



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

rockislandtownshipil.gov



Supervisor's Message



It's been nearly two years since the new Rock Island Town Board was sworn in to office. Those who were re-elected include Trustees Jim Kerr, Vince Thomas and Heather Gray and Assessor Brenda Carmen. Newcomers to the Board are Town Clerk Joan Clark, Trustee Rita Kirk and me as Supervisor.

Some of these names should be familiar as Joan Clark previously served as Township Office Manager and Rita Kirk as Township Caseworker. Leaving the Board were Matthew Parker (more than 35 years of service) and Clerk Mary Ellen Penney (19 years).

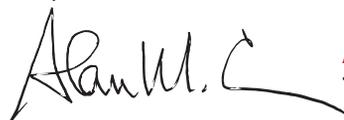
I replaced former Supervisor John Brown who decided not to run for re-election after his 17 years of service to the Township. While we mourn the recent death of Ms. Penney, we must thank our former elected officials for their years of service, dedication and leadership.

I retired from the City of Rock Island in 2012 after 32 years of public service in the area of planning and community development. My emphasis was on professional, responsible, courteous and responsive customer service. I bring this same approach to the Township, as reflected in our Mission Statement and Strategic Plan.

Our major accomplishments during the past 21 months include creating a Township website (www.rockislandtownshipil.gov), remodeling the building (roof, parking lot, bathrooms, kitchen and lighting), developing a logo, reducing the tax levy and operating costs, instituting a grant application and process for considering funding requests from agencies that address our priority populations (youth, seniors and veterans), coordinating activities with the Assessor and producing a newsletter.

We also pride ourselves on continuing past initiatives, including the food pantry, evening meal, giving center, holiday luncheon for seniors, work readiness program, flu-shot site, Senior Cares food voucher program, voter registration and free notary service, among others.

Please stop in and visit your Township to see what we offer. Or, send me an email at ritownsupervisor@gmail.com.

 **Alan M. Carmen**
Township Supervisor

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Mission Statement

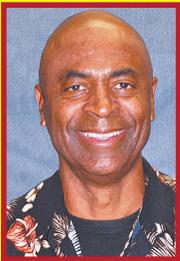
To professionally, courteously, equitably and efficiently administer general assistance, property assessment and other programs and to properly maintain the Township Hall and property for the benefit of Township residents and the building's tenants.

SPRING | SUMMER
2015

**Elected
Officials**
of
Rock Island Township



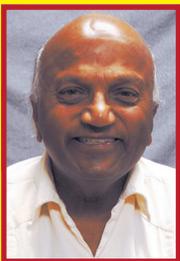
Heather Gray
Trustee



James "Jim" Kerr Sr.
Trustee



Rita Kirk
Trustee



Vincent G. Thomas
Trustee

Rock Island Township Services

Our basic responsibilities are:

- **Administering the General Assistance Program**

- ▶ Eligible clients may receive a maximum of \$300 per month towards rent, utilities, personal needs and food. Vouchers are issued to clients and checks are mailed to the rental property owners. All rental properties must be registered with the City of Rock Island.
- ▶ Typically, our clients are single, unemployed or applying for Social Security disability and have no other means of financial self-support.
- ▶ The application process can take up to 30 days.
- ▶ If approved and able to work, clients must seek employment, using resources at the Township (computer center, newspaper, job listings, etc.) to find a job.

- **Assessing all real estate in the Township — see Assessor's Office on page 3.**

The Township provides these additional services and programs:

- **Work Readiness** — Provides Township residents free bus tickets for those looking for employment, until they get a job and receive their first paycheck. We also assist with getting clothing or tools required for the job.
- **Ethel Schurlock Giving Center** — We accept donations of gently used clothing and shoes that are given to people who need them. Books, VHS or DVD movies and other household items may be available from time to time. There is no charge for any item.
- **Evening Meal Site** — St. Joseph's Parish coordinates an evening meal in Lund Hall, Monday through Friday at 5:30 p.m. They are closed for some holidays.
- **Food Pantry** — Sacred Heart's Food Pantry is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Residents must show identification and are limited to one visit per month.
- **Grants to Organizations** — The Township offers small grants to local nonprofit groups serving the needs of seniors, youth and veterans. Applications are accepted year-round and are subject to the Town Board's approval.
- **Blanket Giveaway** — In the fall, Rock Island Township and several other Rock Island County townships annually distribute hundreds of surplus Department of Defense blankets to those in need. The supply is limited and they go quickly.
- **Emergency Food and Shelter Funding** — In February or March, the Township usually (but not always) receives a grant allowing us to help families by paying one month's rent. The funding is intended to prevent homelessness and applicants who are normally ineligible for other types of assistance may qualify for this program. The maximum grant is \$450.
- **Senior Cares Program** — A monthly \$35 voucher to Rock Island's Save-A-Lot grocery is offered to income-eligible seniors (65 or older) to help offset other living expenses (utilities, phone, etc.). A single person could qualify if they receive \$958 per month or less; couples can earn up to \$1,293.
- **Flu Shots** — The Rock Island County Health Department offers flu shots in the fall annually.
- **AARP Income Tax Preparation Site** — From February through April, AARP-certified volunteers offer free income tax preparation to low and moderate-income residents, especially those over 60. Call 211 on a landline or 563-355-9900 on a cell phone.
- **Leaf Bag Distribution Site** — We offer the City of Rock Island's free leaf bags whenever the city approves that program and delivers the paper bags to us.
- **Voter Registration** — We have several Deputy Registrars who would be happy to register you to vote, update your address, or change your voting status.
- **Free Copies and Faxes** — We will make 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.
- **Free Notary** — We will notarize your documents should that be needed.
- **Warming/Cooling Center** — Whenever we have temperature extremes, Lund Hall at the Township is open for you to drop in and get warm or cool, depending on the season.



Joan Clark
Town Clerk

On May 20, 2013 I, Joan Clark, was officially sworn in as Rock Island Township Clerk. I had the privilege of being sworn in by former Clerk Mary Ellen Penny. Clerk Penny had been my mentor for more than 15 years. I was her Deputy Clerk and I could not have had a better teacher. Her wisdom and commitment to our township during her 19 years of service will always be a cherished part of our Rock Island Township history. Those were the years when transparency in government became essential. Training became a must for all elected officials and standards were set to assure the public was as informed as they wanted to be. Ms. Penny never missed a training session and files were

organized in accordance with government standards. We mourn her passing on December 17, 2014.

The Township Clerk is a non-voting member of the Town Board. The Clerk is responsible for: administering the oath of office to newly elected/appointed officials, taking minutes of all township meetings, posting and filing all township legal documents, accepting petitions for township elections, and filing all the necessary documents with the County and the State of Illinois. The Assessor and their staffs are all Notary Publics prepared to notarize your documents, at no charge to you. I am also a Notary and I'm available to notarize legal documents for senior citizens (age 65 or older) who

are homebound.

If someone cannot come to the township, I will go to their Rock Island Township residence and notarize their important documents. Please call the township at 309-788-3417 — I will return your call and schedule an appointment in your home.

Over the past 20 years I served on the staff of a number of Rock Island County Townships. I was responsible for everything from writing newsletters to grant writing along with oversight of Township general assistance. In October of 2012 I retired from my work at Rock Island Township. My years of service to the township helped prepare me for my job as Clerk. The job is definitely

different than what I've done in the past but I'm familiar with the laws that govern my position so I know where to go for answers. I enjoy my job and work to ensure the township commitments are being met. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to email me — ritownclerk@gmail.com. The board is made up of township residents who live across the township — every neighborhood is represented. They deal with issues that are relevant to our neighborhoods. Township government was and continues to be the closest form of government to the people we represent. At the beginning of our term we worked together to set goals for the future — we are all very proud of what we've accomplished as you will see throughout this newsletter!

If you have never attended a Town Board meeting you can do so on the fourth Monday of the month at 4:15 p.m. It is a public meeting; no invitation is necessary! You can also view monthly Agendas, Minutes of Board Meetings and lots of other pertinent information on our website — www.rockislandtownshipil.gov. Thanks to our Supervisor and Augustana College we are finally on the Web!

Assessor's Office



Brenda L. Carmen
Assessor

- Is responsible for assessing all real estate in the Township.
- The Township Assessor establishes the value of all land and improvements for every parcel of land in the township. This includes vacant land, homes, apartments, commercial and industrial property.
- There are several state approved property tax exemptions available to homeowners and other property owners. You may qualify for and receive more than one exemption. They are:

if you own and occupy your home as of Jan. 1st and are disabled.

▶ **Disabled Veterans' Exemption —**

A \$2,500 or \$5,000 assessed value reduction (depending on the percentage of disability) is available to honorably discharged veterans who own and occupy their homes.

▶ **Returning Veterans' Exemption —**

A \$5,000 reduction in assessed value is applied to owner-occupied homes of veterans returning from duty in an armed conflict (or a deceased veterans' family).

▶ **Home Improvement Exemption —**

If you make improvements to your owner-occupied home (an addition, new garage, three-season room, etc.), the Assessor defers the assessed value increase for four years.

▶ **Other Property Tax Relief** (contact the Assessor for more information)

- Historic Property Exemption
- Fraternal Organization Freeze
- Veterans Organization Freeze
- Charitable Exemption
- Model Home Exemption
- Open Space Exemption

▶ **Owner Occupied Exemption —**

If you own and occupy your home, you will qualify for a \$6,000 exemption (reduction) in the home's equalized assessed value.

▶ **Senior Homestead Exemption —**

If you are 65 years or older and a homeowner, your equalized assessed value may be reduced up to \$5,000.

▶ **Senior Freeze —** If you are a senior citizen, have owned your home for at least two consecutive calendar years and earn less than \$55,001 annually, you may qualify for an assessment freeze. The home's value can decrease, but it cannot be increased.

▶ **Disabled Persons' Homestead**

Exemption — A \$2,000 reduction in assessed value may be available to you

Concealed Carry Act

The Town Board took action last year to approve a resolution that complies with the Illinois Firearm Concealed Carry Act. It states, among other things, that a licensee shall not knowingly carry a firearm on or into any building or portion of a building under the control of a unit of local government.

MEETING SCHEDULE:

The Rock Island Township Board of Trustees meets the fourth Monday of every month at 4:15 p.m. in the Town Hall, 2827 7th Avenue, 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

www.rockislandtownshipil.gov



HOURS:

The Assessor's Office and Township administrative offices are open from 8 a.m. – noon and 1 – 4 p.m. Mondays 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 788-3417 to see if they are open.

CLOSED: Good Friday, 4/3; Memorial Day, 5/25; Independence Day observed, 7/3; Labor Day, 9/7; Columbus Day, 10/12; Veteran's Day, 11/11; Thanksgiving Day, 11/26; Christmas Eve, 12/24; Christmas Day, 12/25; New Year's Day 1/1/16.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

**Tuesday,
April 14, 2015
6:01 p.m.**

Come join us!



The Sacred Heart Food Pantry could not function without its dedicated volunteers.

Thank you!

WE HAVE THE ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT CEMETERIES.



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

TRY PLAY
RIFAC & White
Water Junction
passes Only
\$1.00

Contact Wendy Smith at RICAP
309.794.1100 x110

Funding provided by
Rock Island & South Rock Island Townships!

ROCK ISLAND COUNTY AREA PROJECT
309.794.1100