

Talk of the TownshipSM



Newsletter of Moraine Township, Illinois

Vol. 3, No. 1 - Spring 2008

Talkin' About:

- ▲ *Grants Awarded With Help of Citizen Advisory Committee*
- ▲ *Latino Advisory Committee Planned*
- ▲ *Moraine Sets the Pace*
- ▲ *Pantry Plants Garden Project Grows*
- ▲ *What Does A Township Do, Anyway?*
- ▲ *SuperTalk: Humming With Activity*
- ▲ *AssessorTalk: Just the Messenger*
- ▲ *ClerkTalk: Election Information*
- ▲ *Small Emergency Response Plan*
- ▲ *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.

Grants Awarded for FY08-09

Citizen Advisory Committee Makes Recommendations

At their April 24 meeting, the first of the new fiscal year, Moraine Township's Board of Trustees approved grant awards recommended by the Citizen Grant Advisory Committee.

"All of us owe a debt of gratitude to this hard-working committee of volunteers," noted Supervisor Mari Barnes. "They study the proposals, look carefully at the agencies, and make the difficult recommendations about allocating Township support funds. In turn, we are able to fulfill our mission on behalf of our constituents."

Grant Advisors serving this year included Chair, Wendi Ezgur, and members Harry Crane, Isaac Nava, Nancy Rotering and John Sirotti. Appointed by the Board to represent a range of community experiences and residences, these members reached consensus to fund 18 of 19 applicant organizations. Total requests this year amounted to \$155,000, which was reduced to the \$101,000 eventually awarded by the Board.

Detailed information can be found, including links, on our website. A list is on the back page, and two agencies are highlighted in this issue of *Talk of the Township*. ■

Moraine Transportation Sets "Pace"

Others Follow Our Lead, RTA Passes, More...

Public transportation has been in the news a great deal in the last six months, from the unexpected "seniors ride free" on RTA fixed routes (in State legislation overlooking disabled riders), to local initiatives at the Lake County and township levels. Moraine Township has been affected by much of this activity.

Last fall, Moraine was recognized for creating 2007's most "Innovative Senior Program" among Illinois townships, based upon our taxi coupon and Moraine Door-to-Door para-transit van programs. Moraine really did set the "pace" for responding to the unmet needs of local seniors and disabled residents requiring affordable, convenient transportation to medical appointments — even over township borders. Not surprisingly, our neighbors in West Deerfield Township decided to implement a van service as well. While theirs is more restrictive than Moraine's program, we applaud West Deerfield's efforts, especially as they serve Highland Park residents who do not live in Moraine. One financial consequence for Moraine, however, is that our neighbors also followed our lead in applying to the same local foundation for a grant, and the foundation chose to divide their financial support between the two townships. Our last year's grant of \$60,000 was decreased to this year's \$35,000. We deeply appreciate receiving any funds, but the shortfall will have practical consequences.

continues on page 6

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
 at Highwood City Hall, 2nd floor
 17 Highwood Avenue, Highwood
 This meeting is recorded for cablecasting.

~ 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

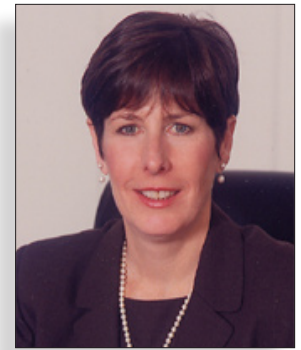


Email info@morainetownship.org

Mari Barnes Super@morainetownship.org
 Ellen Gussin Clerk@morainetownship.org
 Pete Koukos PKoukos@co.lake.il.us
 Bryna Gamson TrusteeGamson@morainetownship.org
 Margoth Moreno TrusteeMoreno@morainetownship.org
 Cynthia Plouché TrusteePlouche@morainetownship.org
 Jeff Zaluda TrusteeZaluda@morainetownship.org

<http://morainetownship.org>

SuperTalk: Mari Barnes



Recent office activity in part reflects the results of some changes made in Springfield. Our staff has been busy processing RTA Pass applications at a rate no one anticipated at the start of this year. Paula Peddle and Shannon Mosier, hired for different purposes, find themselves helping out applicants and gaining a lot of experience with the digital camera we use to attach photos to the RTA applications! Shannon is our bookkeeper, has wonderful people skills, and so pitches in in many welcome capacities, including being our “green” watchdog in purchasing supplies.

Paula Peddle, who is stationed at our reception desk, multi-tasks all day – and also does a great job at all of them. She is the Moraine Door-to-Door paratransit van scheduler; our bilingual resource; and makes sure Food Pantry bags are ready each month for the between 75 and 90 families and individuals we’ve been serving.

Interestingly, we’ve noted a downward trend in the numbers of Food Pantry/Clothes Closet clients. We’ve been monitoring the possible reasons. Some changes may be seasonal. Another is that talk about the pending re-development of the North Shore Estates in Highwood, where a number of our clients reside, has apparently caused some to move elsewhere. Another is that we’ve been encouraging qualified clients to apply for Food Stamps, and suspect that we’re beginning to see the impact of that.

The State of Illinois will likely continue to impact us in this regard, as they recently announced a policy of requiring community service of up to 20 hours a week from 19 to 60 year old individual clients (as opposed to families) in exchange for Food Stamps. Moraine is often a designated site for community service for moderate legal offenders, so this will be an area to watch for developing impact on us. We can use only so much help in the office, or at the Pantry Plants Garden Project, for example, without adding supervision costs.

A big part of our staff day and budget relate to seniors, with respect to the taxi coupon/paratransit services especially. As noted elsewhere in this issue of *Talk of the Township*, we are reviewing our budget to see how to accommodate the number of potential riders and rising gasoline prices, while facing a decline in grant award money.

As to our own Township Grant Program, we are so pleased and grateful for the work of the Grant Advisory Committee. An aspect of Township services here in Moraine is that we have a tradition of underwriting agencies that provide services to our residents, rather than providing the services ourselves. That is not always the case in other townships. Of course, we do have onsite seasoned staff like Tracy Coleman, Director of General Assistance, and her fantastic volunteer co-worker, Ada Goldstein, who treats her service as if it were a paid posi-

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!

continues on page 4

Mental Health Services for Residents Grantee Organization Highlights

In our last issue, we discussed four nonprofit childcare agencies the Township supports with grant funds to underwrite tuition for economically-challenged families with young children. In this issue of *Talk of the Township*, we spotlight two agencies that provide subsidized mental health resources to our community.

Moraine Township has long partnered with Family Service: Prevention, Education and Counseling NFP and with The Josselyn Center, to provide direct counseling services to neighbors in need. Our Director of General Assistance, Tracy Coleman, frequently refers residents to each of these agencies for mental health reasons. Most often, these clients are not able to pay full fees associated with their services. Thus, the Township grants to Family Service and Josselyn provide some of the offsetting revenue needed to support these clients.

The range of services at Family Service, which happens to be located in our building at 777 Central Avenue in Highland Park [(847) 432-4981], includes individual, couple, group and family therapy; in-home family guidance; community education programs; and senior services. Their mission is to provide “high quality counseling and support services to families, children and seniors, turning no client away, regardless of ability to pay.” Moraine awarded Family Service \$14,000 for FY08-09, anticipating coverage for about 650 clients, 20% of whom are children/teens, 23% seniors, and 57% adults, based upon last



Northwood teacher & student volunteer book sorters pose with Center Director Elsi Rodriguez (rt) at Nuestro Center year's statistics. In addition, Family Service operates Nuestro Center in Highwood, a highly-respected family resource center serving our Latino residents in primary prevention and student mentoring. Educational resources also extend to adults, ranging from improving family healthcare to ESL and computer classes. We awarded an additional grant of \$3,500 to support Nuestro Center.

The Josselyn Center, located in Northfield at 405 Central Avenue [(847) 441-5600], has a similar mission, but provides psychiatric assessment, intervention and maintenance, case management and referral services. In fact, theirs remains the only such resource serving Moraine Township. In 2007, Josselyn added a socially-based drop-in center for adults with mental illness and social or emotional difficulties. Moraine Township helped underwrite the 11% of their agency clients who are from Moraine, with outpatient mental health services for adults, children and adolescents – over 100 patients in FY07-08 – with a \$5,000 grant, repeated for FY08-09.

Discover more about each of these organizations via the links from the Township's website, or directly at <http://www.famservice.org> and <http://www.josselyn.org>. ■

Pantry Donors Noted Groups That Gave in 2007

Below are groups that donated cash in support of our Food Pantry during 2007. Your funds helped us supplement donated foodstuffs with purchased fresh produce, meats and staples from the Northern Illinois Food Pantry. In addition to organizations, many individuals donated cash and in-kind services. Thank you!

- Highland Park Presbyterian Church
- Highland Park Woman's Club
- Immaculate Conception Church
- Italian Women's Prosperity Club
- Kiwanis Club
- Lakeside Congregation for Reform Judaism
- Northwood Junior High School
- Ravinia Festival Food Drive
- Ravinia Garden Club
- St. Pat's Bridge Club

Food Pantry Wish List

Wondering what to donate to the Food Pantry? Trustee Margoth Moreno suggests dropping off hygiene supplies like toothbrushes and toothpaste, toilet paper, soaps, cleaning products – the kinds of things not covered by Food Stamps. “People really appreciate the savings to their budgets in getting these items,” says Moreno.

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

tion. Their combined expertise contributes to client access to appropriate outside direct services.

We created a referral report form for school social workers to send to our office so that we can better understand not only client situations, but who identified the Township to them. We're interested in knowing sources so we can improve communication and serve everyone who needs our help.

Along those lines, with special regard to our Spanish-speaking residents, I am absolutely delighted to announce the Board's recent establishment of a new Latino Advisory Committee. The special purpose of this group will be to improve two-way communication between our Latino constituency and Township officials, enhancing our policy decisions. A further purpose is to encourage broader civic participation in local government. We will all benefit from clear, direct conversations.

If you are aware of any family living in our boundaries who is not getting the help they need, please refer them to the Township. This generous community need not fear that anyone requiring help will be turned away or frightened away from Moraine Township. It's a pleasure to serve in my capacity as Supervisor. ■

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

Who Gets Help From the Township, and How?

People often ask us what the function of township government is, so if you wonder, you are not alone. Aside from the obvious functions of the Assessor, and election-related duties of the Clerk, the most visible part of township government is probably the Food Pantry/Clothes Closet, and in our case, perhaps the Door-to-Door vans. But township government is and can be so much more.

Charged with essentially being the safety net for residents in need, Moraine Township provides statutory help in the official form of General Assistance (GA), but over and beyond that, we provide a helping hand to any resident in need. Translated to our particular office, that means that when such a resident has any problem, their first stop can be the Township Office. Emergency help is given for a range of hardships, but very often the underlying problem is financial: to access shelter, medical care, mental health resources, transportation or even employment counseling, people often need cash or subsidies. Supervisor Mari Barnes is empowered to provide emergency funds under specific GA rules.

Food, clothing and shelter can be provided on an emergency basis, but for longterm solutions, Township Director of GA, Tracy Coleman, assesses client needs, makes referrals to appropriate agencies and provides help with the paperwork, as needed. Retired social service administrator-volunteer Ada Goldstein often assists, using an extensive directory (that she helped to assemble) of available resources. In the last few months, Ada and Tracy have prepared simple brochures to explain the types of services residents can access.

At the Township Office, seniors and economically disadvantaged residents are given help with Medicare and Medicaid forms. Income-qualifying individuals and families are assisted with signing up for the State's Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program/LIHEAP, to gain relief in home utility bills (gas and electric). The Assessor's Office enrolls seniors in homestead tax reduction programs. Efforts are made to keep people in their homes, to work out arrangements between landlords and tenants. Transit vouchers to homeless shelters are provided when appropriate. Jobless people are referred to Township grantee agencies like Career Resource Center. The ill are assisted in accessing clinic or counseling services.

We of course provide Food Pantry items, bagging standard household foodstuffs for about 75 families a month. Volunteer groups like the Boy Scouts and our "regular" Sharon Eisendrath help us with these tasks. Proof of Moraine Township residency is required at first visits to the Food Pantry; mail with a local address matching a person's ID must be shown. Photographed so they will be recognized at subsequent visits, clients are not "reported" to any other legal body. "We are not the immigration police," asserts Supervisor Barnes.

Residents who are income-eligible for Food Stamps can fill out applications at the Township, or apply online directly to the source, Illinois Department of Human Services (<http://www.dhs.state.il.us>). Those eligible include the American-born children of all immigrants, even those born to immigrant parents without documentation.

Says Supervisor Barnes, "Moraine is making a great effort to ensure that all eligible people, particularly seniors, legal immigrants and the working poor, are aware of and have access to the benefits they need to survive, thrive and, if possible, graduate from the system. Our applications are available in both Spanish and English."

"The important thing is that with all the resources at our disposal, no hungry person needs to stay that way in the longterm. It isn't enough to just feed people. They can trust the Township to look for ways to assist them out of the conditions of poverty." ■



ClerkTalk: Ellen Gussin November Elections Before You Know It!

Who Can Vote?

Any registered voter who currently lives at their address of registration may vote after signing an oath that he or she continues to live at that address.

Most voters have a preprinted application at their voting site and are required to sign the form, giving an oath that the information is true and correct. Persons voting early are

also required to show government-issued identification with photo, correct address, and signature for verification.

Voters with special circumstances may be required to supply further documentation including two pieces of current identification. An Illinois driver's license or Illinois identification card are the best sources of proof to bring when voting. Voters do not need to bring the County Clerk issued Certificate of Voter Registration, commonly referred to as a Voter ID Card, with them when voting. Special circumstances include: signature of voter not matching original registration signature; moving after registration closed; or moving within Lake County more than thirty days before an election without registering at the new address.

For more information about your voter registration, visit www.AmIRegistered.info or call (847) 377-2410.

Voting Sites Required To Be "Campaign Free" Zones

Electioneering is defined as working for or against a party, candidate or public question, and is not permitted inside the room for voting, or within 100 feet of the entrance to the room where voting occurs. On Election Day, bright orange cones mark the 100 foot zone at each voting site in Lake County. Private schools and houses of worship can ban all electioneering on their property. Then "no electioneering" cones are placed at the property's edge.

A voter may bring reference materials, including voter guides or other sample ballots, into the voting site. However, these articles are private resources and must be taken with the voter and not left in the voting booth or room.

Each voting site clearly posts specimen ballots for voters to preview. Election judges cannot explain or interpret the meaning of public questions or help voters with any candidate information. It is best to research the candidates and public questions before Election Day. Discussions about candidates and public questions, or leaving information about candidates and public questions would constitute electioneering and is not permitted.

A voter or pollwatcher may not initiate cellular calls from voting site or voting booth. Should a voter's cellular telephone receive a call, the voter should end the call or step out of the voting room to complete the call. Ballots must remain in the voting room. Election judges and representatives of the Clerk's office may use cellular telephones in the voting site to contact the Clerk's office for official election purposes or for emergencies. No Bluetooth cellular headsets are allowed in the voting site, including judges.

Important November 2008 Election Dates

Last Day to Register	October 7
Early Voting	October 14 to 30
Election Day	November 4

Looking Ahead

Local "Consolidated Elections" will be held on April 7, 2009. Highland Park and Highwood City Council seats, School Boards for both elementary District 112 and high school District 113, and Moraine Township positions will be on the ballot.

As Always...

You can find out more on the Moraine Township website at morainetownship.org, and I am always available to assist you with voting inquiries and official files of Township proceedings. ■

Board Briefs

The Moraine Township Board recently

- authorized establishment of a Latino Advisory Committee

Applications are being sought from members of the Moraine Township Latino community who would like to work with Trustees in increasing communication, and working towards solutions to problems solvable by Township government.

- awarded grants, based upon recommendations from the Grant Advisory Committee

A Grant Advisory Committee recommendation to hold a training session on grant proposal writing will be implemented in the fall.

- heard reports from individual grantee agencies at cable-recorded Board meetings, to both learn more and provide increased public exposure to nonprofit groups serving Township residents
- signed on to the intergovernmental agreement to "go green" initiated by the City of Highland Park

Among the environmental efforts of Moraine Township are the watchful use, reuse and purchase of green supplies from paper to cleaning products.

Transportation...continued from page 1

“Because our demand for van use is high enough that we could fill a third vehicle, the decreased funding is a setback to our program,” notes Trustee Cynthia Plouché, who helped set up the transportation program with Supervisor Barnes.

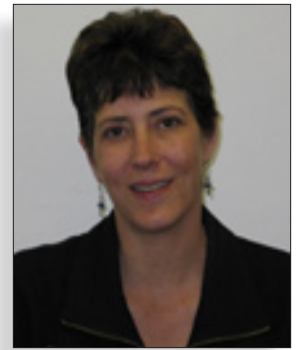
“Funds for the taxi coupons and existing vans will dip more deeply into our budget this year as a consequence,” adds Plouché, who also lends professional expertise to Township financial matters.

In the meantime, Moraine continues to take part in the activities of the Lake County Coordinated Transportation Services Committee/LCCTSC; Trustee Bryna Gamson, our grant proposal writer, is also our representative at LCCTSC monthly meetings in Grayslake. LCCTSC is moving ahead, applying for nonprofit status, and towards a longterm goal of creating 24/7 affordable public para-transit options in Lake County. Eventual funding sources should include federal grants, and an anticipated portion of the sales tax funds generated by the recent State legislation.

An unforeseen consequence of one aspect of that legislation was to create increased staffing needs, at RTA and in local offices like ours. Earlier, Moraine’s Board voted to continue free processing of residents’ RTA Passes (half-fares for seniors and disabled), but to charge \$5 to nonresidents. At the time, the number of those served was only about 20 per month; under the new legislation giving all seniors free passes, regardless of income, our staff has been dealing with over 130 applicants per month. The RTA has been overwhelmed, and processing has been delayed by at least a month in most cases.

With the skyrocketing cost of gasoline, and construction on the expressways, ridership on public transportation is likely to go up. And we can expect increased requests for Moraine Door-to-Door, still holding the line at \$4 per ride, for now. ■

AssessorTalk: Trish Lenzini Chief Deputy Assessor



Senior Homestead Exemption: Do You Qualify?

In order to receive a Senior Homestead Exemption you must have

- reached age 65 during the tax year;
- lived on the property which is your principal residence on or before January 1st of the tax year; (The value may be prorated for the portion of the year that it was owner-occupied by a senior citizen.)
- applied for the exemption at your Township Assessor’s Office. You will need to bring a copy of the deed to the property and proof of age with you when you apply. If the property is held in trust, you will also need a copy of the trust agreement indicating the beneficiary.

The Senior Homestead Exemption lowers the equalized assessed value of your property by \$3,500 and may be claimed in addition to the Homestead Limited Exemption. The exemption amount will increase to \$4,000 for tax year 2008 (payable in 2009).

Senior Citizen Assessment Freeze for Income-Qualified Seniors

The 2008 Senior Citizens Assessment Freeze Homestead Exemption Application and Affidavit have been mailed to all seniors currently receiving a Senior Homestead Exemption. You may qualify for the assessment freeze if you are 65 years old, have lived in your home as your primary residence from January 1, 2007 through January 1, 2008, and your total household income for 2007 is \$55,000 or less. The application packet includes descriptions of what income is to be included as a part of the exemption application.

The completed application and affidavit are to be mailed back to the Chief County Assessment Office, 18 North County Street - 7th Floor, Waukegan, Illinois, by July 31, 2008.

If you believe you qualify and have not received a form, you can call (847) 377-2050 or visit <http://www.co.lake.il.us/treasurer/exemptions/freeze.asp>. The Moraine Township Assessor’s Office is available to help taxpayers at (847) 432-2100, or at the Moraine Township Office, 777 Central Avenue in Highland Park.

This exemption must be renewed annually.

Senior Citizens Real Estate Tax Deferral Program

The Senior Citizens Tax Deferral allows qualified senior citizens to defer all or part of the property taxes on their personal residence. It is a state loan with a 6% simple interest rate that is to be re-paid after the taxpayer’s death or at the time the property is sold. A lien will be filed against your property.

If you know of anyone who may be interested in this deferral, more information can be obtained at the Moraine Township Office or call the Lake County Treasurer’s Office at (847) 377-2323.

For assistance and further information on any taxpayer relief programs, do not hesitate to contact our office or check via our website into a great deal of information found online at the County. Visit our pages at <http://morainetownship.org/assessor.html>.

continues on page 7

How Your Tax Bill is Derived

Many entities are a part of the property tax cycle. Among these are the County Clerk, Chief County Assessment Office, Township Assessor, Department of Revenue, and local governmental bodies.

To understand how a tax bill is derived, let's first look at the basic tax rate formula:

$$\frac{\text{LEVY}}{\text{ASSESSED VALUE}} = \text{TAX RATE}$$

The LEVY is the amount of tax dollars that local taxing bodies request.

The ASSESSED VALUE is the total of the assessments in the taxing district.

The TAX RATE is the result of dividing the LEVY by the ASSESSED VALUE.

The assessed values and tax rates are the tools used to divide up the total tax burden created by the combined levies of our local taxing bodies.

Here is an example:

A taxing body requests \$100,000 (the *levy*) and *total assessments* are \$2,000,000. The *tax rate* is .0500 (\$100,000 divided by \$2,000,000). If your *assessment* is \$10,000, then your *taxes* will be \$10,000 x .05 or \$500.

What happens if the assessed value goes down?

Let's say the taxing body is still requesting \$100,000 (the *levy*), but *total assessments* are down 10% to \$1,800,000. The *tax rate* now is .0556 (\$100,000 divided by \$1,800,000). If your *assessment* is \$9,000 (down 10%), then your *taxes* will be \$9,000 x .0556, or \$500. The tax bill did not change—even though assessments went down—because the *levy* didn't change.

What happens if the levy increases but my assessment goes down?

The *levy* increases by 10% to \$110,000 and *assessments* are down 10% to \$1,800,000. The *tax rate* is .0611 (\$110,000 divided by \$1,800,000). If your *assessment* is \$9,000 (down 10%), then your *tax bill* will be \$9,000 x .0611 or \$550.

On an individual basis, if assessments in one area of the township go down and all the others go up, the declining area may see some relief in their taxes due to the tax burden being redistributed. Similarly, if one area of the market appreciates while most of the market is stagnant, the appreciating area may see taxes increase while the others stay the same. But, if assessments all decrease by a similar amount, there will be no change in your tax bill, unless the levy changes.

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. ■

2007 Township Equalized Assessed Value: \$2,736,041,058
2007 median single family home sale price in Moraine Township: \$575,000

Hey!

My Tax Bill is Awful!

Please don't blame the messenger.

A township Assessor should more accurately be described as an appraiser. Ways of affixing an appraised value to a property are governed by county-wide standards. For example, quadrennial reassessments require looking at the last three years of market sales. The fact that markets have fallen – or steeply risen – in the year of the reassessment is not allowed to be considered; that act is defined as “chasing sales” and is forbidden.

What we are attempting to share with you in the adjoining column is what occurs after the Assessor and staff apply all their appraisals to fix an assessed value to all properties in a township. Actual tax bills are based upon all the factors/multipliers: total assessments within the entire taxing district's boundaries, the taxing body's actual levy, and the property owner's own property assessed value.

It's a tough call these days, and we truly sympathize! We are owners and renters, too, and it's our pocketbooks that are screaming as well.

Our staff will work with you to help resolve what can be resolved.

Just wanted you to know that we “feel your pain” – no kidding.

Dates for Appeals

It's too late once the tax bills are received, but you can plan ahead for next year.

When the “blue cards” showing 2008 values are received next fall for the 2009 tax bill, we'll help you find comparables and access the information you seek to determine if your property is appraised properly. Watch your mail next fall. ■

Grants Made FY08-09

The Moraine Township Board of Trustees approved the following grants, totalling \$101,000, as recommended by the Citizen Grant Advisory Committee for the fiscal year commencing April 1, 2008.

A Safe Place.....	\$2,000
Bethany Early Childhood Learning Center.....	\$4,000
Cancer Wellness Center.....	\$2,000
Career Resource Center	\$2,000
Center for Enriched Living	\$1,500
Family Network:	
After School Activity Program/ASAP	\$10,000
Drop In Center	\$6,000
Right From The Start/RFTS	\$4,000
Family Service: Prevention, Education & Counseling NFP	
counseling services	\$14,000
Nuestro Center	\$3,500
Glenkirk	\$3,000
Highland Park Community Nursery School	
& Day Care Center	\$15,000
Highland Park / Highwood Home Child Care Assoc.....	\$3,000
JCYS George W. Lutz Family Center.....	\$3,000
Josselyn Center.....	\$5,000
Links.....	\$2,500
Nicasa.....	\$500
PADS Crisis Services.....	\$2,500
Tri-Con Child Care Center.....	\$14,000
Volunteer Pool of Highland Park.....	\$1,500
Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center (formerly LaCASA)	\$2,000

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



Moraine Township

777 Central Avenue

Highland Park IL 60035

ph 847.432.3240 • fx 847.432.2178

Van 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

Get 'Down and Dirty' With the Township Helping Hands Grow Fresh Produce in Garden Project

Volunteers and clients of the Township's Food Pantry began work in May on the Pantry Plants Garden Project, now in its third season of providing fresh produce to supplement the donated canned and boxed goods, and purchased frozen meats and other food staples the Township supplies to needy residents. The Project is located at Woodridge Park in west Highland Park. We are grateful to the Park District of Highland Park for the use of the land and its initial soil preparation, and to Anton's Fruit Ranch, which generously continues to supply us with young plants. Make it a family project, too! Find out how you can help by going to our website or calling the Township Office.

Small Emergency Response Plan Adopted

The Township Board adopted an Emergency Response Plan at their February 28 meeting. The plan established the structure and procedures for responding to an emergency contained within Moraine Township borders. Trustees agreed to play key roles in slots created in a variation of a calling tree once an emergency has been reported. Key players for initial problem-solving will of course be the domain of police and fire professionals, but to implement support and follow-up care services, the Township will perform a meaningful role after any emergency. The Fire Chiefs of Highland Park and Highwood met with Trustees for a training session on April 10, and outlined the plan created by the task force first convened by Supervisor Mari Barnes.

Call for Latino Advisors!

Moraine Township Board of Trustees is very pleased to announce the formation of a new Citizen Advisory Committee, this time for Latino affairs. Interested residents should apply to the Supervisor. Specific guidelines are being developed, but it is known that group composition will primarily be drawn from our Latino community. Check our website for up-to-date information, or call the Township Office to inquire.

Help Wanted: New Video Operator

Moraine Township is in need of a new volunteer camera person to attend and record monthly Board of Trustees meetings held fourth Thursdays at 7:30 pm at the Highwood City Council Chambers. We have our own equipment, but need an operator. Experience with Comcast Cable operations and training a plus! Please contact the Supervisor if you can do all or some of what the schedule calls for.