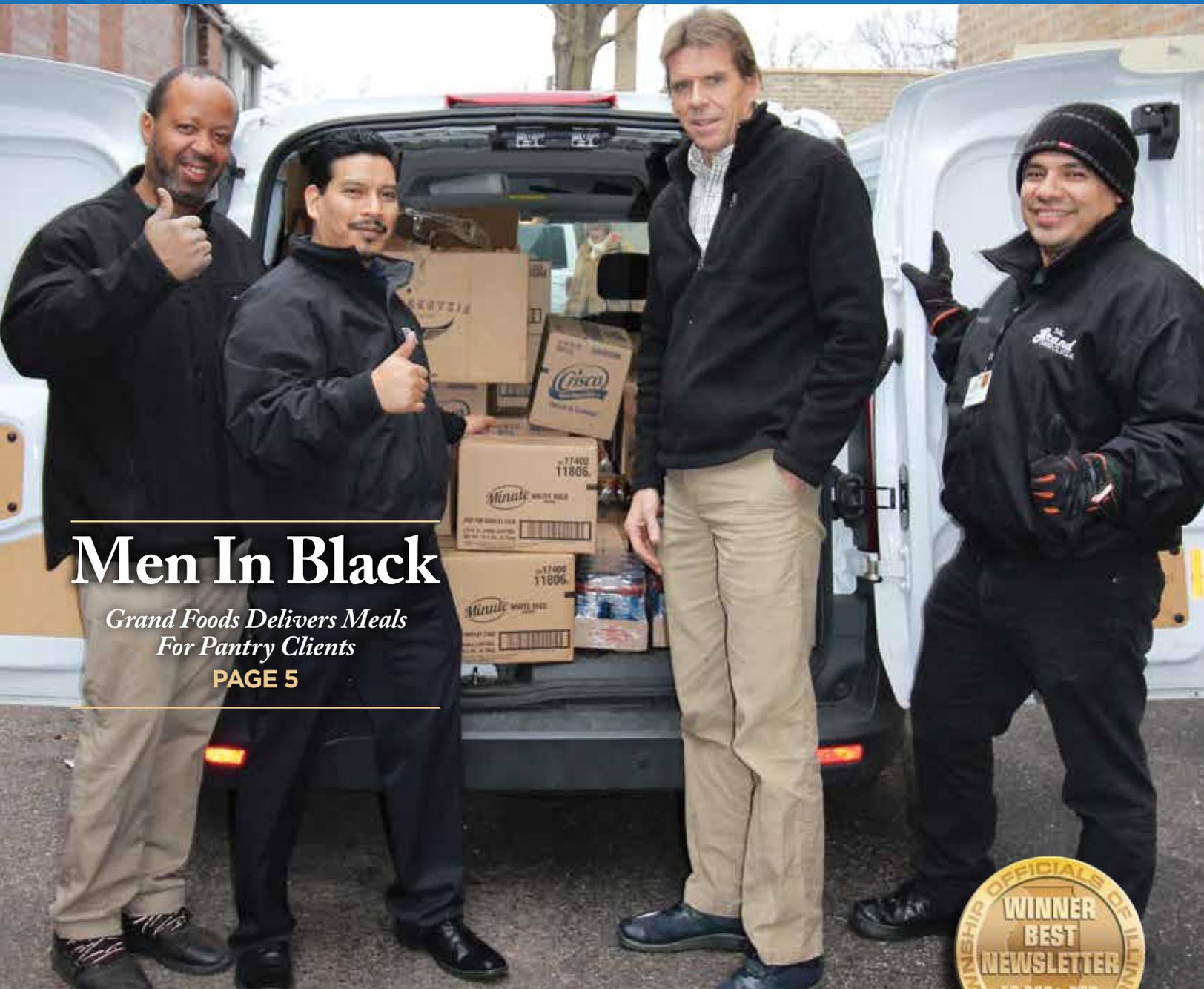


WINTER 2019

New Trier Township Courier

News from Your Township Government



Men In Black

*Grand Foods Delivers Meals
For Pantry Clients*

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From the Supervisor



Early in this New Year, I feel it equally important to not only review our newly established goals, but also to look back and learn from the experiences of 2018. One of the key strategies we adhered to was remaining laser focused on the needs of the residents we serve. Your Township board and staff also made certain that we followed our Welcoming Resolution, a pledge to serve everyone with dignity and professionalism regardless of their ethnicity, race, religion or life situation.

Although 2018 was wrought with political angst on the national and state levels, your township government quietly went about establishing new partnerships and leveraging our resources to meet a growing demand for human services as people navigated uncertain times. This past Thanksgiving we distributed 150 meals to income qualified clients and group homes that serve the needs of developmentally challenged residents. During the December holidays we served nearly 200 meals thanks to the generosity of Jewel Osco, the Grand Food

Center and dozens of generous neighbors that selflessly purchased groceries, gift cards, paper products & hygiene items.

These results do not happen in a bubble at our office. Positive outcomes emerge from caring in action. Although no one knows what will transpire in the news during 2019, one constant is human need. We will continue our research, planning, budgeting and remain steadfast in our attention to the needs of clients and the community strengthening work done by our staff and volunteers.

If you wonder, "what can I do to help?" please stop by our office and speak with Diane Tye our Administrator. We are always in need of willing volunteers and would surely benefit from your experience and enthusiasm. I also urge you to attend our Annual Town Meeting on April 9, 2019, to meet your elected officials and hear firsthand about the good work happening in your Township. An open invitation to attend monthly township meetings is also available to you. Or, if you simply wish to visit and meet our dedicated staff, you'll see community in action every day.

Alan Goldberg

Therapy for Healthy Aging

Township government is in part designed to help maintain the health and well being of residents facing a variety of life challenges. Each fiscal year a group of community volunteers share their expertise on a variety of township committees, vetting social service agencies that provide supports designed to enhance the life quality of their clients. Under the direction of Trustee **Kevin Boyd**, the **Mental Health Committee** evaluates agency grant proposals and awards township funds to help these organizations offer expanded access to mental health resources by continuing their work.

Clearly the issue of mental health and concerns over providing adequate support services is at the forefront of our national healthcare discussion. The North Shore Senior Center is a longtime township grantee providing an array of support services, that secures the health and well being of older adults across the northern suburbs. In their effort to meet the increasing demands of the aging population and make up for dwindling government funding of mental health programs, Senior Center leadership created North Shore Senior Options, a fee-for-service division that provides a wide range of services helping older adults lead active, healthy lives while safely remaining in their home and community.

"When we get our township funds, that money helps us assure that we can stay ready and keep helping the people we're serving."

Dr. Elizabeth Gordon

Dr. Elizabeth Gordon, Director of Senior Options is leading a group of professionals that provides an assortment of services including: care management, guardianship, money management, home safety assessments and psychotherapy. Their new behavioral health (psychotherapy) program helps older adults deal with anxiety, insomnia, concentration and problem solving. Licensed professionals provide short/long-term therapy programs available in-home or at their offices in Northfield and Niles.

Doctor Gordon and her team recently presented *Therapy for Healthy Aging* as part of the New Trier Township Education Forum series. The panel of experts shared compelling information on the ways older adults experience different forms of emotional stress as they navigate life events such as loss of a loved one, health issues, loneliness and safety concerns. They also shared their commitment to the present and future needs of clients, indicating an important

part of their work is ensuring a long-term care plan is in place as medical conditions change over time.

The North Shore Senior Center is committed to providing access to counseling and other mental health services for older adults. During a December 2018 interview on the New Trier Township podcast, Doctor Gordon shared, "We put together a fee-for-service program to help the programs that rely on (dwindling) government money ...and reduce the our dependency on government funds. The funds we receive from townships permit us to offer psychotherapy and support services on a sliding scale basis. So if someone comes in for behavioral health services and they don't have means, they can get regular in-home psychotherapy at no cost to them."

New Trier Township is proud to support the work of the North Shore Senior Center as they prepare our communities with supports for our rapidly aging population. If you, a friend or loved one could benefit from the services provided by North Shore Senior Options, please visit <https://www.northshoresenioroptions.org/> or phone (847) 784-6000.



Courier Wins Mighty Message Award

We were honored to receive the Mighty Message Award for the New Trier Township Courier from the Township Officials of Illinois for newsletters prepared for populations over 50,000 residents. Clerk **Jerome Hoynes** accepted the award at the TOI Annual Conference in Springfield this past November.



NEW TRIER
on
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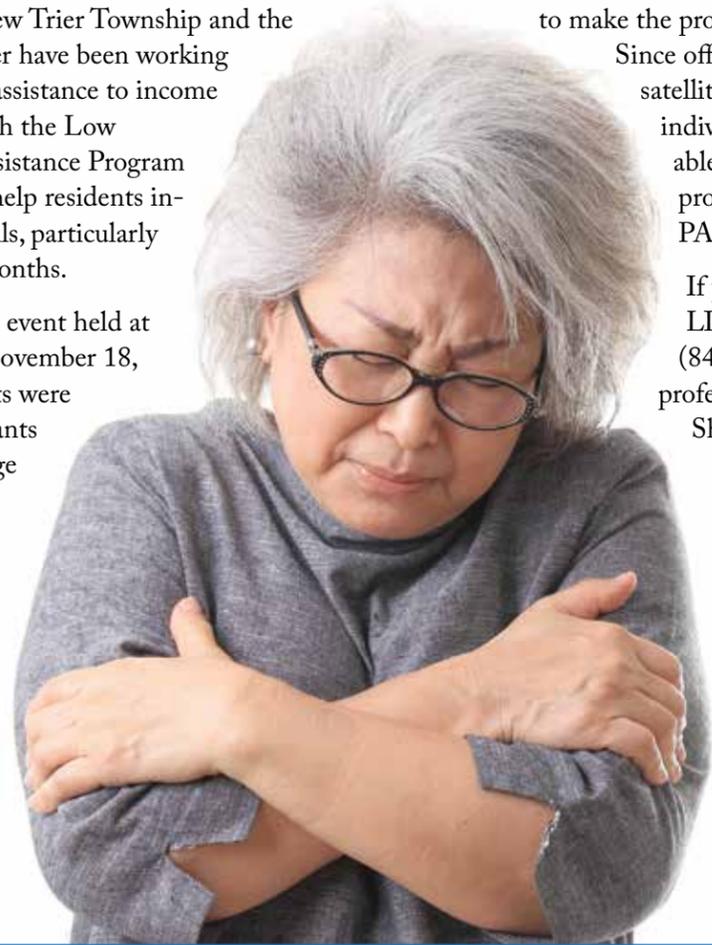
To hear the long form podcast interview with Dr. Elizabeth Gordon, visit [SoundCloud.com](https://www.soundcloud.com/new-trier-township), search New Trier Township and select episode 13.

Partnership Prevents the “Heat or Eat” Decision

Since October of 2016, New Trier Township and the North Shore Senior Center have been working together to provide grant assistance to income eligible households through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). These grants help residents in-need to pay their utility bills, particularly during the harsh winter months.

At a LIHEAP application event held at New Trier Township on November 18, 2018, a total of 9 applicants were approved for LIHEAP grants totaling \$2,913. The average grant of \$416.14 helps recipients pay heating and electric bills during winter months.

During strategic discussions with the Senior Center we learned that many residents have limited transportation options and the Township Board of Trustees wanted



to make the program accessible to more people. Since offering our office as a LIHEAP satellite application facility, dozens of individuals and families have been able to apply, as we are in close proximity to Metra trains and PACE bus lines.

If you have more questions about LIHEAP grants, please phone (847) 784-6040 to speak with a professional counselor at the North Shore Senior Center.



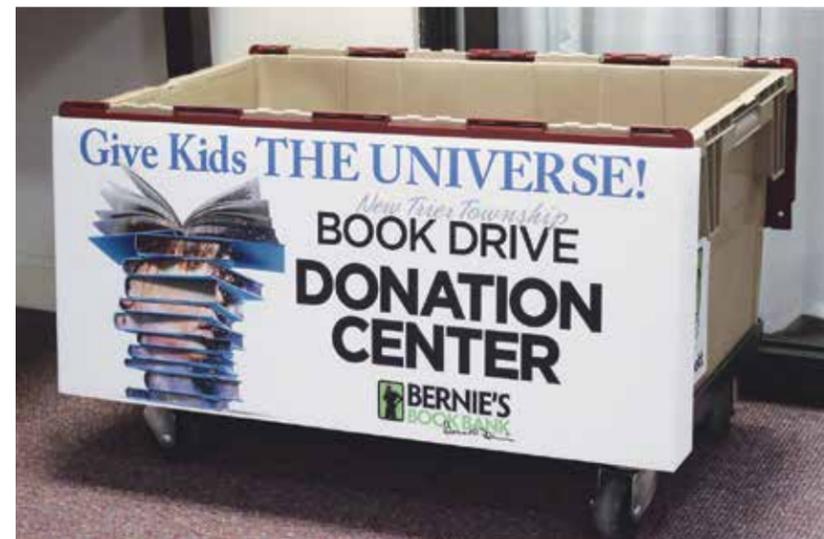
We’re Collecting Children’s Books Year-Round

Your township office recently began serving as a year-round collection point for Bernie’s Book Bank, a Lake Bluff based non-profit that collects and distributes children’s books to at-risk kids throughout Illinois. Many Illinois families lack discretionary funds to purchase books, and Bernie’s addresses this need by supplying 12 books to each child twice every school year.

New Trier Township began its partnership with Bernie’s Book Bank in 2016 and has collected over 5,000 books during summer collection drives. Supervisor **Alan Goldberg** stated, “This is a wonderful opportunity for us to help Bernie’s with their mission of getting at-risk children to read. We are centrally located in the North Shore, and I’m hopeful we can help on a grand scale.”

Our summer book drive is scheduled from July 9- August 9, 2019. Stay tuned to our social media channels and website for

partner collection point updates. Individuals and groups interested in collecting children’s books, as a service project in conjunction with the township should contact **Jack Macholl** via email jmacholl@newtriertownship.com



Neighbors Provide Holiday Hope

This past holiday season broke records, as a blend of Township funds, monetary and food donations from the North Shore community provided holiday meals to 292 food pantry clients and residents of several group homes serving the developmentally challenged. Supervisor **Alan Goldberg** noted, “We are seeing increasing need and members of our community work with us to make sure everyone we serve has enough.”

Tremendous local support was received from Jewel Osco on Green Bay Road in Wilmette and The Grand Food Center in Winnetka. Area Girl Scout troops, students, local business owners, faith groups, and many volunteers helped our pantry with goods and donated labor.

For decades our **Caring Neighbors Program** has aligned neighbors in need with wonderful community members that want to help children of township pantry clients enjoy the holidays. A total of 98 children from 38 families received gifts from 43 amazing supporters. Donations were received from individuals, families, religious groups, financial institutions, first responders, area park districts, schools and scouting organizations.

In addition to gifts, 21 families received coupons for holiday trees/wreaths through the combined efforts of a township Eagle Scout and New Trier High School.

Ninety-two senior citizens residing in subsidized housing received holiday gift cards to purchase food, helping them make ends meet and enjoy a dignified holiday meal.

This outpouring of support illustrates the township motto, *Making A Difference-Right Now*. During the fall months, community members joined together, not “waiting for better days,” but taking action. Today we are seeing dozens of families facing underemployment, job loss, disability, catastrophic illness, domestic violence and other life tragedies. Without donors we would be unable to serve but a fraction of the clients

we help today. We are grateful for the support and optimistic about the future. Thank you.



ASSESSOR NEWS

It's back! 2019 is a Triennial Assessment Year for the northern third of Cook County, which includes New Trier Township. The Assessor advises each owner of new assessments via letter sent to the *last known address* of the taxpayer of record. As of the date of the letter, property owners have a 30-day "window" to appeal the assessment to the Cook County Assessor. In recent years our window has been early (March-April).



Jan Churchwell

Appeals must be in writing using the 2019 Appeal Form, which can be found on line (we also have copies in the office). You may also file electronically at www.cookcountyassessor.com. Except for electronic filings for lack of uniformity ("Comps"), appeals must be supported by hard copy evidence. The Cook County Assessor has information regarding the appeal process on his website. Information about your property can also be accessed through the "Cook County Property Tax Portal." Or you can ask us.

Reductions will apply to tax year 2019 and (hopefully) tax years 2020 and 2021 too (Note: Your assessment CANNOT go up because you appeal).

You may have an attorney file your appeal if you wish.

We strongly recommend that you register at www.newtriertownship.com to receive notices from our office. Click "Notify Me," enter your email address and/or cell number for text messages, and click "Assessor's Alerts" and "Assessor's Calendar."

Please note: Appeals take priority during the window, so exemptions or other property tax matters may take a back seat. We can be reached at 847-446-8200, at lschifflett@newtriertownship.com or at jchurchwell@newtriertownship.com. Our offices are in the New Trier Township building, 739 Elm Street in Winnetka.

Passport Services — What You Need to Know

Your township office serves as a passport acceptance facility, helping you with questions and application procedures. Increasing levels of domestic and international travel security requires you to have current, approved government documents, so planning ahead is imperative to avoid disappointment.



Adult passport renewals must be done by mail with a DS-82 form as long as your passport was issued less than 15 years ago. You should plan to spend 10-15 minutes per applicant during the execution process. Bringing more paperwork is always better than not having enough. Appointments are taken at New Trier Township on Thursdays and Fridays only, please note, we do not offer after school hours or Saturday hours, so if you have children that require a passport please plan accordingly, or consider using a post office passport facility that offers alternative scheduling.

Tips for Your Passport Appointment

- Appointment schedules are continually full please arrive on time. If you arrive 15 minutes or more beyond your appointment time, you will be asked to reschedule.
- Plan ahead. Apply for your passport when you are not traveling. This alleviates the urgency of trying to get an appointment and not making submission deadlines.
- Have your valid government issued identification, for example state identification card or driver's license along with you.

For all the particulars and fee information, please visit our website, select Resident Services, Travel and Transportation Services, then select Passport Services.

Get Township News in Real Time

Your Township Government provides local news and information every other Friday via The Dispatch, our e-Newsletter. Our Notify Me service on the township website let's you select news of your liking via email or text. Sign-up is easy and free, just visit www.newtriertownship.com, select News and Information, and look for the Notify Me link, make your selections and we do the rest.



On social media you can find us on Twitter, visit [@NTTGov](https://twitter.com/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** and informative podcast interviews on our SoundCloud.com channel. You can sign-up to receive podcast episodes by searching for New Trier Township and clicking follow at the SoundCloud.com website.

Important Dates and Deadlines

New Trier Township offers a variety of assistance programs. Those interested in applying can download the desired application on our website, www.newtriertownship.com or phone the office at (847) 446-8201 for more information.

Township Board of Trustees Meetings, February 19, 2019 / March 12, 2019

All at 7:30 p.m. Please check the website to verify as dates sometimes change due to unforeseen circumstances.

Summer Camp Scholarship Applications

Due April 26, 2019 – Online and downloadable PDF application forms are available at our website. Visit Resident Services, Financial Assistance, Child Care.

Esther Craven, Consumer Assistance Resource Specialist of CJE Senior Life

will be at New Trier Township the second Thursday of each month. Esther can help seniors and persons with disabilities, as well as their caregivers, navigate the intricacies of health insurance, government benefits, and community resources. To schedule an appointment, please phone (773) 508-1000.

Discounted Taxi Service Township for Residents

Dial-A-Ride is a door-to-door taxi service that provides registered riders with discounted fares. Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, residents call a designated taxi service, make a reservation for their trip, and receive a reduced rate compliments of New Trier Township. Dial-A-Ride is available to New Trier Township residents ages 18 to 64 with a disability or over the age of 65.

As a convenience, you may download a Dial-A-Ride application in advance, by visiting NewTrierTownship.com, select Resident Services, then Travel & Transportation, click Dial-A-Ride and download the PDF. Have your physician sign them (for disability only) and bring them to the New Trier Township Office along with a state identification or driver's license.

For more information, contact Lorrecia Pearson at (847) 446-8202.



Devita Heard of CEDA is at the township office the second Tuesday of each month. CEDA's mission is to work in partnership with communities to empower families and individuals to achieve self-sufficiency and improve their quality of life. Please visit the township office to discuss your situation in a confidential setting.

State Representative Robyn Gabel's office will be represented at the New Trier Township hall by Chief of Staff **Karen McCormick**. Karen will be on-site February 13, and March 13, 2019 from 1:00 until 3:00 p.m.

Maribeth Stein from Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky's office will be available by appointment on the **2nd Tuesday of every month from 1pm-3pm** in our Winnetka office at 739 Elm Street. Please schedule some time so she can answer your questions about Medicare, Social Security, and any issue you may have with a federal agency. Please call Maribeth directly at (773) 506-7100 for an appointment.



We are grateful for the efforts of our volunteer Committee members:

Money Follows the Person

Ann Sickon, *Chair*
Inez Grzeslo
Nancy Perovic
Lynn Garten
Diann Sheridan
Shuang Lin
Mitchell Dulin

Brian Brandt
Jessica Tucker
Tammy Smiley

Mental Health Committee

Edward Olinger, M.D., *Chair*
Jennifer Hull
Jerome Ginsburg

Carol Judith Cohen
Denise Akason
Susan Matjeka
Douglas Peters
Leslie Anne Weyrich
Richard S. Drake
Nan Weiss Hamm
Laura Coplan

Agency Oversight Committee

Paul T. Lively, *Chair*
Deb Hahamy
Patricia Balsamo
Ellen Van Vechten
Melissa June Frey
Pauline Wang
Colette Wetzal

Lawrence Stein
Bruce Forbes Seitzer
Mary Jo LaViolette
Sharon Weingarten
David Dwayne Barta



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Jerome Hoynes, Clerk
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Jan Churchwell, Assessor
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Kevin Boyd, Trustee
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Gail Schnitzer- Eisenberg, Trustee
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Elliott Robbins, Trustee
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John Thomas, Trustee
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Diane S. Tye, Director of Administration and Finance
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Sandy Forrester, Deputy Clerk
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Lorrecia Pearson, Administrative Assistant
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Leonard Shifflett, Deputy Assessor
847-446-8200 • lshifflett@newtriertownship.com

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