

# NEW TRIER Township Courier

Summer 2012

## *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*

- Annual Reports from Township Elected Officials
- Call for Social Service Agency Program Funding
- Financial Assistance Programs

## Resources for Life's Challenges

The value of Township government is oftentimes not recognized until a resident is in need. A property tax bill arrives with missing exemptions. A temporary mobility impairment requires a disability parking placard. A single parent needs financial assistance for quality child care while working to make ends meet. A beloved spouse dies and suddenly a senior on a limited income struggles to purchase groceries. A parent wonders why their child doesn't reach developmental milestones and receives a diagnosis of a disability that requires costly intervention and special services. For all these situations, and more, the Township is a resource for life's challenges.

In its annual report "Delivering the Mission" elected officials set out the activities over the past year which have met these needs. The reports from elected officials have been reprinted in this newsletter. They can also be viewed on the Township's You Tube channel: NewTrierTwp.



*The Annual Report is available at [newtriertownship.com](http://newtriertownship.com) or may be obtained at the Township office located at 739 Elm Street in Winnetka.*

## In The News: Township Volunteers



New Trier Township recognized seven special volunteers at the Annual Town meeting in April. Quintessential New Trier magazine highlighted this year's award-winners in their cover story "With Honors." These award winners have done everything from developing needed work programs for the developmentally disabled to cultivating the spirit of volunteerism in our youngest citizens. Copies are available at [newtriertownship.com](http://newtriertownship.com) or in the Township office.

# The Township Supervisor's Annual Report



New Trier Township is a great place to live. For the most part, we all choose to live here whether it is for the schools, proximity to Chicago, our beautiful lakefront. Then one day there is a death of a spouse, a pending divorce, a disability, a loss of a job, a catastrophic illness. Your world is falling apart and you need support. Where would you turn when there is not enough food on the table to feed your children? What type of financial assistance is there to aid with costly child care expenses or to prevent a shut off of utilities? Who could help you identify services to face your mental health challenges? How can you pay for special service needs and unusual expenses related to a person with a disability? The answer is in the government closest to people, New Trier Township.

While no single program or service the Township offers can support a lifestyle, it can give that extra support to meet the goal of self sufficiency. That need was far greater in FY2012 as the Township saw double digit increases in usage of a majority of services. Visits to the pantry increased 10%. Individuals and families receiving general and emergency financial assistance increased 39%. Families needing help with child care expenses increased 28%, while the Back to School gift card program increased 28%. I know it is difficult to imagine

that 500 students in New Trier Township qualify for financial aid, moreover the fact that 3,655 people were served by our Pantry. Yes, these are your neighbors. They are the children who go to school with your kids. They are the couple down the street who are going through a divorce. They are your friends who have lost jobs. They are seniors in our community, individuals with disabilities, and families with limited resources. No one **wants** to need help, but sometimes we do. We are fortunate to have Township government as a safety net.

As part of our strategic plan to identify emerging needs and employ traditional and new funding methods, we awarded \$1.17 million in grants to fund 47 different programs. We also introduced a new program to serve as a catalyst to develop new, innovative programs that serve an unmet need in the community. The Trustee Report on page six provides more details.

Our transportation programs witnessed growth as well. The Dial-A-Ride program increased 50% in registered users, while rides provided through the escorted transportation service increased 24%. Recently, we introduced a new program, Mobility Access, designed to provide additional transit services to mobility impaired residents.

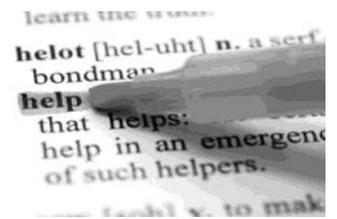
Finally, we were honored to be presented the 2011 Mighty Message Award from the Township Officials of Illinois. The annual competition recognizes Township's that effectively communicate and create understanding of Township government. New Trier Township has worked diligently to increase communication efforts on all fronts, and we believe these awards reflect our dedication to providing information that empowers our residents to take advantage of township services.

These means of communication include our traditional print media such as our Courier newsletter as well as social media including our new Facebook page, YouTube channel and our creative website that we have tried to make as easy as possible for you to use. Our additional services

from the Clerk's Office to the Assessor's Office to our Social Service staff are all available at the touch of a cursor.

The delivery of these programs does not happen without the great commitment and compassionate support of our staff, volunteers, elected officials and donors. In closing, I thank our office staff, Jeanne Winsted Rosser, Brian Leverenz, Art Sontag, Diane Tye and Lois Cross for the outstanding job they do. I also thank our volunteers who are the best and all of you who drop off bags of groceries and stock the shelves. There is no way we could continue these programs without your help.

Patricia B. Cantor



## Service By The Numbers

- 1,516 visits to the Food Pantry serving 3,655 persons
- 500 students qualified for Back to School Gift Cards
- 189 residents received financial assistance for shelter, utilities, and medical needs.
- 91 holiday food bags were shared
- 147 holiday dinners were distributed
- 68 children received financial aid for child care expenses
- 50 Community Support Grants awarded
- 13,655 Dial-A-Ride cab fares subsidized
- 58 escorted rides to medical appointments
- 22 Peer Jury cases resulting in 1,045 community service hours

# The Township Clerk's Annual Report



## Service By The Numbers

- 146 temporary disability parking placards issued
- 418 passport applications processed
- 40 unincorporated Cook County vehicle stickers sold
- 62 voters registered
- 17 Township board meeting minutes recorded
- 10 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests

In 2011, a successful collaborative effort produced an updated version of our history book “*New Trier Township: A Journey in Time, 1850-2010.*” Copies of the book are available free of charge at the Township Office; the book is also completely accessible on-line and may be downloaded from our township website. The Township Officials of Illinois (TOI) presented three communication awards to New Trier Township at the annual Education Conference in November 2011. One of the awards recognized our New Trier Township History Book by selecting it as the “Best Publication” in the “Mighty Message” competition.

The traditional duties of the Clerk are to maintain and preserve all Township records, administer oaths, assist with voter services, respond to *Freedom of Information Act* (FOIA) requests and coordinate the Annual Town Meeting. As the Board of Trustees encouraged increased transparency for township records and moved to expand access to information, interested residents will find all Agendas and Meeting Minutes since 2010 (Board of Trustees, Committee of the Whole, Annual Town Meeting) as well as other documents, posted electronically on our website [newtriertownship.com](http://newtriertownship.com).

The Clerk's Office continues to serve as a central point for voter services by providing election information,

conducting and collecting voter registrations as well as distributing keys for precinct election supply judges. Among our day to day activities, we offer assistance such as serving as a passport acceptance facility, issuing temporary disability placards and selling vehicle stickers for residents of unincorporated Cook County.

In order to better serve you, Deputy Clerk Sandra Forrester and I regularly participate, share, learn and engage with other township officials to improve New Trier Township. We attended numerous functions as members of TOI, TOCC (Townships of Cook County) and the TOCC- Clerks Association. In 2011, I graduated from the University of Illinois Leadership Academy- LEAD Illinois, a provocative and informative professional development program that explored current topics for today's leaders.

It is my sincere honor to serve as your Township Clerk.

Cordially,

Jerome Hoynes

# The Township Assessor's Annual Report

This past year was not a triennial reassessment year which means that only those who made changes to their homes received reassessment notices. So, while the office was not dealing with the large numbers of residents appealing their new assessments, we were seeing a lot of people who were upset about increases in their tax bills.

In 2011, we handled approximately 3,700 inquiries of all kinds relating to property taxes, assessments and exemptions from a variety of people—residents, realtors, attorneys, appraisers along with those who work at our villages, schools and park districts. With one full time staff person, Deputy Assessor Lois Cross, we are happy to be a place where people know they can easily speak to, or stop by to see, someone and get assistance.

Most important is the help we provide to residents trying to reduce their property tax assessments and making sure their exemptions and property descriptions are correct. The number of 2011 property tax appeals at both the Cook County Assessor and Board of Review levels was well above the numbers typical in non-triennial reassessment years. We filed approximately 275 appeals for residents and provided data for about the same number of residents who did their own filing.

Our processing of building permits indicates a further decline in permits for 2011 to 424 from 728 in the prior year. Sales, on the other hand, increased to 901 from 710 the prior year. Based on our information, however, while sales increased property values did not.

Our most frequently asked question continues to be: How can our property tax assessment go down, and our taxes go up. While it is a complicated analysis, the simple answer is that generally speaking taxes can't go down unless the amounts taxing bodies are requesting goes down. That has not been the case in recent years. Taxing bodies need the same if not more funds even if home values are decreasing. In the property tax equation, tax rates go up to offset declining values, resulting in the same or more funds available for the taxing bodies. Of course, there are caps imposed by state law on the increase in rates by taxing bodies, but the Assessor's office has no involvement in those.

We thank you all for coming tonight and hope that we can be of service to you in dealing with your property taxes. Please check out our webpage for the latest information on appeals and exemptions as well as general information about the property tax process.

JoAnn Shrier Gordon



## Service By The Numbers

- 2,676 information calls
- 996 in-person appointments
- 275 reassessment appeals filed
- 901 property sales processed
- 424 building permits processed
- 87 outreach seminar attendees

## The Township Trustee's Annual Report



Today Townships and local governments are under an increased level of scrutiny as we face growing funding challenges. Yet our funding philosophy has enabled the Township to ensure that our residents have access to services. Rather than operating direct services, we allocate the bulk of our budget to fund local non-profits in the Township and surrounding communities to serve our residents. These agencies provide services to youth, the elderly, those with disabilities, those in crisis and others.

Lest one think that giving money away is an easy task, I assure you that it can be as difficult--or even more difficult--than raising it. The members of our three funding committees reviewed detailed requests from a total of 36 agencies for 48 different programs. Members evaluated agency budgets; outcomes, goals and objectives; scope of service; and other funding criteria. Then we developed recommendations for each agency and program requesting funding. We must balance the diverse funding requests with the needs of our community, the priorities of the Township, agency performance, and our own values and opinions. We have to use our brains and our hearts in this process; it is often as much art as it is science. Each committee member must do this in cooperation with the other members of the committee--a task that

requires patience, compromise, and a willingness to spend many a late night here at the Township office during the funding hearings in the fall.

This past year we allocated a total of \$1,123,615 to agencies serving our residents. In a year where many funders were cutting back, the Township was able to increase its commitment to funding local non-profits. An additional \$33,000 was allocated to four new agencies: Rebuilding Together, Cancer Wellness Center, Special Gifts Theater, and Arts of Life. Even with the requests exceeding available funding, some of the committees chose not to allocate all of their available funding.

In addition to allocating funds, the committees also expand or create new mechanisms for funding to meet new or emerging community needs. For example, our Community Support Grants provide cash assistance to families that have a person with a disability living at home. This past year, the committees, under the leadership of the MFP Committee, created a new Incubator Grants Program designed to assist new or emerging agencies with start-up funds. We invite innovators with a new idea designed to meet a community need to contact us about this program.

Another example is the Disabilities

Committee. Rather than provide funding, it promotes education and advocacy on behalf of persons with disabilities. This committee spearheads various impressive and successful projects. For example, we have hosted conferences and workshops on such diverse issues as Aging in Place for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities, Access to Worship, Disaster Preparedness for Persons with Disabilities, and Volunteerism for Persons with Disabilities. Over the past year we have continued our efforts at enhancing awareness among local business owners regarding employment for persons with disabilities. Each year we also select the recipient of The

Superior Service Award to Persons with Disabilities.

Like our community, our funding process is dynamic. We are constantly changing to meet the Township's evolving needs. Just this past year, we restructured our committees and are now looking at revising the funding forms. We are driven to make the process simpler for applicants, but, more importantly, we want to ensure that we are funding agencies that serve our residents efficiently and effectively according to the highest standards of non-profit management.

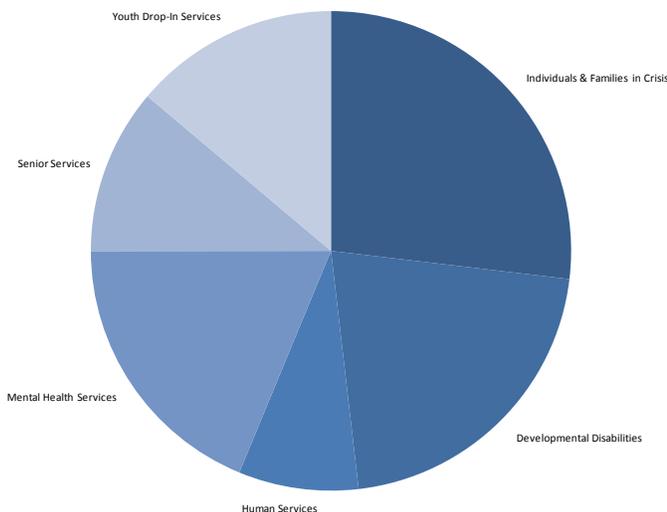
Gerri Kahnweiler



### Service By The Numbers

- \$1.17 million awarded
- 47 different programs funded
- 37 social service agencies supported

## Grants Strengthen a Variety of Township Social Services



Township supported programs range from youth drop-in centers and senior services to the well being of individuals and families and 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. A list of funded agencies can be found at [newtriertownship.com](http://newtriertownship.com) in the Resources section.

## Second Installment Property Taxes Due

By now you should have received your 2011 second installment property tax bill which is due August 1. Residents should check their bills to make sure they have received all exemptions for which they qualify. If you are missing an exemption, please contact the New Trier Township Assessor's office 847-446-8200 or the Cook County Assessor's office at the Skokie Courthouse 847-470-7237. For an article on why property taxes are going up when property values are going down, please visit the Assessor's page in the Services section at [newtriertownship.com](http://newtriertownship.com).



## Child Care Financial Aid Available



The application process for the Before/ After School Care Financial Assistance program is underway. This Township funded program provides assistance with payment for qualified child care for income eligible working parents and/or legal guardians of children from birth through 12 years of age. The goal is to enable working families to obtain quality, affordable child care while they are at work, school, or job training.

Financial assistance amounts vary and are based on the family's personal situation, income, and cost of care provided. All applicants are expected to pay a portion of the fees and the child care program must be state licensed.

An application and guidelines for the program is available at [newtriertownship.com](http://newtriertownship.com) and at the Township Office located at 739 Elm Street in Winnetka. Residents may also call 847-446-8202 to have one mailed. Applications will be accepted until **July 30, 2012**.

The Township also offers a Day Care financial assistance program for which the deadline is July 15th. Following the deadline, applications for both programs will be reviewed and given consideration based on available funding. To learn more visit the Financial Assistance page in the Services section at [newtriertownship.com](http://newtriertownship.com).

## Disability Support Grants Available in Fall

Applications for the FY2013 Community Support Grants program will be available in the fall. The deadline to apply will be December 28, 2012. This Township program provides eligible resident with financial assistance of up to \$1500 that helps in meeting some of the special service needs and unusual expenses related to a person with a disability. There are no age or income restrictions. A lottery is held annually. Residents can sign-up to have an email sent to them when the application process opens by visiting the Community Support Grants page in the Financial Assistance section at [newtriertownship.com](http://newtriertownship.com).



## Call For FY2014 Agency Funding Proposals



New Trier Township has issued its annual call for funding proposals for social service programs that serve Township residents. To be eligible for funding an agency must be a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, provide direct services to a significant number of Township residents, have a firm sense of mission, have appropriate non-profit infrastructure in place that ensures accountability and performance to its clients and funders, and meet one or more of Township identified priorities including seniors, youth, economically challenged families and persons with

disabilities. In Fiscal 2013, New Trier Township funded 48 different programs offered by 36 social service agencies.

To apply for funding, an Application for Funding and Budget Worksheet should be completed and submitted by Monday, September 10, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. The forms and instructions are available at [newtriertownship.com](http://newtriertownship.com) on the Agency Program Funding page in the Resources section. Further information can be obtained by contacting, Brian Leverenz, Community Services Administrator at 847-446-8203.

## Back to School Program Aims for Assistance

Remember the excitement of the first day of school? Was your backpack filled with the required list of supplies for the new school year? This year, the average cost to fill that backpack can be more than \$600, especially if it includes items like graphing calculators. For over 500 students who qualify for the Back to School Gift Card program, that cost can be staggering. Through the generous support of individuals and organizations the Township's Angel Fund has provided gift cards to help stretch limited dollars in economically disadvantaged families. The program has been growing each year, an indication that more and more families are struggling to make ends meet. Monetary donations can be made to the Angel Fund, a registered 501(c)3 organization, administered by the Township.



### 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

# Township Recognizes Service Driven Residents

## 2012 Award Presentations

All the presentations can be viewed on the Township's You Tube channel: [NewTrierTwp](#)



Trustee Gerri Kahnweiler (left) presented Lisa Axelrod (center) and Mary Roth (right) of Wilmette with the George E. Noyes Community Spirit Award.



Trustee Stefan Mozer (left) presented Mary Louise Schram of Wilmette (center) with the Superior Service to Persons with Disabilities Award with Supervisor Patricia Cantor (right).



Trustee Paddie Brennen (left) presented the Friend of the Township Award to Phil Hoza of Winnetka (center) with Supervisor Patricia Cantor (right).

Not pictured: Trustee Alan Goldberg presented the Township Recognition Award to Barry Fleischer of Glencoe and Jerry Ginsburg of Glenview.

Citizen volunteers make a welcome contribution and play an integral part in our ability to fulfill our purpose to enhance the quality of life for Township residents. We would like to acknowledge the volunteers who contribute their time and talents in various ways from providing oversight of social service agencies we fund, making new program recommendations, stocking the shelves of our pantry or serving on our youth peer jury program. We thank you for your service.

### Mental Health

#### Advisory Committee

Chuen Chow Tam, Chair  
Nancy Blake  
Dale Davison  
Rosalie Epstein  
Rosemary Gwyther  
Mona Golub  
Margaret Hastings  
Linda Lam Tam  
Tammy Lin Smiley

### Agency Oversight

#### Advisory Committee

Margaret Cornog, Chair  
Stanley Cohen  
Ronald Drucker  
Barbara Ruth Engel  
Jerome Ginsburg  
Ilene Hechtman  
Barry Hoobler  
Pete Kula  
Janet Lerman

### Money Follows the Person

#### Advisory Committee

Barbara Takahashi, Chair  
Keith Dronen  
Sheila Fisher  
Susan R. Gould  
Suzann Fife O'Brien  
Carol Rosen  
Debby Hahamy

### Advisory Committee on Disabilities

Barry Fleischer, Chair  
Jeanne Beckman  
Diane Reeves Wojcik  
Christine Walker

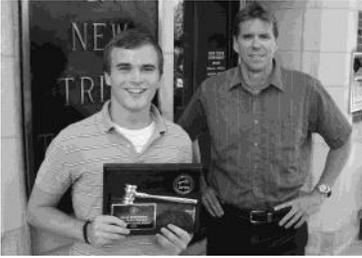
### Peer Jury Adult Volunteers

Joy O'Malley  
Donna Lebovitz  
Elliot Robbins  
Mary Sido  
Ellyn Stone

### Food Pantry Volunteers

Frank Craven  
Jane Gallery  
Derrick Schram  
Mary Schram  
Lynette Stone  
Our Place of New Trier Township

## Peer Jury Scholarship Awarded



Peer Jury Scholarship recipient Brian Bredemann of Wilmette (left) and Brian Leverenz, Community Services Administrator (right) who oversees the Peer Jury program.

Brian Bredemann of Wilmette was awarded the 2012 Peer Jury Scholarship. The competition is open to graduating seniors who have served as peer jurors. The recipient is selected through a competitive process which includes a written essay outlining their Peer Jury service experience

Brian, who is a graduate of Loyola High School and plans to attend the University of Notre Dame, is the fourth recipient of

the \$1500 award. The scholarship was established in 2009 to mark the 10th anniversary of the Peer Jury program and to recognize outstanding peer jurors.

The Township's Peer Jury program was created by a collaboration of the township Board, police departments from Wilmette, Kenilworth, Winnetka, Northfield, and Glencoe, public and private high schools in the area and social service agencies that serve the township.

## Annual Town Meeting Highlights



Tune in to NewTrierTwp and watch highlights from the 2012 Annual Town Meeting held on April 10, 2012. You can view reports from elected officials, presentations of awards to Township volunteers and the keynote presentation by Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle.

## Township Calendar

### July

30th Before/After School Care Financial Assistance Program Applications Due

### August

1st Second Installment Property Taxes Due

### September

3rd OFFICE CLOSED – LABOR DAY OBSERVED

11th Township Board of Trustees Meeting @ 7:30 pm

12th Deadline to submit social service agency program funding proposals @ 4:00 pm

18th Township Committee on Disabilities @ 7:30 pm

19th Agency Oversight Committee Meeting @ 7:30 pm

20th Money Follows the Person Committee Meeting @7:30 pm

24th Committee of the Whole Meeting @ 7:30 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 visit [newtriertownship.com](http://newtriertownship.com).*

## Connect With Us

Staying connected with New Trier Township is easy at our website [newtriertownship.com](http://newtriertownship.com)

Our E-news provides custom-selected items of interest to you in a timely manner. Stop by for a visit and sign up.

You can also find us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter at watch us on You Tube.





**New Trier Township**  
739 Elm Street  
Winnetka, IL 60093-2524

NONPROFIT ORG.  
ECRWSS  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT NO. 21  
WINNETKA, IL

**POSTAL CUSTOMER, LOCAL  
NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP  
ILLINOIS**

## Township Board & Staff



**Supervisor**  
Patricia B. Cantor  
pcantor@newtriertownship.com



**Clerk**  
Jerome Hoynes  
jhoynes@newtriertownship.com

**Director of Administration and Finance**  
Diane S. Tye  
847-446-8253  
dtye@newtriertownship.com

**Administrative Assistant**  
847-446-8202  
adminassistant@newtriertownship.com



**Assessor**  
JoAnn Shrier Gordon  
jshriergordon@newtriertownship.com



**Collector**  
Joe Fell  
jfell@newtriertownship.com

**Social Worker**  
Arthur Sontag, LCSW  
847-446-7980  
asontag@newtriertownship.com

**Social Services Administrator**  
Jeanne Rosser, LCSW  
847-446-8201  
jwinstedrosser@newtriertownship.com



**Trustee**  
Paddie Brennen  
pbrennen@newtriertownship.com



**Trustee**  
Alan Goldberg  
agoldberg@newtriertownship.com

**Community Services Administrator**  
Brian Leverenz  
847-446-8203  
bleverenz@newtriertownship.com

**Deputy Assessor**  
Lois Cross  
847-446-8200  
lcross@newtriertownship.com



**Trustee**  
Gerri Kahnweiler  
gkahnweiler@newtriertownship.com



**Trustee**  
Stefan Mozer  
smozer@newtriertownship.com

**Deputy Clerk**  
Sandy Forrester  
847-446-8202

**Communications Director**  
Karen Spillers  
kspillers@newtriertownship.com  
847-644-8514