

# New Trier Township

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**2009 Annual Report**

**On the cover:**

Built in 1922 as the Winnetka State Bank, the Township building at 739 Elm Street in Winnetka, Illinois, has been the home of New Trier Township since 1961. In 2003 the Village of Winnetka deemed the Township building “historically, culturally and architecturally” significant and worthy to be named a landmark. The architect was Clifford Shopbell, who won national recognition for the design of many Carnegie libraries throughout the Midwest. For more history, visit the Township’s website at [www.newtriertownship.com](http://www.newtriertownship.com).

*Drawing by Winnetka artist Nan Greenough*

## Our Mission

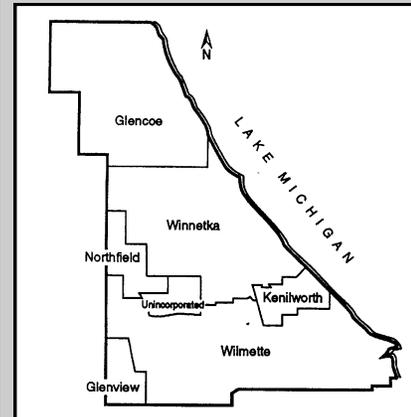
The mission of New Trier Township is to provide leadership, advocacy and resources to benefit the physical, mental and social well-being of Township residents.

## 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.



## What’s Inside

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- Programs & Services
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  - Valued Volunteers
- Elected Officials & Staff

**Supervisor's  
Message**

There's no doubt, your Township government, just like other governmental bodies, has been challenged with the economic uncertainty that surrounds us. While no one can definitely answer the question, "When will our economy improve?" your Township officials are working to deliver solutions and innovative approaches to provide the programs and services our residents expect. Focusing on our mission to benefit the physical, mental and social well-being of Township residents, New Trier Township continues to provide basic services while addressing the emerging needs of individuals and families.

The landscape of our Township changed dramatically in the past year. We were challenged with a significant increase in the number of residents requesting general and emergency assistance. Through the generosity of many individuals, businesses and community groups, donations to our Food Pantry and Angel Fund have kept pace with the increased demand for assistance with food, shelter, utilities, clothing, medical care and other basic necessities. At the same time, government programs such as General Assistance, Access to Care, and Child Care Scholarships provided a safety net to those in need.

We were poised to meet the challenges as the result of our strategic planning process that involved re-evaluation of the Township's current services, financial status, and the delivery of services to residents. The Strategic Plan reaffirms that Township Government will continue to be at the forefront of what local government can do to best serve the needs of its residents. While our new Strategic Plan continues to support existing service delivery models,

we are also piloting new programs such as the Community Support Grants and WorkABILITY programs. In addition, we addressed the desire of residents to age in place and incorporate universal design in their homes by hosting a well attended community education forum. In the year ahead, we are looking at new ways to address the needs of the emerging working poor, as well as how to act as a resource for programs that support our youth, seniors, and persons with disabilities.

I cannot complete this letter without recognizing our dedicated staff and volunteers. Our staff makes a real difference to the quality and responsiveness of services that we deliver. Over the past year we welcomed Ronald E. Baum, LCSW, as Social Services Administrator and Aisha Nawab as Administrative Assistant. Both joined us at a time when the daily pace was as hectic as ever. Ron's 30 plus years of experience in social work has already provided new ways of approaching our service delivery that has been well received by our clients and volunteers alike. Aisha's ability to encapsulate the variety of administrative tasks, as well as her level of professionalism in working with residents, have made her a valuable addition. In addition, more than 80 volunteers provide us with diverse perspectives and potential solutions to improve the quality of life for all in the Township. I thank them for their commitment to citizen engagement and I thank you for the ability to continue to serve you as the Supervisor.

Patricia B. Cantor  
 New Trier Township Supervisor  
 April 14, 2009



***In 2008 the Township said goodbye to retiring Bette Vitale (left) Social Services Administrator for 16 years and Ann Zekelman (right) Administrative Assistant for 13 years.***

**Assessor's  
Message**

As the market values of our homes fell this year, so did the number of sales and building permits we processed. Sales in the Township were down from 1,248 last year to 651 this year, and building permits were down from 925 to 751. At the same time requests for assistance with appeals and exemptions at the Township Assessor's office rose from 1,800 last year to about 2,400 this year.

We again held a community outreach program with Cook County Commissioner Larry Suffredin and the Cook County Board of Review when we were open for appeals to the Board.

We recently learned that the Cook County Assessor will be closing its five suburban branch offices, including the Skokie branch, because of budget cuts. Each of these offices serves many taxpayers annually. Since the suburban Cook County Township Assessors provide many of the same services, it will be up to our office to absorb many of those from New Trier Township. The Skokie branch serves not only our Township but also Maine, Niles and Northfield.

Thus, it is more crucial than ever that we continue to provide taxpayers with information and assistance in all the areas of property taxation from assessment appeals, exemptions, 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 also provide certain data to the Cook County Assessor's office downtown. We are currently reviewing our capabilities and planning ways to handle this increased demand.

We want to maintain our level of responsiveness to the community, especially recognizing that many of our senior residents are not able to travel downtown for services.

The question we heard most often this year was why the assessments did not drop to reflect current market conditions. The answer is that the Cook County Assessor reassesses every three years and uses sales data from the previous three years. The next triennial assessment covering our Township will occur in 2010. Various groups and public officials continue to work to find solutions to high property taxes and sharp increases in assessments at reassessment time.

Meanwhile, the reassessment of the City of Chicago is taking place this year and may provide a barometer for our own reassessment coming next year. We at the Township Assessor's office will, of course, be monitoring the situation.

JoAnn Shrier Gordon  
New Trier Township Assessor  
April 14, 2009

## **Property Tax Relief**

*Various property tax exemptions  
are available for:*

- *Owner-occupied residences*
  - *Senior citizens*
  - *Persons with Disabilities*
  - *Certain veterans*
  - *Home improvements*

*For details and eligibility  
requirements, visit*

*[www.newtriertownship.com/  
assessor](http://www.newtriertownship.com/assessor) or*

*[www.CookCountyAssessor.com](http://www.CookCountyAssessor.com)*

*or call the Township at*

*847-446-8200.*

*Other Tax Relief Options:*

- *Senior Citizen Real Estate  
Tax Deferral Program.  
Call Cook County  
Treasurer's office at  
312-443-5100.*

- *Circuit Breaker Program  
(tax grants for  
eligible seniors and  
persons with disabilities).  
Call Illinois Department of  
Revenue at 800-624-2459.*

**Resident Services**

*The central location of the Township Office makes it a convenient place for residents to visit and obtain needed services such as a notary public, voter registration or help with real estate taxes.*

The Assessor's Office provided taxpayers with information and assistance in a variety of areas, including assessment appeals, exemption filings and refunds, legal and property descriptions, name and address changes, sale and building permit data and property tax questions. In Fiscal Year 2009, about 2,400 residents received personal services related to real estate taxes.

As a designated passport acceptance facility, New Trier Township processed 239 applications last year. To ensure an efficient application process, residents schedule an appointment during business hours, receive timely service and avoid long waiting lines. The Township is also a source for parking placards and issued 266 temporary disabled placards.

To benefit the physical well-being of Township residents, the Township sponsors preventative health screenings. In Fiscal Year 2009, 69 residents participated in a screening program for the prevention of stroke, vascular disease, and osteoporosis.

**Serving Our Youth**

For 10 years, Peer Jury has helped guide area youth by providing juvenile offenders with a meaningful alternative to juvenile court. By all accounts it has been one of the most successful programs that New Trier Township has offered to its residents. Since the program began, Peer Jury has heard over 430 cases, accounting for 13,000 hours of community service.

The Township was a leading financial supporter of the New Trier Township Alliance for Youth (TAFY). A collaboration between LINKS North Shore Youth Services, Peer Services, HAVEN Youth Services and the Wilmette Youth Commission, the Needs Assessment Project will guide service providers in making informed decisions on future investments for our youth and their families.

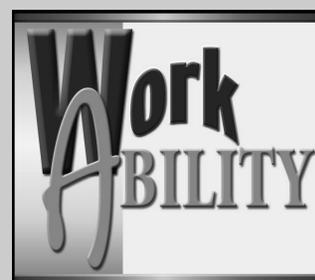
For many seniors and persons with disabilities, the transit services the Township offers means they are able to go shopping, visit friends, do errands and get to medical appointments. In Fiscal Year 2009, the Dial-A-Ride program provided 2,690 discounted taxi rides. Seniors received escorted rides to and from 150 medical appointments.

While transportation plays an important role for this segment of our population, so does the ability to live in one's home. In May 2008, the Home Sweet Home Conference, cosponsored with the North Shore Senior Center, provided more than 100 people with practical ideas to promote independent living.

To facilitate the employment of persons with disabilities, in October 2008 the Township launched WorkABILITY, a new initiative to provide employment resources for persons with disabilities. A collaboration between New Trier Township, Jewish Vocational Service, disability works, and New Trier Township High School's Special Education Department, the program is designed to provide a centralized service within New Trier Township at no charge to residents.

To further increase access to community support so that persons with disabilities have true choices from a range of quality services, the Community Support Grants Program continued in Fiscal Year 2009. Launched as a pilot program in Fiscal Year 2008, the reimbursement program that provides a cash grant of up to \$1,500 per year has provided assistance to 74 individuals. The Program is open to all Township residents with a severe disability, with no restrictions as to age or income. 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.

## **Serving Our Seniors & Persons with Disabilities**



*The program works at two levels. First, individuals with disabilities, including students with disabilities, can meet with an employment specialist at the New Trier Township office to create an employment plan. Second, a community education campaign provides employers and the community at large with information highlighting the opportunities for the employment of persons with disabilities and dispels lingering myths.*

**Serving  
Individuals  
and Families**

*Whether it's a birthday, religious celebration or a simple act of kindness, the Township's youth are regular contributors to the Pantry and Angel Fund.*

Even in our affluent Township, adversity strikes for many reasons: job loss, devastating illness, crippling accident, divorce, loss of independence.

General Assistance is a cooperative effort between the Township and residents who have limited resources or none. In Fiscal Year 2009, General Assistance provided for the basic needs of 55 residents who are unemployed or disabled and who have no other forms of income or assets. This was a 49% increase over the prior year.

Some Township residents who desperately need financial aid are not eligible for assistance from public funds. Close to 350 residents experiencing hardships used the Food Pantry. This represents a 53% increase over the prior year. For 375 individuals or families, the Angel Fund provided emergency assistance to pay for food, shelter, utilities, clothing, medical care and other necessities. Holiday food gift certificates were issued to 75 residents with restricted incomes. Both the Angel Fund and Food Pantry are funded solely by donations. A Back-to-School Drive seeking cash donations to provide discount-store gift cards to help struggling families purchase required school supplies and clothes assisted 144 children in the Township.

The Township also provided 27 Child Care Scholarships to children ranging in age from birth to 12 years. The program, which pays only a portion of the expense, provides a path to financial independence for income-eligible parents who are working, attending school full time, or in a job-training program.

With two social workers, the Township Office serves as a clearinghouse for inquiries from a great many sources for information on public, private, federal, state and county programs. We have strong working relationships with agencies that provide housing, counseling, family therapy, mental health treatment, and other services.

## Individuals and Families in Crisis

- ◆ The Children's Advocacy Center  
www.cachelps.org or 847-885-0100
- ◆ Family Service of Glencoe  
www.familyserviceofglencoe.org or 847-835-5111
- ◆ Family Service Center of Glenview/  
Kenilworth/Northfield/Wilmette  
www.familyservicecenter.com or 847-251-7350
- ◆ Family Services of Winnetka-Northfield  
www.familyservicewn.org or 847-446-8060
- ◆ The Harbour, Inc.  
www.theharbour.org or 847-297-8540
- ◆ HAVEN Youth & Family Services  
www.havenforyouth.org or 847-446-5606
- ◆ PEER Services, Inc.  
www.peerservices.org or 847-657-7337 (PEER)
- ◆ YWCA Evanston/North Shore  
www.ywca.org or 847-864-8445 or 847-441-5600

## Youth Drop-In Services

- ◆ Glencoe Junior High Project  
www.gjhp.org or 847-835-7623
- ◆ Open Studio Project  
www.openstudioproject.org or 847-475-0390
- ◆ Warming House Youth Center  
www.warminghouse.org or 847-256-5288
- ◆ Winnetka Youth Organization  
www.winnetkayo.org or 847-446-0443
- ◆ Youth Connection  
www.youthconnectionwilmette.org or  
847-254-2224
- ◆ Glencoe Youth Services  
www.glencoeyouthservices.org or 847-835-3121

## Mental Health Services

- ◆ The Josselyn Center  
www.josselyn.org or 847-441-5600
- ◆ WilPower, Inc.  
www.wilpower.org or 847-501-2939

## Working With Others

*New Trier Township delivers services and stretches tax dollars by awarding grants to non-profit agencies that serve New Trier Township residents.*

*In Fiscal Year 2009, New Trier Township awarded \$1.03 million to fund 44 programs.*



*Don Hanigan (left), Board President, WilPower; Sue Shimon (middle), Executive Director, WilPower; and Gary Smith (right), Executive Director, The Josselyn Center; attend the 2008 Annual Town Meeting.*



*In April 2008, Trustee Bob Shen (left) presented Sandi Johnson, (right) Executive Director, North Shore Senior Center, with the "Agency of the Year Award."*

## Senior Services

- ◆ Meals At Home  
www.mealsathome.org or 847-251-6827
- ◆ North Shore Senior Center  
www.nssc.org or 847-784-6000
- ◆ Senior Action Service, Inc.  
www.seniorsactionservice.org or 847-864-7274

## Human Services

- ◆ Interfaith Housing Center of the Northern Suburbs  
www.interfaithhousingcenter.org or 847-501-5760
- ◆ LINKS North Shore Youth Health Services  
www.linksyouth.org or 847-441-6191
- ◆ The Volunteer Center of New Trier Township  
www.volunteercenterntt.org or 847-441-7665

## Developmental Disabilities Services

- ◆ The Center for Enriched Living  
www.centerforenrichedliving.org or 847-948-7001
- ◆ Clearbrook  
www.clearbrook.org or 847-385-5300
- ◆ Glenkirk  
www.glenkirk.org or 847-272-5111
- ◆ Institute for Therapy through the Arts  
www.musicinstituteofchicago.org or 847-425-9708
- ◆ The Lambs, Inc.  
www.lambsfarm.org or 847-362-4636
- ◆ SHORE Community Services, Inc.  
www.shoreinc.org or 847-982-2030  
TDD: 847-581-0076
- ◆ Special Gifts Theatre  
www.specialgiftstheatre.com or 847.564.7704

To be eligible for funding an agency must be a 501(c)3 organization, direct services to Township residents, have a firm sense of mission, and have a well-organized management team.

The **George E. Noyes Community Spirit Award** recognizes an outstanding Township volunteer who is making a powerful difference in their community in ways that support New Trier Township’s mission and strategic direction. The award was established in 2006 in memory of George E. Noyes, who served as Township Collector from 2002-2006 and displayed a sustained commitment to civic participation during his lifetime. Irvina Warren of Winnetka has been an active volunteer for over 25 years. A past Township Trustee and Advisory Committee member, she has been a strong voice for persons with disabilities, focusing her efforts on the development of housing so individuals with disabilities could remain in the community with their families and social networks.

The **Superior Service Award to Persons with Disabilities** recognizes individuals or organizations that are committed to the needs of persons with disabilities. Jane Gallery of Winnetka has spearheaded PELS—Parents Educating, Learning and Supporting—to provide a forum for parents to educate each other, network community resources, and brainstorm potential and realizable solutions. In addition, she has worked with Special Olympics and the Winnetka Public Library to start a book discussion group for young adults with developmental disabilities.

The **Supervisor’s Award** recognizes an individual for leadership in moving the Township forward in its mission to serve residents and their needs. The first-time recipient of this award, Diane G. Fisher of Wilmette, a Township Trustee since 2005, has been a leader in developing a strategic plan to guide the Township over the next five years.

## Awards



*Trustee Diane Fisher (left) awards Irvina Warren (right) of Winnetka the 2008 George E. Noyes Community Spirit Award.*



*Trustee Stefan Mozer (left) awards Jane Gallery (right) of Winnetka the 2008 Superior Service Award to Persons with Disabilities.*



*Supervisor Patricia Cantor (left) awards Trustee Diane Fisher (right) the Supervisor’s Award.*

**Township  
Volunteers**

*Trustee Alan Goldberg (right) presented Jerome Ginsburg (left) of Glenview and Pdraig Brennen (middle) of Wilmette with the Special Service Award that recognizes exemplary individual service to the Township.*

**Advisory Committee on Health & Human Services**

Gerri Beth Kahnweiler, Chair

Padraig H. Brennen	Margaret Cornog
Dale Davison	Harriet Hahn
Margaret Hastings	Ilene Hechtman
Barry Hoobler	Jon Talty
Linda Lam Tam	

**Advisory Committee on Mental Health**

Rachel Kuhn, Chair

Rosalie Epstein	Rosemary Gwyther
Pete Kula	Janet Lerman
Paul London	Elizabeth Schreier Madden
David Nickel	Susan Scanlan Spoeri

**Advisory Committee on Youth**

Chuen Chow Tam, Chair

Ronald Gilbert	Syril Gilbert
Andrew Nathan	Jeffrey H. Rubin
Angelo Scozia	

**Advisory Committee on Disabilities**

Barry Fleischer, Chair	Bob Shen, Trustee
Keith Dronen	Gail Marie McCahill
Jennifer Peters	Christine Walker
Ian Williams	Sean Williams
Diane Reeves Wojcik	

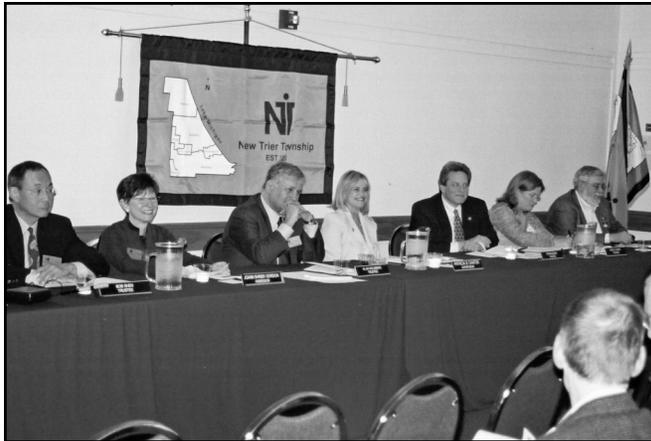
**Peer Jury Program Adult Volunteers**

Gerri Kahnweiler	Joy O'Malley
Elliot Robbins	Barry Spector
Ellyn Stone	

**Food Pantry Volunteers**

Blair Anstaett	Suzanne Conley
Lynn Domenick	Martha Gallow
Mahshid Jones	Beth Kurensky
Derrick Schram	Barbara Smith
Lenette Stone	

## 2008 Annual Town Meeting Highlights



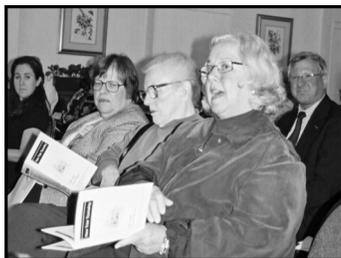
*Township officials provide a recap of services provided.*

*Volunteers welcome guests to the April 8th meeting at the Winnetka Community House.*



*Neil Adelman (left), Moderator, and Sheila Mitchell (right), Clerk.*

*Township government is the only governmental unit in which citizens can vote directly on matters of government rather than through elected representatives.*



### Elected Officials

#### Supervisor

Patricia B. Cantor

#### Clerk

Sheila K. Mitchell

#### Assessor

JoAnn Shrier Gordon

#### Trustees

Diane G. Fisher

Alan Goldberg

Stefan Mozer

Bob Shen

#### Collector

Joe Fell

### Staff

#### Director of

#### Administration & Finance

Diane S. Tye

#### Administrative Assistant

Aisha G. Nawab

#### Social Services

#### Administrator

Ronald E. Baum, LCSW

#### Social Worker

Arthur Sontag, LCSW

#### Community Services

#### Administrator

Brian Leverenz

#### Deputy Assessor

Lois Cross



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## **New Trier Township**

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