

NEW TRIER Township Courier

Winter 2012

Township Government At Work

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.

Delivering the mission of New Trier Township Government will be the main focus of this year's annual town meeting. The event is one of the oldest traditions of township government in which all townships in Illinois meet on the second Tuesday in April to review the official business of township government. It's also unique in that all registered voters living in the township join with the elected officials as "electors" to cast their votes on agenda items.

During the meeting elected officials present their annual reports and awards are presented to outstanding individuals for service to our communities. The event also provides an opportunity to learn more about the 35 social service agencies the Township funds.

Residents are encouraged to attend this traditional evening of democracy. The Annual Town Meeting is Tuesday, April 10, 2012, beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the North Shore Senior Center, Arthur C. Nielsen, Jr. Campus, located at 161 Northfield Road in Northfield, IL. More information can be found under the Clerk's section of the Township's website at www.newtriertownship.com.



Guest Speaker
*Toni Preckwinkle,
Cook County Board President,
is the keynote speaker for the
Annual Town Meeting,
April 10, 2012.*

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NEW Door-to-Door Paratransit Service



Mobility Access

Township-supported accessible transit service is now available for New Trier Township residents who are mobility impaired. Through a partnership with CJE Senior Life, the Mobility Access program will enhance the convenience and opportunities for travel by residents who utilize wheelchairs, scooters and other mobility devices that require a lift-equipped vehicle. Read more on page 3.

A Message From The Supervisor



The Township is a busy place during the holiday season. Supervisor Pat Cantor, Social Services Administrator Jeanne Rosser and Community Services Administrator Brian Leverenz are shown (left to right) handling holiday dinners, a part of the outreach efforts.

At New Trier Township we continue to see the effects of an unstable economy that leave people behind. The number of residents finding the need to tap into emergency financial assistance or to supplement their groceries with our Food Pantry continues to swell. The economically challenged are often unnoticed members of our community: seniors on fixed incomes, the newly unemployed or underemployed, the recently separated mother or father — all of whom may need help with making ends meet. We are fortunate that beyond our state-mandated general assistance program we have the community resources to aid our neighbors in need.

We called for help and you — the New Trier Township community — responded with overwhelming generosity. Thanks to your caring and compassionate support, we were able to provide holiday meals, gifts for children, and groceries to help stretch dollars that residents don't have.

The impact of your efforts are witnessed in the 74 children who received holiday gifts in our Caring Neighbors program, 91 seniors who received food bags from donations made to our Angel Fund, and 147 families who received holiday dinners from the giving program at Jewel in Wilmette.

With the start of our fiscal year approaching, I would like to acknowledge our staff and volunteers — your fellow neighbors — who have been hard at work reviewing funding requests from agencies

that provide social services to our residents. This represents the largest, but often overlooked, portion of our budget. I would also like to thank our advisory board members for their diligence and countless hours of service to our Township. They act not only through the nine public hearings and decision meetings, but year round as they monitor the agencies we fund and serve as a think tank to help us identify needs in the community.

We are pleased to announce two new programs: one designed to provide additional transit services to mobility-impaired residents (Mobility Access), and another to serve as a catalyst to develop new, innovative programs that serve an unmet need in the community (NTTIP).

As we continue to provide a safety net that wouldn't exist without township government, I encourage you to learn more about us. Attend our annual meeting if you can. We would welcome the opportunity to let you know how we are fulfilling our mission to provide quality-of-life services that address the immediate and emerging needs of residents.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pat'.

*Patricia B. Cantor
Supervisor*



Special thanks to our friends from Our Place of New Trier Township, who keep the Township pantry organized year-round and recently helped pack groceries for residents in need during the holidays.

Summer Camp Financial Assistance



Applications are due March 30th

Enrollment in summer camp programs is well underway, and for some parents who are working, in search of employment or in job training, camp is a necessity, and not a choice, for their children. To assist income-eligible families, New Trier Township government provides a partial tuition-assistance program that helps offset the cost of child care, which skyrockets in the summer months when students are not in school. The program aims to assist families by providing partial tuition assistance. Applications are due March 30, 2012. To qualify, an applicant must:

- Have lawful custody of a child under age 13 who receives care in a licensed facility
- Reside in New Trier Township
- Be working full or part-time, attending school or in job training during the hours of the summer day camp program
- Meet income guidelines: A family of four, for example, must have an annual income of \$52,000 or less

For an application and additional information, visit the Financial Assistance section at www.newtriertownship.com or call the Social Services Administrator at 847-446-8201.

Mobility Access

Mobility Access is a service allowing people with mobility challenges to travel where they need to go, whether it's to life-essential appointments or social and recreational events. The service is available Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Prior to using the service, riders are required to register with the Township and provide a doctor's certification of eligibility. All riders will receive a discounted fare. Upon providing proof of income, residents with household income under \$50,000 will be eligible for a 75% subsidy.

Applications and additional information are available in the Transit Services section at www.newtriertownship.com or by calling the Township office at 847-446-8203.



Passport Services



For your convenience, New Trier Township accepts passport applications weekdays by appointment only 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This provides applicants with a specific date and time to avoid long waiting times. The Passport section at www.newtriertownship.com provides helpful information on what to bring to your appointment. Call 847-446-3810 to schedule an appointment. Our office is located at 739 Elm Street in Winnetka.

Senior Property Tax Exemptions

Senior citizens received renewal applications for senior citizen property tax exemptions in late February and will have until March 28 to return them to the Cook County Assessor's office. Senior citizens should feel free to call the Township Assessor's office at 847-446-8200 for help completing the forms.

In the past, those who had previously applied for a Senior Exemption did not have to renew it, as the exemption was automatically renewed. Starting last year, however, the law changed such that Senior Exemptions will be now renewed only for those who complete the renewal applications.

Eligibility for Senior Citizen Exemption

There are two senior citizen property tax exemptions. The Senior Exemption is available to all seniors regardless of income. It is available for any owner-occupied residential property whose owner was born in 1946 or earlier. The Senior Freeze can provide seniors with additional tax savings, if the combined

income of all occupants in a senior's household is less than \$55,000, and if the senior has been an owner-occupant of the house since January 1, 2010.

The senior applications being mailed out are for 2011 property taxes (paid in calendar year 2012), and the savings from the exemptions will appear on the second installment tax bills that will be mailed in the fall of 2012.

Information for Seniors not Receiving Mailings

Homeowners who were born in 1946 turned 65 in 2011, and thus are likely to be eligible for one of the senior exemptions for the first time. Taxpayers who recently turned 65 will not receive application forms when the senior renewal forms are mailed. Those residents are encouraged to call the Township Assessor's office at 847-446-8200 to obtain the forms and information necessary to receive the senior benefits. The forms are also available online at www.CookCountyAssessor.com.



2011 Property Tax Assessment Appeals

New Trier Township will tentatively open for 2011 appeals (for taxes payable in 2012) from May 18th to June 18th, according to the Cook County Assessor's office. This is NOT a triennial reassessment year. Only those who have made changes to their homes will receive reassessment notices. The Township Assessor's office will be able to provide assistance and comparables to residents wishing to appeal their assessments during that time.

Start-Up Grants for Non-Profits



Do you have an idea for a new service that can help seniors “age in place”? Do you have suggestions on providing aid to financially stressed families? Is there a gap in programs for our youth? Is there a new way for people with disabilities to obtain services and more freely choose where they want to live? This list is merely representative of the type of programming being evaluated for the New Trier Township Incubator Program (NTTIP).

Building upon the successful model of funding social service agencies to efficiently deliver services to residents, NTTIP is designed to encourage new non-profit organizations to form and serve unmet social service needs of residents. It will provide start-up funding for individuals or groups with a new idea designed to provide community-based services to support seniors, youth, economically challenged families and people with disabilities.

The program is designated for new agencies (in existence for less than one year) and those individuals/groups in the idea phase. All recipients must be registered as 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations or obtain that status within one year. Program qualifications and a full explanation of the application process are online in the Funding Opportunities section at www.newtriertownship.com or call 847-446-8203.

Food Pantry Wish List

The Township relies on donations from the community to stock the shelves that help people in need in New Trier Township.

The people who come to the pantry often have children. Donating healthy food items that most families buy to feed 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 are welcome. We are currently overstocked with bean products (pork and beans, baked beans, etc.) as well as macaroni and cheese. We respectfully

request that those food items not be donated, at this time. If you would like to make a donation, some of the most-needed items include:

- Healthy snacks
- Cookies and crackers
- Granola bars, breakfast squares
- Canned fruit (fruit cocktail, peaches, pears, pineapple, mandarin oranges)
- Cooking oils
- Condiments (salad dressings, sauces, ketchup, mustard)
- Baking goods (muffins)
- Pancake mix and pancake syrup
- Paper goods (toilet paper, facial tissue, paper towels)
- Cleaning supplies



Donations may be dropped off any weekday between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. at the Township office, 739 Elm Street, Winnetka. Call 847-446-8203 for more information.

Citizen Oversight Guides Agency Funding

New Trier Township's most recognized product of grant making represents the intersection of community needs and investment in social services. To guide decision making and ensure that Township funds are used prudently and efficiently, each year more than 20 residents (volunteers from the Township's advisory committees) partake in a thorough analysis of funding proposals. This year, 38 service agencies applied to receive funding for 50 separate programs that provide support services to seniors, persons with disabilities, youth, and individuals and families in crisis.

The funding process begins in July, when a call for proposals is made. If an agency wants to apply for a grant, it must respond with detailed information on the services it provides, the number of Township residents served, evidence of fiscal viability, and proven results. The Township's guidelines require that an

agency has 501(c)(3) status, provides direct services to Township residents, demonstrates a firm sense of mission, has an outcomes and evaluation process in place, and other information.

The process is coordinated between the Board of Trustees and the Township's Community Services Administrator, who has a strong background in program evaluation, grants management and outcomes. Each proposal is studied by members of the appropriate Township committee. Representatives from the service agency also participate in public hearings in November and December.

Decision meetings are held in December, then committee members make recommendations for funding to the Board in January. The Board's decisions are incorporated in a tentative budget, which is followed with a public hearing in May when the budget is approved.



Kelly Schuler, Director of Operations and Gary Smith, President of The Josselyn Center appeared before the Mental Health Advisory Committee during the funding hearing process. Located in Northfield, The Josselyn Center provides mental health services for Township adults, children and adolescents.

Best Township Communications

New Trier Township won top honors in the 2011 Township Officials of Illinois Mighty Message competition with the overall "Mighty Message Award" and two first-place finishes. The Township's commemorative history book, "A Journey in Time" — a project that combined the efforts of elected officials, community volunteers and staff — was recognized as the best township publication, while the Township's website www.newtriertownship.com was recognized as the best website.

The annual competition recognizes excellence in marketing and communications among the 1,432 townships in the state of Illinois.



Clerk Jerome Hoynes, Volunteer Harriet Hahn, Supervisor Patricia Cantor, and Communications Director Karen Spillers celebrate the Township's recognition.

Opportunities to Participate



Are you interested in advancing the interests of persons with disabilities? Volunteers are needed to help develop, plan and implement programs and services to improve the quality of life for residents with disabilities. Created by statute, the Township's Disability Advisory Committee is charged with providing education and advocacy on behalf of persons with disabilities. Committee projects have included: creation of an Access to Worship manual, an information

day for job seekers with disabilities, accessibility and disaster preparedness events as well as community education forums. Other activities address educating the community about the needs, skills, and abilities of persons with disabilities. Meetings are held monthly. An application and more information can be found in the Get Involved section on the Township's website at www.newtriertownship.com or by calling the Community Services Administrator at 847-446-8203.

Township Calendar

March

- 20th Township Committee on Disabilities Meeting @ 7:30 PM
- 21st Agency Oversight Committee Meeting @ 7:30 PM
- 27th Committee of the Whole Meeting @ 7:30 PM
- 29th Money Follows The Person Committee Meeting @ 7:30 PM
- 30th Deadline to apply for Summer Camp Financial Assistance Program

April

- 10th Annual Township Meeting @ 7:00 PM @ North Shore Senior Center
- 24th Township Board Meeting @ 7:30 PM

May

- 7th Mental Health Committee Meeting @ 7:30 PM
- 8th Township Board Meeting @ 7:30 PM
- 15th Township Committee on Disabilities Meeting @ 7:30 PM
- 22nd Committee of the Whole Meeting @ 7:30 PM
- 23rd Agency Oversight Committee Meeting @ 7:30 PM
- 24th Money Follows the Person Committee Meeting @ 7:30 PM
- 28th Office Closed—Memorial Day

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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POSTAL CUSTOMER, LOCAL
NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP
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