

New Trier Township Courier

FALL 2016

News from Your Township Government



In This Issue

Aging Gracefully- With Help From Neighbors

PAGE 4

Books for ALL Children Launches With Gusto

PAGE 3

Caring Neighbors Bring Holiday Cheer

PAGE 2

CHILDREN'S BOOK DRIVE

Share Way For Bookings

THE CAT IN THE HAT
SPUNK
COUNTESS DENTON

Bernie's Book Bank accepts all gently used children's books up to the 6th grade reading level. Please no textbooks, workbooks or reference materials.

NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP
June 27th - August 12th

Thank You!

847-780-READ (7323)
berniesbookbank.org

BERNIE'S BOOK BANK

BOOKS FOR ALL THE LOVE

Volunteers from the Winnetka Presbyterian Church contribute to the Township children's book drive.

From the Supervisor

As I write this, we are winding down yet another busy summer season at your Township. During August we had hundreds of residents visit Assessor Churchwell to discuss the valuation of their property during this Triennial Reassessment year in Cook County. Understandably everyone is concerned about paying only their fair share, and we are devoted to making sure all property owners are properly represented. We stand ready to offer our assistance, making a confusing process as understandable as possible.



This summer we also launched a new partnership with Bernie's Book Bank, a Lake Bluff based non-profit that collects new and gently used children's books and distributes them to at-risk infants, toddlers and school-age students across Illinois. Our Books for ALL Children collection drive exceeded expectations, and underscored the spirit of generosity that North Shore residents and business owners continually display.

Your Township staff is also anticipating need and preparing for the upcoming holiday season. The New Trier Township Food Pantry continues to provide groceries and hygiene items to residents in need. You will read more about our Caring Neighbors program in this issue. I hope you will consider a donation to this project that brings a dignified holiday meal and gifts to neighbors in-need during the season of giving.

Of course, helping people is our mission, and our Board of Trustees and leadership team are working on new programs and events that will surely improve the quality of life for numerous residents in the communities we proudly serve.

On a personal note, I want to wish Margaret "Peg" McDonnell bon voyage, as she moves along to live in Albany New York. Peg has served as the Township's Medical Ethicist, assisting many with her wisdom and unending positivity.

In closing, let me be amongst the first to wish you and your family a joyous holiday season.

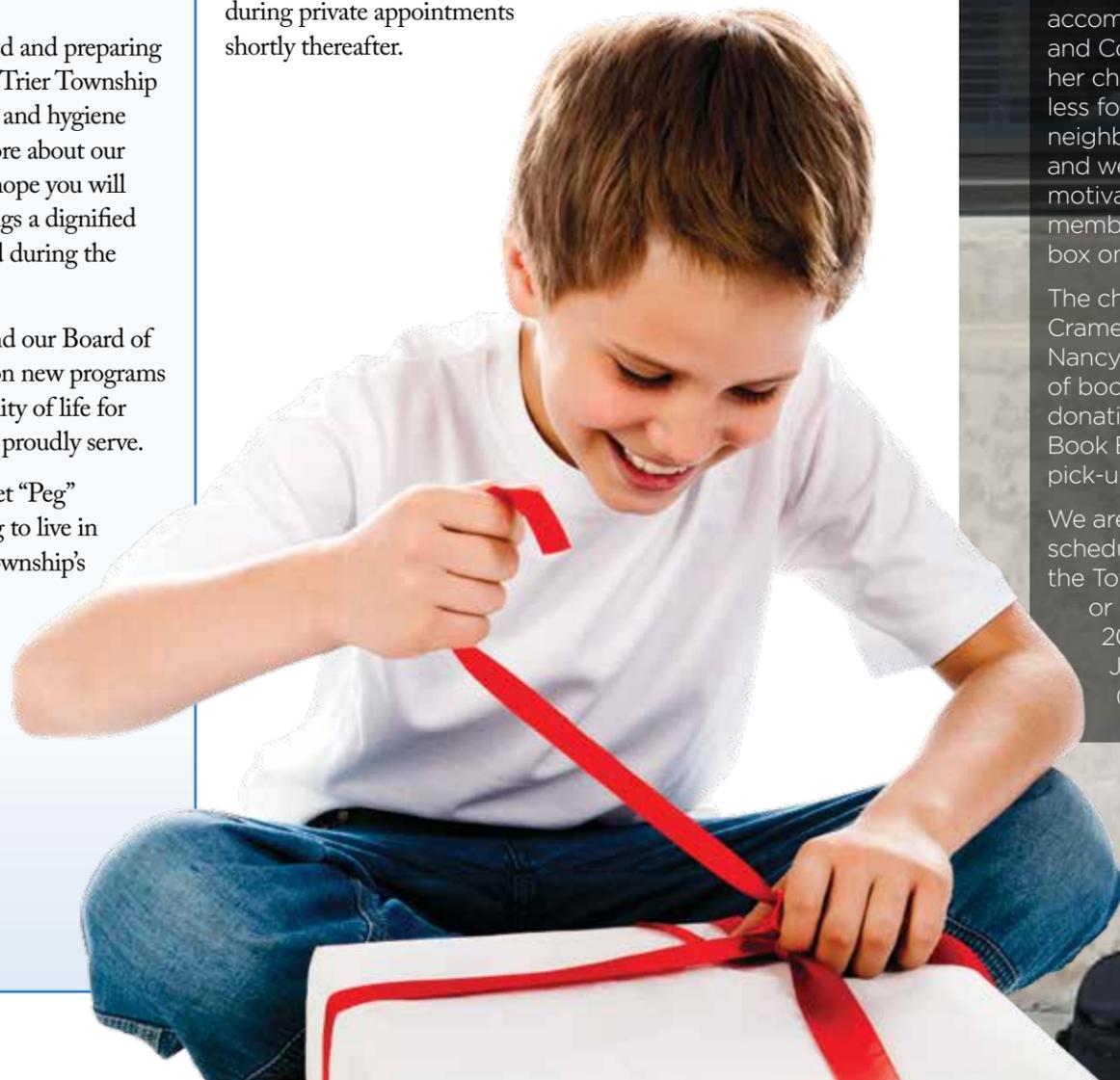
Paddie Brennen

Caring Neighbors Bring Holiday Cheer

Caring Neighbors is a time honored holiday tradition at the Township office. During the fall season we reach out to community members and seek those willing to sponsor a neighbor in need at the holidays. The Township's role is to identify and qualify resident families who are facing financial hard times. Those families provide two "wish" and two "needs" items (such as boots, coats and clothing) their children would enjoy. Donors are matched with a family and purchase gifts for the children. Although very few adults make wishes, many donors choose to include gift cards for the parents.

Your generosity in years passed has helped many people enjoy a dignified, fun holiday season. If you would like to sponsor a family, please contact Social Services Administrator **Jeanne Winsted Rosser** at jwinstedrosser@newtriertownship.com or 847-446- 8201 by November 4th.

Your donation of holiday gifts should be dropped off at the Township Office by December 16 th . The confidential distribution of gifts by Township staff will take place during private appointments shortly thereafter.



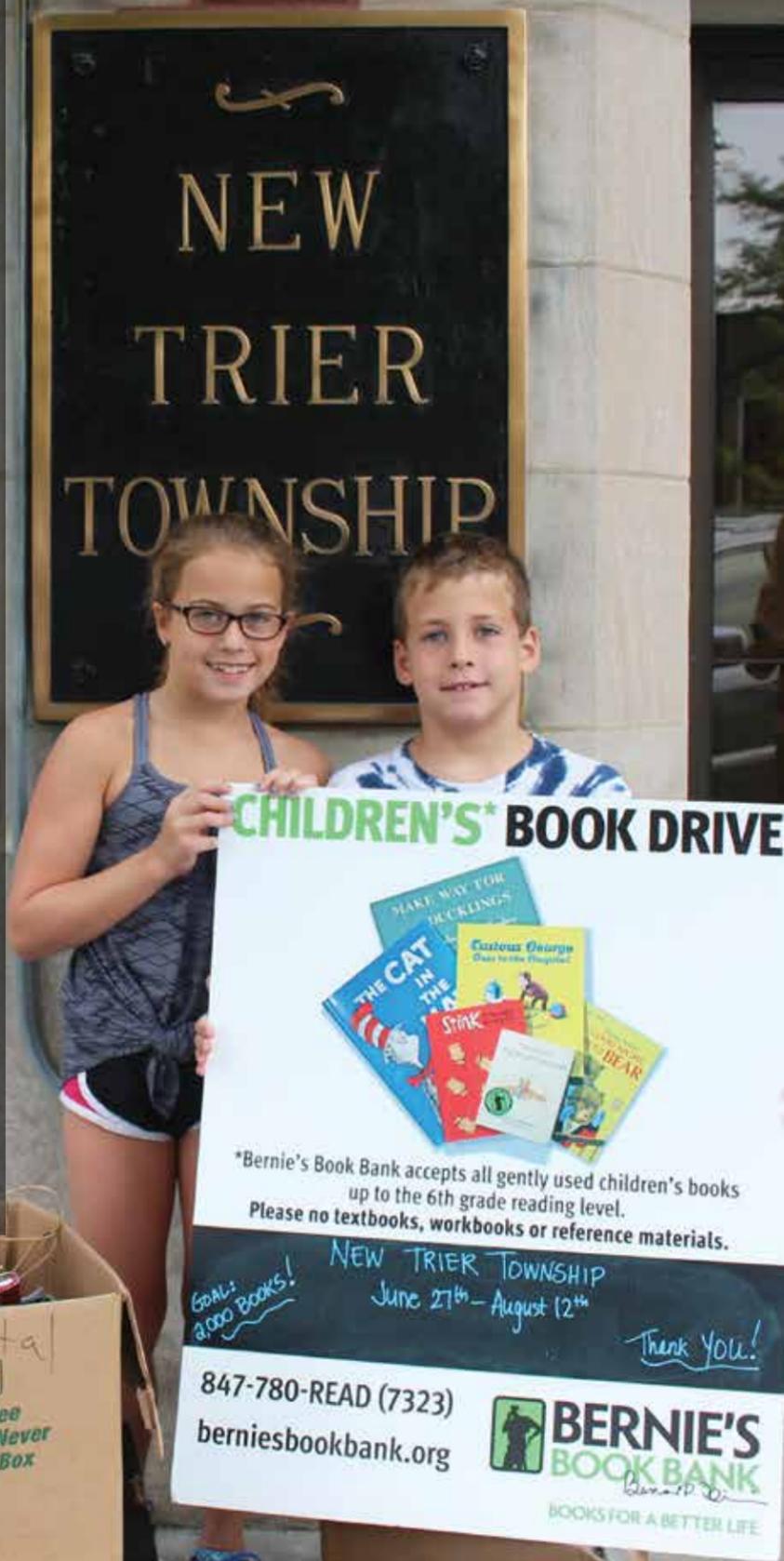
Books For ALL Children Collection Exceeds Goal - 3,350 Books Donated

Residents and business owners in New Trier Township can take a bow, as a wonderful outpouring of support helped us exceed our goal of collecting 2,000 books for Bernie's Book Bank. The collection drive that ran from late June until August 12th attracted 3,350 children's books that will be sorted and distributed by volunteers. At-risk children across the state receive a bag of 6 books in spring and fall. For many children, this will be the first time they have books to call their own.

One of the major collection highlights was a hands-on service mission project completed by the children and families of the Winnetka Presbyterian Church. Nancy Holly, Director of the Children's Ministries program at the church learned of the book drive from a Courier article, and asked how she could help. Ms. Holly stated, "When the article came out, I knew we needed to get our children's program involved. In addition to the work our children's group accomplished, Ania Cramer, (mother of Claudia and Cooper Cramer of Winnetka) encouraged her children to go the extra mile to help kids less fortunate by collecting books in their neighborhood. Claudia and Cooper created a flyer and went to work getting the word out. Their effort motivated neighbors and fellow congregation members to donate books at the church, or in a box on the porch of their home."

The church project netted nearly 500 books. The Cramer children accompanied by their mother and Nancy and David Holly brought several boxes full of books to the Township office. Their thoughtful donation arrived just hours before the Bernie's Book Bank representative drove up for the final pick-up, putting the collection goal over the top.

We are grateful to all that took time out of their schedules to gather up books and bring them to the Township office. Any community members or organizations that wish to be included in the 2017 children's book collection should contact Jack Macholl, Communications Director at (847) 446-8202.



Aging Gracefully With Help From Neighbors-

Discussion on Caregiving, Fulfillment and Staying in the Community



Renee Dominguez,
William Hansen,
Robert Mardirossian

Life in the twenty-first century is markedly different from that of previous generations. Improvements in medical care, active lifestyles, and people working longer have changed the aging dynamic, presenting new opportunities and challenges.

We recently sat down with executive directors from three leading North Shore family services organizations that are grantees of New Trier Township's Agency Grants Program. Our discussion delved in to the realities of extended longevity and its impact on the social services community.

Robert Mardirossian- Counseling Center of the North Shore-Winnetka

Robert, has the role of caregiving to aging parents created a new niche or increased caseload for social workers and mental health counselors?

There is a much greater need as people are living in to their eighties and nineties, and issues in aging and declining are on the rise. Forty years ago extended families often lived with or close by one another, so there was an ease in the way one generation looked after the next. Today society is much more

mobile, and that presents new challenges. At the Counseling Center of the North Shore we know what we do well and what others do well; it's important to use all the resources of the community. We have always provided counseling for the elderly and are a Medicare approved agency, so these services are readily available. If clients are unable to come to us for counseling or therapy, we now do home visits. Continuity is very important in therapy programs. We're planning on launching a program that invites adult children and aging parents to come in and talk about concerns, either individually or as a unit. These hard discussions are necessary, and it's important for the community to know there is a place to go and begin to have them.

Renee Dominguez- Family Service Center of Wilmette, Glenview, Northbrook and Kenilworth

Renee, we are also hearing a great deal about the phenomena of people retiring (or having their job eliminated) and not having sufficient activity to fill their lives. How does your team help people cope with this dramatic life event?

There are 10,000 "baby boomers" turning 65 on a daily basis, so you will see a number of challenges that go along with

that. Facing stressors like losing your job, brings its own set of stressors, both emotionally and financially. Retiring and not having enough to do can also cause emotional stress, and changes in life experience. While people may be working longer, there are still significant numbers of people who are not. We too are a Medicare approved agency, and have a number of clinicians who specialize in working with older adults. Right now about 15 percent of our clients are people who fall within the older adult (65+) category. Our clinicians have found that oftentimes people come in for counseling citing a particular issue, when, in fact, they really are struggling with issues of loneliness and not having the ability or opportunity to connect with people. We are looking at arranging support groups for older adults, to come together and talk about the issues they face.

William Hansen- Family Service of Glencoe

Bill, today many senior citizens want to remain in their home and community longer, how does that impact social service agencies like yours?

This issue has actually been edging its way to the forefront for nearly thirty years. When Social Security began it was based on an average lifespan of age 62...that age has now raised to 77. People are living longer and it does call on us to think strategically. We are working to develop more solutions for people whose financial resources aren't lasting as long.

In our community, the Committee for Senior Housing Aid in Glencoe was started by a small, concerned group of citizens back in 1986. These neighbors joined together to raise money, providing small grants to help neighbors that wanted to remain in their homes, but had difficulty affording it.



As the Committee's numbers dwindled over the years, Family Service of Glencoe has taken over the operation of Senior Housing Aid. The board and 501 (c) (3) still exist, but we administer the grants on their behalf. We also do well-being checks largely to make sure the home is still safe to live in, so they can continue to live there, which is what they want to do, and our reason for being involved in their life. We are proud of our ability to help out and assist people wishing to remain in the community.

As people live longer, aging safely, with grace will be a major part of family services work now and in the future. New Trier Township's mission includes the continued support of the physical, mental and social well being of our residents. We are proud to support the work of these experienced, forward-thinking organizations that help keep families and our communities strong.

Listen to our new Podcast

Now you can get the full story behind feature articles in the New Trier Township Courier. The long-form interview on Aging Gracefully With Help From Neighbors, podcast is available.

Episode 1 contains an interview with **Renee Dominguez, Bill Hansen** and **Robert Mardirossian** on Aging Gracefully. Simply visit SoundCloud.com, type **New Trier Township** in the search box and

listen to the discussion. We'll be adding new shows soon, so be sure to visit NewTrierTownship.com and provide your email address in the Township Mailing List box found at the top of the page.



FROM THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

During the first quarter of 2016, the Triennial Reassessment and property tax appeals to the Cook County Assessor dominated output in the Assessor's Office. As anticipated, appeals to the Board of Review were the main focus in the office during the second quarter.



Jan Churchwell

Homeowners began calling in June because they wanted to stay on top of the timing and not miss the appeal window. We opened for appeals on August 1, and residents asked for help steadily through August 30, the final filing date.

Along with Cook County Commissioner Larry Suffredin, I co-hosted three Property Tax Information Sessions where Board of Review Commissioners explained the role of the Board to residents and answered questions about the appeal process. The hearing date for New Trier Township was Monday, September 26, and residents may look for results in about eight weeks. I attended the hearings and was impressed by how smoothly the day went. The process has been streamlined by such updates as the electronic filing system ("DAPS") and a scanner at the front desk which allows all documents to be sent directly to the Analysts at their various stations in the hearings room.

I am also pleased to announce that Leonard Shifflett was hired as Deputy Assessor replacing Lois Cross who retired in July. A retired lawyer and long-time Winnetka resident, Len will take up official residence in the first floor office the first week of October. He was also able to come in a few days in August to begin learning about the range of issues that residents bring to the office – and get a baptism by fire helping residents find comps for their appeals. He did a great job, and we're looking forward to a long and productive relationship helping residents of New Trier Township with their property tax issues. Welcome, Len.

The next significant period of activity will begin in February, 2017 when the "blue" 2016 Tax Bills come out, and the County publishes all 2016 forms. If you'd like to be notified of these and other important property tax dates, sign up for e-mail Alerts on the Township Website (www.newtriertownship.com). E-mail alerts could be especially helpful for those of you who travel during the winter months.

As always, we remind you that you're welcome to call or come by anytime during business hours. The Township office is located at 739 Elm Street, Winnetka. You can phone me at (847) 446-8200 or e-mail me at jchurchwell@newtriertownship.com. To reach Len Shifflett, call (847) 446-8200 or e-mail him at lshifflett@newtriertownship.com.

Bon Voyage "Peg" McDonnell

Margaret "Peg" McDonnell has spent her entire career serving people. A Registered Nurse, Margaret agreed to bring her knowledge of healthcare to New Trier Township, working in our office from 2001-2005. She returned to the Township in 2013, serving as our Medical Ethicist helping many community residents with non-denominational advice to resolve problems dealing with healthcare and moral decision-making.



We recently learned that Peg would be moving to Albany, New York, accepting a new assignment, and living in an apartment along with her colleagues.

It is with mixed emotions we wish bon voyage to a wonderful lady who has shared her wisdom and endearing persona with so many here on the North Shore. We are grateful for all you've accomplished and wish you the best.

Welcome Aboard Leonard Shifflett is New Trier Township's New Deputy Assessor

We are pleased to announce that Leonard Shifflett has joined New Trier Township as the new Deputy Assessor. Len is a graduate of the University of Chicago Law School (J.D. 1974). As a practicing attorney with Quarles and Brady until his recent retirement, Len has litigated almost every aspect of real estate law, including issues of title, the effectiveness and limitations of easements, and the enforcement of leases. A



long-time resident of Winnetka, he is well versed in the North Shore community and will be a wonderful addition to the Township team. If you have questions or concerns about your property tax situation, Deputy Assessor Shifflett is available by phone - (847) 446-8202 or email lshifflett@newtriertownship.com.

Helping Bring Warmth to Residents

New Trier Township and the North Shore Senior Center are working together to help income eligible households wishing to apply for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

Residents wishing to apply for a LIHEAP grant can now apply at the New Trier Township office on Thursday mornings from 9:00 a.m. until noon. Applications are taken by appointment only. Please phone **(847) 784-6040** to schedule your appointment.

Required documentation at your LIHEAP appointment:

- Proof of Social Security number for all members of the household
- Utility bills issued within the last 30-days
- Proof of current 30-day gross income for all household members.



We are pleased to be the newest LIHEAP application site and look forward to serving many residents this fall and winter.



Important Dates and Deadlines for Assistance Applications

New Trier Township offers a variety of assistance programs. Those interested in applying should visit

www.newtriertownship.com and download the desired application or phone the office at **(847) 446-8202** for information.

LIHEAP Energy Assistance -
Thursdays, 9:00 a.m.- Noon
(Township Office)



Community Support Grant Applications - Deadline January 11, 2017

Kris Sadur, Constituent Advocate for Congresswoman **Jan Schakowsky** - Second Tuesday of each month, 1:00-3:00 p.m.



Kris Sadur

Township Board of Trustees Meetings,

October 18, November 15, December 13 - all at 7:30 p.m.

Get Township News in Real Time

Your Township Government provides local news and information via e-News updates and social media. Sign-up is easy and free, just visit www.newtriertownship.com and enter your email address in the Township Mailing List box in the upper right hand corner, click Submit and we do the rest.

On social media you can find us on Twitter, visit @NTTGov. Our Facebook page is New Trier Township, please "like" us to receive updates on your Facebook feed.

We also have a variety of videos on our YouTube Channel NewTrierTwp.



New Trier Township
739 Elm Street
Winnetka, IL 60095-2524

NONPROFIT ORG
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #21
WINNETKA IL

POSTAL CUSTOMER, LOCAL
NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP
ILLINOIS

TOWNSHIP BOARD & STAFF

Paddie Brennen, Supervisor
pbrennen@newtriertownship.com

Jerome Hoynes, Clerk
jhoynes@newtriertownship.com

Jan Churchwell, Assessor
jchurchwell@newtriertownship.com

Hamilton Chang, Trustee
hchang@newtriertownship.com

Jan Gargula, Trustee
jgargula@newtriertownship.com

Gerri Kahnweiler, Trustee
gkahnweiler@newtriertownship.com

Stefan Mozer, Trustee
smozer@newtriertownship.com

Diane S. Tye, Director of Administration and Finance
847-446-8253 • dtye@newtriertownship.com

Jeanne Rosser, LCSW, Social Services Administrator
847-446-8201 • jwinstedrosser@newtriertownship.com

Brian Leverenz, Community Service Administrator
847-446-8203 • bleverenz@newtriertownship.com

Sandy Forrester, Deputy Clerk
847-446-8202 • sforrester@newtriertownship.com

Jack Macholl, Communications Director
847-446-8202 • jmacholl@newtriertownship.com

Leonard Shifflett, Deputy Assessor
847-446-8202 • lshifflett@newtriertownship.com

Lorrecia Pearson, Administrative Assistant
847-446-8202 • lpearson@newtriertownship.com

Your Elected Officials- The Closest Form of Government to the People

Since its humble beginnings in the mid-1850, township government has served as the closest form of government to the people. If you have ideas to share on ways we can improve life in New Trier Township, we encourage you to attend Township meetings and events. Working together we'll keep our communities strong- let's make some great things happen.



Trustees Hamilton Chang, Stefan Mozer, Jan Gargula, Gerri Kahnweiler, and Paddie Brennen, Supervisor