

Talk of the TownshipSM



Newsletter of Moraine Township, Illinois

Vol. 5, No. 1 - Summer 2010

Talkin' About:

- ▲ *Cemeteries: What Lies Beneath*
- ▲ *Pantry Plants Project in Full Swing*
- ▲ *Grantees FY10-11*
- ▲ *Ramp Assists Highwood Resident*
- ▲ *AssessorTalk: Watch Those Deadlines*
- ▲ *ClerkTalk: Election Information*
- ▲ *CommunityTalk: Food Drives Help*
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Mission

Moraine Township government administers public funds to provide responsive, efficient and compassionate services and support for residents in need.

Our boundaries include all of Highwood, most of Highland Park, and small portions of Deerfield and Lake Forest. The Township officially provides general assistance to individuals; property assessment services in the Assessor's Office; election and record-keeping functions in the Clerk's Office; and operates two cemeteries, Mooney and Daggitt, in Highland Park.

Township Cemeteries

What Lies Beneath: Ponding, Unmarked Graves

Moraine Township operates two historic cemeteries, Daggitt (acquired in 1996) and Mooney (as of 1960), located and established by pioneers in Highland Park circa 1845 and 1899 respectively. In the last issue of *Talk of the Township*, we discussed the challenges of incomplete, confusing and outdated record keeping, and the effects of time on our cemeteries, particularly Mooney. We enlisted the public's help in filling in privately held deed information. We did subsequently hear from people particularly interested in Mooney. This issue, we're taking a looking at solving the problems of Mooney and a brief history of Daggitt.

Mooney Built Partly on "Swamp" Land

Original township platting (1840) shows that the Mooney property located in Township Sections 27 and 28 included wide swaths labeled by surveyors as "swamp." (Indeed, original homesteader Jim Mooney's property was described as being slough, and he reportedly died of illness blamed on "swamp dampness" at age 34.) Portions of this property became St. Mary's Cemetery and Mooney Park as well as Mooney Cemetery. Flooding occurs in the neighborhood periodically, since the land is a natural flood plain. Open space like this actually benefits the region, when left to hold the water. There are low spots in the cemetery indicating that over the decades, burial areas have aged and sunk. When there is an unusual weather condition in mid-winter, such as the 60 degree weather we experienced last January, there is no place for melting snow to go, because the ground remains frozen. And while we do experience what experts call "ponding," particularly in the spring, at other times of summer weather, the Township actually has to water the grass. So the Board faces a conundrum: attack the periodic ponding by draining the property at great expense—possibly moving it elsewhere, into the neighborhood—or live with what nature has provided. But there is a third way.

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Pantry Plants Garden Project Grows

Returning community gardeners have made a world of difference at our Pantry Plants Garden Project this season. They've put up deer-proof fencing, created plots and organized around the principle of residents assisting residents: clients of our Food Pantry are being mentored and assisted by veteran gardeners. Even non-gardeners and those unable to do the labor required can get into the act, however—as volunteer drivers.

Contact leaders Sam Piro and Fern Anderson via the Township office, or stop in any Saturday morning or Thursday evening at the Woodridge Park location, at the foot of Barberry Road in west Highland Park to join them. You can also see project photos on our website. Thanks to all of our dedicated volunteers! ■

Calendar

Moraine Township Board of Trustees meets in the Township Office
777 Central Avenue, Highland Park
2nd Thursdays of the month at 5:00 pm
&
4th Thursdays of the month at 7:30 pm
This meeting is recorded for cablecasting.

~ Of Special Interest ~

Spotlight on Nonprofit Agencies

Agencies receiving Township grants discuss their services & community needs at meetings 4th Thursdays. Attend our regular meeting in person or watch us on Cable Channel 10
Thursdays at 12:30 pm, Saturdays at 6:00 pm



Moraine Township Grant Application
Deadline: February 1, 2011

Talk to the Township

Township Office (847) 432-3240
Supervisor (847) 432-3240
Clerk (847) 432-3240
Assessor (847) 432-2100



Van Line (847) 432-3000



Fax (847) 432-2178



Email info@morainetownship.org

Mari Barnes Super@morainetownship.org
Ellen Gussin Clerk@morainetownship.org
Patty Powers PPowers@lakecountyl.gov
Dwayne Douglas TrusteeDouglas@morainetownship.org
Bryna Gamson TrusteeGamson@morainetownship.org
Margoth Moreno TrusteeMoreno@morainetownship.org
Jackie Schechter TrusteeSchechter@morainetownship.org

<http://morainetownship.org>

SuperTalk: Mari Barnes



Our article in the last issue of *Talk* stimulated some overdue attention to updating records at Mooney Cemetery. As noted in the article for this issue, we've been engaged in a major undertaking to literally uncover gravesite information at Mooney Cemetery. Staff and Board are looking forward to finding out some answers and modernizing all of our records.

Trustee Bryna Gamson has immersed herself in uncovering the histories of both Mooney and Daggitt cemeteries, and will be expanding on what you can read in this issue of *Talk* by posting much more on our website. We're lucky to live in a digital age where our own history can be re-discovered and conveniently consulted.

Action Briefs

The Latino Advisory Committee published a new handout that translated our general information handout into Spanish. Staff members Grizell Toledo and Paula Peddle were very helpful in creating the translation, as well as circulating it at locations like the self-help pantry begun in Highwood. Trustees Dwayne Douglas and Margoth Moreno are the liaisons to that group. Paul Martinez from Highwood has been the Chair. Other members are Rosemary Espinosa, Michelle Flores, and Gregorio Resendiz, joined often by representatives of District 113. They have had sessions discussing Township services, community concerns and school issues, to achieve mutual goals of improving communication with Latino community residents. We are looking forward to more activity from this group, whose mission is to keep the Board informed about issues within the Latino population, and ultimately encourage more direct involvement from these residents.

In line with our "Green Alliance" goals, we plan to host a collaborative program on green design options for schoolyards and school gardens. These designs not only replace asphalt with natural materials, but also provide creative opportunities for teaching science, math, art, nutrition, ecology and more. Look for this free public event in mid-October.

For those of you who've been missing cablecasts of recorded Thursday night meetings, please note that the Channel 10 schedule was changed when the City of Highland Park took over from Comcast. Catch us Thursdays at 12:30pm and Saturdays at 6:00pm. Attend in person, too, and let your opinions be known.

Transportation Notes

Have you seen our Moraine Door-to-Door paratransit vans out and about in the community, and in the July 4 Parade? It's hard to believe, but we have had two vans leased from Pace for long enough now that it's already time to start getting fresh ones as we renew the 4-year leases. The demand for services from residents in wheelchairs is increasing and we're trying to meet this need. So, recently we replaced a non-handicapped accessible van with a new wheelchair lift van. We have another van on order to replace the original handicapped van as well. The vans can hold up to five people depending on whether anyone is in a wheelchair. Some residents must go to regular dialysis or chemo and our van allows them to access this care as needed. The Township has not increased the price of a ride since the program began four years ago: it is still \$4 per ride. Caregivers continue to ride at no additional fee.

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Township Grants Increased, Varied New Grantee Organizations Added to Mix

Talk of the Township is pleased to call residents' attention to the results of this year's Grant Program. The Board of Trustees voted to increase the amount allocated in the FY10-11 Budget to \$135,000 this year, \$15,000 more than last year. Twenty-two programs provided by nineteen agencies shared in that funding after rigorous study and recommendation from the Township's volunteer Citizen Grant Advisory Committee. Grantees were announced in May, and posted online on our website, <http://morainetownship.org>.

"We were very aware that local nonprofit agencies have been, and will continue to be, hard hit by the economy. They face huge funding reductions from traditional donors, including United Way, and especially the State of Illinois," according to Trustee Jackie Schechter. "We also were pleased to consider some innovative services to residents."

Schechter and Trustee Bryna Gamson were liaisons to the Grant Advisory Committee. Committee members were: Chair Harry Crane, Judith Datz, Wendi Ezgur, Matthew Ferrari and Beth Olderman.

This year, six agencies did not re-apply, and six new agencies submitted applications. Of the latter, four were funded. The committee took into consideration how integral to the vitality of our community the various agencies are, and how funding support from the Township could make a difference.

Grantees are: A Safe Place (\$2,500), Affordable Housing Corp. of Lake County (\$2,500), Career Resource Center (\$5,000), Center for Enriched Living (\$2,500), College Bound Opportunities (\$10,000), Family Network (Drop-In \$7,000; After School Activity Program \$10,000; Right From The Start \$8,000), Family Service (Counseling \$16,000; Nuestro Center \$5,000), Glenkirk (\$5,500), Great Lakes Adaptive Sports (\$1,000), HP Community Nursery School and Day Care Center (\$18,000), HP/Highwood Home Child Care Assoc. (\$4,000), JCYS/George W. Lutz Family Center (\$ 8,500), Lambs Farm (\$1,000), Links (\$3,000), Nicasa (\$1,000), SE Lake County Faith in Action Volunteers (\$2,000), The Art Center (\$3,000), Tri-Con Child Care Center (\$16,000), and Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center (\$3,500).

We deeply appreciate the efforts of our grantee agencies as well as the volunteer committee members who reviewed lengthy applications and made recommendations! ■

Catch us on Cable!

Board of Trustee meetings held on 4th Thursdays of the month are recorded. These meetings include reports on community needs from our grantee agencies and all public business.

See it on Cable Channel 10, Thursdays at 12:30 pm and Saturdays at 6:00 pm.

SuperTalk...continued from page 2

Remember that if you are turning 65 this year, you are entitled to sign up not only for an RTA pass, but also our Moraine Township taxi subsidy program. The taxi coupons we give resident seniors are worth \$3 per ride, and have no income or disability restrictions. Seniors are entitled to ten coupons per month, for use with any taxi company, even beyond our borders. Call us to sign up for the coupon books.

Feel free to stop by the office any weekday! ■

CommunityTalk: Annual Food Drives Benefit Local Residents

Moraine Township residents have continued to be generous during this especially difficult economic period. A wider variety of residents than we'd seen formerly have had to turn to our Food Pantry and General & Emergency Assistance resources for help.

You can find donor product guidelines on our website. We have some clients who prefer Hispanic grocery items, and others who eat kosher-style, and still others who are in need of general staple items. The Township purchases many foodstuffs as well as distributing donated items.

On our website, a snapshot of what the basement of our facility looked like following the May Postal Workers Food Drive provides a good idea of how successful that drive was. Thank you very much!

Residents interested in providing help in the form of muscle-power to organize and shelve donated goods; in making donations; in helping to organize a drive—whatever the contribution—are invited to contact Paula Peddle, General Assistance Manager in our office. ■

Talk of the Township

Moraine Township is pleased to communicate with residents about Township business. We hope this periodic publication will foster our goal to keep the public fully informed about Township services and activities.

Supervisor	Mari A. Barnes
Clerk	Ellen S. Gussin
Assessor	Patty A. Powers
Trustee	Dwayne Douglas
Trustee	Bryna G. Gamson
Trustee	Margoth K. Moreno
Trustee	Jackie B. Schechter

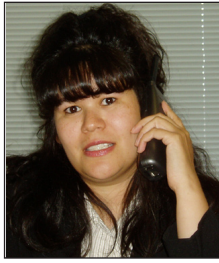
Consult our website for timely information, including Agendas, Meeting Minutes, links to related information and on-line versions of *Talk of the Township*.



<http://morainetownship.org>

Meet the Staff: Paula Peddle General Assistance Manager

Someone well-known to our seniors who have made use of the taxi coupon and Moraine Door-to-Door paratransit van programs since



their inception is Paula Peddle. Paula did such an excellent job in her capacity as van scheduler/receptionist, that when the opportunity arose to hire a fresh face in General Assistance, she applied and won the position.

Paula reports that she loves her new role: she likes helping people, is pleased that there are so many ways to give assistance, and likes the variety and challenge of learning about new programs. Also a bilingual Spanish speaker, Paula adds much to Moraine direct services.

Her responsibilities include both General Assistance and Emergency Assistance cases. People suddenly falling behind in their utility bills, for example, may qualify for State programs like LIHEAP. Paula interviews them and helps connect them to those resources. Sometimes, she helps sort out one program or another to assist the resident with gaining clarity; at other times, she helps them do the paperwork. Seniors, disabled, ill or mentally ill people as well as those with economic issues come to Moraine Township as a first stop on the road to assistance. Paula also is in charge of the Food Pantry's distribution.

"I like to know that when I leave here at the end of the day, I have helped someone out," she says.

Paula and her husband, Bill, have two adorable children, son Brandon, 5, and daughter Brooklyn, 1. ■

Township Cemeteries...continued from page 1

A third and more likely scenario to be adopted has begun: survey the property to see where there are graves (since so many are no longer marked or never were), and put in landscaping designed to naturally compensate for the seasonal water accumulation. Planting water-loving bushes and trees like willows, and perhaps putting in water features for compensatory water storage, are beautifying alternatives to placing pipes underground to feed into drainage ditches—perhaps disrupting graves.

No matter what method is chosen, it is important first to find out what else besides water lies beneath, and where. To that end, the Township has engaged an expert consultant who will be surveying Mooney for us later this summer. He is Tim Horsley, PhD, an archaeological geophysicist and Assistant Research Scientist at the University of Michigan.

Possibly Resuming Plot Sales at Mooney

One anticipated result of the survey is the identification of vacant plots. A time-consuming, challenging next step is to confirm vacant plot ownership, updating records as best we can, given their condition. Supervisor Barnes placed a moratorium on plot sales until clarity could be achieved. We again urge those who hold deeds for Mooney plots to let us know. Cemetery records are now in the capable hands of our Records Manager Shannon Mosier. We have purchased a dedicated computer and special cemetery-organizing software to manage the known occupancy information at our cemeteries. We assume that Daggitt has no available plot spaces, but Mooney may. Genealogy enthusiasts and families owning plots alike will be able to access this information at the Township office. We'll keep you informed of our progress, in *Talk of the Township*, at Board meetings and online.

Daggitt History

As promised, we now turn our attention to the history of Daggitt/Daggett/Grace/Braeside Cemetery. Accounts in sources cited in our last issue of *Talk of the Township*, like Marvyn Wittelle's *Pioneer to Commuter: The Story of Highland Park* (1958) and local newspaper stories by the late Elaine Snyderman (1974) and Evelyn Lauter (1949), by Christine Verstraete (1987), and other undated articles and oral histories, form the basis of this report.

The cemetery is located on Lake Cook (County Line) Road near the Braeside Metra station. Like many pioneer cemeteries, it began as a portion of a family homestead where of necessity, family members came to be buried. Whereas Mooney's story concerns Irish Catholics, Daggitt's is about pioneering Protestants—Methodist English and Lutheran German settlers. The likely earliest one, Robert Daggitt (originally Daggett), sadly found that his carpentry skills were employed in building coffins for three of his own nine children after emigrating from England and arriving in this area by 1839 (1837 is claimed). Two daughters, Ann, 13, and Rachel, 21, died of "quick consumption" (tuberculosis), in 1845 and 1847, followed in 1848 by a son, James, 18, injured by a falling tree. Daggitt allowed neighbors to use this half-acre of his property as well, eventually purchasing a state charter for the burial ground, and charging \$1 per grave. (Daggitt's holdings grew to variously reported 1150-3000 acres, from near the lake westward; his sheep were said to graze on what is now Ravinia Park, and his land included the present day Chicago Botanic Gardens.) Wittelle's account says that he was aware of impoverished neighbors burying small infant caskets unseen at night, into unmarked graves; Synderman relates that during a cholera epidemic of the 1850s, Daggitt donated gravesites for his neighbors' use. Many of those neighbors were from Germany and had founded a Lutheran church along County Line Road (whose boundaries were fluid for a time, between Highland Park and Glencoe,

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ClerkTalk: Ellen Gussin Plan Ahead & VOTE on November 2!

Elections have a way of creeping up on us, and the November 2 General Election will be here before we know it. It's going to be a busy political season, but exercising our civic responsibility has never been easier.

Early Voting and Voting by Mail continue to be popular options for Moraine Township residents. Because of the great number of voters casting their vote prior to

Election Day, the number of polling sites has been reduced, yielding greater efficiency and cost savings. A complete Election Calendar will be available at <http://morainetownship.org> and linking to the Clerk page, or at <http://lakecountyiil.gov/CountyClerk/Elections/default.htm>. Locations for Early Voting for each of the four municipalities in Moraine Township are also noted on the Township's website via Clerk page.

Early Voting Begins 22 Days Before Election Day

Early voting is offered to any registered voter and begins 22 days before Election Day. Early voters are required to present to voting officials a valid Illinois driver's license, an Illinois identification card issued by the Secretary of State, or any other valid government-issued identification document containing their photograph and name. In Moraine Township Early Voting takes place at the Lake County North Shore Health Center at 1840 Green Bay Road in Highland Park. It will begin on October 11 and end the Thursday before Election Day, October 28.

Voting By Mail - And NEW "Permanent" Vote By Mail

Illinois law now permits any registered voter to receive a ballot by mail. One-time requests for a ballot can be made via a form provided online at the County Clerk's website; by email at VotingByMail@lakecountyiil.gov; or by calling (847) 377-2406.

For voters who prefer to vote from home, the Lake County Clerk's office offers a new permanent voting by mail program. I've used it myself and find it extraordinarily easy and helpful. Enrollment forms are available online at the County Clerk's website. Permanent voting by mail helps reduce increased printing costs. As required by state law, voting by mail requests cannot be processed until 40 days prior to each Election Day. Ballots cannot be mailed any later than the Thursday before an election. Please note: voters requesting a ballot prior to Election Day are not entitled to cast a ballot on Election Day.

Snowbird Program

Voters who travel seasonally can enroll in the Snowbird Program and specify elections and an alternate address to which a ballot should be mailed. Those enrolled will automatically receive a ballot by mail as specified.

Student Program

The Temporarily Absent Student Program is available to students away at school. A student must be a registered voter in order to enroll in the program. Use the fillable online enrollment form which can be printed, signed and mailed to the County. Enrollment is valid for two years and each summer the County office confirms the student address for the coming year away at school.

Calling All Students!

Become An Election Judge

- be a citizen of the United States;
- be a high school junior or senior in good standing or a student enrolled in a Lake County public, community college or private secondary school;
- have a cumulative grade point average equivalent to at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale;
- have the written approval of the principal of the secondary school attended at the time of appointment;
- have the written approval of parent or legal guardian;
- have satisfactorily completed the training course for judges of election.

I invite all students to give this job some serious thought.

Voter Registration

Voter Registration is available Monday through Friday at the Moraine Township Office during regular business hours of 8:30am to 4:30pm. To register to vote, bring two forms of identification—one with your name and current address. You must be a United States citizen, 18 years old by the next election (a 17-year-old can register as long as his/her birthday is on or before the date of the next election) and have resided in the voting precinct for 30 days prior to the next election.

The voter identification card is your official source document for determining where to vote. Your polling place is determined by your precinct number and is listed on your voter registration card. Polling place locations, addresses, as well as maps, are also available online.

Questions and Concerns

As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to email me at clerk@morainetownship.org or call me (847)432-3240. ■

JobTalk: Local Job Seekers Aided By Township Program

A free “brown bag lunch” event presented by Moraine Township as a public service on April 19 from noon to 1:30pm in the auditorium of the Highland Park Public Library was highly praised. Mike Gamson addressed *Selling Yourself In An Electronic Job Market: A View From Inside LinkedIn*. Raised in Highland Park, Gamson is a Vice President of LinkedIn.

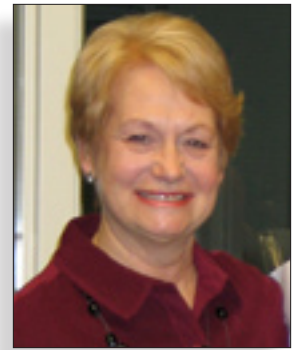
Resource providers on site included event partner representatives: Jan Cline Leahy, Executive Director of Career Resource Center/CRC; Dr. Iris Seeley, career counselor from College of Lake County’s Career & Placement Services; and Dr. Terri Berryman, Director of the Job Center of Lake County/Workforce Development Department. The Library’s auditorium was at capacity. We appreciated their cooperation.

Thanks to Jan Leahy for major planning help. (The Township funds CRC with a grant to help residents receive re-employment services.) Also, thanks to Lake County Board Member Anne Flanigan Bassi for her assistance regarding the regional Job Center; and to all event partners for their cooperation in making this program a success. It was recorded and available on a DVD at CRC and the Township office in Highland Park. ■

Please! Check with the Township

*before bringing in a donation of food.
Unfortunately, some things simply
aren't useful to those we serve, and
might be put to better use elsewhere.
Call (847) 432-3240. Thanks!*

AssessorTalk: Patty Powers Understanding Assessments, Watching the Calendar



Year after year, it is surprising how many folks just plain don’t know what their Assessor does. A local assessor places value on all real property within the township for tax purposes. Using historical sales data and mass appraisal techniques and software, we apportion the tax burden among all properties—residential, commercial, industrial—in the jurisdiction. We understand the very real and personal impact property taxes have on all homeowners. Below are some of the questions we are asked most often. As always, please contact our office with any other questions or concerns you may have.

Q: My assessment went down, why didn’t my tax bill?

A: Assessments do not create the tax burden, they only distribute it. All of Moraine assessments decreased by 1% in 2009. (And we do expect another negative equalization factor for Tax Year 2010.) Yet the average tax bill increased. We all agree that we have great schools, beautiful parks, and feel safe thanks to our police and fire departments. Property taxes pay for our local services, including schools, city services, parks, forest preserves, etc. and *if these local taxing bodies increase spending*, property taxes will most likely increase regardless of what assessments do. $Levy \text{ (taxing bodies)} / EAV \text{ (equalized assessed value)} = \text{Tax Rate}$.

Q: Why did assessments only decrease by 1% when the market seems so much worse?

A: The explanation lies in the methodology that Assessors are required to use. In Illinois, Assessors must use sales transactions from the three years prior to the assessment date (January 1st of each year) to determine property values for the entire township. It is a methodology mandated by the State of Illinois Department of Revenue. The rationale? By using three years of sales, year-to-year fluctuations of the market are softened. In recent years, this has generally kept assessments below the most current market value. So, even though assessments have gone up in recent years (and sometimes substantially), they have generally lagged behind the current market.

Both the county and the state use this same methodology to monitor and adjust township and county assessments so that values throughout the county and state are equitable. The formulas they use to measure accuracy and equity always include consideration of actual sales over a three-year period, as required by law. Therefore, when our office valued properties for January 1st, 2009, we were obligated to look back at the sales that took place during 2008, 2007, and 2006. And the County was required to adjust our assessments to an overall level of 33.33% based upon the sales from those same three years. We cannot consider the 2009 sales until 2010. The problem now – with a stagnating and/or declining market – is that values are still lagging behind the market, and in some cases may actually be over the current market; yet the three-year statistics say everything is where it should be. Obviously the methodology was designed for an appreciating market and has some serious flaws in a declining market.

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AssessorTalk...continued from page 6

Q: When will I receive my new assessment notice?

A: We are still on track to close our 2010 books by mid-July, which means assessments should be published by mid-August. The publication date is important to you! **This is the time at which you have thirty days to appeal your assessment.** When you receive your *Assessment Notice*, previously known as your *Blue Card*, be sure to check the deadline date for filing an appeal. Most properties will NOT be published in the paper this year. Only those properties that have had some change OTHER than the equalization factor will be published in the *Highland Park News*. The only time all properties are published is in a General Reassessment year, which will occur in 2011.

Q: How can I appeal my assessment?

A: We will do all that we can to help you in our office before, during and after the appeal period. Have you purchased your property this year? Have you had a new appraisal done for "market value" purposes? Are you seeing similar properties in your neighborhood selling for less than the value you are assessed at? We will be happy to review your assessment with you after assessments are published. You should always check the physical characteristics of your property assessment to be sure you are being assessed accurately.

Q: Can I appeal my taxes when I get my bill?

A: No. By the time you receive your bill it is too late to appeal. You need to appeal your assessment when you receive your assessment notice. The bill you receive this year is for the previous year's assessment.

Q: Am I getting all of the exemptions I deserve?

A: A list of exemptions is included in each bill. We are happy to see how many homeowners have been reading the additional information they receive with their tax bill. You must own the property and it must be your primary residence to qualify for these exemptions. We have been able to correct tax bills for homeowners who were not receiving the correct exemptions; however, we can only go back one tax year, and there are deadlines that apply for bills to be corrected. Are you turning 65 this year? Come visit our office to apply for your Senior Homestead Exemption. ■



Exemptions for 2010

- General Homestead Limited \$6,000
- Senior Homestead \$4,000
- Homestead Improvement (up to) \$25,000 Assessed / \$75,000 Market
- Senior Freeze Income (Total Household) \$55,000
- Disabled Veteran's Exemption \$70,000 Assessed
- Senior Tax Deferral Income \$50,000
- Disabled Person's Homestead Exemption \$2,000
- Returning Veteran's Homestead Exemption \$5,000
- Disabled Veteran's Standard Homestead Exemption \$5,000 (min. 75% disability) or \$2,000 (min. 50% disability, but less than 75%)

Do you turn 65 this year? Don't miss out on applying in time for any exemptions you might be entitled to.

Call our office at (847) 432-2100!

Ramp Makes A Difference For Township Resident

For one elderly, wheelchair-bound Highwood resident, a trip to the doctor's office in the Moraine Door-to-Door van meant a 911 call to the fire department to be carried out of and back into her home. When this was brought to Township Supervisor Barnes' attention, utilizing General Assistance funds, she partnered with the woman's son, Family Service and even Highland Park's Senior Center, and built the ramp you see pictured at left. Not only is she now able to access our paratransit vehicle, but the little things like enjoying her garden up close have become possible again. Said her son, Ron, in a heartfelt letter to us, "The ramp has provided my mother with a whole new world and a better outlook on life."

We thought you'd like to know. ■

In 1862, Robert and Elizabeth Daggitt legally transferred the “family burial ground” to a group of specifically enumerated local residents “and such persons as may hereafter become associated with them,” with John Fehd and “Robert Daggitt, Jr.” named initial co-trustees. We surmise that the latter is most likely the same Robert, since no “junior” appears again, and Ancestry.com lists his father as Robert as well. The tract was to be known as Grace Cemetery (misspelled in the historic documents as “Semetteray”). Transaction records from that year are on file at the Township office, and in PDF format on our website, along with other documentation for this article.

Robert died in 1871. Grace Cemetery was platted and registered in 1886, with

Talk Back/Volunteer

We welcome feedback on any or all of our programs in Moraine Township. If you have a comment or question about something you’ve read in this issue of *Talk of the Township*, contact the Supervisor’s Office at (847) 432-3240 or email Super@morainetownship.org.

If you are interested in joining our efforts in public service – for brief or on-going tasks – also contact the Supervisor’s Office. We are always looking for volunteers to serve on Citizen Advisory Committees, in the following or other developing *ad hoc* capacities:

- Food Pantry
- Grant Advisory Committee
- Latino Advisory Committee
- Pantry Plants Garden Project
- Senior Services
- Township Cemetery History
- Transportation

Talk
of the **Township**SM

Moraine Township
777 Central Avenue
Highland Park IL 60035
ph 847.432.3240 • fx 847.432.2178
Van Reservations 847.432.3000
Assessor’s Office 847.432.2100
email info@morainetownship.org
http://morainetownship.org

PRSRT STD
US Postage
PAID
Permit No. 31
Highland Park IL

Robert’s son Joseph Daggett [sic], and John Fehd named as co-trustees. The last cemetery legal transactions on record occur in 1910, as researched by the City of Highland Park around 1985, when the property was in disrepair and responsibility for its maintenance was sought. Oral histories don’t completely agree about the details, and record-keeping seems to have been conducted within the individual families on behalf of the extended Daggitts and their German ancestry neighbors. A great many markers are in German, in fact. Over the years, local preservationists and various genealogists have attempted to create order or track down the cemetery’s history; inventories from 1959 and 1986 are in Township files. Julia Johnas of the Highland Park Public Library was again very helpful in researching records, as were personnel from the Lake County Recorder’s Office, who provided scanned archival information. The Internet has been a boon to our research.



Daggitt family cenotaph stands guard in Braeside

English heritage family descendants like Joseph Daggitt’s great-niece, Rose Dennis Booth of Glencoe, attempted to maintain the property, but could not keep up with the vandalism. Interviewed at age 79 in 1974, she told Snyderman that Charles Dennis, her father, had deeded the grounds to the City of Highland Park in 1941, to remain permanently a cemetery or revert to a public park. No such records were found, according to 1987 news reporting by Verstraete. In a 1978 letter to her, Township Supervisor Robert Moroney inquired about “Braeside Cemetery,” as it was also popularly known. Mrs. Booth died in 1984 and was, as far as we know, the last person buried at Daggitt.

In 1996, through cooperative legal and clean-up efforts by the City and Park District of Highland Park, Daggitt Cemetery became the responsibility of Deerfield/now Moraine Township. Unfortunately, the bronze dedication plaque gives an inaccurate date (1843) for when the grounds became a family burial site; as noted, the year was 1845, upon the death of young Ann Daggitt.

Decades of neglect and vandalism, Halloween nights of fun and mayhem, theft of marble markers for baking use and nature’s destruction of inscriptions on soft stone make tracing many of the family histories difficult or impossible, but what remains is worth a visit. ■