

Talk of the TownshipSM



Newsletter of Moraine Township, Illinois

Vol. 8 No. 1 - Winter 2014

HOW TOWNSHIP SERVICES HELP OUR NEIGHBORS

General Assistance / Emergency Assistance

The economic downturn has eroded the financial stability of more of our neighbors. Township is the first stop for helping people with direct assistance or a referral to resources that can help them return to self-sufficiency.

"Your emergency assistance helped my children and me get through a tough month during an unexpected employment layoff." (S. F.)



Brooklyn Peddle Helps with food drive

Food Pantry

Who needs a food pantry?

- Did you know that 27.5% of School District 112 students qualify for the federal free and reduced lunch program?
- Did you know that seniors in our community may need help making it to their next Social Security check?
- Did you know that many families in our community need food to make it to the next paycheck?

Please help us keep our shelves stocked!

Donations accepted Monday - Friday 8:30-4:30

Helping Seniors

Moraine Township supports our seniors with a variety of services - from transportation to help with utility bills to medical alert systems for seniors living alone to help filling out complicated applications for state and federal benefits and RTA discount cards.

We all benefit when our seniors continue as valued and contributing members of our community.

"I don't know what I would do if the Township wasn't around to help seniors in need ... with transportation, food and help with utility bills (L. W.)

**Moraine Township's
Door-to-Door Van Service:
A Lifeline for Residents
Call 847-432-3000 to Schedule a Ride**

"Due to a major loss of vision from glaucoma, I can no longer drive. ..." (M.E.V.)

"I am 25 and have cerebral palsy, which makes it impossible for me to drive a car." (A. H.)

"My father has Alzheimer's and needed transportation to a day program several days a week... This program was a lifesaver for my family" (J. Y.)

Township Team Skills at Work for You



L-R Amy Zisook, Cindy Wolfson, Olga Gomez Aguilar, Trustees; Lake County Judge Mark Leavitt; Anne Flanigan Bassi, Supervisor; Gail Feiger Brown, Clerk; Dwayne Douglas, Trustee

Newly-elected Township officials were sworn in May 17, 2013. Representing a cross-section of the generational, geographic and cultural demographics of the township, the new officials bring decades of public service and volunteer effort to helping residents in our community.

The new Moraine Township Board acknowledges the community's gratitude to retiring Board Members Mari Barnes (Supervisor), Ellen Gussin (Clerk), and Bryna Gamson, Margoth Moreno and Jackie Schechter (trustees) for years of dedicated service to our Township residents.

The Clerk Says ...

2014 changes, changes, changes

- Early Voting has been moved to the Police Station beginning with the March 18, 2014 Primary Election.
- Many polling sites have been changed to move voting out of the schools for security reasons. You will receive a card from the Lake County Clerk notifying you of your precinct and polling place. Before heading to the polls, check our website to confirm your polling place.

The Assessor Says ...

- Moraine Township has 13,797 total parcels
- The average 2013 assessment increase was approximately 2%
- 964 appeals were filed by the September 3, 2013 deadline, the lowest number in 7 years
- Stop in our office to see if you might be eligible for exemptions or an assessment freeze based on your income or age



Patty Powers, Moraine Township Assessor

This is the last newsletter during my tenure as Moraine Township Assessor. I want to thank my fabulous staff for their support and hard work. I've met many interesting people in my 15 years working in the Assessor's office, and as a Township resident myself, I look forward to seeing many of you around town. Thank you for the honor of allowing me to serve you. ■

Green Strategies Address Cemetery Flooding

Permeable pavers, rain gardens, naturalized parking areas, and over 70 volunteers made it possible for Moraine Township to use sustainable strategies to address chronic water problems that caused graves to be underwater at the Township's Mooney Cemetery. The cemetery is located on Ridge Road just north of Deerfield Road.

Thanks to former Township Supervisor Mari Barnes and her administration for getting the ball rolling, and Landscape Architect Nancy Hannick for launching this model project. ■



Over 70 volunteers donned working clothes and got down 'n' dirty installing and mulching 750 plants in two rain gardens.



Debbie Margulis and Marissa Nares stock shelves

Food Insecurity is Growing in our Community

Moraine Township Food Pantry usage increased almost 70% between June and October, 2013. A staggering 27.5% of our School District 112 students qualify for the low-income federal free and reduced lunch program. When residents visit our pantry, in addition to bags of dried food and canned goods, we also provide frozen meat. Fresh produce is offered when possible.

Call 847-432-3240 for pantry hours, or to make an appointment for other times.

Residents who would like to help the Township in this effort are welcome to bring contributions of unexpired, non-perishable food to our office weekdays 8:30 – 4:30.

Ann Siegel, Sharon Eisendrath and Barry Scholnick are our dependable volunteers who give half a day every week throughout the year to ensure our products are fresh and our shelves well-ordered. Thanks Ann, Sharon & Barry!



Volunteers help with the May postal carrier food drive

Banner Crop for Pantry Plants Garden:

Volunteers, especially stalwart leader Sam Piro, have made it possible for us to offer fresh produce again this summer and fall. Thanks so much, Sam!



Highland Park High School students Nicole Berleman, Simon Gunzburg and Matt Reisin worked weekly all summer for Moraine Township's Pantry Plants Garden



Botanic Garden Master Gardeners Linda Miehl and Sandy Washburn

Community Responds Generously to the Phyllis Santullano Holiday Gift Drive

Hundreds of residents, businesses, and students partnered with Moraine Township this year to sponsor almost 400 area children whose families are struggling this holiday season.

Sue Kach, our volunteer chair for this year's effort has worked tirelessly for weeks, alongside Township Clerk Gail Brown.



Catch us on Cable!

Township Board meets twice a month; check website for schedule.

Meetings held on 4th Thursdays of the month are recorded and shown on Cable Channel 10, Thursdays at 12:30 p.m. and Saturdays at 6:00 p.m.



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Moraine Township Freezes Tax Levy

Township trustees voted to freeze its tax levy for existing taxpayers.

Moraine Township accounts for less than .9% of your property tax bill (around \$100 on a \$500,000 home).

Approximately half of the Township levy supports the Assessor's office.

The balance funds General and Emergency Assistance and a Food Pantry for residents in need; transportation services for seniors and disabled residents; grants to social service agencies that provide a safety net for our most vulnerable residents; and capital and maintenance expenses for two cemeteries.

Assisting Residents to Enroll for Health Insurance

Moraine Township has volunteer Navigators who have completed more than 40 hours of training and passed a criminal background check to help residents enroll for insurance under the Affordable Care Act.

Call 847-432-3240 to schedule an appointment with a trained and certified Navigator to help you understand your choices and ensure you receive any subsidy you are income-qualified to receive. Appointments are available weekday, weekend or evening hours.



Richard Heineman (center) serves as a test applicant as Joseph Chevalier and Terri Olian hone their expertise as health insurance Navigators

Mission

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

If you or your neighbor need help

Call (847) 432-3240 • www.morainetownship.org

- Door-to-Door Van Service • General / Emergency Assistance • Food Pantry
- Medical alert system for low-income seniors living alone • Help with utility bills
 - Assistance applying for federal and state benefits • RTA discount cards
 - Resource referral for specific needs
- Assistance with health insurance enrollment through the Affordable Care Act

Si usted o su vecino necesitan ayuda

Llame (847) 432-3240 • www.morainetownship.org

- Transportación disponible para las citas médicas • General y Asistencia de Emergencia • Despensa de alimentos • Sistema de alerta médica para las personas de la tercera edad de bajos ingresos que viven solos • Ayuda con las facturas de servicios públicos • Asistencia para la aplicación de los programas federales y estatales • Inscribirse para la tarjeta de descuento RTA • Referencia para necesidades específicas • Ayuda con el seguro de salud a través de la registraci3n La Nueva Ley de Salud (Affordable Care Act)