

# New Trier Township

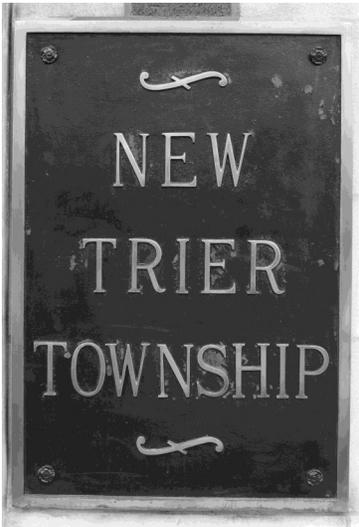


*The Township form of government was created to bring government closer to the people it served. In New Trier Township, we have more than 160 years of experience in providing quality-of-life services that address immediate and emerging needs of our residents.*

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## About New Trier Township Government



Established in 1850, New Trier Township government serves the 56,000 residents in the Illinois villages of Wilmette, Kenilworth, Winnetka, and Glencoe, plus portions of Glenview and Northfield.

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

Among our basic functions are human services including the funding of social services and programs; advocacy for property taxpayers, and resident services.

The following principles guide the Board's and Staff's action as we work together to fulfill our mission:

- The Township's primary role is to identify and address the needs of our community.
- Our efforts are to create new, energetic ideas and programs while maintaining existing programs which are relevant and effective.
- Our intent is to support, given due diligence and fiscal accountability, programs providing services to our neighbors: including youth programs; senior citizen supports; aid to persons with disabilities; food, shelter and emergency relief for people in need.
- We seek opportunities to meet community needs by providing assistance directly to individuals as well as indirectly, through third-party sources/providers.
- The Township will pursue coalition-building with other community entities and advocate on behalf of Township residents.
- We believe that people have the freedom to choose where they receive services and assistance, including those the Township provides and supports.

## A Message from the Township Assessor



The housing market decline continued to be a concern of Township residents. We tracked 710 sales in this fiscal year, up slightly from 683 last year, but well below the peak of 1,248 in 2007.

2010 was a triennial reassessment year for New Trier Township. According to the Cook County Assessor, the total number of sales during the current triennial period declined to 1,624 from 2,360 in the previous triennial. There were also 119 foreclosure sales this triennial period. The median sale price of single family homes in the Township fell from \$900,000 in the 2007 reassessment to \$756,000 in the 2010 reassessment, a 16% decline. The median assessed value of single family homes in the Township was down 11.5% from the 2007 median assessed value, compared to a 30% increase in the 2007 reassessment. The median decrease in condo

values was 7% in this reassessment.

Even though assessments were generally down in the 2010 reassessment, our office filed over 400 Cook County Assessor level appeals and provided data for approximately 200 more residents who chose to file their own appeals. We were able to deal with this demand with very little extra help because of the Cook County Assessor's improved electronic filing option and our own computer capability of running comparables. This faster and more efficient filing method allowed residents to come into our office without the necessity of an appointment unless they desired one. In addition to our regular hours, we offered Wednesday evening hours during the appeal period and participated in an evening outreach program with the Cook County Assessor's office.

Because of the Cook County Assessor's one-time 5% reduction in 2009 assessed values, many residents did not anticipate an increase in their second installment 2009 tax bills (paid in 2010). This increase was due not to the assessed value or the tax rates of the taxing bodies, but to a rise in the state equalization factor from 2.9766 to 3.3701 and to the reduction in the Expanded Home Owner Exemption. Also, we saw about 100 taxpayers with missing exemptions for whom we filed Certificates of Error to obtain corrected tax bills.

We helped many residents, whose incomes qualified, to obtain the Senior Freeze or Long Time Occupant Exemptions. We also referred residents who were unable to pay their property tax bills, in part or whole, to the Cook County Treasurer's Tax Deferral Program under which the state pays the taxes until the home is sold or the owner is deceased. Proceeds must then be repaid from the sale or estate with a 6% interest charge.

There is a new requirement this year in Cook County that the Senior Exemption must be renewed annually. The Cook County Assessors' Organization of which I am a member just voted to support pending legislation which would again allow the Senior Exemption to renew automatically, saving seniors the need to file annually.

We have a newly elected Cook County Assessor, Joseph Berrios, and two new Commissioners at the Board of Review. Last month Deputy Assessor Lois Cross and I toured the Board's offices and met with our new Commissioner, Dan Patlak, a former Wheeling Township Assessor and Board of Review staff member, as well as his staff.

Our new Assessor's webpage has a lot of general as well as specific information regarding taxes, assessments and exemptions, such as a comprehensive article on understanding the property tax system. There is a section on the webpage that is devoted to the latest news as well. The Township's new website enables us to make time sensitive information available immediately. We are in the process of collecting names of taxpayers who also would like email alerts from us regarding such information.

We continue to assist residents with appeal and exemption filings, refunds, legal and property descriptions, name and address changes, sales and permit data, and to provide information services for attorneys, real estate brokers, surveyors, appraisers, businesses, villages, schools, park districts and libraries.

Finally, I would like to give a special thank you to Deputy Assessor Lois Cross for her extraordinary hard work during the 2010 reassessment and her continued concern for our residents.

JoAnn Shrier Gordon  
Assessor  
April 12, 2011



### Service By The Numbers

- 2,183 information calls
- 919 in-person appointments
- 400 reassessment appeals filed
- 710 property sales processed
- 728 building permits processed
- 75 outreach seminar attendees

## A Message from the Township Clerk



On the second Tuesday of April we are mandated by Illinois state law to hold a gathering of New Trier residents. In New Trier Township we embrace this annual requirement as an opportunity to review the activities and services of township government as well as examine themes of township life. As we conduct our 162nd New Trier Township Annual Town Meeting, we mark the culmination of our 160th Anniversary celebration. It has provided an outstanding occasion for all of us involved with township government to “honor our past and look forward to our future” everyday. Throughout this anniversary year, we have deepened our commitment to continue enthusiastically serving the needs of our residents.

A time capsule that will remain sealed and stored in the township vault until the Bicentennial Annual Town meeting in April of 2050, will capture this moment in time for New Trier citizens to remember. We anticipate eager eyes at that event looking at the many artifacts and memorabilia recalling township life in 2011.

We appreciate the outstanding village historical societies within our township for their wholehearted participation in the kick-off of our anniversary celebration at the 2010 Annual Town Meeting. Our guest speakers, John Newcombe in 2010 and Geoffrey Baer in 2011, both award-winning film writers/producers, intrigued, entertained and educated us about developments in North Shore history. An extra special expression of gratitude goes out to long-time township resident Harriet Hahn and Communications Director Karen Spillers whose combined efforts have resulted in the updated history book “New Trier Township: A Journey in Time, 1850-2010.” This book will be available in print and on our website in May 2011; please complete a request card and we will be happy to send it out to you. If you would like to have additional copies, feel free to stop by the friendly Township Hall, e-mail your request to [jhoynes@newtriertownship.com](mailto:jhoynes@newtriertownship.com) or telephone (847) 446-8202 x12.

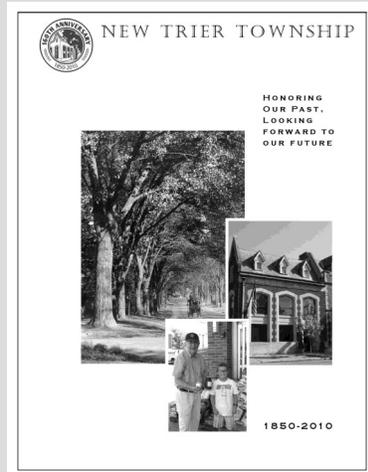
The traditional duty of the Clerk has been to maintain all Township records. In 2010, the Board of Trustees decided to dramatically improve the township website in order to ensure increased transparency and easy access to information in this electronic age. Residents will now find all Agendas, Meeting Minutes and other important township documents when they visit the completely revamped website; please go to [www.newtriertownship.com](http://www.newtriertownship.com) and take a look.

New Trier Township actively assisted the U.S. Census Bureau with its Census 2010 efforts. We hosted a Census Questionnaire Assistance Center in the township building for local residents needing guidance in completing their Census forms. The township board room doubled as an instructional classroom for Census Enumerator training during the spring of 2010. After all of the Census 2010 data had been collected, New Trier Township distinguished itself by achieving one of the highest levels of resident participation across the entire nation.

The Clerk's Office continues to serve as a central point for election information, voter registration and the distribution of keys for precinct election judges and responses to Freedom of Information Act requests. Among our day to day activities, we provide assistance such as serving as a passport acceptance facility, issuing temporary disability placards and distributing vehicle stickers for residents of unincorporated Cook County. It is my honor to continue serving as your Township Clerk.

Cordially,

Jerome Hoynes  
Clerk  
April 12, 2011



### Service By The Numbers

- 251 temporary disability parking placards issued
- 235 passport applications processed
- 21 unincorporated Cook County vehicle stickers sold
- 90 voters registered
- 14 Township board meeting minutes recorded
- 3 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests

## A Message from the Township Trustee



This past year the Township continued its tradition of funding non-profit organizations that provide valued service to Township residents. In Fiscal Year 2011, New Trier Township funded 33 agencies operating 45 programs. Categories of service include:

- Individuals and Families in Crisis
- Developmental Disabilities Services
- Youth Drop-in Services
- Senior Services
- Mental Health Services
- Other Human Services

A total of \$1,098,770 dollars were allocated to these agencies and programs that served New Trier Township residents of all ages, economic status and social circumstance.

Under our new committee structure, these agencies and programs submit grant requests to one of three Township Committees and these organizations are subject to review and analysis. The Township utilizes a process entitled Citizen Review, where under the leadership of a trained staff person and trustees, local citizens serve as volunteers and review and make decisions on funding for organizations that serve Township residents and are consistent with our mission and priorities:

- **Agency Oversight Committee** reviews agencies with at least a three year history with the Township that are not developmental disability or mental illness related organizations.
- The **Special Projects Committee** reviews new agencies or those with less than three years of funding history.
- The **Money Follows the Person Committee** reviews agencies that operate programs for those with mental illness or developmental disabilities.

We also have a Township Committee on Disabilities that does education and advocacy on behalf of persons with disabilities. Over the past year they have sponsored or taken part in several events designed to educate the community about the challenges people with disabilities face, or make the community aware of the benefits of making your business accessible to persons with disabilities.

For this coming year we'd like to welcome three new agencies:

**Rebuilding Together** assists lower income homeowners or veterans with the cost of home repair projects by providing skilled and unskilled labor, both paid and unpaid, to complete repairs on the homes of carefully selected individuals, families or non-profit organizations.

The **Cancer Wellness Center** provides ongoing counseling and support services at no charge to victims of cancer and their families.

The **Arts of Life** provides persons with physical and developmental disabilities the opportunity to participate in artistic activities and an artistic community focused on meeting the needs of each individual in their local studio.



### Service By The Numbers

- \$1.09 million awarded
- 45 different programs funded
- 33 social service agencies supported

Paddie Brennen  
Trustee  
April 12, 2011

## A Message from the Township Supervisor



Since 1850, New Trier Township government has been a resource for its residents. While back in its formation the greatest issues may have been chickens in the road and prohibition, history has shown that in a time of recession people turn to local government for help..

On all fronts, the social service safety net provided by Township government was stretched this past year. While no single source can provide total relief from mounting financial pressures of food, shelter, utilities, child care, or transportation we attempt to provide some reprieve. The number of residents tapping our emergency financial assistance programs continues to swell. The General Assistance, Emergency Assistance, and Angel Fund programs provided aid with electric, gas, water and telephone bills and rental payments. Oftentimes, the safety net provided by the Township, may have prevented an eventual shut-off of the utility or eviction.

Participants in our Back To School program continued to rise with the distribution of gift cards to assist families in need with purchasing school supplies. We continue to support parents seeking employment with our Child Care Financial Assistance program that provides partial support for day care, before and after school care, and summer camps. Funding of the Community Support Grants program, a non-income restrictive program that provides limited financial assistance to cover the overwhelming costs involved in caring for children and adults with disabilities, was increased to meet ever emerging needs. We were also able to serve seniors and persons with disabilities by providing a subsidy through our Dial-A-Ride program.

The Pantry, our most visible program, reached an all-time high. Each month 289 persons in the Township received some assistance with their grocery needs. The good news is that our township continues to be generous. The number of food drives this year has been of record proportions. Whether it is a school group, religious or civic organization, or business, everyone is pitching in to help fill our coffers. This community spirit allows us to supply over 100 bags of groceries, including items not covered by food stamps such as diapers, toilet paper, soap, and laundry detergent, to our Pantry clients every week. During the holidays we were also able to share the spirit of giving and supply our families with turkey & ham dinners for both Thanksgiving & Christmas. Finally, our "Caring Neighbors" program provided holiday gifts to children who may not have received any had it not were for the compassion of many generous donors.

While the Township budget is small, the greatest portion is dedicated to providing critical funding of programs provided by social service agencies that serve Township residents. In Fiscal 2011 we

supported 45 programs with \$1.09 million in grants. Supported programs ranged from youth drop-in centers and senior services to the well being of individuals and families and crisis intervention as well as prevention services.

In the world of social services, nothings beats the personal touch, however, as the world continues to evolve with technology, it is no surprise that Township government must meet that challenge. In 2010 we undertook a major overhaul of our website increasing its utility as an information resource as well as to ease the application process for our programs.

Another basic tenet of Township government is to involve its citizenry. I would like to thank the volunteers who serve on our Advisory Committees that aid in making funding recommendations, identifying new program and service opportunities, and advocacy for residents in need. Our jurors, both youth and adults, who serve on the Peer Jury program and the volunteers who keep our Pantry shelves stocked provide just as valuable resources.

As we look to FY2012, we do so with a focus on how to continue to do business as usual while reviewing our strategic plan to find new ways to improve upon our core mission. Our services are provided with a dedicated small staff. I would like to thank Diane, Jeanne, Brian, Art and Aisha for their professionalism and commitment to making New Trier Township deliver upon its mission. I look forward to working with them, and my fellow Board members in the next year.

Patricia B. Cantor  
Supervisor  
April 13, 2011



### Service By The Numbers

- 1,374 visits to the Food Pantry serving 3,468 persons
- 400 students qualified for Back to School Gift Cards
- 136 residents received financial assistance for shelter, utilities, and medical needs.
- 101 Holiday food bags were shared
- 53 children received financial aid for child care expenses
- 50 Community Support Grants awarded to aid service needs and unusual expenses related to a person with a disability
- 9,062 Dial-A-Ride cab fares subsidized
- 17 escorted rides to medical appointments
- 20 Peer Jury cases resulting in 920 community service hours
- 50 preventive health screenings

## FY2011 Funded Agencies

### Individuals and Families in Crisis

- The Children's Advocacy Center
- Family Counseling Service of Glencoe
- Family Service Center of Glenview/  
Kenilworth/Northfield/Wilmette
- Family Services of Winnetka-Northfield
- The Harbour, Inc.
- HAVEN Youth & Family Services
- PEER Services Inc.
- YWCA Evanston/North Shore

### Developmental Disabilities Services

- The Center for Enriched Living
- Center for Independent Futures/JJ's List
- Clearbrook
- Glenkirk
- Institute for Therapy through the Arts
- The Lambs, Inc.
- Our Place of New Trier Township
- SHORE Community Services, Inc.

### Youth Drop-In Services

- Glencoe Junior High Project
- Glencoe Youth Services
- Warming House Youth Center
- Winnetka Youth Organization
- Youth Connection

### Senior Services

- Meals At Home
- North Shore Senior Center
- North Shore Village
- SASI-Services for Adults Staying in Their  
Homes

### Mental Health Services

- Erika's Lighthouse
- The Josselyn Center
- New Foundation Center

### Other Human Services

- Career Resource Center, Inc.
- Interfaith Housing Center
- LINKS North Shore Youth Health  
Services
- Open Studio Project
- The Volunteer Center



Representatives from three newly funded social service agencies attend the semi-annual agency meeting including (from left to right): Sharon Weingarten, Advisory Board Member, Erika's Lighthouse; Helen Gagel, Executive Director, North Shore Village; and Jan Leary, Executive Director, Career Resource Center.

## 2010 Annual Town Meeting Highlights



↑ New Trier Township kicked off the 160th Anniversary on April 13, 2010 with Glencoe Boy Scout Troop #28 and docents from the Winnetka Historical Society.



↑ Trustee Gerri Kahnweiler (right) presented Sandra Berger of Winnetka (center) with the George Noyes Community Spirit Award.



↑ Trustee Stefan Mozer (right) presented Don Trieschmann (left) of Rebuilding Together with the Friend of the Township Award



↑ Trustee Paddie Brennen (left) presented Kristina Spillers of Wilmette (right) with the Peer Jury Scholarship.



↑ 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.



↑ In recognition of their volunteer efforts in the Pantry, Supervisor Patricia Cantor (center) presented Frank Craven (right) and Jesse Marymont (rear) of Winnetka and Derrick Schram (left) of Wilmette with the Supervisor's Award .

## Township Volunteers



Pantry volunteers (from left to right) Suzanne Conley, Mary Schram, Jane Gallery and Beth Kurensky were recognized for their volunteerism at the 2010 Annual Town Meeting. Not pictured: Lynette Stone and Martha Gallo.

### Agency Oversight Committee

- Margaret Cornog
- Rosalie Epstein
- Jerome Ginsburg
- Harriet Hahn
- Ilene Hechtman
- Barry Hoobler
- Pete Kula
- David Nickel

### Special Projects & Strategic Planning Committee

- Margaret Hastings
- Jennifer Peters
- Debbie Roberts
- Angelo Scozia
- Dale Davison

### Money Follows the Person Committee

- Chuen Chow Tam, Chair
- Keith Dronen
- Sheila Fisher
- Rosemary Gwyther
- Elizabeth Schreier Madden
- Linda Lam Tam
- Debby Weiss Hahamy

### Advisory Committee on Disabilities

- Barry Fleischer, Chair
- Stefan Mozer, Trustee
- Keith Dronen
- Keith Elwood
- Sheila Fisher
- Jennifer Peters
- Ian Williams
- Diane Reeves Wojcik
- Christine Walker

### Peer Jury Program Adult Volunteers

- Joy O'Malley
- Donna Lebovitz
- Elliot Robbins
- Ellyn Stone

### Food Pantry Volunteers

- Frank Craven
- Jane Gallery
- Beth Kurensky
- Derrick Schram
- Mary Schram
- Lynette Stone
- Our Place of New Trier Township

## Township Elected Officials & Staff



**Supervisor**  
Patricia B. Cantor



**Clerk**  
Jerome Hoynes



**Assessor**  
JoAnn Shrier Gordon



**Collector**  
Joe Fell



**Trustee**  
Paddie Brennen



**Trustee**  
Alan Goldberg



**Trustee**  
Gerri Kahnweiler



**Trustee**  
Stefan Mozer

**Director of Administration  
& Finance**  
Diane S. Tye

**Administrative Assistant**  
Aisha G. Nawab

**Social Services  
Administrator**  
Jeanne Winsted Rosser, LCSW

**Social Worker**  
Arthur Sontag, LCSW

**Community Services  
Administrator**  
Brian Leverenz

**Deputy Assessor**  
Lois Cross

**WorkABILITY**  
*(Employment Resources for Persons with Disabilities)*  
Ryan Driscoll

**Communications Director**  
Karen Spillers



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