



New Trier Township

NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP COURIER

Summer 2011

A Message from Supervisor Pat Cantor . . .



Township government is under increasing pressure from both the communities it represents and other levels of government to be the first “port of call” for residents who are in need of human services. Our budget for next year places an increased emphasis on the current social challenges our Township residents face. To assist working parents, we have increased our child-care financial-assistance program. We also plan to roll out an enhanced transit program that will aid seniors and persons with disabilities. We continue to fund social service agencies that provide critical services to Township residents. Throughout the budget process the Township Board works to ensure that resources are directed toward the most important issues facing our residents. One of our mandated functions is to provide our General Assistance Program, which is designed to help individuals going through economic hardship to get themselves back on their feet. In the past few years the number of individuals

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Township Responds to Social Service Needs of Residents

Programs that reflect a keen awareness of specific community needs and a willingness to address them are at the core of New Trier Township’s Fiscal 2012 budget recently approved by the Board of Trustees. The basis for the budget and financial decision making is the Strategic Plan as adopted and reviewed by the Township Board. To guide decision making, the Board seeks input from various volunteer advisory committees as well as the social service agencies the Township funds and the staff who support the Township’s work.

Highlights of the \$2.4 million Fiscal Year 2012 budget are:

- Funding of \$1.2 million in grants to 37 different social service agencies to support 47 programs that range from youth drop-in centers and senior services to the well-being of individuals and families and include crisis intervention as well as prevention services. The Township also provides financial support to residential, vocational and respite programs, as well as advocacy and inclusion programs for persons with disabilities.
- Widening the safety net through general and emergency assistance for residents who are not supported by their own means, other public funds, or cash assistance programs and are in need of financial support for basic needs such as shelter, utilities, food, and health services.
- Increasing financial assistance for child care. Various programs are available to help offset the cost for services provided by licensed day care, before- and after-school care, and summer day-camp programs.
- Continuing and expanding the Community Support Grants program, which provides financial assistance to help meet some of the special-service needs and unusual expenses of a person with a disability.
- Expanding transit-service programs to assist seniors and persons with disabilities with transportation to medical appointments and to continue support of Dial-A-Ride.

The line-item budget includes programs and services, total town-fund expenses and general assistance. The budget can be viewed online at

www.newtriertownship.com. Copies are also available in the Township office. The New Trier Township fiscal year begins on March 1st and runs through February 28th.

www.newtriertownship.com

What’s inside...

- **Assessment Appeal Information**
- **Financial Assistance Programs**

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE TOWNSHIP



Township is Open for Property Tax Appeals

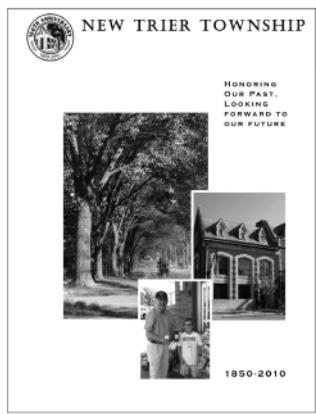
The Cook County Assessor is open for 2011 appeals until August 8th. Because **this is not a reassessment year**, only taxpayers who have recently purchased their property, or made changes to it, will receive notices of reassessment. However, everyone is entitled to appeal each year. For most residents, the 2010 reassessment values will remain constant on bills payable in 2011-2013 (tax years 2010-2012). If you want comparables for an appeal, call 847-446-8200 and leave your name, address and phone number. The Township Assessor's office will mail the comparables to you. Those desiring additional assistance are welcome to come into the Township Assessor's office, located at 739 Elm Street in Winnetka. Appointments are not necessary.

Child Care Financial Assistance

Families struggling to pay the high cost of child care may be eligible to apply for a financial assistance program that helps low- and moderate-income families pay for child care expenses while the adults are working, looking for work, or in an approved training program. To be eligible for the program, an applicant's income must be within certain guidelines. Applications for the program are available at www.newtriertownship.com and at the Township Office. Residents may also call 847-446-8202 to request a copy by mail. The Township will accept applications through **August 1st**. Following the deadline, applications will be reviewed and given consideration based on available funding. This program has been funded by New Trier Township government since 1993.

Township History Books Now Available

In celebration of New Trier Township's 160th Anniversary, the Township has created and published a 36-page booklet that spans our history from 1850 to the present time. It is intended to both capture and preserve the history of the Township while highlighting the role of Township government and how it has expanded and changed significantly over the past decades, just as it continues to evolve and respond to community needs today. Printed copies are available at no charge in the Township office. The document can also be viewed at www.newtriertownship.com in the About Us section.



INFORMATION



Township Financial Support for People in Crisis

One of the most important functions of Township government — and one that is mandated by the state — is to provide

general financial assistance to residents encountering a difficult time in their lives. The General Assistance Program is designed to provide financial assistance to single indigent adults who are not supported by their own means, other public funds, or cash assistance programs. In the last two difficult years, the Township has experienced a 100 percent increase in the number of residents receiving this form of assistance.

Who might need this type of aid in our affluent Township? The individual could have had a successful career that spanned 25 to 30 years but was laid off due to a “restructuring” and is now seeking new employment while competing against a younger generation. Their severance benefits have run out, they have used up their savings, exhausted unemployment benefits. To put it bluntly, they are broke. As they continue to seek employment, General Assistance could be an important lifeline providing financial assistance for essentials such as shelter and utilities.

Yet another resident could have been working in their chosen field for some years and then experienced a sudden onset of mental illness and required hospitalization. They have exhausted their liquid assets and are not able to work. General Assistance could provide cash for some basic necessities, such as gasoline to get to a therapist’s appointment at the community mental health center while they are awaiting assistance from the federal government’s Social Security Disability Income (SSDI) program (an application process that can take up to two years).

Overall, the program is designed to assist adults in meeting their basic needs for housing, utilities, personal needs and transportation. The needs based cash assistance program can provide up to \$950 on a monthly basis, paid directly to vendors providing shelter and utilities along with a small allowance for basic needs like transportation. It is by no means a permanent source of income. It is designed to provide a necessary safety net while a person actively seeks employment or is waiting for SSDI benefits. To be eligible for the program, one must meet several income and resource categories as well as residency in New Trier Township. The Township’s Social Service Administrator is available to provide assistance to residents who are struggling. Beyond offering advice about Township services, she also coordinates with other service providers.

A Summary of Township Financial Assistance Programs

New Trier Township administers five needs-based programs that provide economic assistance to Township residents who meet eligibility criteria and demonstrate a proven need. For example, to be eligible for General Assistance, an individual’s liquid assets may not exceed \$950. To be eligible for Emergency Assistance, the monthly net income of a family of four may not exceed \$3,675.

- **General Assistance** provides financial aid to indigent adults who are not supported by their own means, other public funds, or assistance programs
- **Emergency Assistance** is offered to residents who are faced with a life-threatening situation and waiting for other forms of assistance to be secured.
- **Angel Fund Assistance** provides financial aid to residents in great need but do not qualify for government programs
- **Back-To-School Gift Cards** assists families with the purchase of required school supplies
- **Child Care** provides a partial stipend to cover the costs of day care, before- and after-school care and summer day-camp programs for children while their parents are working or seeking employment

To learn more about these programs, contact the Social Service Administrator at 847-446-8201.

Annual Town Meeting Draws Standing-Room-Only Crowd

New Trier Township welcomed more than 200 guests at its Annual Meeting on April 12th. The standing-room-only crowd learned of the rich history of New Trier Township, congratulated outstanding residents for volunteer service and heard reports from Township officials. In addition to the photos seen here, you'll find more photos on our website in the photo gallery or in the photo album on the Township's Facebook page.



Supervisor Patricia B. Cantor; Lauren Miller, recipient of the 2011 Peer Jury Scholarship; and her mother, Karen Miller of Kenilworth.



Trustee Gerri Kahnweiler (right) presented Mimi Dray of Wilmette with the 2011 George E. Noyes Community Spirit Award.



Trustee Alan Goldberg (right) presented Mimi & Patti Evans, owners of Lad & Lassie Clothing store in Wilmette, with the Friend of the Township Award.



Trustee Stefan Mozer; Naomi Frisch of Wilmette, the recipient of the 2011 Superior Service to Persons with Disabilities Award; and Avi Lesser of Wilmette.

Watch the award ceremony and keynote speaker presentations on  @ NTTGovernment.

Supervisor's Message

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receiving assistance has doubled. The article on page 3 provides an overview of this and other programs the Township offers to aid residents in financial hardship.

Our Annual Town meeting was an overwhelming success. We have posted photos to our website and included the keynote address and award presentations on our You Tube channel (newtriertwp). As we mark the celebration of our 160th anniversary, I invite you to peruse the updated Township History book. It provides a clear picture of how Township government has evolved and continues to respond to community expectations.

We are also pleased to announce our Facebook page as yet one more example of how we strive to keep you informed. I hope you will visit and "like" us – on Facebook, that is. Of course, the Township office remains open and accessible from Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Please stop in!

Moving forward, we remain focused on the unique and necessary role we play in what Township government provides in the form of essential services to our residents.

*Patricia B. Cantor
Supervisor*

Township Calendar 2011

July

- July 26th Committee of the Whole Meeting @ 7:30 pm
July 27th Agency Oversight Committee Meeting @ 7:30 pm
July 28th Money Follows The Person Committee Meeting @ 7:30 pm

August

- Aug 1st Deadline to apply for child care financial assistance
Aug 8th Deadline to appeal property tax assessments
Aug 16th Township Committee on Disabilities Meeting @ 7:30 pm
Aug 23rd Township Board Meeting @ 7:30 pm

September

- Sept 5th Labor Day - Office Closed
Sept 12th Deadline to apply for social service agency funding @ 4:00 pm
Special Projects/Strategic Planning Committee Meeting @ 7:30 pm
Sept 13th Township Board Meeting @ 7:30 pm
Sept 20th Township Committee on Disabilities Meeting @ 7:30 pm
Sept 27th Committee of the Whole Meeting @ 7:30 pm
Sept 28th Agency Oversight Committee Meeting @ 7:30 pm
Sept. 29th Money Follows The Person Committee Meeting @ 7:30 pm

ON THE WEB

www.newtriertownship.com

facebook Find Us on Facebook

Please "like" us on Facebook. New Trier Township recently launched its own Facebook page as a way to share the latest news. The page is updated regularly with Wall posts about programs and services, news of events and meetings, photos and links to useful resources.

Download Forms for Agency Funding

Social service providers assisting New Trier Township residents are invited to apply for Township funding of their programs. The Township requires that an agency 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 deadline to submit an application is September 12th at 4:00 p.m. Applications can be found in the Resources section under Social Service Agencies.

View Our Annual Report

Copies of the 2011 Annual Report are available in the About Us section. It includes reports from Township Elected Officials; a list of FY2011 funded agencies; highlights from the 2010 Annual Town Meeting; and information on Township volunteers, staff, and elected officials. Printed copies are available in the Township Office.

Donations Sought For Back-to-School Gift Card Program

New Trier Township Angel Fund

For some families on tight budgets, purchasing needed school supplies can sink their budgets financially. To assist those families, New Trier Township is gratefully accepting cash donations for its Annual Back-to-School Gift Card Program. Your monetary contribution can help the Township meet its goal of providing gift cards to the 400 students in New Trier Township whose families face financial difficulties.

Enclosed is my contribution in the amount of \$ _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

EMAIL _____

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

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





739 Elm Street
Winnetka, Illinois 60093-2524
847-446-8202
Fax: 847-446-1743

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New Trier Township's office is conveniently located at 739 Elm Street in Winnetka. Our staff is ready to assist you Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Free street parking is usually available close to our office, or we are just a phone call away at 847-446-8202. Information on programs and services, and directions to our office are available 24/7 at

www.newtriertownship.com