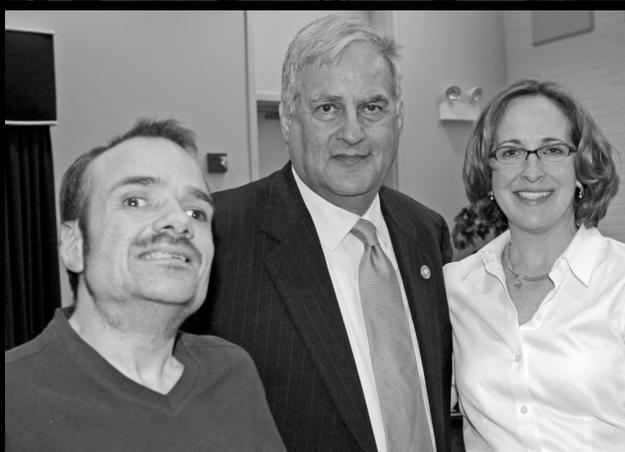


New Trier Township

2010 Annual Report



Townships Serve People

On The Cover

- Top row left:** Arthur Sontag, LCSW, has served as New Trier Township Social Worker since 2003. Among his responsibilities is working with the Township youth and the Peer Jury program.
- Top row right:** Youth in the Township are regular volunteers in the Pantry.
- Middle row left:** Girl Scouts from Troop 101 in Kenilworth participated as the Color Guard in presenting the flag at the 2009 Annual Town meeting.
- Middle row right:** Tom Lindsey, Board Treasurer and Patsy Carlson, Executive Director of Meals At Home attended a Township meeting hosted for social service agencies to learn about the annual funding process. In FY2010 the Township helped fund the Meals at Home program which contributes to the well-being and independence of individuals unable to provide for their nutritional needs by delivering healthful meals and providing other supportive services.
- Bottom row left:** Jake Joehl, JJ's List volunteer; Alan Goldberg, New Trier Township Trustee; and JJ Hanley, Founder of JJ's List, were among the speakers at Volunteer ABILITY. The collaborative event co-sponsored by New Trier Township and the Volunteer Center of New Trier Township was designed to show how volunteers with disabilities can help organizations fulfill their missions. The Township provides funding to the Volunteer Center and JJ's List, a service where people with disabilities review businesses and services.
- Bottom row right:** Jeanne Winsted Rosser, LCSW, joined the New Trier Township staff as Social Services Administrator in 2009.

A Message from Your Township Assessor



Because of the continuing economic crisis, sales remain well below their peak of 1,248 in 2007. This year 683 homes were sold in the Township, a slight increase over last year's total of 651. However, we were still seeing an increase in short sales and foreclosures.

The 2008 second installment property tax bills arrived late last year and reflected an increase in the State equalization factor and a decline in the 7% cap homeowner exemption, causing most tax bills to go up. This increase in taxes along with the declining home values brought an increase in the number of appeals filed in a non-triennial year. We processed 188 Assessor appeals from our office and provided data and assistance to many more taxpayers. The Cook County Assessor's new online filing system helped us handle the increased volume. We anticipate a similar rise in Board of Review appeal filings in the coming months and have seen a rise in the number of appeals being pursued at the State Property Tax Appeal Board as well.

The Cook County Assessor, recognizing the downward trend in home values, did reassess homes in all suburban townships downward in 2009 for the first time ever. New Trier Township homeowners received a 5% decrease in assessed value, which will be reflected in the fall tax bills this year. The bad news... As all homeowners in the Township received an equal reduction, tax bills will likely not be smaller. In addition, the impact of this decrease will likely be offset by the further decline in the 7% cap homeowner exemption and a rise in the tax rates.

The increase in appeals has had an impact on the issuing of the tax bills themselves. Because the bills cannot be calculated until all appeals have been processed at both the Assessor and Board of Review levels, the second installment bills have come out later and later over the last three years. Consequently, the first installment bill this year was calculated at 55% of the total for the previous year instead of at 50% as in the past. This change was made to help taxing bodies with cash flow by reducing

reliance on the second installment which is now collected closer to the end of each year. It also reduces for homeowners the difference between the first and second installments.

Some good news... The Cook County Assessor has decided to keep its Skokie courthouse office open for the foreseeable future. The volume there has increased with the closure of the Rolling Meadows office earlier in the year. Skokie is now serving the entire northern quadrant of the County.

Other news from this office is the current Cook County Assessor, James Houlihan, has announced his retirement after the fall elections. He has brought a new level of transparency to the office via computers and the County Assessor website. He has always worked closely with the Township, enabling us to improve services to you. We look forward to continuing this spirit of cooperation with his successor.

At the Township level, we continue to provide taxpayers with information and assistance with everything from appeals and exemption filings, refunds, legal and property descriptions, name and address changes, sales and permit data, to information services for attorneys, surveyors, appraisers, businesses, villages, schools, park districts and libraries. We continue to provide certain data to the County Assessor's office. In addition, we are providing assistance to the County in two new areas this year which afford us more input into assuring that New Trier Township properties are being correctly assessed. We have been cross-checking all permit data recorded for our Township by the County and are actually surveying all the properties currently identified as vacant in the Township to be sure that any new structure has been properly added to the tax rolls.

Finally, I would like to give a special thank you to Deputy Assessor Lois Cross for her wonderful expertise and hard work in serving our residents.

JoAnn Shrier Gordon
Assessor
April 13, 2010

A Message from Your Township Clerk



The past year brought a change to the Clerk's office with the retirement of Sheila Mitchell, who served with distinction as the Township Clerk for 12 years. As your newly elected Township Clerk, I have worked closely with Sheila to make the transition in our office a smooth one; we are grateful for her continuing support. I am honored to have been elected and look forward to serving you.

The traditional job of the Clerk has been to maintain all Township records. In addition, the Board understands the importance of keeping residents informed on the activities of the Township and I, along with our Deputy Clerk, Sandra Forrester, will work diligently to fulfill that role. It is one that we continue today, but with a new focus on increased transparency.

We are actively involved in the Clerk's Division of both the Township Officials of Illinois (TOI) and the Township Officials of Cook County (TOCC) and will learn and share best practices with our peers. We continue to forge a close relationship with the Cook County Clerk's Office and serve as a central point for voter registration in the Township and the distribution of information for election judges. With the 2010 Census currently underway, we have actively promoted the importance of resident cooperation in the process. Among our day-to-day activities we support our residents by providing assistance such as processing passport applications, issuing temporary disability placards and distributing vehicle stickers for residents of unincorporated Cook County.

This year we begin the celebration of our 160th anniversary. It will be an opportunity to reflect on our past while preparing for the future with optimism and enthusiasm. On a personal note, I am a high school social studies teacher and am passionate about the important role Township government plays in our democracy. It is my honor to serve as your Township Clerk and I am looking forward to sharing with you our storied and rich history.

Cordially,

Jerome Hoynes
Clerk
April 13, 2010

A Message from Your Township Trustee



During the last term the trustees, along with other members of the Board, created and began the implementation of a new Strategic Plan for the Township. The task is ongoing and the current Board is charged with the responsibility of carrying forward with the plan. One of the key components of the Strategic Plan concerns the reorganization of the committee structure in the Township. Under the Plan, there are three new committees: the Agency Oversight Committee, the Money Follows the Person Committee, and the Special Projects Strategic Planning Committee. The Disabilities Committee remains and functions in the same manner it did prior to the creation of the new Strategic Plan.

The purpose of the Agency Oversight Committee is to review and fund 20 agencies offering 28 programs. The Committee conducts hearings to assure that programs are meeting community needs and serving Township residents. It reviews applications for programs in the following areas: Youth Drop-In Centers, Senior Services, Individual and Family Counseling/Emotional Well-being, Crisis Intervention/Prevention Services, and other services.

The Money Follows the Person Committee also has the task of reviewing applications and holding hearings for 11 agencies offering 15 programs. They specifically review programs in the areas of mental health and developmental disabilities. In addition, the Money Follows the Person Committee was created to allow for the direct funding of individuals so they could choose for themselves what services and program they wish to utilize. The Committee has overseen three community grant programs wherein funds were given by lottery to individual residents of the Township to use for services, programs, or the purchase of items for their needs. The grant program is currently restricted to the severely disabled, but discussions are underway to expand the program so that other members of the Township can benefit as well.

The Special Projects Strategic Planning Committee was established to promote additional programs and projects primarily within the Township in furtherance of the Strategic Plan. This year the Committee funded four new agencies. In addition, it is presently working on an initiative to analyze the demands of Township residents regarding transportation and how to best facilitate those requirements.

Meanwhile, the Disabilities Committee continues to both educate and advocate on behalf of persons with disabilities in our community. They recently had an event to promote volunteerism for people with disabilities and have a program planned on May 24th to promote disability awareness and accessibility to businesses.

As a result of changes in the committee structure, there have also been modifications to the funding forms and a shortening of the hearing process. The role of the liaison has been revised, and now attention is given to individual programs in need of assistance rather than having direct contact with each agency, as was done in the past.

Stefan Mozer
Trustee
April 13, 2010

A Message From Your Township Supervisor



During the past year our Township has experienced change at an unprecedented pace. The words “unemployment” and “foreclosure” were unknown if not unimaginable to most of us as phenomena that could happen on the North Shore. And yet we saw firsthand at the township Office the impact of the downturn in our economy. We continue to this day to experience the challenges facing individuals and families who are just trying to make ends meet.

An annual report is commonly designed to report numbers, but the faces behind those numbers are far more impressive. And although much of our business is done on a confidential basis, I can assure you that we are fulfilling our role as Township government. While the media may coin the term “working poor,” what we see are individuals who want to be self sustained but need a little bit of help to get them through.

I would be remiss if I failed to acknowledge our hard-working staff that has risen to the occasion and made every effort to do what Township government does best: serve people. Under the leadership of our Director of Administration & Finance, Diane Tye, the financial status of the Township is stable and secure. In the past year our Social Worker, Art Sontag, and Community Services Administrator, Brian Leverenz, took on the responsibility of the Food Pantry and its growing needs. Their efforts to organize and manage the pantry are noteworthy and have been instrumental in our ability to manage the ever-increasing needs of residents. In addition, Brian helped guide a new funding process for the social service agencies to whom we provide grants, and he continues to be the impetus behind our successful Peer Jury Program. We welcomed Jeanne Winsted Rosser as our Social Services Administrator. A licensed-clinical social worker, she brings a wealth of experience in areas ranging from disability awareness to adoption to child-development. Perhaps her greatest trait is her compassionate heart and desire to help as much as she can. Our administrative assistant, Aisha Nawab, continues to serve the many residents who visit the Township Office. In addition to her administrative duties, she supported many of our direct services such as passports, disability placards, voter registration, and Dial-A- Ride registration. All in all, the staffing level of your Township is efficient, yet economical.

Our Township Board, which works together and shares the responsibility of delivering on the mission and guiding principles, continues to be focused on the job we were elected to do. In the past year we said goodbye to Trustees Diane Fisher and Bob Shen and thank them for their diligent work in laying the path for our future in the strategic-planning process. We also welcomed newly elected Trustees Paddie Brennen and Geri Kahnweiler to the Board. Both have served on Township advisory committees and are well briefed on the issues. Together, with Trustees Stefan Mozer and Alan Goldberg, their commitment to the Township has contributed to our success over the past five years. As your Supervisor; I have been guided by the principle that Townships exist to serve its residents. The challenge has been greater in the past year and, to be honest, it has been a difficult time. I do know, however, that in so many ways the support and services we provide, as limited as they may be, had an impact and made a difference to those in need.

Among the many accomplishments are the maintenance of programs such as our Dial-A-Ride transit program and Community Support Grants. In cooperation with our social service agencies, we continue to support programs that provide for the needs of our residents: from youth drop-in centers to delivery of meals for seniors to counseling for individuals and families in crisis.

To further increase our level of transparency and meet new FOIA requirements, we have worked diligently this past year to update the Township Website to keep it fresh and new. We are currently in the process of redesigning our Website and look forward to its launch in early Fiscal Year 2011, for we are confident that it will provide better electronic communication with residents.

I know your Board is proud of our accomplishments, but I also know there is always more that must be done. Your Board is committed to providing the best possible programs and services to its residents.

Patricia B. Cantor
Supervisor
April 13, 2010

Our Mission

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.

Township Guiding Principles

- ◆ 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 that 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.

Whom We Serve

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



Providing Local Services

Townships are structured to reflect the wants and needs of the people they serve. Among some of the frequently used services are the taxpayer services, transit programs and passport application processing.

Assisting With Property Tax Concerns

The New Trier Township Assessor serves as a local liaison with the Cook County Assessor's office. In Fiscal Year 2010, the Township Assessor's office assisted more than 2,000 residents with services related to property tax assessment concerns including: assistance with exemptions, refunds, assessment appeals, and sales and building permit data.



Assessor JoAnn Shrier Gordon (left) and Deputy Assessor Lois Cross.

Convenient Walk-In & Appointment Only Services

The Township serves residents by providing voter registration, notary public services, the sale of Cook County vehicle stickers for the residents in the unincorporated areas of the Township and issuing temporary parking placards for the disabled.



Another widely used service is our passport application service. In Fiscal Year 2010, 240 residents used this convenient appointment-only service, ensuring they wouldn't have to wait in long lines and could receive quick personal attention.

Offering Transit Assistance Services

For most of us in New Trier Township, mobility is something we take for granted. We jump into cars at will to travel a few blocks or hundreds of miles. Yet for many seniors and persons with disabilities there are very few transportation options, and some of those are costly. To meet mobility challenges for this segment of our population, the Township provides several transit programs that help to offset the costs of transportation. Our most popular program, Dial-A-Ride, experienced a 60% increase in usage in Fiscal Year 2010. The Township also partnered with the North Shore Senior Center and provided 66 rides for seniors to medical appointments.

Addressing Growing Needs

We all rely on others occasionally to help us get through challenging times. In the economic tsunami we have experienced over the past year, the Township has become an even greater resource to our residents in need. Among the issues are major life changes such as bereavement, addiction, domestic violence, divorce, job loss, and chronic illness.

General & Emergency Assistance

The General Assistance and Emergency Assistance programs are cooperative efforts between the Township and residents whose economic resources are limited or nonexistent. General Assistance provides basic needs for residents who are unemployed or disabled with no other forms of income or assets. Emergency Assistance provides assistance for residents faced with life-threatening circumstances or the inability to pay expenses necessary to obtain or maintain employment. In Fiscal 2010, the Township provided support to 54 residents in need.

Angel Fund

For yet other Township residents who desperately need financial aid, but who are not eligible for assistance from public funds, there is the Angel Fund. In FY2010, we assisted 132 individuals and families whose primary needs centered on help with mortgage and rent assistance, eviction notices, gas, electric and/or water shut-off notices.



We also experienced a significant increase in the number of children in the Township eligible for assistance with Back to School supplies. The Township supplied 300 discount store gift cards to help income eligible families in the Township purchase school supplies. This represents a significant increase over the 144 in the prior year. And, of course, the Angel Fund provides support to the New Trier Township Food Pantry.

Food Pantry



The Township Pantry, a highly visible service of the Township, experienced continued growth in usage. In Fiscal Year 2010 an average of 224 persons relied on the assistance of the Pantry through bimonthly visits, for a range of needs depending upon household size and income. To put this into perspective, an estimated 65 bags of groceries are leaving

the Pantry in a given week, which translates to over 3,000 bags yearly. We are most appreciative of the many civic, community, religious, and business organizations that donate to our pantry and keep our shelves stocked. However, the need continues and is growing. Already in March 2010 we have seen an increase to 90 bags per week, which means the Pantry would need over 4,000 bags of food this coming fiscal year if the trend continues.

Child Care Assistance

The Child Care Financial Assistance Program provides assistance with payment for child care for income eligible parents/guardians. This program is designed to help offset the cost for services provided by licensed day care, before and after school care, and/or summer day camp programs. In Fiscal Year 2010 we provided aid to more than 30 children in the Township.

Community Support Grants

Our guiding principle that people should have the freedom to choose where they receive services and assistance, including those the Township provides and supports was supported in Fiscal Year 2010 with the awarding of 40 cash grants to residents with disabilities. The Community Support Grant program, launched in Fiscal Year 2008, has proven to be an innovative program designed to allow individuals with disabilities the freedom to choose their services. In the three years of the program we have provided 114 grants of up to \$1,500 each. The grants were issued to families with children and adults to help with services such as speech and occupational therapy, assistive equipment and specialized activities.

Collaborating With Others

Our guiding principle to pursue coalition building with other community entities can be witnessed in several programs the Township continued to provide in Fiscal Year 2010.

The Peer Jury program, now in its 11th year, continues as a service for the youth in our community. The Program was created in 1998 by a collaboration of the Township Board; police departments from Wilmette, Kenilworth, Winnetka, Northfield, and Glencoe; public and private high schools in the area; and social service agencies that serve the Township. From the valuable volunteer experience it provides to the 45 high school students who serve as peer jurors to the 27 youth offenders who are given a second chance, and “sentenced” to community service, the program has been instrumental in serving a need in the community.

We annually partner with Life Line Screening to promote the well-being of Township residents. Life Line Screening, the nation’s leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, offered their affordable, non-invasive, painless health screenings to 82 residents.

Recognizing the need for persons with disabilities to find meaningful employment, we launched WorkABILITY in October 2008 and continue to partner with Jewish Vocational Service and New Trier High School. Individuals with disabilities, including special needs students, meet with an employment specialist at the New Trier Township office to create an employment plan at no charge to residents.

Working with the Census Bureau, the Township has also been active in encouraging participation of Township residents in the 2010 Census.

New Trier Township Supervisor Patricia Cantor was a panel speaker at the Service Symposium I in October 2009, which was co-sponsored by the Volunteer Center and the Winnetka Community House. Community Services Administrator Brian Leverenz (left in photo) talked with attendees about volunteer opportunities.



Resources We Support

New Trier Township awards grants to non-profit agencies that provide services to New Trier Township residents. Applications are reviewed through a formal funding process driven by an advisory committee, made up of volunteers from the community, who carefully review all applications to make sure that they meet the Township's criteria for funding of grant applicants. Following the review process, the advisory committee makes recommendations to the Supervisor and Board of Trustees.

For Fiscal Year 2010, the Township awarded \$1,014,340 to 31 social service agencies for 43 different programs. The grants support a wide range of programs such as: adult & adolescent substance abuse treatment programs, adult day care for seniors, family and individual counseling services, community outreach and education, volunteer referrals, and domestic violence programs. The funded agencies included:

Individual & Family Counseling/

Emotional Well-Being

- ◇ The Children's Advocacy Center
- ◇ Family Counseling Service of Glencoe
- ◇ Family Service Center of Glenview/
Kenilworth/Northfield/Wilmette
- ◇ Family Services of Winnetka-Northfield

Crisis Intervention/Prevention Services

- ◇ The Harbour, Inc.
- ◇ HAVEN Youth & Family Services
- ◇ PEER Services Inc.
- ◇ YWCA Evanston/North Shore

Mental Health Services

- ◇ The Josselyn Center
- ◇ New Foundation Center

Other Human Services

- ◇ The Volunteer Center of
New Trier Township
- ◇ Interfaith Housing Center
- ◇ LINKS North Shore Youth Health Services
- ◇ Open Studio Project

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
- ◇ Special Gifts Theatre

Senior Services

- ◇ Meals At Home
- ◇ North Shore Senior Center
- ◇ Senior Action Service, Inc

Youth Drop-In Services

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

Township Volunteers

Success of Township government relies upon four components: elected leadership, volunteer assistance, staff implementation, and citizen participation. Our volunteers provide an ongoing source of citizen input to Township policy and operational discussion. They perform vital roles in

Agency Oversight Committee

Ron Gilbert, Chair
Margaret Cornog
Dale Davison
Rosalie Epstein
Syril Gilbert
Jerome Ginsburg
Harriet Hahn
Ilene Hechtman
Barry Hoobler
Pete Kula
David Nickel
Dale Wyant

Special Projects & Strategic Planning Committee

Rachel Kuhn, Chair
Margaret Hastings
Paul London
Jennifer Peters
Debbie Roberts
Jeffrey Rubin
Susan Spoeri
Angelo Scozia

Money Follows the Person Committee

Chuen Chow Tam, Chair
Keith Dronen
Sheila Fisher
Rosemary Gwyther
Elizabeth Schreier Madden
Linda Lam Tam
Jon Talty

Advisory Committee on Disabilities

Barry Fleischer, Chair
Stefan Mozer, Trustee
Keith Dronen
Keith Elwood
Sheila Fisher
Deborah Ann Kravitz
Jennifer Peters
Ian Williams
Diane Reeves Wojcik

Peer Jury Program Adult Volunteers

Joy O'Malley
Donna Lebovitz
Elliot Robbins
Barry Spector
Ellyn Stone

Food Pantry Volunteers

Suzanne Conley
Frank Craven
Jane Gallery
Martha Gallow
Beth Kurensky
Derrick Schram
Mary Schram
Lynette Stone

Township Elected Officials



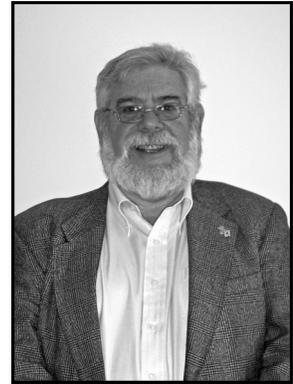
Supervisor
Patricia B. Cantor



Clerk
Jerome Hoynes



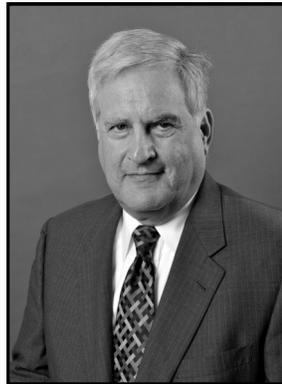
Assessor
JoAnn Shrier Gordon



Collector
Joe Fell



Trustee
Paddie Brennen



Trustee
Alan Goldberg



Trustee
Gerri Kahnweiler



Trustee
Stefan Mozer

Township Staff

Director of Administration & Finance
Diane S. Tye

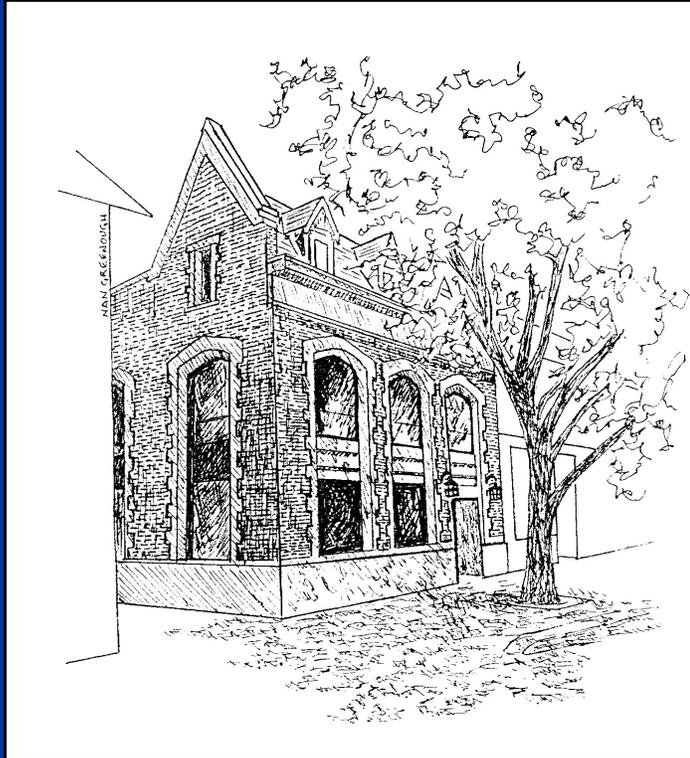
Social Services Administrator
Jeanne Winsted Rosser, LCSW

Social Worker
Arthur Sontag, LCSW

Administrative Assistant
Aisha G. Nawab

Community Services Administrator
Brian Leverenz

Deputy Assessor
Lois Cross



New Trier Township

739 Elm Street

Winnetka, Illinois 60093

Phone: 847-446-8202

Fax: 847-446-1743

www.newtriertownship.com