



New Trier Township

NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP COURIER

Spring 2009

A Message from Supervisor Pat Cantor . . .



In a time when some think of “transparency” as a buzzword, I invite you to join us at our traditional event, the Annual Town Meeting, where you will have the opportunity to meet with your elected officials and learn — firsthand — about critical issues facing our Township.

The reason for the establishment of the township form of government, nearly 160 years ago, was to provide assistance to neighbors in need. Quite frankly, if there ever was a time for Township government, it is now. Among the emergency assistance programs we provide, we have seen double-digit growth over last year. Visits to the pantry are up by 53%. Requests for general and emergency financial assistance are up by 49%. The number of people seeking services extends beyond the most vulnerable in our community and now includes a large number of recently unemployed. We are reminded that these are not just numbers on a spreadsheet, but real people, living in our Township. These people are

(continued on page 5)

Recognizing Township Assets

Join us at the 160th Annual Town Meeting

The Annual Town Meeting on Tuesday, April 14th, will bring together an array of exceptional people addressing some of the most valuable resources we have in New Trier Township. The event is one of the longest-standing traditions of Township government, in which residents interact with elected officials, hear a recap of services provided by the Township, and honor local residents who have made a difference in their communities.



The event also includes a keynote speaker to address an area of concern and opportunity to the Township and its mission. This year's speaker is John P. Kretzmann, Ph.D.,

Co-Director, Asset-Based Community Development Institute, Northwestern University. A sought-after speaker on community-building, his presentation, “Building a Vital Community: From Recipients to Citizen,” will rediscover local capacities and mobilize citizens’ resources to solve problems.

Did You Know?

Township government is the only governmental unit in which citizens can vote directly on matters of government rather than through elected representatives.

Read more about the Town meeting at:

www.newtriertownship.com



This year's award winners include:

**Bob Shen
of Wilmette**

*The George E. Noyes
Community Spirit
Award*

**Ron Gilbert
of Wilmette**

*Friend of the
Township Award*

**Kelsey Creamer
of Kenilworth**

Peer Jury Scholarship

What's inside...

• **Peer Jurors
Needed**

• **Pantry Usage
on the Rise**

INFORMATION

Food Pantry Sees Increase in Demand *Product Offerings Now Include Frozen Foods*

In economic downturns such as the one we are experiencing right now, the New Trier Township Food Pantry has become an even busier place. “Our current trend is that we are seeing more and more of the working

Last year, 228 households used the food pantry. This year that usage spiraled 53% to 348 households.

poor, or simply households in which the primary wage earner has lost their job,” notes Ronald E. Baum, Social Services Administrator. In some cases people who were donors to the pantry in the past may now find themselves turning to it as a resource.

The struggles are many and the pantry continues to serve a growing number of the Township’s elderly, families with children, and individuals who find themselves in need of short- and longer-term support. In order to qualify for

assistance, a social worker meets with the individual making the request and determines eligibility for assistance. At that time the social worker can also inform the individual of other assistance programs.

Thanks to some successful food drives in the Township and donations from our friends, the shelves are currently stocked. But they quickly become empty again. Canned goods are always welcome, but with the addition of a freezer to the pantry, frozen food can now be contributed as well.

The New Trier Food Panty is located at 739 Elm Street, Winnetka. We are close to public transportation and free parking. Please call 847-446-8201 for an appointment.

An Opportunity to Give

Supporting the Pantry can be as easy as donating a few items from your own kitchen pantry. You can also learn how to set up a food drive within your organization or place of business by requesting a Food Pantry Kit at www.newtriertownship.com.

Copies are also available at the Township Office located at 739 Elm Street in Winnetka. An up-to-date list of the most needed items is posted on our website and on page 4 of this newsletter.

In March 2009, members of Boy Scout Troop 9 in Wilmette joined hundreds of Scouts in the Potawatomi District of the Northeast Illinois Council for the annual “Scouting for Food” drive.



WHO DOES WHAT?

Food Pantry Wish List

NT Check
product
expiration
dates

The items that you donate will stock the shelves and freezer that help people in need in New Trier Township. The people who come to the pantry often have children, so donating healthy food items for children and teens will help our pantry greatly. Many others are single-person households. It is better to donate an item in a size that can feed a smaller family or individuals rather than super-sized items. All items should be in their original, unopened packaging, recently purchased, and in good condition.

Among the current priority needs are:

- Frozen foods (vegetables, meat, poultry, nutritious packaged prepared meals)
- Canned fruit (fruit cocktail, peaches, pears, pineapples, mandarin oranges, apple sauce)
- 100% fruit and vegetable juice (shelf stable, cans or plastic bottles only)
- Aluminum foil and plastic wrap
- Soap (laundry, dish)

View a full list at:

www.newtriertownship.com

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ELECTED OFFICIALS

Supervisor

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Clerk

Sheila K. Mitchell

Collector

Joe Fell

Assessor

JoAnn Shrier Gordon
nttjoann@ameritech.net

Trustees

Diane G. Fisher
Alan Goldberg
Stefan Mozer
Bob Shen

A Tribute to Jean Brandwein



It is with deep regret that we note the passing of Jean Brandwein, our Employment Counselor, in November of 2008. Jean was instrumental in the development and execution of New Trier Township's Employment Counseling Services. It was started in 1983, not only to provide referrals to job openings, but also to help with resume writing, interviewing, and job-search skills. Her background in personnel and not-for-profit organizations made her a perfect fit for the position. In her 25 years of service to the Township she counseled hundreds of people from professional, managerial, technical, clerical, sales, and service occupations. She made a difference and embodied the Township's mission to provide a better quality of life for its residents.

April

- 7th Township Board Meeting – 7:30 PM
- 7th Consolidated Election
- 14th Annual Town Meeting – 7:00 PM
- 21st Disabilities Advisory Committee – 7:30 PM

May

- 12th Township Board Meeting – 7:30 PM
- 18th Installation of New Board Members – 10:30 AM
- 19th Disabilities Advisory Committee – 7:30 PM
- 25th MEMORIAL DAY – OFFICE CLOSED

June

- 9th Disabilities Advisory Committee – 7:30 PM
- 16th Township Board Meeting – 7:30 PM

Visit us at

www.newtriertownship.com

New Trier Township, in cooperation with Life Line Screening, will offer community-based preventive health screenings on July 10th. Learn more on the **News & Events** page on our website or call 1-888-653-6441 for more information.

If you are a senior or a person with a disability, visit our **Transit Services** page and find out if you qualify for one of the four transit-service programs we offer, including Dial-A-Ride, Mobility Plus, RTA Free Ride Fare Cards, and Escorted Transportation.

Our **Service Agencies** page highlights and provides links to nearly 30 social service agencies funded by the Township that provide a wide range of human services to Township residents.

Supervisor Message

(Continued from page 1)

members of a group that could conceivably include your friends, your neighbors, or even yourselves.

We are fortunate to live in a compassionate community. We know this Township and its people will meet the challenge our current situation presents and provide solutions and vision for the future.

As an elected body, your Township Board began its reassessment of emerging needs in 2007 and today is poised to meet those challenges. Our strategic plan has put into place new tools, techniques, and collaborations that — with the help of a dedicated staff and resident volunteers — will make the relevance of Township government more profound than ever. I look forward to sharing our story and meeting you at the Annual Town Meeting.

Thank you for your support.

Patricia B. Cantor
Supervisor

M I S S I O N



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

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www.newtriertownship.com

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NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP STAFF

A Resource in Time of Need



Ronald E. Baum (in photo, on right hand side), LCSW, has joined the staff as Social Services Administrator, coming from the Great Lakes U.S. Naval Station, where he served as a social worker specializing in domestic violence, anger and stress management, and assertiveness training.

Social work has been central to Ron's career, and it didn't take long for him to apply his 30-plus years of experience to his new role within the Township. "My goal is to make our programs egalitarian, so that all involved in providing our services are indistinguishable from our clients," notes Baum.

A journal he placed in the Pantry already includes thoughts, feelings and suggestions from donors, volunteers, and recipients.

"Ron has a real desire to help others, a willingness to accept the differences in people, to respect individuals for what they are and the life experience they bring to the situation," notes Patricia B. Cantor, Supervisor.

Baum holds a Masters Degree in Social Work (MSW) from the University of Michigan and a Bachelor of Arts from Wayne State University. He replaces Bette Vitale, who served as Social Service Administrator for 17 years.