

**Monee
Township
Founded 1859**

MONEE TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

Local
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Volume 51 - Published by Monee Township - Summer 2024
Serving Monee, University Park, the Will County portion of
Park Forest and unincorporated parcels in the Township

From the Supervisor

HAPPY SUMMER EVERYONE! Our area has thankfully missed out on all the horrendous weather problems in nearby communities: tornados, flooding, etc. Most of us have our gardens in and are enjoying the flowers. My roses are blooming and so pretty. Here is what is or has been happening in Monee Township since our last newsletter.

Sadly, on May 15, 2024 Helen Barrett passed away. Helen, a Monee resident, was the former Monee Township Clerk for 16 years, from 1985 to 2001. She also served for years on the Township's Senior Committee. Rest in Peace, Helen!

SENIOR COMMITTEE: On June 13th, the seniors hosted an indoor Salute to the Flag luncheon which was enjoyed by all who attended. Besides a free lunch, there was entertainment and bingo. The next senior event will be August 7. It will be a drive-up and pick up a box lunch event. For all senior events a letter will go to all seniors who have participated in the past. If you are a senior 65 and over, who lives in Monee Township and have not participated before, please call the Township at 708-534-6020 and ask to be added to our senior list so you will be sent a letter for future senior events. Coming events will be 10/31 – the yearly Halloween Party, and 12/3 – the Annual Holiday Brunch. The Seniors need more help to do set up for these parties. Some long time Leaders are planning on stepping down this year so we need one or two to step up to be the Main Senior Committee Coordinators. This is important in order to continue servicing our Senior Community. Please sign up to help.

YOUTH: As we do not have youth activities in the summer, the Township donated to local libraries (Peotone Library and University Park Library) to help with their summer programs. Our Youth program will begin sometime in the fall and will be strictly recreational. More to come on this.

The Township did a Social Service Agreement with the Crete Community Runners Association and Crete-Monee School District 201-U to help sponsor "Juneteenth at the U" which was listed as an all-area event, on

June 15th. The Township also sponsored the Monee Women's Club / Monee Historical Society event: Mrs. Furst's Charity Tea held June 8th. Also on June 7th, I spoke at the Grand Opening of the new Senior Café at New Hope Church. The church is working with Meals on Wheels to provide daily Senior lunches. Contact New Hope for more information.

On June 15th, the Township held a Document Shredding Day. It was advertised in our April Newsletter and also we put it on Facebook and a few other places. If you missed it, we might do it again in the Fall.

CPR classes: Tentatively scheduled on Saturday 8/31/2024 from 8 am – 1 pm, Monee Township will host a 5 hour CPR training class to certify or to re-certify township residents to help save lives. You must be registered and a limited number of people can attend, so please call to register asap.

COATS: The Township collects gently used coats, jackets, snowsuits for all ages to help people stay warm in winter months. We do not take in other clothing as we do not have enough space. If you are cleaning out your coat closets this summer, please know they can be given to us to help those in need.

BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLY PROGRAM: August is the month you can get school supplies for the upcoming new school year. There is an article in this newsletter with all the details.

SCHOLARSHIPS: As many of you know, I am also the University Park Scholarship Chair. This year we gave out 13 new scholarships and renewed 6 scholarships for a total of \$19,000. The scholarships are for University Park graduating seniors only. We rely on sponsors to donate so we can give students \$1000 each. Our sponsors this year were: MONEE TOWNSHIP, SWEET LIFE SERVICES, ARBON STEEL & SERVICES, BIOMASS ENERGY SYSTEMS, BUDRECK TRUCK LINES, FAITHMOVERS CHURCH, UP ATTORNEYS – ODELSON, MURPHEY,



FRAZIER & McGRATH, HOMEWOOD DISPOSAL AND PK'S PANTRY. I am immensely thankful for these donators whose donations have allowed students to further their education.

Monee Township also donated to the Monee Chamber of Commerce Scholarship program and contacted the Village of Park Forest to donate to their scholarship program named for former Township trustee Ken Kramer.

UNIVERSITY PARK TIF-5: FYI: For 23 years all taxing bodies in the TIF-5 district lost tax revenues which went into the TIF which was used for infrastructure and development of the TIF area. University Park has voted to dissolve TIF-5 this year so it will go back onto the Tax rolls. This will add approximately 93 million EAV and can only be recaptured by taxing bodies in the year it is dissolved which means it will affect our November Levy. All taxing bodies will have to hold a Truth in Taxation Hearing as to put the TIF-5 EAV back onto the tax rolls, it will be over the 5% allowable Truth in Taxation amount. My preliminary figures show it will be a 29% or 30% increase. But don't get upset, this will not be charged to local taxpayers. It will only allow the taxes being paid by companies within TIF 5 to be given to taxing bodies instead of going into a special fund used for infrastructure for the TIF 5 area. If the taxing bodies do not raise the levy this year to include the TIF EAV, it will be forever lost. The Village of University Park and the School District will benefit the most as they get the biggest portion of taxes so they will reap big rewards. The smaller taxing bodies like the Township will be helped also. It will help our Township with a renovation project for our Food Pantry. Putting the TIF-5 EAV back on the tax rolls will be a win for all and will not affect your residential taxes.

Have a safe summer. Maybe we will see you as the Township will participate in the University Park Back to School Parade and we will also be in the Monee Fall Fest Parade.

Donna Dettbarn, Monee Township Supervisor

MONEE TOWNSHIP HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

On April 1, 2023, after an inspection by the Will County engineers, the township was informed that the Highland Avenue bridge needed to be closed immediately. The inspection discovered that the beams under the bridge were badly deteriorated. This fact would make the bridge very hazardous to drive over. I am aware that the closing of the bridge has been an inconvenience for people but am thankful we found the problem before anyone was injured.

At this point in time, the bridge is near completion. Guardrails will be installed soon and the bridge will be inspected by IDOT, who will need to give their approval for the reopening of the bridge. I would like to thank Willet Hoffman engineers, the Will County engineers, and Iroquois Paving for all the work they have done in reconstructing the bridge.

Wishing everyone a fun and safe summer!

Respectfully, David E. Deutsche
Monee Township Highway Commissioner



DIAL-A-RIDE

Monee Township has entered into an agreement with Will County Will Ride, through PACE Bus Company, for Transportation services. This will service senior residents 60 years of age or over for medical visits and disabled residents for medical visits, vocational/educational training and shopping one day a week for seniors and disabled, and also to work. Once you are registered, contact Pace Dial A Ride, 1-800-244-4410, for reservations. There is a \$2 fee per ride within the Township and \$4 per ride outside the Township, which will be collected at the time of service by the PACE Bus. All riders must NOW register and have a Dial-A-Ride ID. Contact the Monee Township for more information on registration, 708-534-6020.

No transportation service on major holidays: New Year's Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Lincoln's Birthday, President's Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Juneteenth, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving, the day after Thanksgiving and Christmas Day.

RTA RIDE FREE PROGRAM

Illinois residents who are enrolled in the Illinois Department on Aging Benefit Access Program (BAP) are eligible to ride on CTA, Metra and Pace for free. Illinois residents who fall below an income level set by the Illinois Department on Aging and who are 65 years of age or older, or who have a disability, may be eligible.

All new applicants must be enrolled in BAP to apply. If you have never applied for BAP, you must apply and be eligible for that program to qualify for a Ride Free Permit. If you do not qualify for BAP, call 312-913-3110 for information about the RTA Reduced Fare Program.

MONEE TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS

Donna T. Dettbarn, Supervisor
Bobby R. Lathan Sr., Clerk

TRUSTEES

Terri Boles
James W. Young
Deborah Burgess
William Morgan

Sandra Heard, Assessor

David Deutsche, Highway Commissioner

Ronald Poindexter, Collector

Location: 26121 Egyptian Trail, Monee, IL 60449

Telephone: 708-534-6020 Fax: 708-534-6080

Email: moneetownship@aol.com

Web site: www.moneetownship.com

Office hours: Monday – Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 4:00

p.m. (closed for lunch noon to 1:00 p.m.);

Friday 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Location: 26121 Egyptian Trail, Monee, IL 60449

Telephone: 708-534-8166 Fax: 708-534-8162

Email: moneetownship@aol.com

Office hours: Monday – Friday 6:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

MONEE TOWNSHIP ASSESSOR

Location: 46 Towncenter, University Park, IL 60484

Telephone: 708-534-6023 Fax: 708-534-6027

Web site: www.moneeassessor.com

Office hours:

Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Closed for lunch 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Wednesday 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

MONEE TOWNSHIP CONTACT INFORMATION

Monee Township	708-534-6020
Monee Township Assessor	708-534-6023
Monee Township Highway	708-534-8166
The Village of Monee	708-534-8301
Peotone Library	708-258-3436
The Village of University Park	708-534-6451
University Park Library	708-534-2580
Crete Monee School District 201-U	708-367-8300
United States Post Office, Monee	708-534-8057

GENERAL ASSISTANCE FUND

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

General Assistance is available to persons in Monee Township, under the following guidelines:

- Those who are ineligible for categorical assistance from the Illinois Department of Human Services (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, TANF)
- Those who are ineligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) from the Social Security Administration
- Those who meet the other financial and non-financial eligibility criteria
- Those who have lived at their address for six (6) months or longer.

GA provides monthly financial assistance to meet basic maintenance needs such as food, shelter and utilities, and also provides basic medical assistance.

A written application for GA must be filed with the Township. The Township will determine whether you are eligible for GA within 30 calendar days of the date you file your application.

Persons who receive GA must participate in the Township's Work Training and Job Search Program.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

- Emergency Assistance is available to persons:
- Who are eligible for GA
- Who are not receiving categorical assistance or SSI
- Who face a life-threatening situation due to loss of income, medical emergency or other unusual circumstances and

- Who meet the other financial and non-financial eligibility criteria
- Who have lived at their address for six (6) months or longer.

You may receive EA up to a maximum established by the Township only once in a 12-month period. EA is paid directly to a provider (such as a landlord or utility company) to alleviate the life-threatening situation.

A written application for EA must be filed with the Township. The Township will determine whether you are eligible for GA within 30 calendar days of the date you file your application. However, every effort will be made by the Township to make a decision within ten business days of receiving all needed paperwork. For more information, please contact the Township at 708-534-6020.

FOOD PANTRY

The Township operates a Food Pantry to provide food on a temporary basis to persons in immediate need. Foodstuffs will not be provided to supplement food stamps or on a long-term basis. Applicants are asked to apply for food stamps before receiving foodstuffs a second time. Donations are accepted year-round for the Food Pantry.

OTHER PROGRAMS

The other programs the Township provides are Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter Basket and School Supply programs. The Township accepts donations for all programs. For more information about these programs, contact the Township Office.



Monee Township

MONEE TOWNSHIP SENIOR COMMITTEE

Monee Township Senior Committee's next event is Wednesday, August 7, 2024. End of Summer Drive-Through Lunch, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, pick-up at the Monee Township Office, 26121 Egyptian Trail, Monee. The deadline to sign up is Friday, August 2, 2024. Must be 65 years of age, live in Monee Township, and must call for a

reservation. Free box lunch to choose from Turkey, Meatball, Tuna, Beef or Italian. Be on the lookout for Halloween Lunch, Thursday, October 31, 2024, and Holiday Brunch, December 3, 2024. Both will be in person. Contact the office for more information and to make a reservation, 708-534-6020.



AROUND THE TOWNSHIP

MONEE TOWNSHIP
26121 Egyptian Trail
Monee, Illinois 60449
708-534-6020
www.moneetownship.com
Contact the office for more information about the township programs.

SENIOR EVENT
Need assistance with your discount license plate application? Contact Monee Township.

UNIVERSITY PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY
1100 Blackhawk Drive
University Park, Illinois 60484
708-534-2580
www.uppld.org
Contact the library for more information about the Youth and Adult programs.

Beginner Line Dancing – Tuesdays 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. – FREE

Gentle Yoga – 2nd and 4th Thursdays 6:30 p.m. – FREE

Mini Ravini – Music and melodies of Motown and more. Wednesday, July 24, 2024 – 6:30 p.m.

Guitar Lessons with Mr. Fry – Thursdays 3:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m. – FREE, July 11, 18 and 25

Join the Summer Reading Program and other fun activities. Ceramics, Jewelry Creations, Computer Classes, DIY Crafts, Story Time, Teen Anime Club, Movie Night and much more.

PEOTONE PUBLIC LIBRARY
515 North Street
Peotone, Illinois 60468
708-258-3436
www.peotonelibrary.org
Contact the library for all Youth and Adult programs. Visit the mobile cart at Monee Township, 26121 Egyptian Trail, Monee. Books for children and adults.

CRETE-MONEE SCHOOL DISTRICT 201-U
Crete-Monee School District
Administration Center
690 West Exchange Avenue
Crete, Illinois 60417
For more info, contact Carmen Cartham, 708-367-8369

ATTENTION PARENTS OF PRESCHOOLERS IN CRETE-MONEE SCHOOL DISTRICT 201-U
Crete-Monee Early Learning Center
For children ages 3-5, the district is holding online ASQ and ASQ:Screening. For more info call 708-367-2770, or visit the website: www.elc.cm201u.org. Screenings are available for children under the age of 3 for early intervention and Child & Family Connections. For more info, call 815-768-3730.

Crete-Monee School District 201-U invites educators, guest speakers (substitutes), and support staff to join our Warrior Team of diverse professionals serving approximately 4,200 students. The district consists of



Paper-Shredding Event

nine schools, employs over 750 support and certified staff – most of whom live in surrounding communities. If you or someone you know is looking to make a difference in the lives of our youngest community members, please visit our website at www.cm201u.org and select **Employment** today.

VILLAGE OF MONEE
For more information on all programs and events, contact the Village of Monee at 708-534-8301.

SENIOR BINGO – Great prizes and fun for all!
Firemen's Park, 5218 West Court Street, Monee
July 25, 2024, 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

BIRTHDAY PARTIES IN THE PARK – 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.,
July 16, 2024, Potawatomi Park, 5709 West Court Street
July 30, 2024, Friendship Park, 25645 Lilac Avenue
August 13, 2024, Firemen's Park, 5218 West Court Street

MOVIES IN THE PARK
Movies start at dusk; Concessions open
July 10, 2024 – Matilda
July 24, 2024 – Cool Runnings;
August 14, 2024 – Scoobi

MUSIC IN THE PARK
Firemen's Park Pavilion,
6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
July 21, 2024
August 11, 2024

VILLAGE OF UNIVERSITY PARK
For more information on all University Park programs, please call 708-534-6451, ext. 800 or visit the website www.university-park-il.com

BACK TO SCHOOL PARADE AND CELEBRATION
Saturday, August 17, 2024 – Parade will begin at 10:00 a.m. with line up on Olmstead. For more information, contact Sherise Moseley, 708-879-2063

MOTOWN CLASSIC & CUSTOM CAR SHOW
Every 2nd Sunday of the month
Sunday, July 14, 2024
Sunday, August 11, 2024

The Village of University Park is hiring:
Human Resource Coordi-

nator
Community Outreach Coordinator
Part-time Program Coordinator
Public Works Director
Finance Director
Executive Assistant to the Village Manager
Maintenance Technician

MICRO PANTRY
698 Burnham Drive,
University Park (in front of the Code Enforcement Office)
Pick-up or drop off non-perishable items (no glass, please, when donating)

AQUA AID
Having trouble paying your Aqua Water bill? Contact the Monee Township Office and ask about Aqua Aid. For Aqua Illinois customers only.

AQUA ILLINOIS
24650 South Western Avenue, University Park
Monday and Wednesday, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.;
Saturdays 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Pick-up bottled water, faucet filters or pitcher filters. Visit the website www.waterfactsil.com or call 877-987-2782 for more information.

KNOW YOUR HELPLINES
988 – Suicide prevention and mental health crisis – Free, confidential 24-7-365
911 – Medical and public safety emergencies – Free 24-7-365
211 – Resource Support line (Housing, food, etc.) – Free 24-7-365 in Will County

THORN CREEK WOODS NATURE PRESERVE
247 Monee Road, Park Forest, IL 60466
For information and registration on all Thorn Creek Woods Nature programs, please call 708-747-6320

Celebrate History – 55-year Anniversary Friends of Thorn Creek Woods
Sunday, July 21, 2024 – 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Somonauk Park Pavilion, Park Forest. All ages. Rain or shine.

Summertime at Thorn Creek Woods
Saturday, July 13, 2024 – 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. FREE for all ages. Registration by July 8, 2024

Firefly Night Hike
Saturday, July 27, 2024 – 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Ages 13-adult, FREE. Registration by July 22, 2024.

RENT/MORTGAGE/UTILITY ASSISTANCE
Catholic Charities' Day-break Center
611 East Cass Street, Joliet IL 60433
815-774-4663

Will County Center for Community Concerns
2455 Glenwood Avenue
Joliet, IL 60435
815-722-0722

FOOD PANTRIES
Monee Township – Year-round food pantry
26121 Egyptian Trail
Monee, IL 60449
Monday to Thursday – 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Friday 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Northern Illinois Food Bank – Food Truck
Crete-Monee School District 201-U
1500 Sangamon Street, Crete, IL 60417
1st Wednesday of each month – 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Faith Movers Church
425 Exchange Avenue,
University Park, IL 60484
Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. to noon *Closed on 5th Saturday

Second Place Church of Monee
25655 South Governors Highway, Unit A
Monee, IL 60449
1st and 3rd Tuesdays – 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

New Hope Christian Community Church
4700 West Court Street
Monee, IL 60449
1st Monday of each month – 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

DIAPER DEPOT
New Hope Christian Community Church
4700 West Court Street
Monee, IL 60449
Every 2nd Thursday – 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

WORKFORCE SERVICES DIVISION OF WILL COUNTY
Are you looking for a job? The Mobile Workforce Center will help you find your next job, develop a résumé, revise your résumé, post your résumé, copy and print your résumé. For more information, please call 815-727-4444.

SENIOR SERVICES
Need assistance with your Social Security, Medicare or your discount license plate application? Age 65 and over and/or disabled persons. Contact Mary Ann Batterman, a certified SHIP counselor, at 708-258-6917.

VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

The Veterans Assistance Commission of Will County provides assistance for veterans living in Will County. Some of the services: interim and/or emergency financial assistance for basic living expenses, advocacy service to veterans and their families in applying to the proper local, state or federal agencies to procure benefits and provides assistance in filing claims to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. You may also pick up an application packet for financial assistance at the township office.

Register for your FREE Honor Rewards card and receive discounts from our participating businesses and retailers. Visit the website to register, www.honorrewards.com. For more information, please call 815-740-8389.

BOBBY RAY LATHAN, SR. HFC Veteran
SPC/5 Lathan, Sr. served from February 3, 1970 to December 06, 1971. Basic Training at Fort Polk, LA and AIT at Fort Gordon, GA for Military Police MOS. Received orders for Vietnam upon completion of AIT.

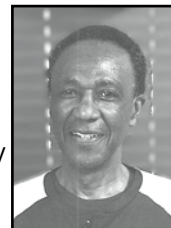


Bobby Ray Lathan, Sr.

Assigned as Administrative Assistant to the Depot Inspector Office at Long Binh Depot, RVN from June 27, 1970 to June 4, 1971. Returned stateside to complete active duty as a Military Policeman at Fort Leonard Wood, MO.

Bobby received the National Defense Service Medal, VSM, VC and The Bronze Star for Meritorious Service.

On May 15, 2024, Bobby was honored to be chosen for Honor Flight Chicago to travel the Washington, DC to celebrate WWII, Korean War and Vietnam War Veterans. Bobby Ray Lathan, Sr. also serves as the Monee Township Clerk since 2009. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!



RECORDING YOUR DD-214

Your Service, Your Benefits: Safeguard Them
The Report of Separation contains information normally needed to verify military service for benefits, retirement, employment, and membership in Veterans organizations. Information shown on the Report of Separation may include the service member's:

- Date and place of entry into active duty
- Home address at time of entry
- Date and place of release from active duty
- Home address after separation
- Last duty assignment and rank
- Military job specialty
- Military education
- Decorations, medals, badges, citations, and campaign award
- Total creditable service
- Foreign service credited
- Separation information (type of separation, character of service, authority and reason for separation, separation and re-enlistment eligibility codes).

How do I record my DD-214 in the County Recorder or Registrar's office?
Bring in your DD-214 paperwork after your separation date shown on your paperwork.
Bring in a picture ID
Make sure that you record your DD-214 in a convenient county. A county where you will remember the location
Recording your DD-214 as well as getting copies and certified copies are free, so please ask for what you will need when you visit the office
For more information contact the Will County Recorder of Deeds, 158 North Street, Joliet, Illinois 60432, 815-740-4637.

Honor Flight Chicago

WANTED: WORLD WAR II VETS!

Honor Flight Chicago recognizes America's war veterans for their service and sacrifice by flying them to Washington, D.C., to see their memorial, at no cost. Although we are currently flying our WWII veterans only, we are also accepting applications for Korean and Vietnam War veterans. When we no longer have WWII veterans interested in flying with us, we will begin flying Korean War veterans. All Honor Flight Chicago trips depart and return from Chicago Midway International Airport. For further information, please contact us at 773-227-8387 or go online to honorflightchicago.org. Honor Flight Chicago veteran applications are also available at the Monee Township Office, 26121 Egyptian Trail, Monee.

SUPERVISOR'S STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP ADDRESS

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING APRIL 9, 2024 SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

2023-2024 was finally a year where the pandemic was under control. It was not completely gone but better. Here at the Township we carried on the business of serving our Township residents with the Food Pantry, General Assistance and Emergency Assistance. We stopped requiring masks as the State rescinded the Policy so we made masks optional for anyone who felt safer wearing them as we have immunocompromised officials and staff. Our Covid office hours changed on May 15, 2023 back to 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Monday – Thursday and 2:00 p.m. on Friday.

Financially the Township is back in the black. Monee Township does a lot with your tax dollars. Last year we received \$664, 374.00 in property taxes into the general town fund and we were able to sustain all ongoing programs, pay all officials' salaries, and fund the Assessor's Office – which gets almost a third of the taxes collected.

Your tax dollars were also spent on senior programs, Will Ride bus service for Seniors and Disabled, General Assistance, Emergency Assistance and other Outreach programs.

SENIOR COMMITTEE: Before Covid, they would normally hold 6 events a year for Monee Township residents 65 and older, free to all who attend, a free lunch, great entertainment each time, and bingo for those who stayed after lunch. We have a dedicated Senior Committee who plan all the events and does the setup work and decorating for most parties. This last year we started out on April 25, 2023 with a drive up luncheon event but were happy that on June 28, 2023, Seniors held their first indoor party in 3 years. A drive up luncheon was held again on August 30th. On 10/31, the Halloween Party was indoors again and then the December Holiday Brunch was held at a new location: Cardinal Creek Golf Club in Beecher, IL. It was a great party enjoyed by all. The last luncheon of the fiscal year was February 14th, 2024 and was another drive up luncheon. Drive up Senior Box Lunch events instead of our in-person parties were successful and got bigger each time, with the last time giving out over 195 Senior lunches. It was great to see Seniors chatting and mingling at the indoor lunches which also include entertainment and bingo.

YOUTH COMMITTEE: Last October 2023, we were so excited that after a Covid delay of 3 years, we were bringing back our Youth Night, but in a different format. Instead of 2 hours of recreational activity, we decided to help students academically, as many fell behind due to Covid. We planned an hour of STEM instruction and an hour of recreational activity at the Coretta Scott King Magnet School in University Park. The program got off to a late start as our plans for the Spring fell through due to illness and death. The new format worked well. We hired teachers for the instructional STEM classes and aides and volunteers for the recreational part. Fall attendance was okay but our February/March session did not have great attendance. We will probably go back to our recreational model as previously done in the future.

WILL RIDE PROGRAM: Bussing through the program set up by Will County for transportation within the eastern part of Will County is offered to Seniors 60 and older to help with transportation to medical appointments and shopping once a week and to the disabled of all ages with transportation to local colleges, jobs, and medical appointments. This is a costly program as it cost us approximately \$46 per ride, each way. Will County does have a grant with the RTA to pay for 1/2 of RTA riders and also they have an area aging grant which pays at 85% of Senior rides so the Township pays much less per ride. But it is still a costly program. This has proven to be a much needed program that our Board feels is important to pay for as it helps so many of our residents.

NEWSLETTER: This last year we changed from publishing three times a year to four times a year. We think four times a year better serves our Monee Township residents as many areas do not have access to local papers. We try to deliver to all Monee Township residents. Starting in April of this year, we will start mailing our newsletters to Park Forest and to University Park as we have been having many reports that their newsletters were not received. It will add to our costs but as this is the only way to get our Monee Township information out to all Township residents, we think the extra cost and extra work for our staff will be worth it. Our newsletter gives an overview of all Township activities and helpful programs and information on recycling electronics, education tutoring, legal services, LIHEAP and Veterans Assistance, and we have an "Around The Township" column that gives loads of community information. The assessor is usually on the back page and gives advice and updates on programs that can help, like the General Homestead Exemption and the Senior Freeze.

WEB SITE: Moneetownship.com – our Administrator, Willa Simmons, keeps it up to date. You will find agendas posted and approved minutes of past meetings. We have a calendar section, and have many links to help you reach other sites. Check it out.

WE CONTINUE OUR OUTREACH PROGRAMS for people who have financial needs, General Assistance, Emergency Assistance, and a year round food pantry. Also, the Will County Center for Community Concerns offers the LIHEAP program which helps with utility assistance. LIHEAP agents are at the Township every other month to meet with clients who need help. LIHEAP is also at 90 Towncenter in University Park every Tuesday.

Our Santa's Sack program helped 125 families in December – we gave out food baskets to all along with gifts for children and adults. A total of 449 toys and gifts were given.

Our Thanksgiving Food Basket program helped 85 families.

Our Easter Basket program last year in 2023 we gave out food baskets to 8 families and 22 children. In these, families received beautifully decorated Easter Baskets containing toys, books and candy. This year 2024 we had 12 families sign up and 33 children received Easter Baskets. The baskets were put together by our staff Willa, Shirley and Ruth and so wonderful.

We also had our Back to School Supply program in August. 21 families signed up. A total of 45 children received school supplies in backpacks that were appropriate for their grade level.

Our year round Food Pantry program numbers were higher again this year, as many Covid programs were retired and people received less help so they have been coming to the



Flag Day Celebration

food pantry more often. We do not turn anyone away and if not a Township resident, we help them but refer them to other food banks.

We cannot thank our residents, businesses and schools enough for all their generous donations of money and food throughout the year. These donations help keep all our programs going. And thanks to volunteers who helped sort food, wrap presents and prepare for and work on the give away day. Thanks to our Highway Commissioner and his crew for all their help. They picked up food donations from businesses and schools and also picked up the Toys for Tots in Joliet. They are always there when we need them. Also many thanks to all on the Board of Trustees who helped on 1 or more distribution days, with special thanks to the following strong men who helped carry very, very heavy food boxes and bags to residents' cars: Bobby Lathan, Thomas Boles, Oscar Trevino, Nick Radite, Billy Morgan and John Kooyenga, a Highway Department employee. We were also fortunate that on Santa's Sack pick up day, we had many young volunteers in all capacities and were the children or grandchildren of staff members.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH: The Township Board participated in the University Park Back to School Parade last August. In September, the Board was in the Monee Fall Fest Parade with Jeff Zimmer, from the Highway crew, driving their decorated new truck.

PAPER SHREDDING EVENT: On October 28th we had a Paper Shredding event. People could drive up, watch as their papers were shredded and then drive away. Thank you to all who helped. Trustee Terri Boles and Plan Commission member Thomas Boles, Oscar Trevino, Senior Committee Clerk Bobby Lathan, Administrator Willa Simmons, County Board member Sherry Newquest, and myself. We are planning another event in June.

Throughout the year we have given to many community organizations and sports groups, as well as organizations that have helped our General Assistance clients. We gave to:

- American Red Cross (CPR)
- CASA of Will County
- Illinois Flames Track Club
- Monee Chamber of Commerce Scholarship program
- Monee Historical Society
- Monee Mud Dogs Baseball Association
- Northern Illinois Food Bank
- Park Forest Scholarship program: Dr. Kenneth Kramer Scholarship (former Township trustee)
- Peotone Library
- University Park Academic Scholarship Fund
- University Park Library
- University Park Youth Athletic Association (football)
- University Park Youth Baseball program
- Village of Monee (150th celebration)
- Will County Center For Community Concerns
- Will Grundy Medical Clinic

NEW THIS YEAR: Sadly, in July 2023 we lost our long time friend and our Township Collector, Calvin Lacefield. Calvin had also previously served as a trustee. At our August 17, 2023 Township meeting, we appointed Ronald Poindexter to fill the Collector position. He was sworn in by Judge John Anderson. Congratulations to Ron, he is a great addition.

DECENNIAL REPORT: The state legislature mandated that many local governing bodies do a decennial report on local government efficiencies. It must be done every 10 years. We had to have at least 3 meetings. The Township Board was required to participate, as well as 3 Township residents. Both the Township and the Highway Department were required to file a report. We held meetings May 18th, June 15th, and July 20th. The final report was filed with the Will County Clerk. It is a report that really tells you what the Township does. We put it on our web site and have it posted here at the Township. Please read it; you will find it very informative.

IN AUGUST 2023 WE HELD TWO CPR CLASSES at the Township. We had staff members, seniors and teenagers take the CPR training and certify to help save lives in an emergency. Those who attended were happy to learn or to re-certify. We will try to do it again this year.

TOI RECOGNITION: In November 2023, Bobby Lathan, Township Clerk and I attended the Townships Of Illinois Educational Conference. There were many new things to learn, especially helpful was the information on the new Paid Leave Act that went into effect on January 1, 2024.

Monee Township was recognized at that Township Officials of Illinois Convention in November. We were awarded a plaque from the AITCOY (Youth) Division that named us their TOWNSHIP OF THE YEAR for our newly revised Youth

Program which we had changed from strictly recreational to one hour of STEM classes and one hour of recreation. We felt it necessary to help Township youth with education supplements as so many students had fallen behind due to Covid-19 Zoom learning. It was my honor to accept the plaque on behalf of the Township, as our Youth Chair Billy Morgan could not be there.

ARPA GRANT THROUGH WILL COUNTY: Monee Township was awarded \$139,758 in grant money in 2022. We had to prepay and file reimbursement forms to be repaid from the grant money allocated to us. In February of this year, we had depleted the grant. We spent it on Senior Luncheons, Emergency Assistance requests that we were able to pay out up to \$1500 each in 2022 and 2023 (much more than we could have done without the grant), and we were able to give out \$100 gift cards with our Thanksgiving and Santa's Sack programs for both 2022 and 2023 (for those who qualified). We helped so many families with this grant. We also paid for our fall Youth Program with the grant.

TAX OBJECTIONS CAUSED BY THE ACCUMULATION OF FUNDS STATUTE: Almost every year we have petitions filed against us in our General Assistance Fund and sometimes in our E&B Fund. This is because the County and the lawyers are not figuring revenue correctly. We are on a modified cash basis of accounting. The County figures using the accrual method, thus charging us for levied money we have not received and cannot receive, as not received within the fiscal year we are dinged for. I met with State Senator Patrick Joyce in early 2023 and with the help of our Trustee Billy Morgan, convinced him that we needed to amend the wording of this bill. He agreed to sponsor it, and by the end of March 2023 it had passed the Senate, and then it was sent to the House, sponsored by Rep. Anthony DeLuca, and passed there. It then was signed into law by Governor Pritzker to go into effect January 1, 2024. This new bill should stop any new lawsuits going forward. The wording change will help highway commissioners by exempting the E&B Fund from this statute, as it is a Capital Fund account, and it states that the Townships on a cash basis or modified cash basis cannot be charged for monies not received in their fiscal year. This is a big win for us, and all Townships in Illinois.

PLANS FOR 2024-2025: We continue to save money in our Capital Fund to help pay for a building renovation to expand our Food Pantry and to add offices. As we are landlocked, David – our Highway Commissioner – was kind enough to suggest that we could use part of his garage area, so we will build him a new bay. In December, we hired an architect – Product Architectural and Design – to do preliminary surveys and design. We should have some cost figures soon, so we can decide how to proceed. This is an exciting project which allows us to have frozen meals and meats for Pantry clients, instead of just our normal non-perishable foods.

We will try to have a Blood Drive and CPR classes this fiscal year.

Since we are not having summer programs, we are working with the local libraries to financially help them with their summer programs.

We will work on continuing our Youth Night in a recreational mode only. In the future, Billy Morgan, our Youth Committee Chair, and I will work on finding a better location.

TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR: WILLA SIMMONS. A big thank you goes to Willa for her continued leadership in handling all that we do. It could not be done without her. She always has a very kind, gentle way with all people, even when stressed. Willa's job is complex. Besides the day-to-day operations of the Township – which includes being the bookkeeper/accountant, customer service and health care/insurance coordinator – she is also the General Assistance and Emergency Assistance coordinator. The GA program is a mandated governmental program, which is the last place people go who have no income, do not qualify for Social Security of Medicare, and have nowhere else to go. GA gives them a very small monthly subsidy, and we ask them to contribute work hours to get that. She also handles the EA, which helps income-challenged Township residents pay utility bills or rental assistance. The GA and EA take up approximately one-third to one-half of her duties, sometimes more. She keeps our Township running!

Another thank you goes to our Township Assistant, Shirley Lathan. She has really been a big help with organizing our holiday and food programs, and having her here allows Willa to concentrate on the more detailed needs of the Township. And thank you also to Ruth Marcukaitis, who is our Office Assistant. She helps Shirley with the food programs and holiday programs. Shirley and Ruth are integral to our programs' success.

TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT: One last thing I want to address again this year is that the Township form of government is under constant attack in Springfield. It started with former Governor Rauner wanting to cut what he considered excess taxation, which started an onslaught of bills to get rid of Townships.

Most Townships in Illinois are not excess. They are the closest local form of government that helps people. Monee Township is an integral part of our community. We serve many underprivileged residents who would have to drive 30 miles to Joliet to get financial help if we were not here.

Townships are very cost-effective. I doubt it would save taxpayers anything to take what we do and give it to the county. It would probably end up costing more, and not servicing our residents well. If we were not here, our seniors would not have a place to congregate and socialize, our youth would not be served, our economically challenged residents would not have a nearby place to get financial help, or get food when hungry, or just advice on where they can go for help.

Getting rid of Townships is a very bad idea, so please ask your state representatives and senators to vote against any bill trying to destroy Township government.

Thank you for coming tonight. I look forward to seeing you again at a monthly Board meeting, or at another annual town meeting. The Board and I will continue to work hard for Monee Township.

Donna T. Dettbarn, Monee Township Supervisor

2024 Property Reassessments, SOA updates and Appeals



Sandra Heard, MBA, Monee Township Assessor, CAIO,

Assessment increases are coming!
Our office staff and I welcome the residents of Monee Township to contact our office at 46 Town Center Dr. University Park, IL 60484, by phone at 708-534-6023 or email at moneeassessor@gmail.com (is preferred) for questions or for general information check out our website www.moneeassessor.com or Facebook page. **Office** hours are Tuesday & Thursday from 9am-4pm (**Lunch hour is from 12:30-1:30pm**) and Wednesday 9am-1pm. Our office is closed on Mondays & Fridays.

Our office is open Tue-Thurs and email is best way to contact us anytime or you can come in without an appointment during office hours. Currently, you may make appointments for office visits that require some research in preparation for your visit, but for most situations, you will be able to walk in and get assistance without having an appointment for help, especially with exemptions and assessment reviews. **Email is still the preferred method of contact, as this is the best way to reach the Assessor directly at moneeassessor@gmail.com.** In addition to email, we will continue responding to voicemails if you leave your phone number and set appointments to assist you, if necessary. Wearing **face masks is not required** but is optional for anyone who has safety concerns or if they have cold symptoms. We still have stations established with sneeze guards in 3 locations for assistance inside our office. There will be a limit of 3-5 people inside the office simultaneously except for workshops or exemption events.

Will County Supervisor of Assessments (SOA) Updates

Assessment increases are expected to be applied for the Monee Township properties, by the SOA, as well as for other Will County Townships in 2024. The SOA factor for Monee Township's is expected to be 15% this year. Each year factors are usually determined by the variance between market sale prices and the 3-year median sales amounts of the indicated value of a property. The indicated market value of a property is 3 times the total assessment. Some neighborhoods experienced higher variances than others due to these high sale prices that have occurred over the past 3 years. The high sales prices are due to this being a Seller's market and many of the homes that sold have been total rehabs, have major renovations or are new constructions. These sales from 2022 and 2023 should have been excluded from the Sales Ratio Study (SRS) but were not. They have and still contribute significantly to the high factors that are being assigned to this Township.

An appeal was made on two occasions in 2024 to the SOA to allow exclusion of these rehabs from the factor calculations, but to no avail. **The request was denied because of the timing of the sales and the timing of the request.** I am in progress of providing a list from all 2024 rehabs and some new constructions as candidates for exclusion this year. When this is done it will lower the factor for next year. **I will inform you all of the results.**

Workshops and Pre-Appeal assessment reviews

A workshop is scheduled for July 25, 2024 to assist in understanding the impact to you. Please make an effort to attend the workshop because appointments **will not be given** for assessment reviews due to the amount of requests we are anticipating this year.

The Assessor's Workshop YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS IT!

Assessor discusses reassessment, Pre-appeals, and updates.

When: July 25, 2024

**Where: Monee Township Assessor's Office
46 Town Center Drive
University Park, Il**

Time: 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

**RSVP (708) 534-6023 by July 24 (Leave a Message)
Refreshments will be served**

Q: What are your options to appeal your assessment?

A: It is recommended that you attend this workshop to get an explanation of the impact of this increase for you. This year, we will be offering **Pre-Appeal** option to get your residential property assessment reviewed based on the last 3 years sales. If your property assessment falls below 1/3 of the median sales price for your neighborhood, then your value is supported. But if your property assessment is higher than 1/3 of the median sales price for your neighborhood, after factor is added, then your assessment will be reduced accordingly. You must submit the following information to our email moneeassessor@gmail.com only, or you can pick up a form

to complete and drop off for your request. You must provide your name, address, year purchased, phone # email address and state basis as comparable sales. Office hours will be extended on Wednesdays 9-3 pm. **I will give consideration based on the specific neighborhood's 3-year sales activity in the review.** You will receive feedback within 1-2 weeks. It is my pleasure to work on behalf of the taxpayers of Monee Township.

Q: Did you know that exemptions save \$\$ on tax bills?

A: The Monee Township Assessor's Office assists with the completion of a variety of exemptions that are offered to **decrease** your tax bill! One Exemption is shown here: The General Homestead Exemption is determined at the time of sale, based on the indication on the Sales document (PTAX) as the buyer's primary residence. No other action to be taken. **Additional Exemptions that decrease taxes include:**

- **Senior Exemption** (must be 65 years or older)
- **Senior Freeze** (based on a household income of \$65k or
- **Disabled Persons' Exemption** (SSI, Dr's statement or ID card)
- **Disabled Veterans Exemptions** (from 2,500 to fully exempt)
- **Home Improvement Exemption** (additions or upgrades)

Check your tax bill for exemptions to see if you have all that is due to you. If you are not sure which exemption you should have on your property or what your current exemptions are, then call us during office hours and someone will be able to assist you in obtaining this information. **Do you know anyone 65 years or older? Have them contact us ASAP to verify that they have their senior exemptions.**

When to expect 2024 Re-assessment notices?

Most taxpayers will not receive a reassessment notice this year as your Township Assessor only recommended increases to less than 115 out of 6355 total properties. These 115 properties were primarily new constructions or those that needed adjustment to ensure equity in given neighborhoods.

Q: How are Commercial and Industrial property assessed in 2024? No re-assessment needed in 2024.

A: There has been an increase in the new construction of industrial and commercial properties in many townships. All industrial and commercial properties received a similar factor as residential properties did in 2023. These factors varied from those applied to residential properties based on business use, type, age, and size. This was the first time in over 15 years a factor was applied to commercial and industrial properties to equalize the entire township. Now, the SOA has stated that he would not apply a factor to commercial and industrial properties in 2024. He will only accept increases to these properties that are made by the Assessor, but will continue to apply factors to residential properties. Yet these properties will continue to benefit from the reduced rate that results from the increases to residential properties.

Monee Township Assessor's Office is Hiring-Two positions

**Office/Field Assistant and Appeal Assistant*
Office/Field Assistant responsibilities are:**

- Office and Field functions available to work part-time
- Great communication, listening skills & assist Assessor
- Familiar with measuring and Photographing properties
- Knowledge of Microsoft products, scan, copy, label, and compile various document packages.
- Calculate area square feet(sf), perimeters & Linear sf.
- Calculation of measure of central tendency.

***Appeal assistant -Pre-appeals** assist July-December 2024.

All positions will be filled as soon as possible
Contact us by email or phone located at the top of the article

If you have questions regarding **the appeal process** and how to complete the Appeal forms and proof information needed, information is available at www.willcountysoa.com website.



Make sure to like and share our **Monee Township Assessor's Facebook** page to stay current with office events and FB Live events!!

ANNOUNCEMENT:
Coming soon - Assessor's Podcasts including workshop recordings, to be informative and engaging with taxpayers. Announcement to be made on our FB page.

CPR, AED AND FIRST AID TRAINING

The Monee Township will be offering CPR AED and FIRST AID Training in August 2024. The dates and times are pending. If you are interested, contact the office, 708-534-6020, to register. Must be a Monee Township resident, ages 6 to adult. All training is FREE and participants will be awarded a certificate of completion. Certificate will be good for 2 years. Limited number for in-person class, first come, first served.

RECYCLE ELECTRONICS

Peotone Police Department

208 East Main Street
Peotone
1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
Limit 2 TVs per vehicle
ID required to prove Will County area residency

Lockport Public Works

17112 Prime Blvd (East of I-355)
Lockport
Tuesday and Friday only, 6:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.
Limit 2 televisions per vehicle
ID required to prove Will County area residency

New Lenox Township

1100 South Cedar Road
New Lenox
2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
Limit 2 TVs per vehicle
ID required to prove Will County area residency

BACK-TO-SCHOOL

Monee Township offers a Back-to-School Program for low-income families residing within Monee Township. This program provides basic school supplies (paper, pencils, pens, crayons, folders, etc.) for students registered for school in the fall. Applications for these school supplies will be taken starting July 29, 2024 through August 30, 2024. Applicants need to bring:

- Verification all ALL household income for the last 30 days.
- Verification of current address, and Photo Identification with current address.
- Confirmation of school registration for the children who are in need of supplies.

Sign-up can be completed at the Monee Township Office, 25121 Egyptian Trail in Monee, Monday through Thursday 9:00 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. and Fridays from 9:00 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. No applications will be taken after August 31, 2024.

People wishing to donate to the Back-to-School Program, or in need of further information, may contact Willa Simmons at the Monee Township Office, 708-534-6020.



EDUCATION CORNER

TUTORING

www.k12.gov
www.khanacademy.org
<http://www.goodhousekeeping.com/childrens-products/tutoring-website-reviews/a16511/free-on-line-tutoring>

FREE LEARNING WEBSITES FOR KIDS

www.switcheroozoo.com
www.funbrain.com
www.kids.nationalgeographic.com
www.reading.ecb.org
www.pbskids.org
www.starfall.com
www.seussville.com
www.storylineonline.net
www.abcy.com
www.highlightskids.com



FREE EBOOKS

www.openEbooks.net

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS

**Springfield Office of the Governor
J B Pritzker, Governor**

207 State House
Springfield, IL 62706
Phone: 217-782-6830

**Chicago Office of the Governor
J B Pritzker, Governor**

James R. Thompson Center
100 W. Randolph St., Ste.
16-100
Chicago, IL 60601
Phone: 312-814-2121

Springfield Office

Juliana Stratton, Lieuten-

ant Governor

214 State House
Springfield, IL 62706
Phone: 217-558-3085

Fax: 217-558-3094

Video Phone for Sign lan-

guage users: 217-717-2331

Chicago Office

Juliana Stratton, Lieuten-
ant Governor
James R. Thompson Center
100 W. Randolph St., Ste.

15-200

Chicago, IL 60601

Phone: 312-814-5240

Fax: 312-814-5228

Video Phone for sign lan-

guage users: 217-717-2331

15th Legislative District

Senator Napoleon Harris

413 Capitol Building

Springfield, IL 62706

Phone: 217-782-8066

1350 East Sibley Blvd.,

Suite 403

Dolton, IL 60419

Phone: 708-893-0552

40th Legislative District

Senator Patrick Joyce

108 Capitol Building

Springfield, IL 62706

Phone: 217-782-7419

270 Main Street

Park Forest, IL 60466

Phone: 708-756-0882

29th Representative

District

Representative Thaddeus

Jones

241-E Stratton Office Build-

ing

Springfield, IL 62706

Phone: 217-782-8087

15525 South Park Avenue,

Suite 104

South Holland, IL 60473

Phone: 708-596-7053

80th Representative

District

Representative Anthony

DeLuca

277-S Stratton Office Build-

ing

Springfield, IL 62706

Phone: 217-782-1719

195 West Joe Orr Road,

Suite 201

Chicago Heights, IL 60411

Phone: 708-754-7900

SPEAKER OF THE

HOUSE

Representative Emanuel

Chris Welch

Springfield Office:

300 Capitol Building

Springfield, IL 62706

Phone: 217-782-5350

District Office:

10055 West Roosevelt

Road, Suite E

Westchester, IL 60154

Phone: 708-450-1000