

# Talk of the Township<sup>SM</sup>



Newsletter of Moraine Township, Illinois

Vol. 3, No. 2 - Winter 2009

## Winter Warmed With Community Efforts Township Conducts Santullano Holiday, Food Drives

True to the generous spirit of the season, and mindful of hardships compounded by the economic downturn, Moraine Township residents donated gifts to children and foodstuffs to families and needy individuals under the auspices of the Township Office.

“We gain efficiencies with every experience,” Supervisor Mari Barnes said, as she surveyed the satisfying results of the Phyllis Santullano Holiday Gift Drive.

“With one year under our belts, we learned to have a children’s resource room where they could safely wait – meeting Santa! – while their parents picked up donated gifts. We again enjoyed the services of many generous volunteers in this activity, especially from our



*Bird’s eye view of some of the Santullano Holiday Gifts ready for pick-up December 18 & 19*

local Rotary and employees of Highland Park Hospital.”

In all, the Township distributed donated gifts for 500 children who had been identified with the aid of school social workers. At the Township Office, we provided food baskets and grocery certificates to over 200 families and needy individuals.

Thank you to Trinity Episcopal Church in Highland Park for the use of their space again this year, and to the dozens of families, classrooms and clubs who shopped, wrapped and generously brought in so many gifts to warm this holiday season. ■

## Talkin’ About:

- ▲ *Grant Deadline February 1*
- ▲ *Latino Advisory Committee Begins*
- ▲ *Highlighting Grantee Agencies*
- ▲ *Fundraising Workshop Held*
- ▲ *Support Food Pantry/Clothes Closet*
- ▲ *Ride Moraine Door-to-Door Vans*
- ▲ *AssessorTalk: Moving On*
- ▲ *ClerkTalk: April Elections*
- ▲ *SuperTalk: More Than Basic Needs*
- ▲ *CommunityTalk*
- ▲ *Calendar*
- ▲ *Contact Us*

## 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.

## 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 and usually features presentations.

### ~ Of Special Interest ~

#### Spotlight on Nonprofit Agencies

Agencies receiving Township grants discuss their services & community needs  
4th Thursdays (attend our regular meeting in person) or catch it on cable  
Tuesdays at 5:30 pm, Fridays at 7:00 pm  
Cable Channel 10



Moraine Township Grant Application  
Deadline: February 1, 2009

## 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](mailto:info@morainetownship.org)

Mari Barnes ..... [Super@morainetownship.org](mailto:Super@morainetownship.org)  
Ellen Gussin ..... [Clerk@morainetownship.org](mailto:Clerk@morainetownship.org)  
Pete Koukos ..... [PKoukos@lakecountyil.gov](mailto:PKoukos@lakecountyil.gov)  
Bryna Gamson ..... [TrusteeGamson@morainetownship.org](mailto:TrusteeGamson@morainetownship.org)  
Margoth Moreno ..... [TrusteeMoreno@morainetownship.org](mailto:TrusteeMoreno@morainetownship.org)  
Cynthia Plouché ..... [TrusteePlouche@morainetownship.org](mailto:TrusteePlouche@morainetownship.org)  
Jeff Zaluda ..... [TrusteeZaluda@morainetownship.org](mailto:TrusteeZaluda@morainetownship.org)

<http://morainetownship.org>

## SuperTalk: Mari Barnes



Happy New Year! As we move into what could be a very difficult year for many, we are mindful of our role as stewards and representatives of the generous residents living in Moraine Township. Our focus is on meeting the basic needs of all of our residents, and we do so not only as a tax-supported government unit created for this purpose, but also with the additional support of members of the community who want to help.

One local resident, Sam Piro, led an effort responding to President Obama's call to continue being the instruments of change within our own communities. Observing the pre-Inauguration Day of Service concept, Sam negotiated with our local Jewel to be allowed to solicit donations for Moraine Township's Food Pantry. Not only did we fill the Pantry shelves with fresh groceries, over the two-day project in January, we also received \$500 in cash contributions from caring and thoughtful locals.

As you've seen on page 1, we had only recently come off a very successful second year of managing the Santullano Holiday Gift Drive, along with the annual traditional Township food basket distribution. So, it's been a feel-good season for us already. I have to thank my staff, Paula Peddle, Shannon Mosier and Tracy Coleman, who cheerfully step up to help whenever they're asked. Clerk Ellen Gussin notes that Shannon was especially helpful during election season, as well.



Jack Foster and his mom, Terri, posed at the Jewel, with their loaded cart of grocery donations provided in response to Sam Piro's initiative

We are seeing an increase in income-qualified residents applying for utility payment assistance under LIHEAP, a federally-funded program we enroll them in. As a marker of how things are going in the Township, that one shows us that this winter is especially hard. Perhaps surprisingly, food requests have stayed fairly stable, but as I reported in the last issue of *Talk*, we think there are several variables that explain why demand is not rising significantly: chiefly, our efforts in problem solving.

One of our key goals over the course of this administration has been to address the *underlying reasons* why people turn to us looking for foodstuffs; our intent is to point clients to solutions, rather than just handing out groceries. A continuing frustration of ours is for people in the community to be confused into thinking that simply distributing food or food certificates, whether at holiday times or every week, is a sufficient response to the needs of those among us who are economically challenged. Instead, our staff works to assess what's needed and seek a fresh direction. Sometimes, it's to enroll a client in the federal Food Stamps program, but additionally, it may mean accessing psychological counseling, or job counseling, or other forms of long-term solutions. If people don't come in, we can't help them.

*continues on page 4*

## Special Needs Populations Served Locally Spotlight on Grantee Organizations

In previous issues of *Talk of the Township*, we've introduced our readers to four local nonprofit childcare service providers and two mental health agencies that have been awarded Township grant funds. In this issue, we're highlighting agencies serving special populations of local residents: Center for Enriched Living/CEL and Glenkirk.

CEL has a long history of association with this area, including an early location in the 1980s at the former Kennedy School on Clavey Road. Located since 2000 in their own purpose-built facility in Riverwoods, CEL is a non-residential, social enrichment and skill development center serving individuals ranging from youth to seniors with developmental disabilities. Clients primarily have mild to moderate mental retardation, though some also have secondary disabilities (Cerebral Palsy, Autism, Down Syndrome, for example). The agency's mission is "to enrich the lives of people with developmental disabilities;" their goals include assisting clients in learning new skills, practicing old ones, making friends, having fun and finding a place to belong. Township funding was \$1,500 in FY08-09, in support of their requested general operating costs. The agency reported serving 38 Township residents, representing 5% of their overall client population. The Township's contribution offsets less than .15% of their overall budget.

Likewise, Glenkirk's mission is to help individuals with developmental disabilities to broaden their horizons and reach their fullest potential, although they also have a residential component. Glenkirk has been part of the Moraine Township community for 54 years. Last year, they assumed the secure data destruction operations of Opportunity, Inc. (which closed its doors), to assure continuation of that work environment for their adult clients. In FY08-09, the Grant Advisory Committee recommended funding of \$3,000, in support of Glenkirk's request for *Next Generation Services* programs. These programs provide client-centered learning and recreational options as well as enhanced social work services in support of families and individuals with developmental disabilities. Overall, Glenkirk serves about 730 Township residents, representing over 13% of their total population. The Next Generation programs funded directly serve 35 Moraine residents, representing over 21% of that population. Overall, our grant is just .1% of their total operation budget.

Discover more about each of these organizations via links from the Township website or directly at <http://www.centerforenrichedliving.org> and <http://www.glenkirk.org>.

### 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.

Shown on Cable Channel 10, Tuesdays at 5:30 pm and Fridays at 7:00 pm

### Especially for job-seekers

During these tough economic times, when so many of our residents are facing unexpected job loss, Moraine Township is pleased to also be a funder of the Career Resource Center. Seek their help to polish up résumés and interviewing skills, as well as tips on how to access the job market, and a host of skills many will be "rusty" on after long careers. Located in Lake Forest, Career Resource Center can be reached by phone at (847) 295-5626, by email to [info@careerresourcecenter.org](mailto:info@careerresourcecenter.org) and online at <http://www.careerresourcecenter.org>.

## CommunityTalk Nuestro Center: Volunteer

Elsi Rodriguez, Program Director for Nuestro Center, located in the North Shore Estates in Highwood, reports that volunteers interested in helping students with homework and related educational play activities are being sought. Some Center tutors also qualify for paid positions, earning \$9 per hour. Assistance is welcome from English-only, Spanish-only and bilingual persons.

Students in the Homework Club at Nuestro range from grades 1 through 8. Tutors work with students Mondays through Thursdays, 3:30pm to 5:30pm. Programs and educational materials promoting education, health, safety and emotional well-being are also available for adults in the community.

Nuestro Center is a Family Service program providing on-site services to the North Shore Estates community. The Center is located at 624 Sheridan Road, 1B, Highwood 60040. Call (847) 681-0208 or email Elsi Rodriguez at [erodriguez@fsslc.org](mailto:erodriguez@fsslc.org).

### 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 . . . . . Peter J. Koukos  
Trustee . . . . . Bryna G. Gamson  
Trustee . . . . . Margoth K. Moreno  
Trustee . . . . . Cynthia R. Plouché  
Trustee . . . . . Jeffrey A. Zaluda

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>

*SuperTalk...continued from page 2*

So, while community efforts to fill the Food Pantry with groceries are admirable, our Township's mission is so much more.

We are part of the Northern Illinois Food Bank, from which we purchase frozen meats and other grocery items. Residents should be aware that the Pantry is stocked not only with the canned and boxed donations people bring in, but also purchased by us from Township funds and from cash donations. For example, last year, Willow Creek Community Church provided over 100 overflowing holiday food gift baskets, and this year instead donated a whopping \$2,500 for our Pantry use. We are very appreciative of their generosity.

In other business, I want to call your attention to the fact that as of last September, we moved all Board of Trustees meetings to the Township Office, including Thursday nights that are recorded for cable. (By the way, my husband, Charlie, would be happy if we could find a new "volunteer" camera operator!)

In fact, one of the benefits of the Assessor's group moving next door, as Pete Koukos reports on page 6, is to free up more space for meetings and conferences. A big factor was to accommodate their staff needs, but we also have to reconfigure space to better serve overall Township uses. Our clients and staff currently have to deal with a fairly treacherous set of stairs and nonconforming accessibility issues. We fear for volunteers moving things in and out for us (like the Cub Scouts pictured on the back page), and look forward to improvements now in the planning stages. The adjustment in rents will be far less costly than buying our own building, an option the Board considered.

I'm so pleased that our Latino Advisory Committee has begun to meet! It's been a long time in the planning. Over the years, our Board has brainstormed many avenues to be helpful and to work

more closely with our Latino neighbors, finally arriving at this one. Given the caliber of the people we've been able to recruit, and its mission, we have high hopes for this committee to be very effective. Local municipalities have asked to join with us on this venture, so it looks like it will be even more constructive, creating a true community-wide effort.

Your Township continues to provide the popular Moraine Door-to-Door paratransit van service. We're making do with transportation funds at the previous year's level, considering the economy, but happily, with repeat funding support from the Healthcare Foundation of Highland Park for medically-related trips for those meeting income standards. Thanks to Trustee Bryna Gamson for again writing and submitting our grant application.

Elections kept our office hopping last Fall, and it looks like things are warming up now for the local April 7 Consolidated Elections. Just to be certain you know, along with School Boards 112 and 113, Park District and City Councils, our entire set of Township officials' seats will be up for election. Many of us are running again, but two have opted to leave: Trustees Jeff Zaluda and Cynthia Plouché. Cynthia has been selected by District 112's caucus to run for a seat on their Board. Thank you both for your service! ■

## Eco-Friendly, Affordable Hyacinth Place Townhomes Ready for Eligible Moraine Township Residents

Moraine Township residents and persons working within ten miles of Highland Park who are income-eligible may apply for one of just three remaining "green" townhomes recently completed by the private nonprofit agency Highland Park Illinois Community Land Trust/HPICLT.

"We are proud to help spread the word about HPICLT's efforts to enable people who contribute to our community to live within our community," commented Township Supervisor Mari Barnes. "Each of HPICLT's affordable detached homes and this new development on Hyacinth Place (which also has rentals) will attract residents of varied backgrounds, diversifying and enriching our neighborhoods."

According to HPICLT's Executive Director Rob Anthony, the 3 bedroom/2.5 bath townhomes were awarded *Development of the Year* by the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission. They were built with many green features designed to reduce utility costs by 50% to 75%; tap into turbine energy generation for common area lighting; and with permeable pavers, energy-efficient reflective roof, bamboo flooring and more.

The maximum allowable owner income is 120% of the area median income, or approximately \$90,000 for a household of four. The three remaining Hyacinth Place units are priced at \$239,000. Other single-family homes and townhomes are also available elsewhere in Highland Park for \$170,000 to \$185,000.

For more information, attend a model unit Open House on February 22, 1pm to 3pm. Contact HPICLT at (847) 681-8746 or on the web at <http://www.hpict.org>. ■

### Please! Check with the Township

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



## ClerkTalk: Ellen Gussin Gearing Up for April 7 Elections

It has been a privilege to serve Moraine Township as Clerk for almost four years now. As chief record keeper and election functionary, I have learned a great deal, but most of all I have been pleased by the significant accomplishments of our Board. Through great teamwork and diligent judgment of the often complex issues facing our community, improvements have been achieved across the board in the way we spend tax dollars, deliver

transportation, and assist those in need. This issue of *ClerkTalk* highlights several of the pertinent issues dealing with Voter Services and the upcoming Consolidated Election of April 7, 2009. As always, consult our webpages for detailed information and direct links to resources like those provided by Lake County (which recently changed its entire site, including web address, which is now <http://www.lakecountyil.gov>).

### Voter Services Thrive in Moraine Township

The General Election of November 4, 2008 saw unprecedented turnout and the highest number of early voters to date. Enabled by the State Legislature three years ago, Early Voting has proven to be quite popular and allows registered voters to cast their ballots up to 22 days prior to the Election. A state-issued picture ID is required to verify against the voter's registration in the County computer system.

### Consolidated Election, April 7, 2009

The Consolidated Election will take place on April 7 and includes the following races: Municipal Offices, Township Offices (4 year cycle), Village and Incorporated, Library Trustees, Park District Commissioners, School Districts, Regional Board of School Trustees. Early Voting will commence on March 16 and continue through April 2. Each Early Voting site is equipped with a voter-assist terminal to aid those with physical challenges in marking their ballots. A complete Election Calendar is available from my Clerk's page at [morainetownship.org/clerk.html](http://morainetownship.org/clerk.html) or at <http://lakecountyil.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.

The date for a Primary for the Consolidated Election is February 24, 2009, but as of this writing it appears that no Primary will be needed in our Township. Find up-to-date information on the County Clerk's webpage cited above.

### Voter Registration

Voter Registration is available Monday through Friday at the Moraine Township office, 777 Central Avenue, Highland Park, from 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. To be eligible to vote on April 7, you must be registered by March 10, or four weeks before the election is held.

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 at <http://lakecountyil.gov/CountyClerk/Elections/VoterServices/WheresMyVotingSite.htm>.

## Questions and Concerns

As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to call the Clerk's Office during regular hours of 8:30am to 4:30pm at (847) 432-3240. Or email me at [clerk@morainetownship.org](mailto:clerk@morainetownship.org). I will be happy to assist you in any way I can. ■

## Students Make Great Election Judges

*In my stints as Site Manager on Election Day at the Lincoln School Polling Place, I have found that the student judges are delightful to work with, eager to learn the process, and more adept than many in helping with voter services. Besides being able to remain calm and focused during the crunch times, they learn quickly, can pay attention to detail, perform with high accuracy in maintaining the complex check and balance systems, and are the best at putting up and taking down all the signs, polling booths, etc. They have strong backs and enjoy the mild exercise! Most of all, they seem to bear the very long day better than most of us older adults: we start at 5:00am and finish just before 8:00pm.*

*I invite all students to give this job some thought. For more information about the requirements, responsibilities, procedures for applying, and compensation (as well as programs in which the judge, if he or she so wishes, can donate the stipend to scholarship funds), go to: <http://lakecountyil.gov/CountyClerk/Elections/ElectionJudges/StudentElectionJudgeProgram.htm>*

*The April 7 Consolidated Election is a perfect upcoming opportunity, or if you won't qualify agewise until next year there will be two elections in 2010—a Primary in February and the General Election on the first Tuesday of November. I think students will be pleased with the experience.*

## Latino Advisory Committee Begins

The Citizen Latino Advisory Committee held their first meeting on January 10, and laid the groundwork to begin their activities. They meet again February 7.

Members initially appointed by Supervisor Mari Barnes include Highwood residents Rosemary Espinosa, Adela Lozano, Manuel Martinez, and Paul Martinez, and Highland Park resident Miguel O'Brien. Board liaisons are Trustees Margoth Moreno and Cynthia Plouché, also of Highland Park.

Guidelines adopted by the Board describe the mission of this committee, which is "to enhance the ability of the Moraine Township Board of Trustees to make informed policy decisions regarding the local Latino community; and to encourage Latino residents to become involved in local government."

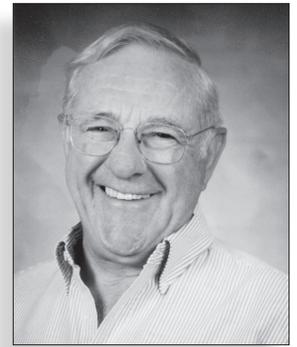
Committee objectives are given in detail on our website, but we are especially pleased to have succeeded in opening this dialog with constituents. To enhance the capacity of Township officials to understand Latino issues, and improve efforts to meet resident needs, are serious matters Moraine Township has struggled with.

"Having gained the volunteer services of this impressive group of caring residents is a major coup for us as a Board and community," noted Supervisor Mari Barnes. "Going forward, we will have a variety of voices from the grassroots."

Additional goals of encouraging increased political participation of Latino residents of Moraine Township and further integrating Latino residents into the Moraine Township community will be met through this voluntary activity.

In their first organizational meeting, members began outlining a strategy to become most effective. We're excited! ■

## AssessorTalk: Pete Koukos Moving Experiences



Many taxpayers came to the Assessor's Office last September to get an adjustment on their 2008 property assessment. I'm pleased to report that our staff was able to find sufficient evidence to reduce approximately 460 properties. We must be able to justify any decrease in assessment with solid evidence. If we could not find "convincing evidence," we recommended an appeal to the Board of Review and/or an appraisal. Unfortunately, many appraisals just weren't very good. All in all, I think as many of you have told me, our Assessor staff have gone above and beyond trying to help the property owners with their appeals. We again scheduled evening and weekend appointments for those who were unable to get to our office during normal business hours.

This year, 1425 appeals have been filed with the Lake County Board of Review. I decided not to present evidence on about 60% of those appeals either because I agree with the appellant or the appellant's evidence proves the subject property is properly assessed based upon the comparables submitted.

Although the number of appeals is higher than last year, (1387), several condo associations took our advice and filed an appeal for all the units in the condo. As a result, the actual number of appeals is somewhere between 1100 and 1200.

### Moving, Literally

The Assessor's Office will be moving to the store front next door to the Township Office in the next several weeks. The space we occupy will actually be smaller than we now have, but we feel it is necessary since there are many distractions with both offices sharing the space we now occupy. During the appeal period, we have a negative impact on the Township and its clientele whereas the Township activities can be quite disruptive to the Assessor staff the rest of the year. We received a donation of work stations that will considerably improve the efficiency of the office. In addition, our offices have been quite deficient in meeting ADA requirements. It seems to us that as a government agency, we certainly ought to be more accessible to those with disabilities. Both offices will be remodeled to provide the ADA access.

### Moving On

My term of office expires December 31, 2009, although the position of Assessor will be voted on, along with all the rest of the Township officials, in the upcoming Consolidated Election to be held on April 7, 2009. As many of you know, I am not seeking re-election. Some folks think this is because I've "had it" so to speak. Not so—as I have said on many occasions—I've met so many wonderful people that I will probably miss it. The fact is, carrying two jobs is getting a bit trying, and I think it's time for a full-time Assessor. I'm very pleased with the progress we have made locally and somewhat in the County, and feel I've accomplished many of my personal goals in this position.

I'm relieved to report that one of our very experienced Deputy Assessors is running for this position, and will be a full-time Assessor. I am deeply invested in seeing that the progress we have made as a team these past three years is continued.

*continues on page 7*

AssessorTalk...continued from page 6

## Moving Legislators

Legislation is required to make the process of assessment and taxation more transparent to the average taxpayer. In fact, when the assessments finally decrease in 2010, and the property tax still increases, most of the electorate will get an unfortunate reality check. However, under the current Tax Cap statute, taxing bodies have no choice but to levy the maximum amount allowed by this statute. If they do not, they will have lost those dollars in succeeding years as well.

As many of you know, I've advocated that the stated level of assessment be restored to 100% instead of 33.33%. Prior to 1957, it was 100%, but I guess that was too transparent. In addition, I'd like to see the sales ratio analysis be changed from three years to one year in a declining housing market. I expect another increase in the factor this year (that percentage imposed by the State) which will result in another increase in all of our assessments.

## County Web Address Has Moved

I'd also like to see the County website be more accurate in displaying comparables for appellants. I'm not sure it can be done to my satisfaction, but the County website has certainly improved over the last three years.

The new web site is now at [www.lakecountyil.gov](http://www.lakecountyil.gov). Therefore, our email addresses are also changed to first initial+last name@lakecountyil.gov. I recommend you take a tour of the newly renovated website. As always, you can find some of the information by way of our own Township website, with links to information at Lake County's.

## Taxes, What Moves Us All

Levies go up because local government spending goes up and taxes go up because levies go up. Assessments and tax rates do not create the tax burden and they do not change the tax burden; they only distribute the tax burden that is created by the levies.

Given the restrictions of Tax Cap adopted in 1991, it is highly unlikely for non-home rule units of government to lower the assessment allowed by the PTELL statute. Once the government does not levy the maximum allowed, that amount will be lost to the government entity forever. Particularly for schools where 70% of our property taxes go, our tax burden can only be reasonably reduced as a result of legislative action changing the way in which we fund our schools.

Sometimes we get such heat from irate property owners, who misunderstand that we are merely delivering the bad news of their real estate value, that we enjoyed neighboring Assessor (West Deerfield Township) Steve Stanger's suggestion that representatives of the actual taxing bodies should stand in our shoes for a day and discover firsthand the effects of their levies—and opinions of the tax payers.

I also want to call your attention to a great article, "Why property taxes likely won't drop," by Brian Slupski, a Northwest Herald columnist. It can be found in their online archives at <http://nwherald.com>. He can be reached by email at [bslupski@nwherald.com](mailto:bslupski@nwherald.com).

## Moving 'Up There' In Age? Your Reward: Exemptions!

Congratulations and Happy 65th Birthday to Township resident property owners joining the ranks of Senior Citizens this year: there is some tangible reward for "moving up" the age scale. We want to remind those who qualify to apply for Senior Exemptions. These include

## Kudos, Believe It Or Not

*Property owners sometimes comment in writing to Pete Koukos via email.*

*He shares this one, saying "I have been remiss in not sending these kinds of comments on in the past. ...There have been many...like this one over the past several weeks."*

*Email FWD Date: Wed, 17 Sept 2008*

*Hi Pete*

*Thank you so much for being so approachable, removing an enormous project from my life, and keeping one more member of the middle class hanging on in Highland Park.*

*Your office staff is also great by the way, especially considering the deluge of inquiries they field. Whenever I've called, the employees have been so very helpful and calming!*

*Have a great week, mine is inordinately better due to your email!*

*(signed)*

a Senior Homestead Exemption of \$4,000 deducted from equalized home assessment valuation. For those who qualify by reduced income standards now set at \$55,000 total household income, there is a further Senior Citizen Assessment Freeze on the valuation of your property.

To qualify, you must apply to the Moraine Township Assessor's office, bringing appropriate proofs of age, ownership, residency and/or income. For more detailed information, stop in and talk to us, phoning for an appointment if you prefer, at (847) 432-2100. Online, go to the Lake County website, starting at <http://www.lakecountyil.gov/assessments/default.htm>. Or, look for direct links from our own website's Assessor page, at <http://morainetownship.org/assessor.html>; use the Quick Links column. ■

## Grant Workshop Held

In response to a suggestion from our Citizen Grant Advisory Committee, Moraine Township sponsored a free 'basics of fund raising' brown bag lunchtime workshop in October entitled *Achieve (Local) Fund Raising Success*. Many area nonprofit agencies, in particular those funded by Moraine Township, were in attendance to sharpen their skills. Feedback was enthusiastic.

Keynote presenter was Marissa Filippo, Nonprofit Programs Manager of the Donors Forum of Chicago, who walked attendees through the process of researching grant prospects using the Donors Forum Library. Filippo also highlighted affordable professional training they offer. In addition to their main facility in Chicago, another research Philanthropy Center is located at CLC in Grayslake.

*concludes next column*

## 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/Clothing Closet
- Grant Advisory Committee
- Latino Advisory Committee
- Pantry Plants Garden Project
- Senior Services
- Transportation

**Talk**  
of the **Township**<sup>SM</sup>

Moraine Township  
777 Central Avenue  
Highland Park IL 60035  
ph 847.432.3240 • fx 847.432.2178  
Van/Taxi Hotline 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

Local groups helping to plan this program included the Highland Park Community Foundation, The Rotary Club of Highland Park/Highwood and Welfare Council of Highland Park/Highwood of the United Way North Shore (presenter Erin Russell). Additional presentations were made on behalf of the City of Highland Park's Cultural Arts (Beth Shapiro Kopin) and Human Relations (Trustee Cynthia Plouché) commissions, the Healthcare Foundation of Highland Park and YEA! Highland Park. Overall details, including supplementary handout materials for further training and resources, were arranged by Trustee Bryna Gamson, Board liaison to the Citizen Grant Advisory Committee.

Many thanks to the Highland Park Police Department for the use of their building, equipped with all the bells and whistles for effective presentations. Special thanks to exceptionally dedicated planning partners and presenters Martha Gray, Ginny Schulte, and Welfare Council's Gail Feiger Brown and Janet Freed. ■

## Food Pantry Benefits from Cub Scout Pack 34



Seen here with the Clothes Closet as backdrop, some members of Highland Park Cub Pack 34 and past Cub Master/Mom Nancy Rotering look on as Tracy Coleman, Director of General Assistance, accepts a check from Karen Moore, Cub Master. The Pack raised \$333 through its annual popcorn sale. Scouts also brought canned goods to the Pantry and bagged groceries for residents in need.