

NEW TRIER Township Courier

Fall 2013

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

- Community Support Grants Application Deadline
December 31, 2013
- Congresswoman Schakowsky's Staff Available for Resident Assistance
- NFC Interactive Employment Workshop
November 18, 2013

A Message from the Supervisor

Those of you who have come by to say hello since I became Supervisor in April are probably aware that it's a personal goal of mine to increase the involvement of residents in the work of the Township. I am pleased to announce that we are introducing an initiative which not only will meet a critical need in the community but will simultaneously allow more residents to participate in the work we do.



Bridge the Gap

We have recently recognized the need in our community to provide emergency financial support for individuals who find themselves unable to pay for a necessary medical prescription. In order to have funds immediately accessible for that purpose, the Township is partnering with Conney's Pharmacy to introduce the Bridge the Gap program. We invite residents to visit Conney's Pharmacy at 736 Elm in Winnetka to purchase Bridge the Gap vouchers which are offered in \$25, \$50 and \$100 denominations. Residents may also purchase gift cards at Walgreens and CVS to donate for the Bridge the Gap program. Bring your vouchers and gift cards to the Township. We will keep them on reserve so that when individuals who do not have the money to fill a necessary prescription come for help, we may support them with vouchers for immediate redemption at Conney's right across the street from the Township or with gift cards for use at Walgreens or CVS.

You may be surprised to learn that there are residents in the Township who find themselves so financially strapped that they have to choose between purchasing food or medicine. In other cases an individual may be receiving medication from a nonprofit organization, but that person may be caught in a recertification period in which the medication is not covered. Or an individual may be released from the hospital with a referral to a community agency, however an intake appointment will take several days creating a need for financial assistance to fill a prescription for immediately needed medication.

There truly is a need for a fund that can assist people in difficult circumstances to access their medication. The reason we have called this program "Bridge the Gap" is that we intend to fill prescriptions only in emergency situations—to fill the gap between the client's financial crisis and their referral to a program that can help with a long-term solution. We will supply the information so that clients can access programs to provide whatever support may be needed in their specific situation. We assure you that checks have been put in place so that no one will abuse the program.

Continued on page 2



Passport Services Available at the Township Office

The Township is pleased to announce the return of passport services for residents. We apologize for the interruption in service, which was necessary for staff training. The Township is now a Passport Application Acceptance Facility. Please schedule an appointment to meet with our Passport Acceptance Agent Monday through Friday between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Questions can also be addressed by calling the Township at 847-446-8202 or email at info@newtriertownship.com.

The Township does not take passport photographs. Payment must be made by check or money order at the time of application. There is a mandatory \$25.00 processing fee payable to New Trier Township in addition to standard passport fees. Passport application forms may be picked up at the Township Office or downloaded from the U.S. Department of State website at www.travel.state.gov.

New Fare Payment System Launched by RTA

Residents who use CTA and Pace should be aware that a new fare payment system called Ventra is being introduced and will shortly phase out the previous magnetic strip transit cards. All customers, including those who qualify for Senior & Disabled Reduced Fare and Ride Free Permits, will need to have their cards replaced before the end of the year.

RTA has already begun the process of mailing their existing customers Ventra permits. Those who are currently enrolled in the Senior & Disabled Reduced Fare, Ride Free or Paratransit programs may expect to receive a Ventra permit in the mail. New customers applying for these RTA programs will receive Ventra permits upon enrollment. Once a customer receives a Ventra permit, RTA Reduced Fare customers can begin purchasing CTA & Pace stored value and reduced fare 30-day passes at all CTA rail stations, online, by phone and at hundreds of neighborhood retailers as well as at the Ventra customer service center at 165 North Jefferson Street in Chicago.

It is important to note that riders should continue to use the old RTA cards even after receiving a Ventra card in order to eliminate the balance on the old card. At a later date, RTA will provide information regarding the transfer of a balance from the old card to the Ventra card for those who are unable to zero out their old card before it becomes invalid.

More information is posted on the Township bulletin board, and assistance with this transition is available at the Township Office. Additionally, information about Ventra is available at www.rtachicago.org/fare-programs/rta-fare-program-transition.html or contact the RTA Customer Service Center at 312-913-3110.



A Message from the Supervisor *Continued from page 1*

We are excited that Conney's Pharmacy is our partner in this endeavor. The staff at Conney's will not only track the redemption of Conney's vouchers, they will also provide medication counseling, discounted co-pays and guidance regarding existing state-funded prescription financial support programs for which clients may not realize their eligibility. The expertise and generosity of Conney's Pharmacy will help needy clients to potentially access programs to avoid future crises in filling prescriptions. The Bridge the Gap program will also utilize Walgreens and CVS gift cards.

We thank you in advance for supporting your neighbors in need by purchasing Conney's vouchers and Walgreens and CVS gift cards and bringing them to the Township Office at your convenience. As always, we will keep you posted on the usage and outcome of this and all your Township programs.

Paddie Brennen

Supervisor

Community Support Grant Program Provides Assistance for Persons with Disabilities



The Community Support Grants Program for Persons with Disabilities 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. The grants are provided to persons with disabilities that cover a wide range of issues from autism spectrum disorders, developmental and/or cognitive delay, multiple impairments in behavioral and/or cognitive functioning to mental disorders and physical impairments. Residents of New Trier Township with diagnosed disabilities may apply for the Community Support Grant assistance. There are no age or income restrictions.

Consider the needs of a family with several children, one or more of whom are diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders. Various therapies can assist the children to maximize their potential; typically, those interventions are expensive and not fully covered by insurance. Imagine an individual with paralysis due to a stroke who requires physical therapy in order to rehabilitate. Access to treatment can make significant differences in cases like these and in so many other varying circumstances.

Community Support Grants provide financial assistance that helps in meeting 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 costs involved with the care of the person with a disability. The grant can also be used to remodel a home environment to insure the safety of a disabled individual, to create ease of access, or to increase independence.

Community Support Grants applications must be received by December 31, 2013. Applications are available at the Township Office or on the website. A complete explanation of eligibility considerations, residency requirements and covered expenses are also available on the Township website at www.newtriertownship.com. Please direct questions to Social Services Administrator Jeanne Winsted Rosser at 847-446-8201 or jwinstedrosser@newtriertownship.com.

Congresswoman Schakowsky's Staff Holds Office Hours at New Trier Township

A staff member from the office of Ninth District Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky is now holding regular office hours at New Trier Township on the second Tuesday of each month from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. The Neighborhood Office Hours program is being offered to assist residents with federal government agency concerns including immigration and visa issues, Social Security, Medicare, housing and veterans' and postal problems. The types of questions a resident might want addressed include:

- Are you having problems with Medicare or your insurance company reimbursing you?
- Is Social Security taking money out of your check and you don't know the reason?
- Are you interested in applying for citizenship but don't know how to proceed?
- Are you in need of information regarding how the Affordable Care Act can help you?
- Do you need assistance determining what Medicare Part D plan is best for you or how often to review plans?

The Township invites residents to come by to meet Kris Sadur, Outreach Coordinator/Constituent Advocate from Jan Schakowsky's office in order to receive assistance with your concerns and questions. The Township is grateful for Congresswoman Schakowsky's responsiveness in making her staff available to the community and hopes our residents will find this a useful service.

Agency Feature: Programs and Services for Seniors

The Township funds three agencies whose focus is to meet the needs of our senior residents. In addition, we partner with one other agency, CJE, in a program called Mobility Access designed to assist seniors and those with physical disabilities who are in need of transportation. CJE also offers another valuable service to Township seniors; that program is called Consumer Assistance. Following are descriptions of programs for seniors offered by the three agencies which are Township grant recipients and CJE's Consumer Assistance program. For more information on these or any services offered by Township funded agencies and partners, contact the Township Community Service Administrator Brian Leverenz at 847-446-8203 or bleverenz@newtriertownship.com.



Meals at Home

nourishing, nurturing, caring

Meals at Home

The mission of this agency is clear in its name. The group strives to foster health, well-being and independence by delivering nutritious meals, medically prescribed diets and other supportive services to the home bound, elderly, disabled and others who are temporarily unable to care for their nutritional needs. They serve Kenilworth, Wilmette, Winnetka, east Glenview, east Northfield and Evanston. If you or someone you know could benefit by these services, contact Meals at Home at 847-251-6827 or www.mealsathome.org

Continued on next page

The Township Announces the Return of Office Hours with Medical Ethicist Mary Margaret McDonnell



*Peggy McDonnell
Medical Ethicist*

Residents with healthcare issues are invited to meet with Peggy McDonnell for assistance in determining solutions.

Peggy McDonnell, Director of the Center for Ethics and Advocacy in Health Care, is now available to residents for assistance in resolving problems dealing with healthcare decision-making. Those who are familiar with Ms. McDonnell will enthusiastically welcome her back; many residents know Ms. McDonnell from 2001 through 2005 when she previously offered her services to our community. Ms. McDonnell has spent a career assisting individuals, families and organizations with moral decision making. She has provided support for end of life decisions, guided family dynamics with complex issues, aided the decision making process for critical medical assessments, surgery, and treatment options and given people the tools to make their own choices under difficult circumstances. Ms. McDonnell can aid patients and their families in navigating the healthcare system and becoming participants

in the management of their care to make sound treatment decisions.

Ms. McDonnell will be available at the New Trier Township Office by appointment daily from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. To discuss your situation and to schedule an appointment, please call Peggy at 847-609-3934. There is no fee for a counseling appointment, but donations are welcome.

Mary Margaret McDonnell has a Masters of Divinity from Harvard Divinity School and an Honorary Doctoral Degree for Applied Ethics from St. Francis University. Ms. McDonnell is currently an Adjunct Professor at Dominican University teaching graduate coursework in Ethics and Conflict Resolution. She is a Nurse Practitioner, has served as an administrator and advocate for medically underserved populations, has worked as a consultant and speaker, and she has a vast body of work dedicated to integrating the clinical, ethical and spiritual aspects of healthcare decision making.



North Shore Senior Center

The North Shore Senior Center has a wide variety of programming for seniors. There are four NSSC programs which are funded by the Township. One Township funded program is Adult Day Services which is offered by the House of Welcome as two therapeutic day services—one is for persons with Alzheimers and other dementias and the other is a bi-weekly Mind Matters program for persons with early stage memory loss.

The second Township funded program is Counseling/Case Management/Protective Services. These are supportive services for older adults who are frail, physically or mentally disabled or have other special assistance needs. Assessments, case management, investigation of elder abuse, support groups and other interventions fall into this category.

The third Township funded program is Comprehensive Senior Services. That includes a wide variety of support services that allow seniors to continue living independently, such as Information and Assistance, health promotion and screening, escorted transportation, handyman services, nursing home pre-screening and more.

The fourth program is Community Education, which provides information and perspectives to the senior community on age-related issues such as Medicare, selecting nursing homes, dementia, financial security, health and many others. For more information on these and other programs available through the North Shore Senior Center, please call 847-784-6000 or visit www.nssc.org



Services for Adults Staying in Their Homes (SASI)

The mission of this organization is to help seniors to continue enjoying life in their home by providing in-home caregiver services to help individuals manage their daily activities and personal care. SASI aims to ease the challenges of aging, illness or injury. SASI serves the entire Township area. For more information on the services SASI provides, contact them at 847-864-7274 or www.SASIathome.org



CJE SeniorLife

The Consumer Assistance department of CJE SeniorLife provides free information, referral and advocacy for adults age 60 and over seeking resources to support independent living. Consumer Assistance helps older adults and their caregivers identify government benefits and community resources that help them remain stable and in the community. They offer a broad range of guidance from support for those who are just retiring to assistance for those who require advocacy.

Consumer Assistance can help seniors navigate various Medicare and other health insurance systems. Open enrollment for Medicare Part D and Medicare Advantage programs began October 15 and ends December 7. CJE's Consumer Assistance staff is also available to assist persons 64 and under with applications for the new Marketplace health insurance. CJE recommends that consumers review their prescription drug plans every year to make sure the plan meets their prescription needs. Consumer Assistance staff can help with insurance plan comparisons at no cost.

CJE SeniorLife's Consumer Assistance department provides help with a range of government programs including Aid for the Aged, Blind and Disabled (AABD), Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Food Stamp Program (SNAP), Housing Resources, Benefits Access Application license plate discounts, Health Insurance (Medicare and Medicaid), Transportation (RTA Reduced Fare Program and CTA Special Taxi Access) and Medicare Part D for prescription drug plans and health insurance guidance through Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP).

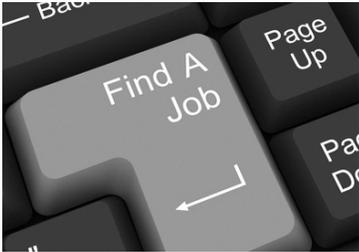
To make an appointment with a CJE SeniorLife Resource Specialist or to find out more about services and support provided by Consumer Assistance, call 773-508-1000 or visit www.cje.net.

The Township is in need of volunteers to serve on the Advisory Committees which oversee the funding of agencies such as the ones featured here. If you have an interest in participating in the grant assignment process, please visit the Township website at www.newtriertownship.com or contact Community Service Administrator Brian Leverenz at 847-446-8203 or bleverenze@newtriertownship.com for more information.

Interactive Employment Workshop Hosted by New Foundation Center and New Trier Township



new foundation center



New Foundation Center (NFC) employment specialists will offer an interactive job search workshop to assist individuals engaged in the job search process to be held from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. on Monday, November 18, 2013 in the second floor Board Room at the New Trier Township Office, 739 Elm Street in Winnetka. The event is free and open to all Township residents interested in gaining information on effective job search strategies.

NFC's employment specialists will teach the effective use of computer search tools and social media in one's job search; completing job applications with an understanding of the employer perspective; and what one can do to make a positive first impression. This includes how to create a personal "elevator speech" to use in making introductions. One-on-one consultations will be offered to provide tips on interview

effectiveness as well as improving resumes and cover letters.

Participants should bring their current resume, one or more samples of their cover letter, and questions for the experts. Job seekers at every level for all professions will find useful strategies and tactics at this workshop.

For more information, contact Eric Lindstrom at elindstrom@newfoundationcenter.org or 847-386-3058.

New Foundation Center provides supported employment, supportive housing and mental health recovery services to over 225 adults who live in the north/northwest Chicago metropolitan area. New Trier Township provides funding to the NFC mental health recovery program. Over the last two years, the NFC employment team has worked with over thirty area employers and supported over fifty individuals who have started new jobs.

Agency Funding Hearings Scheduled

New Trier Township awards grants to social service providers to ensure that residents have access to needed programs which impact their well-being. The Township grant application process is currently under way, and social service agencies applying for grants are required to appear at funding hearings.

The process of applying for Township grants by agencies serving residents began in October and continues through early December. Committee members first meet to review grant proposals. In the next round of meetings, each agency appears for a thirty-minute session in which they briefly present responses to a questionnaire provided to them in advance.

New Trier Township has budgeted \$1.34 million in Fiscal Year 2014 to fund almost 50 programs operated by more than 35 agencies. The hearings are open to the public. They take place in the evening at the Township office. For a complete schedule including specific dates and times for each agency appearance, go to the Township website at www.newtriertownship.com. There are occasional last minute changes to the schedule, so watch the Township website for updated schedule information.

Township Calendar

November

- 4 *Committee on Mental Health Funding Hearings @ 6:30 PM*
- 5 *Agency Oversight Committee Funding Hearings @ 6:45 PM*
- 5 *Township Board of Trustees Meeting @ 7:30 PM*
- 6 *Agency Oversight Committee Funding Hearings @ 6:45 PM*
- 11 *Office closed in observance of Veterans Day*
- 13 *Agency Oversight Committee Funding Hearings @ 6:45 PM*
- 14 *Money Follows the Person Committee Funding Hearings @ 6:30 PM*
- 18 *Committee on Mental Health Funding Hearings @ 6:30 PM*
- 20 *Agency Oversight Committee Funding Hearings @ 6:45 PM*
- 21 *Money Follows the Person Committee Funding Hearings @ 6:30 PM*
- 25 *Committee on Mental Health Funding Hearings @ 6:30 PM*
- 26 *Committee of the Whole Meeting @ 7:30 PM*
- 28 *Office closed in observance of Thanksgiving Day*
- 29 *Office closed*

December

- 5 *Money Follows the Person Committee Decision Meeting @ 6:30*
- 10 *Township Board of Trustees Meeting @ 7:30*
- 11 *Agency Oversight Committee Decision Meeting @ 6:45*
- 16 *Committee on Mental Health 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 visit www.newtriertownship.com.

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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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