

NEW TRIER Township Courier

SPRING 2014

What Is Township Government?

The Township form of government was created in Illinois in 1849 to bring government closer to the people it served. It originated as the settlers' agency for maintaining order and dealing with lawbreakers. Over time, its focus has changed, and today it provides quality-of-life services that address the immediate and emerging needs of residents.

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All Township Residents Are Invited to the Annual Town Meeting

Focus on Community Partnerships to Serve Residents' Needs

All residents are invited to the 165th Annual Town Meeting, which will be held on Tuesday, April 8 at the Winnetka Community House. The reception will begin at 6:30 p.m. with the program starting at 7:30 p.m. The Annual Town Meeting is one of the oldest traditions of Township government in which all Illinois Townships meet on the same day in April to review the official business of Township government. If you have never attended an Annual Town Meeting, we strongly encourage you to join us for this festive and informative evening.

Northwestern University Vice President for Athletics and Recreation Jim Phillips to Deliver Keynote Address

Dr. James J. Phillips is a township resident, Vice President for Athletics and Recreation of Northwestern University and longtime supporter of Township programs. He is personally and professionally committed to giving back to the community. Dr. Phillips, a leader in his field recently elected to serve as President of the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA) for the 2014-15 term, will speak on the subject of the responsibility of individuals and organizations to contribute to the community. Join us to hear Dr. Phillips share his insights on the value of a mutually beneficial relationship between the University and its surrounding community. Dr. Phillips is an ardent believer that all residents have a role to play in perpetuating the success of Township programs in support of our neighbors.



Agenda Includes Presentation of Township Accomplishments and Awards to Noteworthy Residents

A major focus of the meeting will be presentations on the accomplishments and challenges of the Township given by Supervisor Brennen, Trustee Hamilton Chang, Clerk Jerome Hoynes and Interim Assessor JoAnn Shrier Gordon. The theme for the Annual Meeting will be Honoring Community

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A Message from the Supervisor

If you have never attended the Township's Annual Town Meeting, I'd like to take this opportunity to encourage you to do so. You probably have a sense of civic duty as do most residents, but you may not realize that the simple act of attending this annual event provides the chance to educate yourself on the work of the Township during an enjoyable evening in the company of neighbors and friends.

When you come to the Annual Town Meeting, you will find that along with the pomp and circumstance of government gatherings is an inspiring award presentation in which local citizens and organizations are honored for having made noteworthy contributions to our community. Last year, I was especially touched by the meaningful speeches given by high school seniors Sarah Aiken and Spencer Savitz who received Superior Service to Persons with Disabilities Awards for their exceptional commitment to the disabled individuals in our community.

You will also be treated to a keynote address delivered by a fellow resident. This year, Northwestern University Vice President of Athletics and Recreation Jim Phillips will honor us with his time and thoughts on the responsibility of organizations like NU to give back to the community. Finally, you will enjoy brief presentations by the Township Trustees who will overview the core work of the Township, our accomplishments and our challenges.

The Township is here to serve our residents, and we hope you will join us for a festive celebration of our work. If you cannot attend the Annual Town Meeting but feel inclined to get involved, you may want to consider donating to the Food Pantry, serving on an Advisory Committee or volunteering in support of one of our programs. The Food Pantry could use your support on "Fresh Produce Mondays" when residents are asked to drop off fresh fruit and vegetables to meet the great demand we are currently experiencing. Or you may want to bring your scout troop to tour the Food Pantry as part of a service project or for the youngsters' community awareness. There are so many ways for residents to get engaged with your local government, and we invite you to consider being a part of the goings-on here at the Township. As ever, we thank you for your support.



Paddie Brennen
Supervisor



The Food Pantry could use your support on "Fresh Produce Mondays" when residents are asked to drop off fresh fruit and vegetables to meet the great demand we are currently experiencing.

Annual Town Meeting *Continued from page 1*

Partnerships. The work of the Township is made possible by support from a broad range of individuals and organizations. The Township will use this year's Annual Town Meeting as a platform to feature those who make Township programs possible through their support.

In that spirit, a Friend of the Township Award will be bestowed upon The Grand Food Center in recognition of their long-term commitment to the Township Food Pantry. They are a major contributor to the Food Pantry and have helped the Township meet need which has tripled over the last three years. The Supervisor's Superior Service Award will be given to Barry Hoobler in honor of his many years of dedicated service on Advisory Committees. A third award, the Peer Jury Scholarship, will be awarded to New Trier High School senior Stephanie Kurensky. 8 Township Excellence Awards will be given to Sandy Dalkin and Pete Schellenbach upon their retirement after giving many years of committed service to the New Trier Citizens League. Finally, the Township will acknowledge recently retired Collector Joe Fell with the George E. Noyes Community Spirit Award.

Jan Schakowsky's Office Reaches Out to Township Residents: Constituent Advocate Kris Sadur Holds Regular Office Hours at the Township

You may have heard that a representative from the office of Ninth District Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky has been holding office hours at the Township Office on the second Tuesday of every month from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. However, you may wonder just what Constituent Advocate Kris Sadur does for residents and what she can do for you.

One of the many services provided by the Congresswoman's office is to assist constituents in dealing with all federal agencies' problems including Medicare and Social Security. For instance, recently there was a woman with a chronic illness who was receiving weekly injections at a local hospital for a cost of \$17,000 each month. Medicare made a change to reimbursements for this procedure but did not notify this patient. She was shocked when she received an invoice from Medicare for three months of treatments for a total of \$51,000 due. Along with the bill was a notification that the procedure was no longer covered. Ms. Sadur negotiated successfully with Medicare on behalf of the patient. Because Medicare did not inform the patient of their policy change when it was implemented, Medicare paid \$51,000. Not all cases have such a successful outcome, but the Congresswoman's staff always try to assist in the resolution of a conflict with all federal agencies or such as this one described.

The Office of Congresswoman Schakowsky can also assist residents with immigration issues, for instance when an individual who has immigrated wants to bring a relative into the United States. Because the ninth district is the most diverse district in the U.S., the Congresswoman's office handles a large volume of immigration issues.

One final example of how Ms. Sadur and the Congresswoman's office can help you would be in resolving insurance problems surrounding the Affordable Care Act. If you are having issues with making your first payment on a new insurance plan, or you are not able to receive acknowledgement of coverage for which you signed up on the online marketplace, or if you are struggling to resolve a medical bill that needs to be paid to your provider, Ms. Sadur can be of assistance. Many people have questions regarding their insurance at this time, and Ms. Sadur has access to government liaisons who are available to assist with constituent problems.

If any of these situations sound like issues with which you are dealing, or if you have problems with Social Security, Medicare, veterans' concerns, postal issues, or other federal agencies please come by the Township to meet with Constituent Advocate Kris Sadur and see how the Congresswoman's office can help.



Constituent Advocate Kris Sadur at the Township Office with Supervisor Brennen (left) and Social Services Administrator Jeanne Rosser (right).

COMING SOON... *the office of Senator Mark Kirk will be providing a representative to meet with residents at the Township Office. Watch for details of the hours of availability and start date to be posted on the Township website.*

Timely Reminders From The Assessor's Office

Don't miss out on tax exemptions

While the Homeowner Exemption renews automatically, Senior and Senior Freeze Exemptions, as well as Disabled Exemptions, must be renewed annually. If you haven't applied yet, it's not too late. Exemptions are taken off the second property tax bill, which is mailed in July. Forms are available online at www.cookcountyassessor.com or in the Township office.

You can appeal your assessment each year

The Cook County Assessor will open for 2014 New Trier assessment appeals sometime in May. Results of an appeal this year will show up on the second bill next year since we are always paying taxes one year in arrears. Exact dates will be posted on our website www.newtriertownship.com and on the Cook County website listed previously. For help filing an appeal call our office at 847-446-8200.

Township to Honor The Grand Food Center at Annual Town Meeting

The Grand Food Center will be honored with the Friend of the Township Award at this year's Annual Town Meeting in recognition of the company's long-standing commitment to the Food Pantry. The grocery's owners, Chris Barber, Dan Klebba and Kevin Salus, have a strong commitment to charitable giving and the community in which they do business. The Township Food Pantry has been the main benefactor of The Grand's philanthropic efforts for many years now, and the Township trustees and staff wish to express appreciation.

The need in our community has risen and, as a result, Food Pantry usage has tripled over the last three years. The expanding need has necessitated more formalized organizational structure and strong partner relationships. The Grand has been consistently willing to oblige the changing needs of Pantry clients with innovative programs and on-going support. Management is always generous and responsive. Most importantly, the food donated is fresh, high quality and varied so clients have a selection from which to choose.

Mr. Barber states, "The Grand is in the food business and New Trier Township is in the food distribution business, so it's a natural partnership. We are blessed with the opportunity to provide fresh food, and we want to do all we can to help eliminate hunger in our community." Supervisor Brennen explains that the Food Pantry could never have the selection of fresh meat and produce currently offered to clients if it were not for the assistance of The Grand Food Center.

If you are interested in making a donation to the Township Food Pantry or bringing community groups to tour and see how the Pantry operates, please contact Community Service Administrator Brian Leverenz at 847-446-8203 or bleverenz@newtriertownship.com.



(Pictured left to right) Kevin Salus and Chris Barber, The Grand co-owners; Donna Richter, The Grand Controller; Brian Leverenz, New Trier Township Community Service Administrator; Rick Pasquini, The Grand Winnetka Store Manager; Pedro Ramirez, The Grand Winnetka Grocery Manager.

Meet Township Community Service Administrator Brian Leverenz

Many of you know Brian Leverenz through his work managing the agency grant process. Possibly you've met him in his capacity as supervisor of the Peer Jury. Others may have met Brian while donating items to the Food Pantry since Brian runs the Pantry. We thought you might enjoy getting to know what Brian does in his free time. As an avid endurance athlete, Brian is passionate for the outdoors. Recently he participated on the winning team of an adventure race, so we sat down with Brian to learn more about his hobbies.

Q: How did you get involved in multi-sport competitions?

I've always enjoyed athletics. When I was a student I played junior college basketball, ran, lifted and swam. In 1982 I was in a motorcycle accident. After a long recovery period, I needed to get back in shape but I couldn't run anymore. I began swimming seriously and biking for therapy and fell in love with cycling. Eventually I was able to run again. In 1983 I finished my first triathlon. Although I finished near the back, I enjoyed it and continued to race and improve and began winning medals in the late 1980s and continue to do so in a variety of disciplines, cycling, multisport, kayaking and adventure races.

Q: What types of competitions have you participated in?

I've competed in triathlons, duathlons, kayak and bike races, swim meets, running events and adventure races. The hardest race I ever competed in was the Iron Man. My goal was simply to finish. But I've medaled in my age group many times, and I have a room full of trophies from all sorts of races and events. From 1983 to 1996 I competed in about 5 or 6 triathlons every year plus I participated in bike or running races every other weekend May through September. In 1997 I had to stop serious running due to injuries from a bad bike wreck, so I've been bike racing and doing shorter triathlons. Now I tend to pick 4-5 events per year in a variety of categories.

Q: How do you make time for training?

Most people have more free time than you think if you make it a priority. I commute 25 miles each way to work on my bike 2-3 days a week from April through October. Between November and April when it's too dark to ride to work, I swim with a swim team. I enjoy working in Winnetka because I can paddle on the lake after work. On the weekends I routinely ride 80-100 miles on Saturday morning, and on Sundays I'll swim or run and paddle several hours.

Q: Where do you race?

Most of the races are in the Midwest, but I've been all over from California and Hawaii to Florida. Sometimes I'll combine a family vacation with a race. Wherever we go, I take a bike.

Q: Is racing a solitary endeavor for you?

Not always. I ride with Velo Club Roubaix, a road bike club. And I've swam off and on with various masters swim teams. Some races are team events. Others are solitary. Sometimes I ride or paddle with my family.

Q: Which is your favorite... running, cycling, swimming or kayaking?

Cycling. But I like them all. I like being outside, being on the lake, riding or racing with friends or with my team. I do it for my soul and have always had a hard time sitting still.



High School Volunteers Needed for Peer Jury

The Township Peer Jury consists of a group of students from public and private high schools in the Township who gather monthly to provide service to the community by listening to the cases of juvenile offenders and determining sentences. The Peer Jury will be accepting applications during the month of May for juror service. First time, non-violent offenders who are 17 and under may be referred by the Glencoe, Kenilworth, Northfield, Wilmette and Winnetka Police Departments to the Peer Jury, which gives the offender the opportunity to avoid a criminal juvenile record. As an alternative to Juvenile Court, the Peer Jury system holds offenders accountable. Communities in suburban Cook County that have Peer Jury programs have found the system cuts down on repeat offenses. Students who serve on the Peer Jury experience the criminal juvenile justice system first hand, learn to work cooperatively, and accept the challenge to listen to the facts and determine sentences. Most importantly, they must learn to maintain confidentiality about the cases they hear.



How to Apply for Peer Jury Service

Current freshmen, sophomores and juniors in high school who are available to meet once a month year round are eligible to serve. An orientation, training session and observation session are required before new volunteers become jurors. To apply, go to the Township website at www.newtriertownship.com and download a Peer Jury Information Packet. For more information, contact Brian Leverenz at bleverenz@newtriertownship.com or 847.446.8203.

Community and Economic Development Association of Cook County (CEDA) Staff Hosts Office Hours to Assist Township Residents

CEDA Program Specialist Brittany Slaughter is now available to residents of New Trier Township from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on the third Tuesday of every month at the Township Office. Ms. Slaughter will provide intake assessments and case management to assist low-income individuals with the CEDA Dental Care, Vision Care and Auto Repair Programs. Residents may call Ms. Slaughter for an appointment at 312-545-8690 or they can drop-in without an appointment on a third Tuesday.

CEDA's Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) is a case management program that provides a range of services which assist low-income people across suburban Cook County to attain skills, knowledge and the resources necessary to achieve self-sufficiency.

To meet eligibility requirements to receive services at the Township Office, a client must be a resident of New Trier Township and meet income guidelines based upon the most recent Federal Poverty Guidelines. Residents will be asked to provide documentation of need such as bills, estimates for service, loss of income, etc. Documents required for intake include a driver's license or state-issued identification card or passport; social security cards for each person in the household; proof of income for the previous three months prior to intake for all household members over the age of 18; and a lease or utility bill as proof of residence if ID does not match current address.

For more information on CEDA staff office hours at the Township, please contact Social Services Administrator Jeanne Winsted Rosser at jwinstedrosser@newtriertownship.com or 847-446-8201.

Township Calendar

March

- 25 *Committee of the Whole Meeting @ 7:30 PM*
- 26 *Agency Oversight Committee Meeting @ 7:30 PM*
- 27 *Money Follows The Person Committee Meeting @ 7:30 PM*

April

- 7 *Township Board of Trustees Meeting @ 7:30 PM*
- 8 *Annual Town Meeting @ 6:30 PM at the Winnetka Community House*
- 22 *Committee of the Whole Meeting @ 7:30 PM*

May

- 5 *The Committee on Mental Health Meeting @ 7:30 PM*
- 13 *Township Board of Trustees Meeting @ 7:30 PM*
- 26 *Office Closed in Observance of Memorial Day*
- 27 *Committee of the Whole Meeting @ 7:30 PM*
- 28 *Agency Oversight Committee Meeting @ 7:30 PM*
- 29 *Money Follows The Person Committee Meeting @ 7:30 PM*

All meetings are held at the Township Office located at 739 Elm Street in Winnetka unless otherwise noted. Meetings are subject to change. For the most up-to-date schedule visit www.newtriertownship.com.

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Angel Fund Donation Form

Your contribution will make a difference to someone facing financial adversity.

Make check payable to: Angel Fund – New Trier Township.

Enclosed is my contribution in the amount of \$_____.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email _____

Mail to: New Trier Township, Angel Fund, 739 Elm Street, Winnetka, IL 60093



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