



# Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference. -winston Churchill <u>A Message From Your Supervisor</u> Spring Greetings to all!

Free Weekly Giveaway

Tuesdays 9-11:30 & 1-3:30 & Thursday 9-11:30

\*Dates and times subject

to change\*

Free Leaf Bag Pick up

Program

Monday April 1

See details on pg. 10

We, at South Rock Island Township, had a wonderful fall and winter with our seniors and residents. We joined with our other Townships and celebrated our veterans, for their service. We helped our families through the holidays through our Angel Tree and Free Giveaways. We also celebrated our seniors with gifts and meals.

We are looking forward to our Spring and Summer programs and we hope you will look inside our newsletter to see some of the activities planned. We are always looking for new programs to serve our residents, please call and let us know how we can serve you.

We are also pleased to tell you that our levy request will stay the same as it has been over the last ten years. It is important to note, we have increased the number of programs, with a ZERO percent increase in our Township tax levy request.

#### We will be having our Annual Town Meeting on Tuesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>. Please join us!

Look inside to hear about the exciting plans for the Rock Island Labor Day Parade which is celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary! I have been blessed to be a part of this parade for all 40 years!

We appreciate all those local entities that advertise in our newsletter and help to make it possible for us to share this information on community service and programs with you. If you have community information you need to share in our newsletter, please feel free to contact the Township office.

I close by thanking all the kind members of our community who have made a difference in our Township. We thank all of you who helped the children and seniors on our angel tree, and we want to say thank you to all our volunteers and our residents who donated food to help those in need and all those that help with our free giveaway. You are making a difference!

We are here to serve you!

May God bless you all! Grace Diaz Shirk

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

**Annual Town Meeting** April 9 6:01 pm

Drug Take Back Day April 27 10-2pm See page 10 for locations

#### Spring Shred Day

Wednesday April 24 9:30-11:30am

Outside Giveaway May 2nd 9:30-3:00pm

**BLS/ CPR Class** May 15th 9:30—11:30am

#### Summer Kids Camp

July 15- July 19 9:30-11:30 am **Reservations** required

## Assessor

## Nichole Parker C.I.A.O. NParker@sritownship.net \* (309) 788-4513



**Disabled Veteran's Exemption** is available for Veteran's with Service-Connected Disability o 71% + (totally disabled) is exempt from property

taxes with an EAV less than \$250,000

- o 50%-69% a reduction of \$5,000 in assessed value
- o **30%-49% a reduction of \$,2,500 in assessed** value

#### To qualify for this Exemption:

- Be an Illinois Resident
- Have at least a 30% service-connected disability.
- Bring in the Veteran's DD-214
- Bring in Veteran's Percentage of Disability from the US Department of Veteran's Affairs

#### For 2023 Surviving Spouses can now apply for this exemption, to qualify:

- Be an UN-REMARRIED spouse of a veteran
- Must be an Illinois Resident
- Bring in Veteran's Marriage Certificate
- Bring in Veteran's Death Certificate
- Bring in Veteran's DD-214
- Bring in Veteran's Percentage of Disability from the US Department of Veteran's Affairs

#### General Homestead (Owner Occupied) Exemption is

available to owners who occupy a property as their principal residence on January 1 of the assessment year. The amount of the exemption is the difference between the 1977 equalized assessed value and the current assessed value. A reduction of up to \$6,000 in assessed value is provided.

**Disabled Persons Exemption** this allows qualified residents to lower the Equalized Assessed Value of your property by \$2,000. This can be claimed in addition to other exemptions.

+ To Qualify for this Exemption:

⇒

- ⇒ Have a class 2 Illinois Person with Disability Identification Card from the Illinois Secretary of State's Office
  - Proof of Social Security Administration Disability Benefits Award Letter
- ⇒ A Physician's Statement (PTAX 343-A)

Senior Citizen Assessment Freeze Homestead Exemption allows qualified senior citizens to elect to freeze the equalized assessed value of their property at the base year amount. To qualify for the assessment freeze homestead exemption, you must be 65 years of age or older, have a total household gross income (including Social Security) of no more than \$65,000. Residential Improvement Exemption is available to homeowners who improve their existing property. The exemption could delay the amount of increased assessed value up to 25,000 for a fouryear period. The property must be owner-occupied. Improvements that Qualify:

- $\Rightarrow$  New Garage
- $\Rightarrow$  Addition to the Residence
- $\Rightarrow$  Decks
- $\Rightarrow$  Porches

we week

If you are unsure whether you

up for any of these exemptions,

please call our office and we will happily go over them with you

qualify for or already have signed

 $\Rightarrow$  In Ground Pools

#### Senior Homestead Exemption

is for citizens 65 years and older who own and occupy their residences. A reduction of \$5,000 in assessed value is provided.

## **Try-Play**

(Township Recreational Youth Assistance Program)

Our SRIT youth can go to White Water Junction or go to camp, take lessons or classes at the Rock Island Fitness Center, the Library, the MLK Center or the Townships at little or no cost!!!!

Our goal is to make sure all of the youth in our community have

the opportunity to be involved in programs that provide mentoring, character, team building, and FUN! TRY-PLAY will have limited scholarships and bus passes available

For more information please contact South Rock Island Township at (309) 788-0496. Please come join our Assessor for a FREE Tax Payer Seminar

April 24 at <u>1:30pm</u> and June 12 at <u>1:30pm</u>

## TOWN CLERK

## Nick Camlin NCamlin@sritownship.net





#### <u>Annual Town Meeting</u>

Registered voters of South Rock Island Township are once again invited to participate in the Annual Town Meeting, scheduled for 6:01 pm on Tuesday, April 9, 2024, at the Township Hall (4330 11th Street, Rock Island). Please join us if you can; the meeting is important in taking care of the business of the Township and its people. At the Annual Town Meeting, we honor Township residents with awards for their community dedication. This will be the ninth year for these recognitions, and there have been 22 honorees. We are proud of all of our residents, and past winners have been from our schools, senior facilities, legal & public service backgrounds, social agencies, churches, sports, and among the multitudes of humble volunteers. Past Township Award Winners include:

- **2016:** Christine Elsberg, Patricia Vincent, Pamela Hammond, Bill & Edna Sowards, and The Mighty Fortress Church.
- 2017: Debra Nesseler, Vicki Hess, Kylie Wymer, and the Moose Lodge #190.
- 2018: Jean Whitcomb and Michelle Lillis.
- 2019: Sheila Guse and Friendship Manor.
- **2020**: Carol Miller and Crawford Company.
- 2021: Ametra Carrol-Castaneda.
- 2022: Tom Kilbride, Barney Vincent, and Thom Sigel.
- 2023: Rosie Earby, Marcy Hansen, and Clarence A Darrow.

I especially like to see who is recognized each year, because it could very well be you; all you have to do is be a caring member of our community! Likewise, myself and the other Township Officials are here to serve you!

#### Having Trouble Hearing on your Home Phone?

#### **Need to Amplify your Cell Phone?**







Call for an Appointment to Try the Phones 309-793-0090

### To Qualify...

Illinois Resident with Active
Phone Service

Proof of Residency

Copy of most Recent Phone Bill

501 - 11th Stret Rock Island, IL 61201 Monday-Friday 8am-4:30pm

Illinois / Iowa Center for



Last year, we helped purchase T-Shirts for Earl Hansen School! The kids look fantastic!

#### Senior Food & Denture Program-62 & older!

If you're a South Rock Island resident, are 62 or older, and income qualify, you may participate in our Senior Food or Denture Program. Seniors with a maximum income of \$2,000 per month (\$24,000 yearly) for one person, or a maximum of \$2,400 (\$28,800 yearly) for a two-person household are eligible to apply (your bank account cannot exceed \$2,500). Those who meet all requirements could receive a \$50 monthly gift certificate to Hy-Vee. Under the same eligibility requirements, the Township has a program for seniors to receive new or replacement dentures.

#### <u>\*Individuals must not have dental insurance to apply</u>\*

To apply you must submit the following:

- Current piece of mail dated within the last 30 days (**no** junk mail)
- Current driver's license or state ID card showing residence in our Township
- Current Social Security statement
- Current bank statement- checking & savings
- Any other income from pensions or retirements, employment, or rental properties
- Last years tax return—if applicable

No appointment necessary. Come to the Township with your information, fill out a short application, and see if you qualify! For list of pick up and program dates, please visit or call the Township Office!



## Annual Christmas Party

This year for our annual Christmas party we all got together to enjoy a wonderful and delicious breakfast catered by Hy-Vee. Santa visited, we played games, and put together some crafts! Our seniors had so much fun. We can't wait to do it all again this winter! Watch in our fall/ winter newsletter for the date and time of the Christmas Party.

Also, a special thank you to Bill and Edna Sowards, who were our Mr. & Mrs. Clause, and to our staff and volunteers for an excellent job.





## SASSY SENIORS

Twice a month, a wonderful group of our regular seniors get together to play games, make crafts, socialize and party!They have decided to name themselves the "Sassy Seniors".

Our fabulous group of seniors meet on the **1st & 3rd Monday** of the month and is welcome to all seniors over 62! Join the Fun!!

If you have any suggestions on different programs or activities that we can do throughout the year please reach out to us at (309) 788-0496 or our email at srit@sritownship.net.

#### Come and join the fun and be a "Sassy Senior"!!!



This past fall, in conjunction with The Treasure Chest, we held another outside giveaway. We set it up as a garage sale but it was all free! It was a great turn out, we had over 210 people benefit from this event! On May 2nd from 9:30-3:00pm, we will be having another outside giveaway!











With the help of **Saint Vincent De Paul**, we are able to provide food and some toiletries to our community. **Each week** we get deliveries from St. Vincent De Paul. Items range from canned food to fresh produce to the occasional toiletry items.

Food is available **during office hours** and is on a **first come first serve basis**. We just kindly ask you to be **respectful** and **kind** to others and only take what you need.



Chris Elsberg, Agent 855 46<sup>th</sup> Ave. Rock Island, IL 61201 309-788-3060 chris.elsberg.caoy@statefarm.com

## Feminine Hygiene Products

(When available) If you are in need of tampons, pads, liners please stop on in. It is a first come, first serve basis. If you would like to donate such items feel free to drop them off during office hours.



South Rock Island Township will partner with Arc Industries to offer a free SHRED DAY for the residents of our Township. The shredding event will take place on **April 24th** from 9:30 to 11:30am. Each resident is **allowed to bring up to 1 bag or 1 box of personal papers up to 75 lbs. per person.** This past fall we collected 2042 lbs. If you have any questions please call the Township at: (309) 788-0496.

<u>Please don't arrive before</u> <u>9:15am</u> that morning. This event will take place rain or shine.



## Free Clothing& Household Giveaway

South Rock Island Township offers **FREE** clothing, shoes, personal and household items, as well as toiletries to those in need. We hold our giveaways every Tuesday, 9-11:30 & 1-3:30 & Thursday 9-11:30am at the Township, located at **4330 11th St., Rock Island**. \*dates and times subjected to change\*

If you have <u>gently used</u> items you would like to donate, they may be dropped off at the Township during regular business hours: 9-11:30 & 1-3:30 pm M-F.

Items we <u>cannot/do not</u> accept: Large furniture or appliances, old TVs and computers, well-worn/tattered (stained, ripped, or torn) clothing, and non-working or "just needs a new part" appliances.

Please do not leave donations sitting outside. Drop off items during the hours: 9-11:30 & 1-3:30 pm M-F.

It's by your donations only that we are **5** able to continue this service – Thank you!

The staff and volunteers at South Rock Island Township enjoyed Halloween Fun another year of spooky fun for our Halloween event. The Township held our annual desk-to-desk trick or treat event, where we had a Spooktacular group of little goblins and ghouls.







## Angel Tree

This past year we were able to have our Angel Tree Program once again for the children and Seniors in SRIT. Last year we provided gifts to <u>14 families</u>, with <u>32 children</u> in total. This was our first year providing seniors a chance to sign up for angel tree and we provided **23** seniors with Christmas gifts.

We enjoyed this program so much and cannot wait for this winter so we can do this program again.

Watch for the fall/winter newsletter for sign up dates and qualifications!

If you would like to donate **NEW** unopened toys and children items- feel free to drop off the items any time during the year and make sure to tell us that it is for angel tree. We are looking for items for age range 0-12 years, this can include clothing, diapers, baby items, toys, etc. We are also looking for new items that would be suitable for our

seniors.



**Possible cooking** kids camp-





Please watch our Facebook for updates!









## <u>Summer Kids Camp</u>

South Rock Island Township is having another fun and exciting Kids Summer Camp. Last year our children wrote letter to veteran and did many other fun activities! We enjoy this program every year and always have a wonderful turn out of amazing children! Dates are set for July 15-19th.

This will be our 7th kids camp and we are thrilled to provide this program for all our children in our community once again. Get your children or grandchildren signed up today ages 6-12! For more information please call us at (309) 788-0496 and watch our Facebook page and website for details on this exciting program. Seats are limited to 20 children. Must RSVP no later than July 1st!

We were pleased to sponsor to the Rock Island/ Milan Little boys baseball league and the Girls Softball league for the 2024 year!

and Milan Little leaus







## Attention Knitters!

Come join the Townships <u>Adult Knitting class</u> on Thursday afternoons from 1:30 pm-3:30 pm. Whether you are experienced or want to learn, this is the place. We will occasionally have yarn and needles available to for use for anyone who may not have any. We also accept donations of yarn, knitting needles, and crochet hooks.

Hope to see you on Thursday. All are welcome, no reservation needed just walk on in. <u>Please note that</u> this is for adults 18+.



This past year, the township hosted a Basic Life Saving/ CPR class. Some from the community became certified in BLS/CPR. We are planning to have another class this Spring on **May 15th @** 9:30-11:30am. We <u>need at least 10 people to</u> <u>sign up</u>.

#### Call today!

This is a FREE class for all South Rock Island Township residents— all other non-residents are \$40/person

## Special Toy Giveaway

One of our favorite times of the year is Christmas! One of the many programs we have is our annual toy giveaway. Throughout the year we collect new/gently used toys and in December we pick a day to have families come in and pick out some toys for their children to open for Christmas. We will even wrap them for you. Last year on Dec. 14, we had 36 parents come in and shop for a total of 109 children.

Please watch in the next edition of the newsletter for the special toy giveaway date and time and if you would like to donate any new/gently used toys please drop them off anytime during office hours.



Free Rental Opportunity for Wheelchairs/ Walkers/Crutches/Canes/ Knee Scooters We have a new program available to the residents of South Pock Island Township

residents of South Rock Island Township. There are requirements that one must meet in order to **TEMPORARILY** use our wheelchair.

- 1. present license or an ID
- 2. Must provide a valid phone number and address

 Set a return date(2 week intervals)
\*Those with a doctor's note for need will have preference.

If you have any further questions please call us at (309)-788-0496



## **VETERAN'S LUNCHEON**

On October 30, 2023, South Rock Island, Rock island, Moline, South Moline, Hampton, and Blackhawk Townships all came together and hosted a luncheon honoring all area veterans. We had around 210 veterans and volunteers celebrate with us at Bally's Casino & Resort. The Veterans enjoyed music from the Chord Busters and the Honor Guard posted the colors. We enjoy having this program and hope to try to have a celebration luncheon for our veterans every year! Our next luncheon will be some time in November 2024. Please watch our

next newsletter for the official date and sign up times!



This marks the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Rock Island Labor Day parade, so parade planners are looking for special entries to celebrate the anniversary. The theme this year is PARADE OF CELEBRATIONS!

With the help of Pete Carlin, the Pride of Rock Island Band Director and the Mayor of Rock Island, Mike Thoms, we will have the University of Illinois Marching Band performing in our 40<sup>th</sup> Rock Island Labor Day Parade!! The Marching Illini consists of approximately 400 students!

After the conclusion of the parade, The Marching Illini will perform at Rock Island High School Football Stadium!!

Thank you to the Rock Island Booster Club for providing lunch for all the band members and staff!

If you too would like to be a part of our parade please contact Dan Gleason, Mary Chappell, or a member of the parade committee. Please check the website for the City of Rock Island for how to participate.

We hope to see everyone at the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Rock Island Labor Day Parade on September 2, 2024 at 9:30 am!

## General Township Programs

#### GENERAL ASSISTANCE- MONTHLY

This program provides a basic needs allowance. All applicants must meet state mandated guidelines, and participate in the township's community work program or employment job search program.

#### EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE



Once in a 12-month period, families with children, may receive aid to alleviate life threatening circumstances or to assist in attaining self sufficiency. Residents **must** produce a Late Notice.

For General and Emergency Assistance: All individuals and families **must** come to the township for a checklist and application, to see if they qualify.



EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

Newly hired residents may qualify to receive job related supplies to begin their jobs. Applicants must provide proof of hire, ID, and the supplies required by the employer (i.e. uniform, steel toe boots, state ID/driver's license, etc. ).

#### UNEMPLOYMENT BUS TICKETS (YEARLY)

The placard offers parking privileges for those with temporary disabilities. Doctor's forms and placards are available at the Township. *If you wish to obtain a permanent handicapped placard or license plate, you must* mail your application to Springfield.

#### OTHER SERVICES

Lamination/ Fax/ Copies Warming & cooling center Voters Registration Eye Glasses Collection for Lions Club Notary Computer Use



For more information on these and other services the Township offers please call (309) 788-0496 or visit our website at www.sritownship.net Check out our Facebook page as well!



**METRO** 

No matter the

DESTINATION

- for work, school, or shopping,

METRO'S THERE.

Looking for a rewarding career in sales? Want to be part of a winning team?

## ECOGISTICS IS HIRING!

#### **CARRIER SALES REPRESENTATIVE**

Starting Pay \$19-\$29 Hourly Incentives and Bonus Pay Monday - Friday Work Schedule Career Growth Opportunities Casual Dress Code

Scan and apply today!

#### 📀 ecogistics

## Flu Clinic

We want to thank the Rock Island County Health Department for setting up a flu clinic last October, and helping to provide a much needed prevention program. They make a difference in our community and we would love to work again with the RICHD to provide more clinics throughout the year. Keep a look out for possible dates.

They will for sure be back again in October for flu shots, so check out our newsletter this Fall for the date!

## Spring Leaf Bags

Curbside pickup of leaf bags will be April 8th—April 25th Please be aware that leaf bags will only be picked up on your regular garbage pickup day. This is a fee program through the City of RI, so yard waste stickers are not necessary during this time.

Beginning **April 1**, residents may again pick up free leaf bags at South Rock Island Township - 4330 11th St. The Township hours are 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. & 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. A **daily maximum of 20 bags, with a Rock Island ID**, will be provided to each Rock Island resident only. *Distribution is not per household– it is per person! (i.e. if you have 2 household, you will not get an extra 20 bags, unless there is another person with you.* 

*If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the City of Rock Island at 732-2200, or visit them at* <u>www.rigov.org</u>.

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#### Drug Take Back Day

Please join us for National Drug Take Back Day Saturday April 27 from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

> Rock Island Justice Center Silvis Police Dept. Milan Police Station Moline Police Dept. East Moline Police Dept.



#### Year Around Disposal

Year Around Drug Disposal Drop Boxes Drop box locations:



#### **Community Experience Passes**

This year the Township purchased a family membership pass to White Water Junction will allow 2 adults and 3 children the opportunity to go to White Water Junction to swim over the summer for 3 days at a time. We want to allow families, that may not be able to afford the cost of these activities, the opportunity to enjoy other community experiences around the Quad Cities. Please watch our Facebook page as we try obtain other membership passes such as Niabi Zoo, Botanical Center, RIFAC, Etc.

## **Residents of the Year Awards**

#### **Rachel Gustafson**

Rachel Gustafson works tirelessly to support the youth in Rock Island and give back to her community. She's lived in Rock Island for more than 30 years and is deeply dedicated to the success of the town and the community members.

As a local recruiter for Augustana College, Rachel dedicates her time to making college dreams come true for our students. She has worked with Rock Island families throughout their whole lives, making college attendance a reality for many. Rachel shares her knowledge in various settings throughout Rock Island in big and small groups. You'll find her at all the area schools from elementary to high school/

You'll find her at churches and community-based organizations working tirelessly to spread the word that a college education is affordable to all.

Mrs. Gustafson also works with students who transfer to Augustana and can truly find the best path for families to college. It isn't always Augustana, but she is committed to finding a place for Rocky students. You'll often find her presenting not on Augustana but rather a variety of other topics to help families succeed in their goals for a better future. From essay writing to navigating the FAFSA, Rachel wants to keep Rock Island families informed.

Through her church (1<sup>st</sup> Lutheran), her commitment to health care for those with Juvenile Diabetes (JDRF), her role as a Big Sister (Big Brother/Big Sisters), her service on the Rock Island Milan Foundation Board, and the Superintendent's Communication Council, Ms. Gustafson is a dedicated community member.

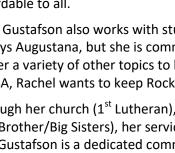
One of the best things about Mrs. Gustafson is that she is willing to reach out and be available one-on-one. While she is an asset for boards and a fantastic presenter, her most impressive skill is her ability to notice the ones that need individual help and seek them out. She has served as a resource for families with a child recently diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes. She will meet individually at local coffee shops to hear the needs and dreams of high school students and their families.

Mrs. Gustafson has been a behind-the-scenes dedicated inspirational leader in Rock Island for years. She doesn't look for accolades or appreciation, she just quietly goes about making a difference for the students for Rock Island. She makes a huge difference in our community.













#### **4 LOCATIONS TO SERVE YOU**

801 W. Edgington St • Reynolds	.309-372-8433
201 E. 4th Ave • Milan	.309-756-5513
3030 7th Ave • Rock Island	.309-786-5421
Knox Chapel 2106 7th Ave•Rock Island	.309-786-5421

#### www.wheelanpressly.com

#### Advertisement opportunity!

Drive by and stay up on daily activates that are at the township and around the Quad Cities. If your organization would like something **featured on our sign**, please contact us at309-788-0496. (all are subject to approval)



#### <u>HOURS</u>

9 a.m.—Noon & 1 p.m.—4 p.m. Monday through Friday Closed weekends & holidays (309) 788-0496-General Assistance

(309) 788-4513-Assessor

Monthly Township Board Meetings-Generally held the LAST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 4:15 P.M. in the Town Hall

### Here To Serve You! - Neighbors Helping Neighbors!

(Front Row) Bill Sowards ,Trustee | Frank Skafidas, Trustee | Mark Parr Jr., Trustee (Back Row) Nichole Parker, Assessor | KJ Whitley Trustee Grace Diaz Shirk, Supervisor | Nick Camlin, Town Clerk



#### Follow us on Facebook Visit our website at: <u>www.sritownship.net</u>



For all current City Officials and their numbers please visit the city website below: <u>https://www.rigov.org/299/Council-Members</u> To find your ward, please visit rigov.org

#### Rock Island County- (309)558-3538 Social security- 800-772-1213 Fire Department Non-Emergency- (309)732-2800 Police Department Non-Emergency- (309)732-2677