



New Trier Township

NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP COURIER

Summer 2008

A Message from Supervisor Pat Cantor . . .



Thank you, thank you, thank you, for the generous show of support from the entire community in answer to our plea for help to restock the Township's food pantry. Many concerned residents came to our rescue with bags and bags filled with a huge variety of food and paper goods items. Seniors arrived with shopping bags, husbands and wives hauled boxes of goods, mothers and children carried provisions in their hands: Everyone was willing to help and wanting to give. You also made cash donations to our Angel Fund earmarked for the Food Pantry. Little by little our pantry shelves filled up, and we now have enough on hand for the balance of the summer.

Speaking for the staff of the Township, let me say that it was a pleasure to meet with you, our donor residents, who displayed such a keen awareness of our needs and responded so graciously.

With back-to-school preparations just around

(continued on back page)

Grants Point the Way to Stronger Communities

New Trier Township has awarded \$1,029,895 to 29 social service agencies assisting Township residents. Each year, New Trier Township awards grants to social service agencies that enhance the quality of life for seniors, youth, families, and persons with disabilities. As the state and federal governments continue to cut

back on agency funding, Townships are left to pick up the pieces. The disparity is always between what is needed, what resources are available, and which agencies will be funded. The difficult task of the advisory committee volunteers, staff, and board is to allocate limited resources where they can make the most impact. These allocated dollars amount to less than 1% of your total tax bill.

The grants will support a wide range of programs that strengthen the Township's capacity to assist those in need, aid people in crisis, and sustain the physical and mental well-being of Township residents.

Resources Allocated to Address Emerging Needs

Beyond the traditional funding of service agencies, a new Projects of Township Significance (POTS) program enables the Township to recognize and expand on social service resources targeting emerging needs of residents. The Community Support Grants

Program of Persons with Disabilities is a reimbursement program that provides a cash grant of up to \$1,500 per year. The program is open to all Township residents with a severe disability, with no restrictions as to age or income. Last year, 27 grants were issued to families with children to help with services such as speech and occupational therapy, assistive equipment, specialized activities, and medical treatments. Seven grants were issued to adults to help with medication costs and assistive home devices. Applications for this year's program will be online at www.newtriertownship.com beginning Tuesday, September 2, 2008.

Learn more about the Township's services at:

www.newtriertownship.com

What's inside...

- **Property Tax Exemption Information**
- **Child Care Scholarship Details**

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE TOWNSHIP

Don't Miss Out on Property Tax Exemptions

It's not too late to file for 2007 property tax exemptions and receive a corrected bill this fall. New taxpayer exemptions effective with the 2007 tax year (property taxes paid in 2008) include household exemptions for: Returning Veterans, Disabled Veterans, Long-Time Occupants, and Disabled Persons. Continuing programs include the 7% Expanded Homeowner Exemption, Senior Citizens Homestead Exemption, and Senior Citizens Assessment Freeze Homestead Exemption. For eligibility requirements and other details, visit www.newtriertownship.com/assessor or call 847-446-8200.



Township Offers Voter Services

If you are new to the Township or will reach the age of 18 before the November 4th general election, you can register to vote at the New Trier Township Office. You must bring a photo ID, be a U.S. citizen at least 18 years of age by election day, and be a resident of your precinct for at least 30 days prior to an election. Regular voter registration ends Tuesday, October 7, 2008. Students who will be away from home and persons with disabilities are invited to stop by the Township Office to pick up an application for the absentee voter programs. The applications are also available online at www.voterinfont.com.

Back-To-School Drive Helps Children in Need Make the Grade

New Trier Township's Back-to-School drive has begun! The Township-sponsored effort provides a discount-store gift card to help struggling families purchase required school supplies and needed clothing for their children. Funded solely with cash donations from the community, the goal of this year's drive is to give more than 110 children a good start when school starts in the fall.

Working with the school districts and social service agencies, New Trier Township has identified families in need. Recipients have been prequalified and meet income-eligibility guidelines. If you are interested in participating in this year's drive, an Angel Fund donation form can be found on page 4 of this newsletter or downloaded at www.newtriertownship.com/angel. By giving a little, you can gain a lot.

Child Care Assistance Programs Provide Path to Financial Independence

After enduring years of physical and verbal abuse from her husband, Susie Smith (not her real name) returned to her parents' home in New Trier Township, where she was raised. She arrived with her two children; a little clothing, diapers, and food that could fit into a stroller. She didn't

“It's important for Township residents to know that sometimes we all need a little help, and that when you do need help, the Township is an excellent resource.”

come in a car, but rather walked miles from the city, children in tow, to find a safe haven. The years following her return were mired with struggle to release the vise grip that her children's father had on them, a struggle to help her own aging parents remain financially afloat, a struggle to regain confidence in herself to utilize her college education and find gainful employment, and a struggle to provide safe, quality care for her children while working toward financial

independence. Many times she felt as if she faced a brick wall with nowhere to turn.

She started working as a temp at a local business and sought out a day-care facility for her children. She said, “Quality child care is expensive. At times I questioned why I was working just to pay for it.” But over the years, Susie's temporary position grew into a full time job; she was later named head of the department and now has launched a career which gives hope to a future that can be brighter for her children and provide the financial independence she is seeking.

“Over the years, the New Trier Township programs enabled me to provide quality care for my children, which is so crucial to their social growth and development. The Township's service went beyond providing a supplement to the child care expense: It taught me budgeting skills. Each year I had to sit down and re-evaluate my family's financial position and budget accordingly.”

“What I valued most about the service was that it was delivered with dignity and with confidentiality. The Township social worker was always compassionate and caring and shared in my growth from year to year.”

The Child Care Scholarship Program

- Is designed to provide parents with a wide range of choices in selecting care settings for their child from birth through age 12
- Requires parents to share the cost of care
- Determines financial assistance based on the family's situation, income, and cost of care provided
- Requires that participants must be working, attending school full time, or in a job-training program

To learn more about the Child Care Scholarship Program, call the Social Services Administrator at 847-446-8201 or visit www.newtriertownship/childcare.

New Trier Township Salutes Volunteers



Left to right: Phil Hoza and Irvina Warren, Former Trustees, with Patricia Cantor, Supervisor, and Neil Adelman, Former Trustee. Ms. Warren has been an active volunteer for over 25 years and recently received the **George E. Noyes Community Spirit Award**. A Winnetka resident and past Township Trustee and Advisory Committee member, she has been a strong voice for persons with disabilities, focusing on the development of housing so that individuals with disabilities could remain in the community with their families and social networks.



Stefan Mozer, Trustee, with Jane Gallery of Winnetka, recipient of the **Superior Service Award for Persons with Disabilities**. Ms. Gallery has spearheaded PELS – Parents Educating, Learning and Supporting – to provide a forum for parents to educate each other, network community resources, and brainstorm practical solutions. In addition, she has worked with the Special Olympics and the Winnetka Public Library to start a book discussion group for young adults with developmental disabilities.

WHO DOES WHAT?

STAFF

Director of Administration and Finance

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Community Services Administrator

Brian Leverenz
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Deputy Assessor

Lois Cross
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Employment Services: Information & Referrals

Jean Brandwein
847-446-8202

Communications Director

Karen Spillers
847-644-8514
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ELECTED OFFICIALS

Supervisor

Patricia B. Cantor
nttpat@ameritech.net

Clerk

Sheila K. Mitchell

Collector

Joe Fell

Township Office 847-446-8202

Assessor

JoAnn Shrier Gordon
nttjoann@ameritech.net

Trustees

Diane G. Fisher
Alan Goldberg
Stefan Mozer
Bob Shen

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



September

- 1st **Labor Day – Office Closed**
- 8th Committee on Youth @ 7:30 p.m.
- 9th Board Meeting @ 7:30 p.m.
- 16th Committee on Disabilities @ 7:30 p.m.
- 22nd Committee on Mental Health @ 7:30 p.m.
- 24th Committee on Health & Human Services @ 7:30 p.m.

October

- 6th Committee on Youth @ 7:30 p.m.
- 13th **Columbus Day – Office Closed**
- 14th Board Meeting @ 7:30 p.m.
- 15th Social Service Agency Funding Proposal Deadline @ 5:00 p.m.
- 16th Life Line Health Screening @ 9:00 a.m.
- 21st Committee on Disabilities @ 7:30 p.m.
- 27th Committee on Mental Health @ 7:30 p.m.
- 29th Committee on Health & Human Services @ 7:30 p.m.

The Township provides discounted transit options to eligible seniors and persons with disabilities . . .

Learn about the Dial-A-Ride, Escorted Transportation and Mobility Plus programs by visiting www.newtriertownship.com or calling 847-446-8202.

Health screenings save lives . . .

New Trier Township will be hosting a community preventive health screening on Thursday, October 16, 2008. Life Line Screening will be offering ultrasound screenings for the prevention of stroke and vascular disease. Appointment times begin at 9:00 a.m. Please call 800-324-1851 for for more information or to make an appointment.

Grant proposals sought from social services agencies . . .

To be eligible for funding, an agency must be a 501(c)3 organization, provide direct services to Township residents, have a firm sense of mission, and operate with a well-organized management. The number of grants and their value will depend on the number of proposals and the funds available. To learn more about how your organization may qualify, please contact the Community Services Administrator at 847-446-8203. Applications may be downloaded at www.newtriertownship.com/agencies.

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.



(Continued)

the corner, we have another opportunity to help our neighbors in need. It soon will be time to shop for school supplies and clothing. This may be fun for children, but if the family budget is tight, it's not a pleasant experience for parents. We hope you will consider an unrestricted gift to the Angel Fund to make it easier for parents on restricted incomes to avoid the burden of cutting back on groceries in order to pay for pencils and paper.

In closing, remember that New Trier Township makes a meaningful difference in providing services to Township residents on a daily basis. Please know that no matter what your need, we care deeply about delivering services with respect and compassion.

Patricia B. Cantor
Supervisor

NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS

Township Assessor: Your Property Tax Advocate



New Trier Township Assessor
JoAnn Shrier Gordon and
Deputy Assessor Lois K. Cross

By law, Illinois townships are charged with providing assessments of real property, which is the basis of local taxation. Interestingly, the Township Assessor is the only elected governmental official who must pass approved courses of instruction before standing for election.

Cook County is unique in Illinois because all assessing of property is done by the Cook County Assessor. The Township Assessor's principal role, according to Assessor JoAnn Shrier Gordon, is as a property tax advocate for residents.

The Assessor's Office is one of the busiest service providers in the Township office. Last year the Office helped more than 700 residents file reassessment appeals and sponsored outreach programs that brought staff from both the County Assessor and County Board of Review directly to residents. The Office files exemptions, refund applications, name and address changes, and provides a wealth of other property information.

No stranger to the real estate market, JoAnn Shrier Gordon took office in 2004 after having practiced real estate law for over 20 years in Chicago. "After retiring from the practice of law, I was happy to find a position where I could provide services to the community utilizing my real estate experience," she said. JoAnn, her husband, and son have lived in Glencoe since 1996.



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New Trier Township

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www.newtriertownship.com

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