



New Trier Township

NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP COURIER

Fall 2010

A Message from Supervisor Pat Cantor . . .



2010 has shaped up to be a year of great challenges. The economic and social fabric of New Trier Township has changed dramatically, with increased pressure to widen the safety net for social services as we experience greater demand. The number of individuals requesting assistance to help pay for utilities, housing, and health care is on the rise. Our Food Pantry has seen a double-digit increase and now serves an average of 293 people per month. We awarded 400 gift cards to students to help pay for school supplies, an increase from 300 last year. Each day new needs arise as we strive to provide the services that are important to our quality of life. These needs outweigh the financial resources available. Fortunately, we have the Angel Fund and Food Pantry to expand services funded by donations rather than taxes. As the holidays approach, I ask you to embrace the spirit

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Township Seeks Giving Spirit

Are you looking for meaningful, hands-on opportunities to help your neighbors in need this holiday season? In the current economic recession distressed families and individuals rely more than ever on community social services to smooth out the rough edges of their lives. This is especially true during the holiday season. New Trier Township responds by providing meals and gifts to those in need, but it depends on the goodwill of the community for assistance.



In 2009, volunteers helped assemble more than 60 Thanksgiving fruit baskets to supplement holiday meals for our neighbors in need.

How can you help your neighbors in need?

- **Become a Holiday Sharing sponsor**

A longtime Township tradition, donors receive the wish list of a child under the age of 17. Your contribution is to shop for, purchase, and deliver the gifts to the Township office by December 17th. Gift cards for parents would be welcome as well. The gifts are distributed by Township staff in private appointments with the recipients.

- **Donate to the Angel Fund**

Monetary donations will gladly be accepted. Your donation will help us purchase items to create food gift baskets as well as to purchase grocery store gift cards to allow our neighbors in need to shop for personal items that will make their holiday meals special.

- **Run a food drive**

Food drives are a fun, hands-on way to help neighbors in need. For those who are ready for the challenge, the Township offers a Food Drive Kit, which provides helpful tips and tools. Copies are available in the Township office or on-line.

The **Caring Neighbor Program** serves qualified residents who have an economic need and specific family or personal hardship that may prevent them from celebrating the holidays. The families involved are sincerely grateful for the help, and it brings the true meaning of the holidays to the community. Call our Social Services Administrator at 847-446-8201 by November 15th to see how you can be a Caring Neighbor by participating in this rewarding Program.

www.newtriertownship.com

What's inside...

- **Township Enhances On-Line Access**
- **ADA: 20 Years of Progress**

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE TOWNSHIP

New Website Enhances Access To Information

In a move to improve public access to Township government and keep pace with changing technology, the Township has updated its website www.newtriertownship.com. The new site provides quick and easy access to the wide range of on-line information and services provided by the Township, while incorporating a more current design and user-friendly features. With a few simple clicks, visitors can browse budget documents and meeting minutes, search a listing of social service providers, sign-up to receive email notifications of Township news, and view a calendar of meetings and events.

Community Support Grants Program for Persons with Disabilities

Applications will be accepted through November 15, 2010 for New Trier Township's Community Support Grants Program for Persons with Disabilities. Since its inception, the Community Support Grants Program has provided 114 grants of up to \$1,500 each. The grants were issued to adults and children with disabilities to help with services such as speech and occupational therapy, assistive equipment and specialized activities. While there are no age or income restrictions, this year the criteria for eligibility have been expanded to include a wider variety of disabilities, including physical impairments. Information outlining the eligibility criteria, as well as an application, can be found online at www.newtriertownship.com or obtained by calling 847-446-8202.



Public Hearings to Provide Overview of Programs Seeking Funding

New Trier Township awards grants to social service providers to ensure that residents have access to needed programs that impact their well-being. Supported programs range from youth drop-in centers and senior services to the well-being of individuals and families and include crisis intervention and prevention services. The Township also provides financial support to residential, vocational and respite programs, as well as advocacy and inclusion programs for persons with disabilities. Each year, social service agencies apply for program funding and participate in a hearing which is open to the public. The hearings are held in November and December. A full schedule can be found in the Township Calendar on our website, www.newtriertownship.com or by calling 847-446-8203. In Fiscal Year 2011, New Trier Township budgeted \$1.09 million to fund 45 programs.

Marking 20 Years: Township Reaffirms Commitment to ADA

It has been 20 years since the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was ratified, and New Trier Township has reaffirmed its commitment to the landmark law.

Elected officials, volunteers of the Disability Advisory Committee and staff have worked to reduce barriers and change perceptions in areas of accessibility, education, and inclusion. More specifically:

Accessibility

- New Trier Township offered workshops and conferences providing information to religious organizations on making their houses of worship more accessible for persons with disabilities. A report 'Access to Worship' was published as a resource.
- When remodeling plans were underway in 2005 for the Metra station in Winnetka, a long ramp was proposed, which would have been unsuitable for persons in wheelchairs and others. Thanks in part to the efforts of the Township an elevator was retained.

Inclusion

Recognizing that people with disabilities should play a central role in the support they receive, the Township introduced the Community Support Grants program in 2007. Recipients receive a \$1,500 grant to assist in meeting some of the special service needs related to a person with a disability.

Education & Public Awareness

New Trier Township has worked collaboratively with organizations to provide information to people with disabilities and their families and to increase awareness among the business community and general public. Among the programs provided were:

- Home Sweet Home Conference
- Emergency Preparedness Seminar
- Volunteer ABILITY
- Business Builder – Disability Awareness Conference

Despite these achievements, there is always more work to be done. While the ADA has had a marked effect on everything from architecture to voting booths to playgrounds, it remains a work in progress. New Trier Township remains committed to its success.



The 2010 Superior Service to Persons with Disabilities Award was presented to Sean Clemenz and Julie Smith, Special Education Faculty at New Trier High School. This award, established in 2001, recognizes an individual or an organization for efforts that go above and beyond their normal job duties and responsibilities in providing contributions and advocacy efforts of a significant nature on behalf of persons with disabilities living in New Trier Township.

Township Committee on Disabilities

The Township's dedicated committee meets monthly to advocate, evaluate and develop programs and services that

- Educate the community about integrating persons with disabilities into the total community experience
- Assist in the implementation of the ADA in New Trier Township
- Provide a clearinghouse for information, referrals and complaints about disabilities issues.

To learn how you can get involved, visit www.newtriertownship.com



Tell Us Your Story

Everyone has interesting stories to tell. Each day at the Township Office we're moved and inspired by stories from members of our community who have interacted with us in some way: They made a donation to our Pantry or Angel Fund, received assistance through our social work services, applied for a passport or registered to vote, received information on property tax exemptions or appeals, volunteered on one of our committees or served as an elected official. Our 160th anniversary is the perfect opportunity to gather your stories and memories of New Trier Township government. Township Clerk Jerome Hoynes and Winnetka resident and long-time volunteer Harriet Hahn are in the process of updating the Township's History Book, last published in 2001. Please share your story with us and it may be included. A convenient form can be found online at www.newtriertownship.com or at the Township office.



Summer Pantry Drive

Canned fruit, cereal, and laundry detergent were among the many items collected as New Trier Township and Grand Food Center joined together for a food and fund drive this past summer. Volunteers stood outside the Grand Food Stores in Glencoe and Winnetka and handed flyers to shoppers with a list of needed items. Thanks to the community's generous support, approximately 250 bags of groceries and \$250 in contributions were collected. Each week, when the facility is fully stocked, approximately 100 bags of groceries are distributed, but the need continues. A list of current priority requirements can be found at www.newtriertownship.com or by calling 847-446-8203.



Teaming up with Nurture

As part of a new service for Nurture's food pantry collaborative partners, including New Trier Township, Julia Goodhouse, Allison Farnen, and Felicia Cohen visited the Township Pantry in September. The visit will enable them to develop a set of recipes that are simple, nutritious and delicious, and all using ingredients commonly found in the Pantry. Nurture's mission is to empower family members of all ages with the tools and resources needed, even when faced with limited time and budget.

Supervisor's Message

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of generosity and consider how you can be a caring neighbor. This time of year is particularly difficult for the economically challenged. A simple gesture of kindness would be much appreciated by your neighbors in need.

As we strive to be a continuing resource for our residents, we are pleased to announce the launch of our new website. We hope you will sign up for E-news to provide timely and relevant information on your Township government.

Finally, we marked the 20th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in July by reaffirming the principals of equality and inclusion. The Township has always been on the forefront of disability advocacy. Among our newer programs is the Community Support Grants, which utilize a self-directed service model and support the concept of self determination. We are accepting applications through November 15, 2010.

*Patricia B. Cantor
Supervisor*

Township Calendar 2010

November

- 2nd Election Day
- 3rd Property Tax Reassessment Assistance Additional Evening Hours – Wednesday – 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- 8th Deadline to Appeal Property Tax Reassessment
- 10th Agency Oversight Committee Funding Hearings – Wednesday @ 6:30 p.m.
- 11th Office Closed – Veteran’s Day Observed
- 15th Deadline for Community Support Grants application
- 16th Agency Oversight Committee Funding Hearings – Tuesday @ 6:30 p.m.
- 18th Money Follows the Person Funding Hearing – Thursday @ 6:30p.m.
- 23rd Money Follows the Person Funding Hearing – Thursday @ 6:30 p.m.
Committee of the Whole Meeting @ 7:30 p.m.
- 25th Office Closed – Thanksgiving Day
- 26th Office Closed – Day After Thanksgiving Day
- 29th Agency Oversight Committee Funding Hearing – Monday @ 6:30 p.m.
- 30th Money Follows the Person Funding Hearing – Tuesday @ 6:30 p.m.

December

- 14th Board Meeting @ 7:30 p.m.
- 23rd Office Closing @ 12:00 p.m.
- 24th Office Closed - Christmas Eve
- 28th Committee of the Whole Meeting @ 7:30 p.m.
- 31st Office Closed - New Year’s Eve

New Trier Township Angel Fund

Voluntary contributions from individuals and organizations help residents who do not qualify for government programs but are in great need. Your contribution will make a difference to someone facing financial adversity.

Enclosed is my contribution in the amount of \$ _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

EMAIL _____

Make check payable to: **Angel Fund – New Trier Township**
Mail to: New Trier Township
739 Elm Street, Winnetka, IL 60093

ON THE WEB

Deadline To Appeal Property Tax Reassessment Approaches

Just a reminder to Township residents that all 2010 reassessment appeals to the Cook County Assessor’s office must be filed with that office by November 8th. For the latest news on appeals and exemptions and how the Township Assessor can assist you, visit the Township Assessor’s on-line office at www.newtriertownship.com

Countdown to Election Day

The General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 2nd. Visit the Township Clerk’s on-line office at www.newtriertownship.com to locate information on your polling place.

Sign Up For E-News

Check out the new Township website and sign up for E-News, which makes it easier than ever for you to stay in touch with important news and events. E-News is an opt-in service allowing you to tailor the service to meet your needs by selecting only those categories of information that are of interest to you. Sign up today at www.newtriertownship.com

The mission of New Trier Township is to provide leadership, advocacy, and resources to benefit the physical, mental, and social well-being of Township residents.





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New Trier Township's office is conveniently located at 739 Elm Street in Winnetka. Our staff is ready to assist you Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Free street parking is usually available close to our office, or we are just a phone call away at 847-446-8202. Information on programs and services, and directions to our office are available 24/7 at

www.newtriertownship.com