember, the taxes that we pay in 2016 are based on the 2015 tax year, when Mr. Smith's exemptions were still active. Mr. Jones completes the purchase of the house in 2016. Then, in May of 2017, Mr. Jones receives his tax bill. The exemptions are gone and his tax bill is about \$1,000 higher than he expected. Not a pleasant surprise and Mr. Jones is not happy when he comes to see us.

We can make sure that Mr. Jones is signed up for the owner occupied exemption which will help, but he has 30 years to go until he turns 65 and can sign up for any of the senior exemptions

The moral of this story is for new home buyers to ask about exemptions as well as the amount of the last tax bill. You can look at the assessment record online or you can call our office. We won't be able to tell you what the tax bill will be for the following year, but we will be able to tell you what exemptions are currently on the property and when they are due to expire. It only takes a minute for us to look up the parcel and see which exemptions are checked.

<p><b>COUPON</b></p> <p><b>20% OFF SINGLE ITEM</b></p> <p>Excludes Auto, Truck, Marine Powersports Cannot combine with any other discounts or coupons</p> <p><b>INTERSTATE</b></p>	<p><b>COUPON</b></p> <p><b>ONLY \$4<sup>99</sup></b></p> <p>Watch Battery &amp; Installation</p> <p>Expires 6/30 • Limit 2</p> <p><b>INTERSTATE</b></p>
<p><b>COUPON</b></p> <p><b>10% OFF</b></p> <p>Any Smart Phone Screen Damage Repair</p> <p>Expires 6/30 • Limit 2</p> <p><b>INTERSTATE</b></p>	<p><b>COUPON</b></p> <p><b>\$5<sup>00</sup> OFF</b></p> <p>Any Tool Battery Repair</p> <p>No Coupon required</p> <p><b>INTERSTATE</b></p>
<p><b>INTERSTATE BATTERIES</b></p> <p><b>AUTHORIZED DEALER</b></p> <p>309-788-5677 4704 44<sup>th</sup> St., Rock Island Mon.-Fri. 8-5:30, Sat. 9-2</p>	<p><b>COUPON</b></p> <p><b>\$10<sup>00</sup> OFF</b></p> <p>Cell Phone Battery</p> <p>Expires 6/30 • Limit 2</p> <p><b>INTERSTATE</b></p>

# Clerk's Corner: //

Joan Clark \ \ \ Town Clerk



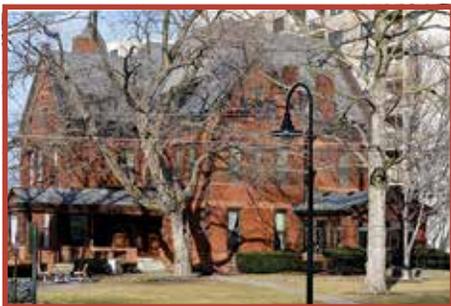
**Happy New Year to all!** 2017 is here, and it really doesn't matter how ready I am for it. By the time you get this newsletter, the first quarter will be over. On the bright side — the National Elections are finally over. I've made up my mind I'm going to have a wonderful 2017. I'm going to quit procrastinating, set deadlines I'm going to meet, give away all the things I no longer need and lose 100 pounds all before the end of this new year!

Before I begin my article I want to remind seniors (65 years old or older) of the Rock Island Township's "Senior Care" program. It provides a monthly \$35 voucher to Save-A-Lot for food and paper products. The program is available to seniors who have an income less than the 2017 poverty guidelines. Seniors are encouraged to apply for the program at Rock Island Township or call 309-788-3417 to determine if your income meets the guidelines. Rock Island Township truly does care about its seniors.

I've lived in Rock Island Township the majority of my life, and I'm proud to say I love it here! I admire what our community has done to preserve the history we share in our homes and businesses. In past years, I've seen the benefits of their vision firsthand and will share two stories with you. I've known both of the women I'm about to tell you about for many years.

Rose became a widow in the 1990s. She and her husband owned a home here in our township. When her husband passed away, she stayed in their single-family home and did her best to maintain it. Two years ago, poor health resulted in her decision to retire. She had a very small retirement, her savings were minimal and her Social Security check was \$1,246 per month. She decided to sell the home and look for somewhere to rent. She finally sold the house, which basically paid off the refinancing she had done to pay medical bills; then she set out to find somewhere to live. She said "I need a bedroom, bath, kitchen and somewhere to put my television. I just cannot deal with the maintenance of a home!"

I could tell she was hesitant about moving into an apartment where no one knew her. Following her lengthy search, I sat down for lunch with her. She was frustrated. She was staying with a friend from her church. She said she thought she would try the Coventry Apartments. I thought that was a great idea. I saw my friend again about a week later, and she was beaming! Her rent would be based on her income, she wasn't required to maintain a yard or sidewalks and she had just enough space for her needs, a place to park her car and the building was secure! Most importantly, she had met some of her neighbors and felt welcome. She also went on and on about all the activities she could be involved in.



Rosenfield Mansion

So what has this got to do with history?

Plenty! The Rosenfield home was built as a very high-style Romanesque Revival single family residence in 1890. It is one of Rock Island's 100 Most Significant Unprotected Structures. This very stately mansion located on 7th Avenue and 19th Street

served as a residence until 1920 when St. Joseph's Catholic Church purchased it as a Convent for the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. In 1958, the Convent was sold to the Jewish Center for an educational building. In 1976, Harris Webber Ltd, an Illinois developer, saw the opportunity to provide subsidized housing for seniors while saving an important part of our history. An eight-story addition was built that provides 146 one-bedroom units, and the main residence remains the same today as it did when it was built! Thanks to our community's vision of the future, we have this beautiful structure and Rose can remain independent in her new home!

My friend Mary is in her 90s. She lived at the Coventry until she recently decided she needed help with cooking, cleaning and transportation. Her health is not what it once was, and her family is not local so they were unable to help. Mary wanted to remain as independent as she could, but her income could not support most assisted living options. Just four blocks away from the Coventry, on the corner of 3rd Avenue and 19th Street, sits what once was one of Rock Island's most prestigious hotels — The Fort Armstrong.



Fort Armstrong

Chicago Architect/Builder Charles Nicol designed a 160 guest room hotel in 1925 that was named after Fort Armstrong, the military outpost on Arsenal Island.

(If you're interested in learning more about Fort Armstrong, go to the Internet and research its history.) There were 10 apartments on the top floor, a banquet room, three dining rooms, a bar, bowling alley, billiard room, barbershop, and seven storefronts. It definitely was an impressive hotel! People traveled from all over the country to stay at the Fort and see the fine entertainment. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is one of Rock Island's 100 Most Significant Unprotected Structures.

In the 1980s, the Fort Armstrong became an assisted living center. Once again, there was a vision for the beautiful hotel. The need to house our aging population was recognized. Assistance is provided to the resident according to the person's needs.

Mary now receives three wonderful meals per day that are served in a beautiful dining room. Staff helped with applications for financial assistance, and she is charged an affordable, flat monthly rate. If there is a need for help with bathing or the distribution of medications, the staff is available to help. There are planned activities and trips on the bus if she wants to go. She loves the beauty of the building — the chandeliers in the entry hall, the check-in desk (a remnant of the old hotel) and she loves the attention and friendship she gets every day from her neighbors and the staff.

I end this article by saying how grateful I am these two dear friends of mine have found a home in a city they love and have known most of their lives. I'm also grateful for the vision of those who were committed to saving our history in a useful manner.



## BLOOD DRIVE

Rock Island Township partnered with the Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center for our first blood drive on Friday, January 6, 2017. Trustee Jim Kerr (pictured), several employees, and guests donated a pint each. We had nine donors; not bad for a first try.

**We'll have another blood drive some time during the summer. Watch for announcements.**



## FREE COPIES AND FAXES

We will make a limited number of copies for Township residents or send a fax on their behalf. These can be related to employment, taxes, driver's licenses, etc.

# Rock Island Township — Home to the St. Joseph Evening Meal

By: Trustee Rita Kirk

The St. Joseph Evening Meal, a Ministry of St. Pius Catholic Church, provides meals for the hungry in our community. The meal is served at 5:30 p.m. weeknights at Rock Island Township.

For over 35 years, the evening meal has been cooked and served by churches of all faiths, fraternal organizations, retailers, and individuals interested in helping the poor. Last year, over 12,000 meals were served. Guests are singles, families, and elderly; many who are lonely or who may not be able to cook. We can always find a date for a new person or group who wants to get involved in this necessary ministry.

Rock Island Township provides a perfect setting for the evening meal. Lund Hall is large enough to provide diners with plenty of space and, yet, is conveniently sized to allow easy fellowship with one 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 welcoming and friendly. Our goal is to provide a nutritious meal and a welcoming dining experience.

The Metro-Link bus stops in front of the Rock Island Township's 7th Avenue entrance; making accessibility easy.



ABOVE: (from left to right front) Trustees, Heather Gray, Jim Kerr and Rita Kirk along with Township supervisor, Alan Carmen (back) assist with the evening meal.

LEFT: Great desserts were waiting for the attendees to choose from.

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

**WE HAVE THE ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT CEMETERIES**

**Chippiannock Cemetery**  
2901 12th Street, Rock Island, IL 61201 • (309) 788-6622  
Contact us today to make arrangements.

# Rock Island Township Salutes Veteran

By: Trustees Rita Kirk and James Kerr

## Rock Island Township continues to recognize our veterans with a salute to Robert "Mike" Clark.

A common thread seems to be running through all of the veterans we have talked to. Not only have they served their country, but they returned home to serve their community as volunteers — volunteers helping to make a difference in our neighborhoods. A great example of this dedication is Robert "Mike" Clark. Mike, as we all know him, was a veteran in the Vietnam Era. He was not sent to Vietnam but to Korea. Mike was drafted in 1963. He went to Lockport, New York at Niagara Falls airport. In 1964, he was sent to Korea for 14 months to work at the Transportation Depot in the Bussan Perimeter.

Mike began his life in the East Moline Arsenal Courts. When his father was no longer at the Arsenal, his family moved in with his grandparents in Rock Island. He went to Sacred Heart School and remembers taking food to the church to help others. Giving, for Mike, began early. He remembers, as a child, taking his savings to the church collection to help the poor babies in Africa. Mike worked for the Rock Island Lines for a couple years and then went to Parr Instrument Company in Moline to work in the shipping and receiving department. He retired after 31 years.

## ROCK ISLAND – MILAN EDUCATION FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

Rock Island Milan Education Foundation Scholarship — The Town Board approved a \$1,000 annual scholarship to be awarded through the Rock Island Milan Education Foundation (RIMEF) to a Rock Island High School senior living within the Township, with demonstrated leadership skills, an interest in government, politics or law and to promote active/engaged citizens. A 2.5-3.5 grade point average is required, along with attendance at an Illinois college.



Rock Island Township Trustees Rita Kirk and James Kerr salute veteran Robert "Mike" Clark.

The seeds planted in his youth had begun to sprout. He was asked to become the secretary for the church's St. Vincent DePaul Society. This meant he would oversee the Sacred Heart Food Pantry — 41 years later, he is still going strong. He is a familiar face at Rock Island Township. Mike coordinates the food pick up and distribution as well as the volunteers necessary for the Sacred Heart Food Pantry. His sister, Judy, helps with the work! He also staffs the St. Joseph Evening Meal.

In 1982, Mike and a group of men went to Carbondale to look into learning how to begin a food bank. With \$20,000 in seed money from John Deere Company, they were off and running. At a meeting held at the Rock Island Township, The River Bend Food Bank was born.

In the 90s, St. Joseph church started the Evening Meal for the hungry. The Evening meal serves dinner Monday through Friday to anyone who is hungry. Guess who volunteered? It's no surprise, Mike Clark. He is still the supervisor on Thursday and Friday nights in Lund Hall at Rock Island Township.

Looking back on his life, Mike feels helping to bring a food bank to the Quad Cities was one of the most important things he assisted in accomplishing. He has learned his lessons well from the story of the Good Samaritan. The story set his feet on his life's path to help others. **From serving his country to serving his neighbors — Mike Clark has made a great difference in the quality of life for many in Rock Island.**

**Thank you Mike – from all of us!**



The Board approved a total \$5,000 investment in the future of our youth — one \$1,000 scholarship per year, starting in 2017 and ending in 2021.

The RIMEF is accepting scholarship applications through March 31, 2017. RIMEF Board members screen and decide who receives the scholarship. The annual Academic Achievement Awards and Scholarship Night is set for May 10, 2017.

## 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 [rockislandlibrary.org](http://rockislandlibrary.org)



### LIBRARY HOURS:

#### 30/31 Branch (3059 30th St.)

Monday-Tuesday:  
9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Wednesday-Thursday:  
Noon-8 p.m.

Friday-Saturday:  
9 a.m.-5 p.m.

#### Southwest Branch (9010 Ridgewood Rd.)

Monday-Tuesday:  
Noon to 8 p.m.

Wednesday-Saturday:  
9 a.m.-5 p.m.

#### Main Library (401 19th St.)

Monday-Thursday:  
9 a.m.-8 p.m.

Friday-Saturday:  
9 a.m.-5 p.m.

## INCOME TAX PREPARATION

AARP offers free income tax assistance to those 50 or older or residents earning no more than \$57,000 annually. **Call 563-355-9900 for more information.**



## SPRING COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE

Upper Longview Park will be the site of the Park Department's Spring Community Garage Sale on **Saturday, April 29th**, from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. **If you want to rent space, contact the Park Department at 309-732-PARK.**

Or, come out to see what treasures (toys, videos, DVDs, furniture, clothes, antiques, etc.) are for sale.



## SPRING PLANT SALE

The spring plant sale is on **Sunday, May 7th** in the Longview Park Greenhouse from 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

# 2016 Township Officials of Illinois Annual Conference

Trustees Kerr and Thomas represented Rock Island Township at the November 2016 event in Springfield. Township trustees, clerks, assessors and supervisors from across the state attend to hear about the latest laws affecting townships, best practices for budgeting, the General Assistance Program, social media, public education, and property assessment.

Awards also were announced and Rock Island Township won its second consecutive Mighty Message award. The 2016 recognition was for our LED message board sign, which was recognized as a unique and visible means to publicize township and community programs and events. This followed the 2015 Mighty Message award for our website.

Trustee Jim Kerr also had the opportunity to march in the Parade of Flags, where he showed off our flag featuring our township logo.

Finally, Trustees Jim Kerr and Vince Thomas placed third in the bean bag tournament after fierce competition

**Congratulations Jim and Vince!**

## 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.

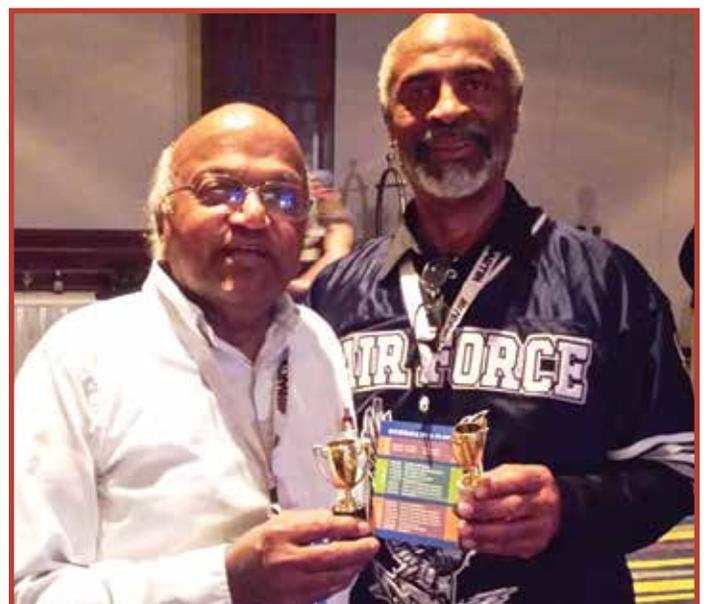
**Contact South Rock Island Township at 309-788-0496 for more information.**



Trustee Jim Kerr had the opportunity to march in the Parade of Flags, where he showed off our flag.



Our new LED sign promoting upcoming community events won the 2016 Mighty Message award.



Trustees Jim Kerr and Vince Thomas placed third in the bean bag tournament after fierce competition.

## EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

We might be able to assist with your rent, mortgage, or utility bills (water/sewer or MidAmerican) if you had an emergency that diverted your rent or utility funds to take care of that problem.

For example, if your car broke down, you need it to get to and from work and you had to pay \$500 for repairs that meant you didn't have \$500 for your rent.

If you qualify, the Township could pay a maximum of \$400 toward your rent or utilities.

The Township budgeted \$30,000 for this program. As of December 31, we assisted 69 families (41 rent payments and 28 utility expenses) at an average cost of \$360.

Call 309-788-3417 for more information.

## EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER GRANT (EF&SG)

Rock Island County received about \$25,000 in Emergency Food and Shelter Grant funds in 2016-17. The funds could be used to cover not more than \$450 in a rent or mortgage payment if the family faced reduced work hours, an unexpected medical expense, car repair, or some other emergency.

In order to qualify, applicants had to show where their money was spent the month they faced the emergency and they had income to cover the upcoming month's bills.

Townships throughout the county processed applications and sent them to Moline Township for final approval and payment. Rock Island Township had 21 families inquire about the program; 7 applications were completed and returned and 5 of those were approved at an average payment of \$400.

EF&SG funds are no longer available, but may be offered again late this year or early in 2018. Call 309-788-3417 for 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, Rock Island Little League, Community Gardens, Rocktown 340 Basketball Club, among others. If you are interested in receiving a grant application, contact the Township at 309-788-3417 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 with no dependent children looking for work who needs temporary help, the Township's General Assistance Program 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 voucher for personal needs. Contact the office during business hours to get more information.

## VOTER REGISTRATION

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

## SENIOR CARE VOUCHERS

Our Senior Cares food voucher program is still available, BUT based on budget limits, we are at the maximum 30 seniors per month who receive the \$35 Save-a-Lot II voucher. If you are 65 or older and earn \$980.83 per month (or \$1,327.50 for a couple) or less, you might qualify.

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. There are so many people in our Township that qualify for this program that a waiting list is usually necessary as we try to help all those in need.

## COOLING/HEATING 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.



### Rock Island Public Library

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**Free Summer Fun**  
for all ages,  
June 10—July 15

**BUILD A BETTER SUMMER KICKOFF CARNIVAL!**  
**Saturday, June 10**  
**11 am to 2 pm**  
Main Library Lot,  
401 19th Street

**DESIGN FREE FAMILY FUN!**  
∞ Prizes ∞ Games ∞ Bouncy House  
∞ Arts & Crafts ∞ Face Painting & More!

**MAKE A BLUEPRINT FOR SUMMER LEARNING!**  
Register for *Reading by Design* challenges  
and pick up our summer events guide.



**309-732-READ**  
**www.rockislandlibrary.org**



## SPRING EGG HUNT

The Parks and Recreation Department's 2017 Spring Egg Hunt is set for 9:30 a.m. (SHARP), **Saturday, April 8th** at Lincoln Park (11th Avenue & 38th Street). Rock Island and South Rock Island Townships are pleased to co-sponsor this year's event again. There are four age groups and age-appropriate prizes and candy can be found in the 10,000 eggs. There is likely to be a Bunny visit, so come join in the fun. Call **309-732-PARK** for more information. (Rain location is RIFAC.)

## LEAF BAG DISTRIBUTION

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

**The 2017 spring program dates have not yet been announced. Please check the city website [rigov.org](http://rigov.org) or call 309-732-2200 for more information about this service.**

**Once dates have been determined, come to Room 4 at the Town Hall for your free bags.**

## Senior Holiday Luncheon

Nearly 100 senior citizens, caregivers, volunteers, and the town board attended the 15th Annual Senior Holiday Luncheon in Lund Hall on December 14, 2016. Montford and Friends catered the lunch, with delicious turkey, stuffing, potatoes and all the fixings. Special guests Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus, and one of their elves, passed out candy and assisted with the prize giveaway.



Trustee Vince Thomas spends some holiday time with on of our senior guests.

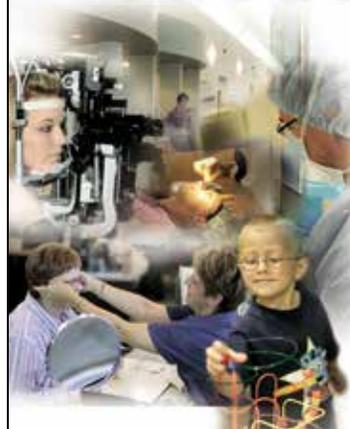


Santa and Mrs. Claus enjoy the luncheon with Safer Foundation's Jan Leone (left) and Maria Maldonado.

## ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

**Please join the Town Board on Tuesday, April 11th at 6:01 p.m.** in Lund Hall at our Annual Town Meeting. You can hear reports from the Assessor and Supervisor about property value trends, home sale information, how specific neighborhoods are doing, Township sponsored programs, activities, events, initiatives, and plans for the future.

## 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](http://www.esaeyecare.com)



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

# Township Day



Rock Island Township and other local townships celebrated the first Illinois Township Day. Hot dogs, chips, drinks, and information about Rock Island Township were enjoyed on Saturday, September 24th. Representatives from local groups serving Rock Island Township residents attended to share information.

Thanks to Rock Island Urban Gardeners/ Broadway Presbyterian Church, Delacerda House, NAACP, Sacred Heart Food Pantry, St. Pius X Evening Meal, Rock Island Fire Department, and Rock Island Police Department K-9 Unit.

The Assessor's Office was giving away old photos of houses in the Township. If you want to see if your house picture is available, stop in the office between 8 a.m.-noon or 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday.



We look forward to making this an annual event.



## 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](http://www.rigov.org)

**PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT:**  
[www.rigov.org](http://www.rigov.org)

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



## 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.

### We are the KEY to new customers!



**Neighborhood Greetings, LLC**

- \* Connect your business to new residents
- \* Put your local offer in our Welcome Packets
- \* We target over 300 new movers every month



**Call Teri at 563-650-6242**

**Like us on Facebook!**

## COMMUNITY SHRED DAY AT MAIN LIBRARY

Free, secure shredding on **Wednesday, April 26** from 10 a.m. until noon in the Rock Island Main Library parking lot. Drive-up and drop off personal papers for onsite shredding by The Shredder, a certified, bonded document destruction company.

## PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE BACK DAY

On **Saturday, April 29** 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 St., Milan, IL

**ROCK ISLAND COUNTY JUSTICE CENTER**  
1317 3rd Ave.,  
Rock Island, IL

**SILVIS POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
600 Illini Dr.,  
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.

# Neighborhood Associations & Community Caring Conference

Rock Island Township proudly supports our many organized neighborhood associations, including Broadway Historic Area, Greenbush Neighbors, KeyStone and Highland Park Historic Area. These groups meet regularly, promote their neighborhoods and the city, share information about "how-to" topics and mutual concerns, meet with the Rock Island Police Department and socialize.

Members and residents know one another, rather than being anonymous. They ask for advice, they volunteer at clean-up and other organized events, they talk to one another (electronically and even face-to-face). They are neighborly.

For example, Greenbush Neighbors meet 6:30 p.m. the third Tuesday of the month at

Rock Island Town Hall, while the Broadway Board meets at 6:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month at Broadway Presbyterian Church. If you live in these neighborhoods or one of the other organized areas in the Township, consider going to one of their meetings to hear about their plans, events and priorities.

The Community Caring Conference (CCC), comprised of neighborhood-based block clubs recently was revived. If you are interested in finding out more about what the CCC does, contact Ametra Carrol-Castaneda at 309-732-7849 or rockislandccc@gmail.com.

Get to know your neighbors; get to know your neighborhood; get to know your Township, your city and your school district! **GET INVOLVED!**

## 2016 TAX LEVY APPROVED

This is the third consecutive year the Town Board has reduced the levy, from \$550,000 in 2012 to \$525,350 in 2016, or -4.5%. We haven't reduced services over that time. In fact, we've added programs while becoming more efficient.

The Township represents 4.2% of the total tax rate in the city, with the school district being the largest share at 52.3%. City taxes are 23.0% of the total and the county at 12.5%.

As an example, if you own a \$100,000 home and have the owner-occupied exemption, your annual total property tax bill is approximately \$2,800. The Rock Island/Milan School

District receives about \$1,464, the city about \$644, while the Township receives about \$118 of the total. We use it to provide direct and indirect

services to nearly 2,200 clients per month, or 26,000 people per year. That's less than 1/2-cent per year per client!



## Personalized Care is a Way of Life

**Service Divisions**

- Senior Villas
- Independent and Assisted Living Apartments
- Assisted Living Memory Care
- In- and Out-Patient Rehabilitation
- In-Home Services
- Skilled Nursing

Friendship Manor is a faith-based, nonprofit, 501(c)(3), charitable Continuing Care Retirement Community founded by The International Order of The King's Daughters & Sons, Illinois

1209 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Rock Island | [friendshipmanor.org](http://friendshipmanor.org)  
(309) 786-9667



# UNDERWEAR BECAUSE WE CARE!

Submitted by: Underwear Because We Care!

Imagine, if you will, not having underwear to wear. How would you feel? This is something most of us take for granted; we don't even think of it. For those that do not have underwear or are unable to wash what they have, there is a tendency to think less of yourself. This is the mission that Underwear Because We Care works to overcome. We collect packages of new underwear from generous citizens of the Quad Cities and distribute the underwear through partner organizations to those in need. We do this through two programs, the first is a twice per year collection and distribution and the second is through an emergency program.

The fall collection was conducted throughout the month of October 2016 and resulted in 3,800 items being collected and distributed through 25 partner organizations. We are still collecting data on

the people we reached as a result of the collection. We have planned a second collection from March 18 through April 18, 2017. Last year's campaign set a high-water mark, as we collected 9,200 items and distributed them through 26 organizations, touching 2,900 individuals, with 71 of them in Rock Island Township (21 children, 30 women and 20 men).

The second program is our emergency program. All requests for emergency underwear must come through a partner organization. The partner organization makes a determination of emergency need and then requests what is needed. While there are many types of emergency needs, some of the more likely are: an individual or family loses everything in a fire. Or a mother and children or father and children must leave everything behind when escaping an abusive situation.

The underwear program is currently in its fifth year of existence, but its roots go back about 30 years. It started with a lady in church standing up and saying "It's my birthday, and let me tell all you men what I want. I want your used, but serviceable underwear!" As you can imagine, this brought a good chuckle from those in attendance! But she went on, the hobos she worked with did not have underwear or have any clean underwear. However, by collecting clean used serviceable underwear, she was able to provide the hobos with better underwear. This is the seed that gave birth to the Underwear Because We Care Campaign.



Grant Curtis, left, chairman of the UBWC campaign, and Troy Muckleston organize items collected last fall by Underwear Because We Care, a Quad-Cities group that collects new underwear for low-income people and families.

## We ask you to consider donating underwear to the spring campaign.

You will be able to locate collection sites in early March 2017 by going to our Facebook page, [UnderwearBecauseWeCare](#).

Or you can send an email to [UnderwearBWC@gmail.com](mailto:UnderwearBWC@gmail.com) asking for collection points. Keep your eyes open, as we plan on launching a web site in the next couple of months.

## Why wait here?



## You don't have to wait around for your ride with *our new app*.

Real-time tracking  Accurate arrival times  Useful alerts



powered by  TransLoc

[TransLocRider.com](http://TransLocRider.com) | [MetroQC.com](http://MetroQC.com)

# 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](http://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: Good Friday, 4/14; Memorial Day, 5/29; Independence Day, 7/4; Labor Day, 9/4; Columbus Day, 10/9; Veteran's Day, 11/10; Thanksgiving Day, 11/23-24; Christmas Day, 12/25; New Year's Day 1/1/18

# BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

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

**Open to public.**

\*Except April 11 @ 6:01 p.m. and Dec. 18 rather than Dec. 25.

# 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.**