



New Trier Township

NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP COURIER

Summer 2009

A Message from Supervisor Pat Cantor . . .



Allocating scarce resources to deliver vital human services in a more effective and efficient manner is a challenge that most governmental bodies are facing today. In New Trier Township we are no different. I am pleased to report that we will continue to utilize our award-winning citizen advisory committee concept to provide oversight as to how scarce resources are being allocated and to ensure that we are meeting the needs of residents. The changes in the structure of the committees provide flexibility so that volunteers can sign on for just one special project of interest to them or, even better, volunteer for a longer term and provide broader oversight of a funded agency. I hope you will consider becoming a part of this informed and watchful group of Township volunteers.

In addition to this change, we continue to make progress moving the Strategic Plan

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New Committees Provide Attractive Citizen Engagement Opportunities

Having been at the forefront of bringing private-sector skills to government with the advisory committee structure, New Trier Township continues to provide citizen oversight of how taxpayer dollars are allocated through reorganized advisory committees. These streamlined committees will allow resident volunteers to bring valuable skill sets and expertise to help the Township deliver a wide range of human services, many of which are mandated by the state or federal government.

- The **Agency Oversight Committee** will provide supervision of funded programs to ensure that the agencies that receive governmental funding are accountable in meeting the needs of residents. Volunteers will be assigned to one of five areas of service including: Youth Drop-In Centers, Individual and Family Counseling/Emotional Well Being, Senior Services, Crisis Intervention/Prevention Services, and Other Services.
- The **Money-Follows-the-Person Committee** will focus on the needs of people with developmental disabilities and mental illness. In addition to providing oversight of funded programs at service agencies, this group will review ways to expand the concept of “funding following the person.” One program already established is the Community Support Grants Program (see page 2).
- The **Special Projects Committee** will focus on new ideas for programs that address emerging needs as identified in the Township’s Strategic Plan. The group will work on addressing the needs of seniors who wish to age at home, the working poor, and youth services.
- The **Disabilities Advisory Committee**, which provides education and advocacy on behalf of persons with disabilities, remains unchanged.

A list of the projects the committees are working on, in addition to a volunteer job description and application, can be found at www.newtriertownship.com/committees.html

www.newtriertownship.com

What’s inside...

- **Property Reassessment Information**
- **Financial Assistance Program**

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE TOWNSHIP

Need Help Paying For Child Care?

New Trier Township is accepting applications to provide financial support for child care costs to parents with demonstrated financial need who are working, attending school, or in a job-training program. For example, a family of four must make no more than \$52,000 annually before taxes to qualify. The scholarships, which pay only a portion of the expense, cover children ranging in age from birth to 12 years. Learn more on the **Child Care Scholarships** page of our Website at www.newtriertownship.com. Questions can also be directed to the Social Services Administrator at 847-446-8201.

Financial Assistance Available to Persons with Severe Disabilities

Beginning August 1, New Trier Township will be accepting applications for the Community Support Grants for Persons with Severe Disabilities. The program, introduced in 2007, has provided 74 Township residents with cash grants of up to \$1,500 per person per year. The grants cover expenses that include a wide range of user-centered services ranging from respite care and therapy, to services related to finding a job, and modifications to making a home more accessible. The program is open to all Township residents with a severe disability, regardless of age or income. Past recipients are eligible to reapply. An application and program guidelines may be obtained at the Township office by calling 847-446-8201 or visiting www.newtriertownship.com. The deadline to apply is January 29, 2010. Recipients will be selected from a drawing to take place on February 5, 2010.

Not Quite Bare, but Food Pantry Needs Refilling

Donations to the New Trier Township Food Pantry during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays are temporarily robust, but then quickly drop off, creating a struggle through the spring and summer. To keep up with continued strong demand, the Township asks residents, community groups, and businesses to consider a special donation to the pantry shelves and freezer, both of which are running low. A full list of needed items, as well as tips on how to run a food drive can be found on the **Pantry** page of www.newtriertownship.com. Last year the Food Pantry provided supplemental grocery items to 122 different households representing 295 individuals in the Township.



New Trier Township



Declining Assessments May Not Lead to Lower Taxes

The Cook County Assessor has announced the first-ever downward market adjustment of assessments for homeowners in 2009. “Each suburban township will receive an adjustment percentage which will lower the assessed values of all residential properties in that township,” according to Cook County Assessor James Houlihan. The reductions will range from 4% to 15% depending on market statistics in a given area.



While this adjustment will help to align assessed values with the weak housing market, most homeowners in New Trier Township will experience little tax relief from the change. It is easy to assume that an assessment reduction would result in a tax reduction, but the property tax system does not work like the income or sales tax systems.

The property tax system is more like a restaurant check you might split with friends getting together for an evening out. The restaurant doesn't care how you divide the bill as long as it is paid in full. In the property tax system, towns, schools, and other taxing districts basically create the bill to be paid by all the property owners in the district. Taxes (your share of the bill) are then apportioned according to the value of your property. Since the Assessor does not have the power to alter the bill itself, his ability to reduce taxes for all homeowners is limited. In fact, when the value of property falls, the property tax rates usually rise since property owners, as a group, still must pay the full amount of the tax check. However, since commercial and industrial properties will not be eligible for the lower assessments, homeowners' taxes could be reduced while commercial taxes could increase.

Noteworthy Points

- *Notices of reassessment will be mailed to each township during the year. As yet, New Trier Township has not been scheduled for mailing.*
- *You still have the right to file for a further reduction within 30 days of the mailing date if you are not satisfied with the adjustment. The Cook County Assessor's updated Website makes it easier than ever to file online (www.cookcountyassessor.com) and, as always, the New Trier Township Assessor will be available to help anyone who needs assistance in filing.*
- *This 2009 reassessment will not replace the triennial reassessment, which would normally occur in 2010. New Trier Township will in fact be reassessed again next year.*
- *Any reductions in assessed value that you may receive this year (2009) will be reflected on your fall bills in 2010, but will not extend beyond that year.*

Youth Honored With Peer Jury Scholarship

Kelsey Creamer of Kenilworth (left) is the first recipient of the New Trier



Township Peer Jury Scholarship. Kenilworth Police Officer Holger Bucks presented the \$1,500 scholarship at the Annual Town Meeting. Kelsey, who plans to attend the University of Arizona in the fall, was selected through a competitive process that included a written essay describing her experience as a member of the Peer Jury. The scholarship

selection committee included adult youth advocates, the Peer Jury coordinator, representatives from the participating Township police departments, and the Township Supervisor.

Township Officials Take Office

New Trier Township's six elected officials were sworn in May 18, 2009, in a



ceremony at the Township Office in Winnetka. In her last official act as the Township Clerk, a position she has held for the past 12 years, Sheila K. Mitchell (left) administered the oath of office to newly elected Clerk Jerome Hoynes. Supervisor Patricia Cantor and Trustees Alan Goldberg and Stefan Mozer were returned to second terms. In addition to Hoynes, Trustees

Paddie Brennen and Gerri Kahnweiler were elected to first terms. With their right hands raised, the elected officials took their oath of office with family and friends capturing the moment. View more photos of the event at

www.newtriertownship.com/news-and-events.html.

Volunteer Named Friend of Township



As a long-time member and active participant in the Township's Advisory Committees, Dr. Ron Gilbert of Wilmette (left) was recognized with the Friend of the Township Award. He is shown with Supervisor Patricia B. Cantor.

Supervisor's Message

(continued from page 1)

forward. The Community Supports Grants pilot project for persons with severe disabilities has been very well received, and we will offer it again this year. We also hope to roll out similar programs in the not-too-distant future. We continue to offer our Child Care Scholarship program which began in 1992, while at the same time identify new ways to make existing programs better. Within the next few weeks we will be announcing changes to our Dial-A-Ride program, which will make it more user friendly. Watch our Website and the next Courier newsletter for further details.

I also thank you for the opportunity to serve as Township Supervisor for another four-year term. I and five other Township elected officials were sworn into office in May. You can view photos and learn more about your elected officials by visiting our Website. Together we look forward to providing local, personalized, and needed governmental human services. As always, do not hesitate to call or send an email. I want to hear from you.

Patricia B. Cantor
Supervisor

Township Calendar 2009

August

- 11th Township Board Meeting – 7:30 p.m.
- 18th Disabilities Committee Meeting – 7:30 p.m.
- 26th Agency Oversight Committee Meeting – 7:30 p.m.
- 27th Money Follows the Person Committee Meeting – 7:30 p.m.

September

- 7th OFFICE CLOSED – LABOR DAY OBSERVED
- 8th Township Board Meeting – 7:30 p.m.
- 15th Disabilities Committee Meeting – 7:30 p.m.
- 23rd Agency Oversight Committee Meeting – 7:30 p.m.
- 24th Money Follows the Person Committee Meeting – 7:30 p.m.

October

- 12th OFFICE CLOSED – COLUMBUS DAY OBSERVED
- 13th Township Board Meeting – 7:30 p.m.
- 20th Disabilities Committee Meeting – 7:30 p.m.
- 28th Agency Oversight Committee Meeting – 7:30 p.m.
- 29th Money Follows the Person Committee Meeting – 7:30 p.m.

ON THE WEB

Are You a Non-Profit Seeking Governmental Funding?

Social service groups that serve the needs of Township residents are invited to apply for monetary grants from New Trier Township Government. In FY2009, the Township awarded \$1.01 million to 31 service agencies. The grants funded 43 programs meeting a wide a variety of social service needs including supporting programs for seniors and youth, individuals and families in crisis, and persons with disabilities. Eligibility requirements, the funding application, and a full list of grants awarded can be found on the **Service Agencies** page. Questions can also be directed to the Community Services Administrator at 847-446-8203. **Applications must be submitted by September 4, 2009.**

DID YOU KNOW?

2,167

individuals live at
200% of poverty level or less
in New Trier Township.
Poverty level for a family of four
is income of less the \$44,100.

Demographic Realities

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.

NONPROFIT ORG.
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
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WINNETKA, IL



739 Elm Street
Winnetka, Illinois 60093-2524
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New Trier Township

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Communications Director
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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