



New Trier Township Courier

SUMMER 2021

News from Your Township Government



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NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP GOES SHREDDING

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Green New Trier-Township Sponsors It's First Paper Shred Event

From the Supervisor



It was a humbling experience to take the Township Supervisor's oath of office on May 16th before four generations of my family who have made this Township home. While the coming term will certainly be challenging as we address the aftermath of the pandemic and building fire, I am confident that your township will emerge stronger than before.

I am happy to share that electricity was restored to the township hall on Friday June 5th, as new under-street lines were run to the building. Electricians and other tradespeople are working on restoration and damage repair caused by the building fire that destroyed our electrical, phone, and internet connections. Serving our clients remained our top priority, as we worked through these unprecedented challenges. I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to Northfield Township, which opened their doors to our food pantry clients in these difficult circumstances. We are glad to be open for business once again, and working toward a post-COVID-19 world that offers the return to normalcy we've all been craving.

One of the ways we can all help hasten that return to normalcy is through widespread vaccination. Vaccines are now readily available, and receiving the COVID-19 inoculation will permit all of us to protect those who are not yet eligible, reduce hospitalizations and death, and quicken an end to this pandemic. If you have not yet received your Coronavirus vaccination, I urge you to visit www.Vaccines.Gov and find a free injection near your home. Free rides are available through the federal Lyft and Uber Vaccination Program and a variety of incentives are now being offered. If you are having difficulty finding a vaccine or lack computer access, please call our

Township Social Worker Jeanne Winsted Rosser who will be glad to help you through the process.

Serving as a trustee these past four years – including as a Board liaison to the three citizen advisory committees – provided me valuable big-picture perspective. At the same time, residents have confided in me the importance of Township services to their individual lives. The pandemic will have a long-lasting effect on many of our residents, even after everyone is eligible for vaccination. Many people we serve have been impacted by personal grief, lost or reduced wages, housing challenges, and perhaps lingering trauma that will require focused support from our staff and service agency-partners.

The isolation of COVID-19 and the slow return to normal has been difficult for many. Your township offers low/no-cost access to mental health services for individuals and families impacted by the crisis. To be clear, there is no shame in seeking help. We are fortunate to have several agency partners staffed with highly qualified, caring professionals who are a phone call or text away. Please visit our resource directory to learn more about the array of services available from your township. Those needing immediate crisis support can text TALK or HABLAR to 552020, HELLO to 741741, or call 1 (800) 273-TALK (8255).

For the remainder of this year, I will be working with the Board of Trustees, township staff, social service agencies, municipal leaders, committee members, and volunteers as we examine our processes and explore new ways to serve our communities. Your feedback and questions are always welcome. Please email me at gseisenberg@newtriertownship.com.

Gail Schnitzer Eisenberg
Supervisor
New Trier Township

New Trier Township Elected Officials



Gail Schnitzer Eisenberg
SUPERVISOR



Jan Churchwell
ASSESSOR



Nicole Capretta
CLERK



Danielle Ruben
TRUSTEE



Stefan Mozer
TRUSTEE



Elliott Robbins
TRUSTEE



John Thomas
TRUSTEE

Outdoor Board Inauguration Honored Alan Goldberg & Welcomes New Officials



The New Trier Township's Board of Trustees were inaugurated at a brief ceremony outside the township hall in Winnetka Sunday evening, May 16th, as the building was still closed due to fire damage. The event was streamed via Zoom and Facebook to welcome the greater community.

Outgoing Supervisor **Alan Goldberg** was given a plaque by his colleagues and informed that the township board room would be renamed in his honor. The board also presented him with a plaque commemorating the occasion. Doctor Goldberg served the Township since 1997, and was Supervisor since 2017. Long-time Trustee **Stefan Mozer** of Wilmette presented the award, noting "Alan has been a

marvelous Supervisor and Trustee, he's a great man." We would concur.

The official meeting business was conducted by outgoing Clerk **Jerome Hoynes** who handled the swearing in of newly elected Clerk **Nicole Capretta**. Mrs. Capretta provided the oath of office to Supervisor Gail Schnitzer Eisenberg, Trustees Stefan Mozer, Danielle Ruben and John Thomas. Trustee Elliott Robbins was sworn in at the May 25th board meeting.

A video of the inauguration meeting is available on our YouTube channel NewTrierTWP.

In Memorium: Dr. Alan Goldberg

It is with a deep sense of sadness we share the news that former New Trier Township Supervisor Dr. Alan Goldberg of Wilmette has passed away after a long, courageous battle with cancer.



For over twenty years Alan served the township as a volunteer committee member, trustee and Supervisor from 2017-21. His leadership and experience as an advocate for people with disabilities positively impacted the lives of many in this township and beyond. Until his passing, Alan served as a director of UCP Seguin, a Cicero

Illinois based organization that advances independence and promotes inclusive opportunities for thousands of children and adults with disabilities.

At the May 16th inauguration of township elected officials, Alan received a lifetime achievement award from his long-time colleague and friend, Trustee Stefan Mozer. The board voted to rename the New Trier Township board room in Supervisor Goldberg's honor.

Alan was always the consummate business professional, thoughtful with criticism, and generous in his praise of quality work. We are grateful for the difference Alan Goldberg made in this township, and wish to express our deepest condolences to his family.

Making New Trier Green – Township’s First Paper Shred Begins Environmental Initiative

Nearly 10,000 pounds of unwanted paper was shredded on-site at Saint Joseph Catholic Church in Wilmette on June 26th. A combination of township trustees and community volunteers primarily organized by township agency-partner The Volunteer Center joined forces to manage the contactless event. Hundreds of residents drove through the township’s inaugural paper shredding event, a new, complimentary community service that demonstrates our commitment to making New



Trier Township a leader in eco-friendly initiatives. The turnout was overwhelming, and we intend to host another event this fall given the community demand.

We are grateful to Joe D’Arco and Rachelle Leech of Saint Joseph Church for permitting us to use their lot. Watch our website, social posts and Dispatch eNewsletter for more information on future environmental events.



It's Okay Not to Be OK



May was Mental Health Month and your township highlighted local professional resources devoted to helping residents maintain good mental health.

support they needed while adhering to Coronavirus safety protocols.

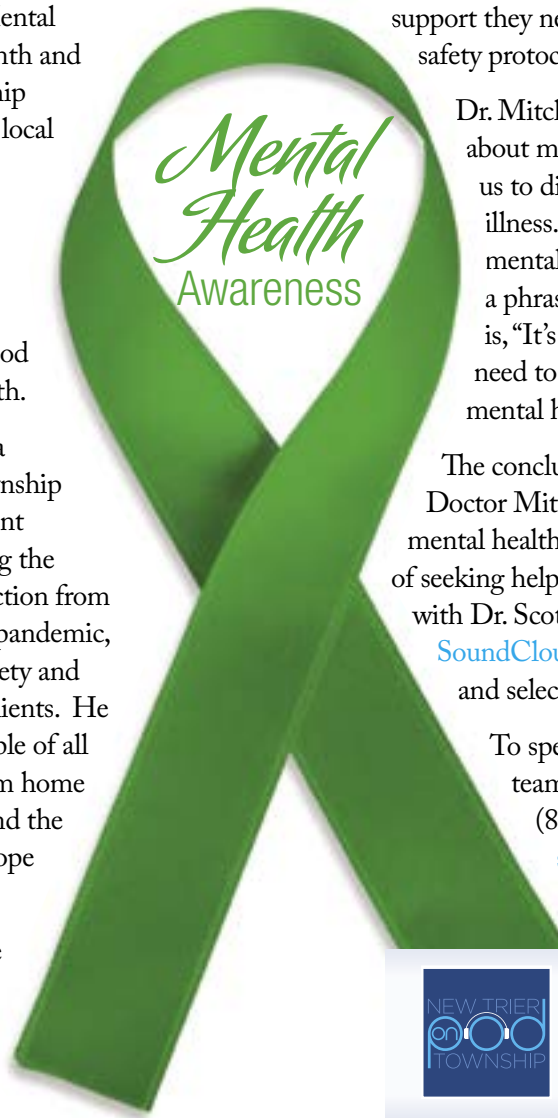
Dr. Mitchell shared that “building awareness about mental illness is important and enables us to discuss this topic as we would any other illness.” He also added that, stigma about mental illness is still very much present and a phrase he now regularly shares with people is, “It’s okay not to be OK. We as a society need to adopt that, and talk more openly about mental health, and be okay with not being OK.”

The concluding portion of the interview shares Doctor Mitchell’s viewpoint on post-COVID-19 mental health service demands and the importance of seeking help. To hear the long-form interview with Dr. Scott Mitchell, visit our podcast channel [SoundCloud.com](https://www.soundcloud.com/new-trier-township), search for New Trier Township and select episode 42.

The Reverend Doctor Scott Mitchell, a Clinical Psychologist and CEO of township agency-partner SamaraCare was a recent guest on the Township Podcast. During the interview Scott discusses the disconnection from society people experienced during the pandemic, and increased levels of depression, anxiety and substance abuse experienced by their clients. He also encapsulates the struggle that people of all ages encountered; parents working from home with kids longing to be with friends, and the older adult population attempting to cope with isolation from friends and family.

Fortunately, the SamaraCare team, like many of our other agency partners, was able to quickly adapt, delivering telehealth visits via computer, smart phone and tablets, offering clients the

To speak with a member of the SamaraCare team in the North suburbs, please phone (847)446-6955 or visit their website [samaracarecounseling.org](https://www.samaracarecounseling.org)



The long-form interview with Doctor Mitchell is available on our SoundCloud podcast channel and other leading podcast providers such as Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Amazon Music, Deezer, Google Play and more.

When Kids Read They Rise Summer Book Drive Nets 8,000 Books

Township residents displayed their generosity and cheerful spirits on July 9, as residents drove through the township’s contactless book collection event at Regina Dominican High School in Wilmette. Dozens of volunteers and Bernie’s Book Bank staff were on hand to remove children’s book donations from vehicles and sort books (by grade level) on-site.

In a four-hour period approximately 8,000 books were collected. These books will go to Bernie’s facility in Lake Bluff to be bagged and distributed to at-risk children at schools throughout Illinois. These donations help disadvantaged kids improve their reading readiness, the central focus of the Bernie’s Book Bank mission.

We are working out the logistics for a fall collection drive and will share details on our website and social media. The township wishes to thank Fred Donnelley, VP of Finance/Operations of Regina Dominican High for hosting this important event.



ASSESSOR NEWS

As if the pandemic weren't enough, there was a fire in the township building on March 28, and three months later Deputy Assessor Leonard Shifflett and I are still working remotely. This "perfect storm" has given us a much greater appreciation of what "working remotely" has entailed for the County Assessor's Office for FIFTEEN months. We have dealt with a temporary phone system, software "patches" to get us from A to B on our office computers at home, sloooow response times, internet provider issues, etc. Multiply that by the hundreds, and it's amazing the County Assessor's Office has functioned at all (PS, they are also in year 3 of a top-to-bottom computer upgrade).



Jan Churchwell

Almost all filings to the County Assessor can (and in many cases must) be done online, and we will post some County forms on the township website soon. It's harder to be a Luddite in the 21st Century.

To help residents deal with pandemic pandemonium, Assessor Kaegi applied a "COVID Reduction" to the Assessed Value for ALL properties for 2020 and 2021. FYI, we have been told it's VERY unlikely Tax Bills will go out on time this summer.

The many disruptions meant that the 2021 Appeals process got underway late (NTT opened about two months later than usual). Appeals to the County Board of Review cannot begin until the Assessor has finished his role in the cycle, so we do not expect to be appealing to the BOR until later than usual too. This will have no practical effect but will undoubtedly add to the confusion.

Len and I continue to provide you with assessment and property tax information, so please phone us at (847) 446-8200 or email jchurchwell@newtriertownship.com or lshifflett@newtriertownship.com

We'll get through this, stay calm and carry on.

Jan Churchwell

New Trier Township Assessor

Brian Leverenz Receives Liberty Bell Award For The Township Peer Jury



Long-time township Community Services Administrator Brian Leverenz was recently selected by the Chicago Bar Association Young Lawyers Section as this year's winner of the Liberty Bell Award. The group honored Brian with a plaque acknowledging over 20-years of his work on the township's Peer Jury Program that helps divert first-time, non-violent juvenile offenders out of the juvenile court system into community service sentences meted out by a student jury of their peers, under the direction of Brian and adult volunteers.

The Liberty Bell Award acknowledges people who display a sense of community welfare and public duty under the law. The township Peer Jury Program meets award criteria of promoting respect/obedience for the law and a smooth functioning system of justice.

As the COVID-19 risk continues to diminish, we expect to restart the program in late summer. Information on Peer Jury program and how to volunteer is available at the Resident Services section of our website.

Before/After School Child Care Financial Assistance Available

The township's Child Care Financial Assistance Program provides support to help parents/guardians offset the cost of licensed before/after school programs. Our goal is to help income eligible working families obtain high-quality, affordable childcare while parents are at work, school, or job training programs. This summer, the Township's Summer Camp Scholarship program helped 37 children in our community attend summer programs. For fiscal year 2021-22 the application period will conclude August 13. The before/after school scholarship application can be completed on our website. All questions should be directed to Jeanne Winsted Rosser at (847) 446-8201.

APPLY ONLINE

www.newtriertownship.com

**Applications For
FY 2021-22 Ends
8/13/2021**



Educational Forums Return with Power of Attorney Legal Clinic

After a 15-month hiatus during the pandemic, our Educational Forum series relaunched with a Legal Clinic delivered via videoconferencing on June 2nd. The clinic was presented by township grantee partner the North Suburban Legal Aid Clinic. The forum covered the importance of adult students having Medical Power of Attorney documents in place, in the event an emergency renders an adult student incapable of making their own medical decisions.

Deputy Assessor Leonard Shifflett volunteered his services as a Notary Public, providing complimentary notarizations of the POA documents the following day in Winnetka.

We are grateful to the staff at the North Suburban Legal Aid Clinic for their help in making the forum a success. Please save the date, September 24, 2021, 1:00- 5:00 p.m. at the North Shore Senior Center, where we'll offer a session on Power of Attorney documents for older adults. For more information or to reserve your appointment, please email info@NSLEGALAID.org

New Trier Township EDUCATIONAL FORUMS

Stay Connected Get Township News in Real Time

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 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](https://www.soundcloud.com/newtriertwp) website. We encourage you to subscribe to the Dispatch, our eNewsletter distributed free every other Friday. To subscribe, visit our website, select Resident Services and click the sign-up link. Just provide your name and email address, we'll take it from there.



Legal Clinics Resume at the Township Hall

If you or someone you know is facing a domestic violence, immigration, or housing law situation, help is available.

Attorneys from township agency-partner North Suburban Legal Aid Clinic are offering no-cost counsel to eligible township residents the third Wednesday of each month. The Clinic also offers a series of virtual cooking demonstrations during which clinic attorneys are available chats in a discreet manner. The next virtual demonstrations are August 12, 3:30- 4:30 PM and September 9, 12- 1 PM. Other services are available at their new location 3500 Western Ave., Highland Park, IL.



The Legal Clinic for township residents is located at the Township Offices, 739 Elm St. in Winnetka, from 10:00 a.m. until noon on:

**August 18th
September 15th
October 20, 2021**

For more information visit <https://nslegalaid.org/get-help/>

Important Dates and Deadlines

**Township Board of Trustees Meetings,
August 3, 2021
September 14, 2021**

All meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. and are held in the Alan Goldberg Boardroom, second floor of the Township Hall.

Before/After School Financial Assistance Applications - Due August 13, 2021

Non-Profit Agency Funding Proposals - Due Sept. 10, 2021

Educational Forum- Medical Power of Attorney for Older Adults - September 24, 2021 1-5:00 p.m. at the North Shore Senior Center



New Trier Township
739 Elm Street
Winnetka, IL 60093

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ILLINOIS

TOWNSHIP BOARD & STAFF

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Jan Churchwell, Assessor
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Danielle Ruben, Trustee
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Stefan Mozer, Trustee
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Elliott Robbins, Trustee
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John Thomas, Trustee
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NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP
Caring
in action

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



Gail Schnitzer Eisenberg
SUPERVISOR



Jan Churchwell
ASSESSOR



Nicole Capretta
CLERK



Danielle Ruben
TRUSTEE



Stefan Mozer
TRUSTEE



Elliott Robbins
TRUSTEE



John Thomas
TRUSTEE

Since its humble beginnings in 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.