

NEW TRIER Township Courier

FALL 2014

What Is Township Government?

The Township form of government was created in Illinois in 1849 to bring government closer to the people it served. It originated as the settlers' agency for maintaining order and dealing with lawbreakers. Over time, its focus has changed, and today it provides quality-of-life services that address the immediate and emerging needs of residents.

In This Issue

- Introducing the New Assessor
- Township Budget Recap
- Mental Health Services--Funded Agency Listing

A Message from the Supervisor

Lately the media has brought to the national forefront the issue of death caused by depression. It makes us take pause to consider how critical it is to have quality mental health services available in a community. Providing services for the full spectrum of issues that fall into this category is a priority for the Township. Whether the concern is teens with eating disorders, an elderly individual trying to manage depression, a person with a mental illness or any of the many disorders that fall into this category, we are fortunate to have providers that offer mental health care of the highest quality. In this issue, we will feature an overview of the agencies whose mental health missions are funded in part by grants from the Township.



Your family may never need the services of these fine agencies, but many of our residents require mental health support. The programs of our funded agencies are top-notch, which is why our resident volunteer Advisory Committee members who allocate your tax dollars to fund programs have approved funding for the organizations featured. We want you to know about the work they do in case you or a loved one ever has mental health needs that can be served by these caring agencies.

Once again I'll take this opportunity to remind you that all residents are invited to participate by volunteering on an Advisory Committee. The funding hearings that take place in October are open to the public, and residents are welcome to attend. The hearing schedule can be found in the Township Calendar on the back page of the Courier. For more information on the Advisory Committees and agency funding process, visit the Township website or contact Community Service Administrator Brian Leverenz at bleverenz@newtriertownship.com or 847-446-8203.

Fall is an especially busy time of year at the Township, not only because of the agency funding hearings, but also because we are accepting applications for Community Support Grants, we are preparing to launch our annual Holiday Giving programs and the Food Pantry is adapting to the back-to-school schedules of our families and making appropriate adjustments to meet the needs of clients among

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New Trier Township Assessor Jan Churchwell Sworn Into Office

Jan Churchwell, a Northfield resident, took the oath of office as Township Assessor on July 30, 2014. She was officially sworn in by Township Clerk Jerome Hoynes with Supervisor Paddie Brennen in attendance. In addition, an induction ceremony was held at the next Board of Trustees meeting on Tuesday, September 9, 2014 at the Township Office.

Ms. Churchwell enjoyed a long-term career in real estate, which provides her a sound foundation for the position of Assessor. She recently completed her course of qualifications and is a Certified Illinois Assessing Officer (CIAO). She took over the office from retiring Interim Assessor JoAnn Shrier Gordon. As Assessor, Ms. Churchwell provides a variety of services and acts as liaison between the taxpayers and the Cook County Assessor's Office.



Supervisor Paddie Brennen, Township Clerk Jerome Hoynes, Assessor Jan Churchwell and Jan's daughter Liz Kunkle.

Deputy Assessor Lois Cross continues to provide information and assistance to Township residents. She is available to help citizens with appeals, exemptions and refunds, sales and building permits, taxpayer of record information, detailed assessment information and property descriptions, legal descriptions of property, property tax identification numbers, name and address changes, tax exempt property listings, plat maps, tax rate information and much more.

The Assessor's Office is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Residents may view a list of services offered on the Township website at www.newtriertownship.com. For more information on the services provided by the Office of the Assessor, residents may contact the Assessor's Office at 847-446-8200, jchurchwell@newtriertownship.com or lcross@newtriertownship.com.

A Message from the Supervisor *continued from page 1*

our many other ongoing services and programs. Residents who would like to volunteer or participate in the life of the Township can call me any time to discuss your interest, and I will attempt to find a rewarding role for you here at the Township.

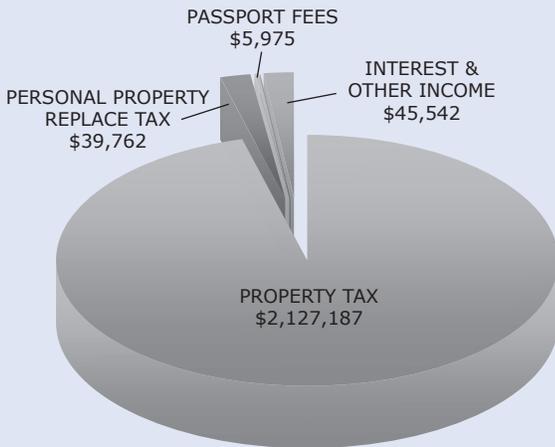
In concluding, we hope you will take some time to become familiar with the mental health resources highlighted in this issue of The Courier. We are grateful that mental health is better understood in this age, and that there are professionals like the ones at these agencies right here in the New Trier Township area.

Paddie Brennen
Supervisor

New Trier Township Fiscal Year 2014-15 Budget Recap

New Trier Township is funded by revenue from property taxes and takes seriously the stewardship of our residents' tax dollars. Below is a graphic representation of the two funds which the Township manages to operate the programs and services that benefit the health and well-being of the community. If you have questions about the Township's budget, please contact the Township Office at 847.446.8202.

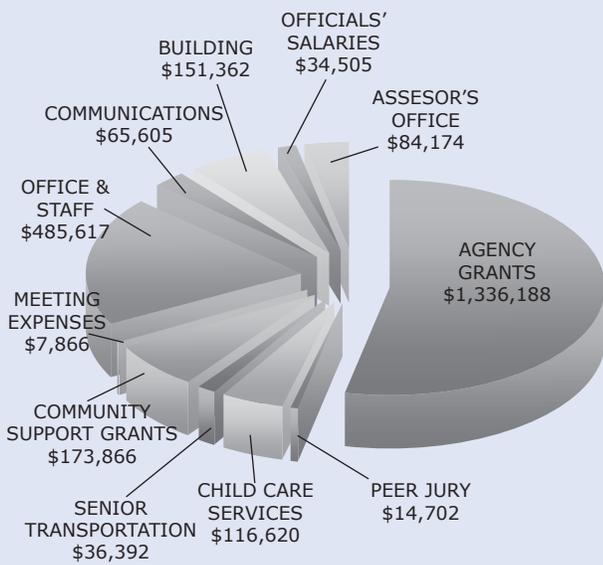
How the New Trier Township Town Fund is Funded



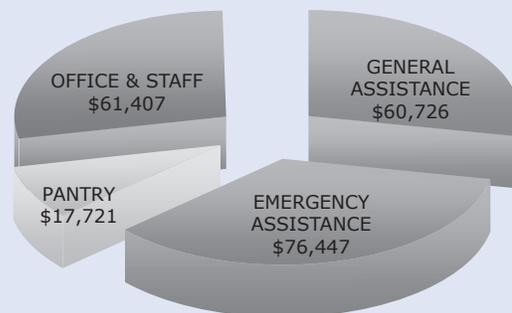
How the New Trier Township General Assistance Fund is Funded



How the New Trier Township Town Fund is Spent



How the New Trier Township General Assistance Fund is Spent



Agency Feature: Mental Health Programs and Services

The Township funds eleven agencies that focus on serving needs which fall into the mental health category. Below is a brief overview of those agencies and the programs they offer. For more information on these or services offered by any Township funded agencies, contact the Township Community Service Administrator Brian Leverenz at 847-446-8203 or bleverenz@newtriertownship.com.

Cancer Wellness Center—Cancer Wellness Center helps individuals diagnosed with cancer to feel more connected by becoming part of a comforting and comfortable community of people who understand what they're going through, because they are going through it, too. They help people to deal with the very real emotional issues that cancer can cause by offering trained, experienced counseling and support. Cancer Wellness Center nurtures the mind, body and spirit with programs that offer simple exercises, stress relief, healthy diets, relaxing activities, and meaningful conversations. With their extensive library of books, tapes, and videos, participant discussion groups and connection to useful information and resources, Cancer Wellness Center helps people live better while living with cancer. cancerwellness.org

The Children's Advocacy Center—The Children's Advocacy Center is a healing place for abused children. Recognizing the right of all children to a safe childhood, the Children's Advocacy Center of North and Northwest Cook County continuously strives to reduce trauma and provide support to child victims of violence and their families. The Center serves as a community resource to facilitate the identification, intervention and prevention of child abuse.

Each year, more than 650 children and their families visit the Children's Advocacy Center of North and Northwest Cook County for a variety of services in response to allegations of child sexual abuse or severe physical abuse. Whether they are visiting for the first time, returning for individual or family counseling, attending a support group or need the help of a CAC court advocate, CAC clients are treated with compassion and respect. cachelps.org

Erika's Lighthouse—Erika's Lighthouse is a grassroots, educational organization dedicated to raising awareness of adolescent depression and mental health for young people. At Erika's Lighthouse, they strive to break stigma and educate the community about mental health issues through various programs directed toward schools, teachers, parents, physicians and other healthcare professionals, and teens themselves. They also sponsor a Young Adult Board, an All-School Board and support the work of Erika's Lighthouse Teen Clubs in a growing number of schools regionally. Erika's Lighthouse strongly believes that early identification and intervention can help young people get the help they need to lead healthy, happy and productive lives. erikaslighthouse.org

Family Service of Glencoe—Family Service of Glencoe's mission is to promote a stronger community by meeting individual and family needs through services that identify, prevent and resolve social and emotional problems including family, couples, individual, and youth counseling services available at a sliding scale and at no charge to Glencoe's unemployed; 24-hour crisis intervention in cooperation with Glencoe Public Safety; Alternative to Violence programs; youth, parent and school outreach and facilitation; confidential scholarship assessment; and senior housing assistance. familyserviceofglencoe.org

Family Service Center of Wilmette—At Family Service Center, experienced professionals help families and individuals address stressful problems such as depression, anxiety, substance abuse, and child behavioral problems. Serving the communities of Glenview, Kenilworth, Northbrook and Wilmette, Family Service offers clinical insight and counseling, educational programs, ongoing support groups, at affordable fees for children and adults. Offices are conveniently located in Wilmette and Northbrook. familyservicecenter.com

Family Service of Winnetka-Northfield—Family Service of Winnetka-Northfield helps individuals, couples and families through life's challenges and transitions by providing counseling, therapy and community education. familyservicewn.org

Haven Youth and Family Services—Haven Youth and Family Services fosters mental health of youth and their families in the community through prevention, intervention and therapy programs. Haven is committed to supporting youth 24-hours a day to skillfully navigate through adolescence.



Haven offers many different services to North Shore adolescents and their families. They offer prevention services in order to prevent problems before they start, and intervention services to assist clients once an issue has been identified. Most of what Haven offers falls into the categories of emergency housing, crisis intervention, individual therapy, family therapy, group therapy and community resources. However, “help” looks different for every adolescent or family, which is why Haven tailors their services to meet the individual needs of the clients they serve.

Haven also assists many different schools in the area in a daily capacity as well as an occasional one. Haven has the ability to create workshops to meet the needs of different student bodies. Their outreach workers also connect with kids every day during the lunch hour. Haven helps schools through outreach, by operating drop-in centers and by providing psychoeducational programming in local schools upon request from teachers and advisors. havenforyouth.org

The Josselyn Center—The Josselyn Center is a CARF-accredited community-based mental health center in Northfield. They provide individuals of any income a convenient place to improve their quality of life through comprehensive and affordable mental health services provided by a caring staff of licensed clinicians. Their clinical services include mental health and psychiatric services for individuals (including children), couples, and families. They also offer supportive services where people facing similar challenges can receive support in non-clinical settings. In addition, they offer group services where people with similar problems come together to express their concerns, identify solutions and celebrate successes. josselyn.org

National Alliance on Mental Illness/Cook County North Suburban (NAMI-CCNS)—The National Alliance on Mental Illness is a grassroots organization dedicated to improving the lives of persons and their families affected by mental illness through support, education, advocacy and research. NAMI offers Family to Family Education, which is a 12-week education and support program for families who have adult relatives with serious mental illness. The course is taught by trained volunteer family members who are experienced in caring for a loved one with mental illness such as major depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia and other disorders. NAMI offers a variety of support groups, crisis assistance, educational programs, advocacy and more. namiccns.org

New Foundation Center—New Foundation Center’s (NFC) mission is to partner with people with mental illness to recover and pursue lives of meaning and purpose. NFC has served individuals with serious mental illness who live in the New Trier Township and other north suburban Chicagoland communities since 1987. They provide evidence-based services to adults through three integrated program areas: psychosocial rehabilitation (PSR), supportive housing, and supported employment.

Imbedded in the program areas are health and wellness activities, substance abuse services, and daily living skills education and training, and socialization activities. In addition, the staff works with clients to coordinate care with other medical providers and social service agencies. These activities are carried out in partnership with clients to support their efforts in achieving the highest quality of life possible.

A core NFC value is providing collaborative and innovative programs that raise hope, build support, and increase self-efficacy, allowing clients to positively contribute to their communities. NFC values an approach that is highly participatory, starting at their clients’ personal stage of recovery, and is applied using best practices. Clients use mental health recovery services to help them manage symptoms, prevent unnecessary hospitalization, achieve physical wellness, and develop a positive sense of self. The program is oriented toward recovery, through clients and staff working together to set individualized recovery goals and corresponding activities. newfoundationcenter.org

PEER Services, Inc.—The mission of PEER Services is to eliminate substance use and the problems it causes for individuals, families, and communities through collaborative, high-quality prevention and treatment services. With offices in both Evanston and Glenview, PEER Services is dedicated to improving the quality of life for individuals and families in local communities by working to eliminate substance abuse. This is accomplished by educating the community and preventing substance abuse from developing, intervening when substance abuse problems do develop, and providing treatment for teens and adults struggling with abuse, dependence, or addiction. peerservices.org





New Trier Citizens League Seeking Volunteers

The New Trier Citizens League is a non-partisan community organization made up of volunteers who function as a caucus to slate candidates to serve as Township officials. Secondly, the Citizens League functions as a watchdog group to provide oversight on behalf of residents to observe the work of New Trier Township. The relationship between the Citizens League and the Township is a partnership wherein members of the Citizens League educate themselves on the business of the Township to assure the Township stays focused on its core mission of providing leadership, advocacy and resources to benefit the physical, mental and social well-being of Township residents.

The Citizens League is currently seeking new members. The commitment is not great as there are only five meetings per year, however League members report the experience is quite rewarding. The group meets three times each year in the New Trier Township Board Room. Meetings typically last less than one hour. In addition to these three meetings, each member of the group attends a public meeting of the Township Board of Trustees and its advisory committees. Members then report back to the Citizens League. Finally, the group attends the Township Annual Town Meeting in April of each year. In addition to seeking out candidates to tap into their expertise for the benefit of residents and overseeing the work of the Township, the Citizens League also serves as a resource to the Township for issues that arise on an as needed basis.

If you are a registered voter living in New Trier Township and interested in serving on the New Trier Citizens League, please contact League President Peter Tyor at ptyor@ripco.com, 847.446.2217 or 847.924.8457.

New Trier Township Community Support Grant Applications Now Available to Assist Persons with Disabilities

The Community Support Grants Program for fiscal year 2014-15 is currently accepting applications for grants for persons with disabilities. The grants are provided to persons with disabilities that cover a wide range of issues including, but not limited to autism spectrum disorders, developmental and/or cognitive delays, mental health disorders, multiple impairments in cognitive and/or social/emotional functioning and physical impairments. Residents of New Trier Township with diagnosed disabilities may apply for Community Support Grant assistance. Applications are available at the Township Office at 739 Elm Street in Winnetka or on the Township website at www.newtriertownship.com. The deadline for submission of applications including all supporting documentation is January 2, 2015. Applicants will be notified of their grant award by mail in February, 2015.

Community Support Grants provide financial assistance to help meet some of the special service needs and extraordinary expenses related to the person with a disability. The grant can be used for therapeutic services such as those described above, respite care, medication, or any number of necessary costs involved with the care of the person with a disability. For example, children with movement disorders, causing damage to the motor control centers of the brain, can be greatly assisted by physical and occupational therapies often limited by insurance coverage. Imagine a parent's worry when insurance benefits run out and the subsequent financial struggle to fund therapies easily costing several thousand dollars per month.

The grant can also be used to remodel a home environment to ensure the safety of a disabled individual, to create ease of access, or to facilitate independence. Seniors who otherwise might be required to leave their homes can now safely remain in their communities by using grants to remodel a bathroom and/or build an access ramp.

The program annually awards grants of up to \$1,500 for qualifying residents who need financial assistance for a host of reasons that relate to a disability. There are no age or income restrictions. A complete explanation of eligibility considerations, residency requirements and covered expenses are also available on the Township website. For more information, please contact Social Services Administrator Jeanne Winsted Rosser at 847-446-8201 or jwinstedrosser@newtriertownship.com.

Township Calendar

October

- 1 Agency Oversight Proposal Review Meeting @ 7:30 PM
- 2 Money Follows the Person Proposal Review Meeting @ 7:30 PM
- 6 The Committee on Mental Health Proposal Review Meeting @ 7:30 PM
- 13 Township Office closed in observance of Columbus Day
- 15 Agency Oversight Proposal Review Meeting @ 7:30 PM
- 16 Money Follows the Person Proposal Review Meeting @ 7:30 PM
- 20 The Committee on Mental Health Proposal Review Meeting @ 7:30 PM

November

- 3 The Committee on Mental Health Agency Hearings @ 6:30 PM
- 5 Agency Oversight Committee Agency Hearings @ 6:30 PM
- 6 Money Follows the Person Agency Hearings @ 6:30 PM
- 10 The Committee on Mental Health Agency Hearings @ 6:30 PM
- 11 Township Office closed in observance of Veterans Day
- 12 Agency Oversight Committee Agency Hearings @ 6:30 PM
- 17 The Committee on Mental Health Agency Hearings @ 6:30 PM
- 19 Agency Oversight Committee Agency Hearings @ 6:30 PM
- 20 Money Follows the Person Agency Hearings @ 6:30 PM
- 27-28 Township Office closed for Thanksgiving

December 8

- 8 The Committee on Mental Health Decision Meeting at 6:30 PM
- 10 Agency Oversight Committee Decision Meeting @ 6:30 PM
- 11 Money Follows the Person Decision Meeting @ 6:30 PM

All meetings are held at the Township Office located at 739 Elm Street in Winnetka unless otherwise noted. Meetings are subject to change. For the most up-to-date schedule and for specific agency presentation dates, visit www.newtriertownship.com.

New Trier Township is hiring an Administrative Assistant.

Applications are being accepted through Friday, October 24, 2014.

For a complete job description and application submittal directions, please go to the website at www.newtriertownship.com.

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Staying connected with New Trier Township is easy at our website www.newtriertownship.com. Our E-news provides custom-selected items of interest to you in a timely manner. Stop by for a visit or sign up online. You can also find us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter.



Angel Fund Donation Form

Your contribution will make a difference to someone facing financial adversity.

Make check payable to: Angel Fund – New Trier Township.

Enclosed is my contribution in the amount of \$ _____.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email _____

Mail to: New Trier Township, Angel Fund, 739 Elm Street, Winnetka, IL 60093



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