



FALL 2018

New Trier Township Courier

News from Your Township Government



*Wilmette's "Happy Helpers"
Collect Children's Books for
Bernie's Book Bank*

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From the Supervisor



One of the most unique things about township government is its close proximity to the people. In most American government offices, people interact with staff, accomplish a specific transaction and move on. Townships however serve a much different purpose; they are a catalyst for unification, a support center, and have been since their inception in 1850.

In this issue you'll read about a spirit of volunteerism and generosity that makes much of our outreach work possible. Our feature story about the Volunteer Center is a perfect example of the spirit of neighborly help that has permitted the North Shore to evolve from small farming communities to one of the most stable and successful areas of Illinois.

You will also learn about the township's recently launched website. After nearly a decade of service, our old site was retired, and a new more interactive version better suited for 21st century life is now ready to serve you.

As Barbara Tubekis of the Volunteer Center of the North Shore adeptly points out, "no matter what side of the political fence you reside on, there's no harm in helping people who need it."

I hope that these stories will ignite your volunteer spirit, as we work to unify the place we call home during the upcoming holiday season.

All the best to you.

Alan Goldberg

Be Anything, Do Anything Volunteers Support Missions and Change Lives

In times where a great deal of uncertainty and divisiveness slows progress, one township grantee is reenergized and working harder than ever to improve the quality of life in our communities. **The Volunteer Center of Northeast Metropolitan Chicago** is led by Executive Director **Barb Tubekis**, a Winnetka resident who believes volunteerism is perhaps more important now than ever.

The Volunteer Center acts a "clearinghouse" for groups, businesses and individuals, helping them explore volunteer opportunities at 160 non-profits. Ms. Tubekis shared that she and "a wonderful, hard-working group of directors connect people with organizations that align with their interests." As a result of their efforts, community members become immersed in the needs of others, actively contributing and making a difference. In addition to



township does as much as it can to meet the needs of struggling non-profits, and we pick it up from there."

During our interview we also discussed the tenuous times in which we're living. Barb reflected and observed, "We have to be positive and look forward. We all feel good about giving back. Volunteering is a wonderful diversion to the difficulties going on in the world. For people looking to yield their frustrations to something positive... we have over 35 categories of opportunities to choose from. Although we're divided, it's ok to help people no matter what side of the political fence you reside on."

New Trier Township is proud to provide grant funding to help the Volunteer Center continue their important work.

You Gave Kids the Universe

Summer 2018 Book Drive Exceeds 5,000 Books

As difficult as this is for most people to process, thousands of Illinois families are living at subsistence incomes and do not have the discretionary income to purchase books. This summer we hosted a children's book drive to help at-risk kids learn the joy of owning books.

This year we were joined by the **Winnetka Presbyterian Church** and the **Village of Glencoe** who volunteered to serve as additional collection points. The addition of these wonderful community partners and amazing generosity of hundreds of donors generated over 5,000 books for **Bernie's Book Bank**; a Lake Bluff based non-profit working to help children living at or below poverty level acquire books. At this writing they have distributed over 12.6 million books since their founding in 2009.

Plans are being crafted for 2019 collections. Any community members or organizations that would like to participate in

upcoming township children's book collection drives should email Jack Macholl jmacholl@newtriertownship.com

Happy Helpers Deliver the Books

Wilmette's own "Happy Helpers" are a spirited group of children that work on service projects to benefit people in need. In July the group set up a pop up collection site at Vaatman Park, offering lemonade and lollipops to anyone donating children's books to the township's summer collection drive.

Special thanks to **Alexa Burnell** the coordinator of the group, all the parents, kids and supporters who contributed 310 books at their event.



connecting people with missions, the Center offers training programs including; best practices in volunteer management, fundraising and media training.

Non-profits and service agencies have been monetarily stressed for a while now and the time and talents of volunteers make a significant impact on their balance sheet. Barb likens their service work to that of the New Trier Township, stating, " the

To hear the long form interview with Barb Tubekis, visit the township's **SoundCloud.com** channel (search New Trier Township) and select episode 10 <https://tinyurl.com/yat63fjp>

You can also visit the Volunteer Center website

www.volunteercenterhelps.org or phone (847) 441-7665 to learn more about the possibilities volunteering can bring to your life.

New Township Website Launches

Your township recently launched a brand new website, replacing a site that was nearing ten years old. Trustee

Kevin Boyd who led the project team stated, “The new site offers improved navigation and interactive communication tools, providing visitors easy, secure access to information relevant to their lives.”

By clicking “Log In” on the MyAccount bar at the top of the screen, users may now create a login for the township site or use their Facebook profile to access MyAccount. Once logged



in, visitors can choose the modules, features and keywords that they'd like to see most often, including calendars, news

items and emergency alerts. Site users can also save favorite pages within MyAccount, making important information even easier to find.

We encourage everyone to take a few moments and set up a MyAccount profile and customize your own page. Once you are

enrolled, we'll provide alerts, newsletters, meeting updates and more to your email or phone.

Youth + Initiative = Amazing

While many dismiss today's youth as underachieving, in walks 16-year old **Gus Stamer**, a township resident who completed his second food drive in support of the New Trier Township Pantry. Gus who began his junior year at New Trier High School this fall, organized a collection drive with the help of friends and neighbors on his own initiative. His efforts yielded dozens of bags of goods that helped numerous pantry clients make ends meet. We are grateful to Gus, his family, friends and neighbors who contributed to this wonderful project.

To hear the podcast interview with Gus and his Mom (Molly) visit our podcast channel on SoundCloud.com, use the search bar to find New Trier Township



To learn more about your township food pantry, visit our website NewTrierTownship.com, select resident services, then click Food Pantry.



Sponsor A Neighbor In-Need

Planning is underway for the township's Caring Neighbors Program, a time-honored holiday tradition that brings holiday cheer to families we serve. Each fall our staff reaches out to community members and business leaders, seeking their support in sponsoring a neighbor in need at the holidays. Our role is to identify and qualify resident families who are facing financial adversity. Many of our clients request the essentials like warm clothing and shoes, as their children have outgrown them.

How the Process Works

Families provide a wish list of items their children would enjoy and donors are matched with a wish list and purchase gifts for the children. Although we rarely see adults submit wishes, many donors choose to include gift cards for the parents. The process is confidential for both donors and residents. To ensure the dignity of our clients, your gifts are distributed by township staff in private appointments with recipients.

The spirit of giving has provided dignified holiday celebrations to numerous families and we are grateful for the many years of support. If you are interested in sponsoring a family this holiday season, please phone **Jeanne Winsted Rosser** at (847) 446-8201 before November 9th.



Making a Difference Through Holiday Meals

Your township food pantry now serves an average 100 households each month, providing supplemental groceries, paper goods, laundry detergent and hygiene items to income qualified residents. Community Services Administrator **Brian Leverenz** stated, “The holidays can be a particularly challenging time for our pantry clients, so we ease the burden by providing full meals at Thanksgiving and the December holidays. Our goal is to make sure that no client has to worry about putting a holiday meal on the table.”

An ongoing partnership with Jewel Foods in Wilmette and their Shop and Share Program encourages shoppers to purchase holiday dinners for New Trier Township pantry clients. Several anonymous donors provide funding for bulk purchases of frozen turkeys, making certain we have enough on-hand to serve everyone. Many wonderful community groups also band together, preparing harvest baskets for pick-up during Thanksgiving week.

Since 1965 your township pantry has been helping neighbors facing food insecurity. Our pantry is currently in need of:

- canned fruit**
- laundry detergent**
- toothpaste**
- toothbrushes**
- canned pasta and chili**



Pantry donations are accepted Monday –Friday, 9:00 a.m. -5:00 p.m. or by appointment. For more information on donating or volunteer opportunities, please phone Brian Leverenz at (847) 446-8203.



ASSESSOR NEWS

By the time you read this, the Township Assessor's Office will have finished both 2018 Appeal cycles to the Cook County Assessor and the Cook County Board of Review. You need to pay attention to that because the County Assessor and the County Board of Review are two separate and distinct agencies (they and all County agencies share a common street address).



Jan Churchwell

Since 2016 New Trier Township has been open for Appeals to the County ASSESSOR in March. Why does this matter? Because we will be reassessed in 2019, some residents are away for all or part of the winter months, and most county government mail is NOT forwarded. We therefore urge Snowbirds to keep the time frame on their horizon. Information about the Triennial Reassessment will be available on the County Assessor's website (www.cookcountyassessor.com) – but we don't know the exact date that will happen, and we won't know that we are open for Appeals until Reassessment Notices are mailed out. We post notices on the Township website as soon as we know, and we suggest that you sign up to receive our e-mails. Go to www.newtriertownship.com and follow the prompts (you don't need to sign up for notices you do not want).

Besides working with residents on property assessment appeals, in July we assisted 84 residents whose Tax Bills did not include exemptions to which they were entitled. Deputy Assessor **Len Shifflett** estimates that the corrections yielded a total value of over \$100,000 in reduced assessments for the applicants.

To help you get a handle on county-level processes, Deputy Assessor Shifflett and I will hold our **Annual "Tax Calendar At a Glance" outreach sessions on Tuesday, November 6, 2018 and Tuesday, January 8, 2019** at the New Trier Township offices in Winnetka. If you are confused about when the County does various things and what you should know about each, try to attend (or "phone a friend"). Our goal is to de-mystify the processes for you (based on some of the questions asked during the recent Information Sessions held by Board of Review Commissioners **Dan Patlak** and **Mike Cabonargi**, many of you might benefit from attending).

We are available to help answer your questions about the property tax process. Please phone me at (847) 446-8200 or connect via email at jchurchwell@newtriertownship.com. Deputy Assessor Len Shifflett is available at (847) 446-8200 or through email at lshifflett@newtriertownship.com

Get Township News in Real Time

Your Township Government provides local news and information via *The Dispatch*, our bi-weekly e-Newsletter. Our **Notify Me** service on the new website let's you select township news of your liking via email or text. Sign-up is easy and free, just visit www.newtriertownship.com, select News and Information, and look for the Notify Me link, make your selections and we do the rest.

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.

Township Board Endorses Fairness and Equality Campaign

Your Township Board of Trustees pledged to join the **Fairness and Equality Campaign** by issuing the Fairness and Equality Proclamation at the August 28, 2018 board meeting.

Whereas, December 3, 2018, marks the 200th anniversary of Illinois becoming the 21st state in the union; and, Whereas, New Trier Township joins partners across the state in recognizing the Illinois Bicentennial, and celebrating what is BORN, BUILT, AND GROWN in Illinois throughout the year; and, Whereas, the Illinois Department of Human Rights is celebrating the Illinois Bicentennial by engaging at least 200 units of local government throughout the state to join the Fairness and Equality Campaign; and, Whereas, the Fairness and Equality Campaign aims to celebrate and reaffirm the Land of Lincoln's rich history of valuing diversity, inclusion, and non-discrimination; and, Whereas, by supporting the Fairness and Equality Campaign, New Trier Township hopes to inspire a welcoming and inclusive community that fosters greater understanding of others; and, Whereas, New Trier Township is proud to support the Fairness and Equality Campaign and urges local units of government throughout the State to reaffirm that the Campaign's core principles are essential to an open, thriving, and diverse community; Therefore we, the Board of Trustees, do hereby proclaim that New Trier Township, Illinois is proud to support the Fairness and Equality Campaign in celebration of the Illinois Bicentennial, and encourage all residents to recognize and honor the core principles of diversity, inclusion, and non-discrimination.

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program

(LIHEAP) helps low-income residents pay home energy bills, particularly during the winter months. A by appointment only intake application day will be held at

the New Trier Township office on **November 15, 2018**. Please phone (847) 784-6040 for an appointment or more information on the LIHEAP program.



COMMUNITY SUPPORT GRANTS:

Applications for the Township's Community Support Grants Program are online at www.newtriertownship.com, select *Resident Services, Home-Based Disability Support*, click *application link* and complete the application form. Completed applications can be sent electronically via the website. For complete information on required documentation, please read the website and application form before submitting an application. Paper applications are also available at the Township located at 739 Elm Street in downtown Winnetka.

The Community Support Grants program is open to all New Trier Township residents with a diagnosed disability within

one of five listed eligibility categories (Autism Spectrum Disorders, Developmental and/or Cognitive Delay, Physical Impairments, Multiple Impairments, and/or Mental Health Disorders). There are no restrictions as to age or income. Previous recipients are eligible and encouraged to apply. This program provides a cash grant (up to \$1,500 per person/per fiscal year) and covers a wide range of medical and therapeutic services.

Please contact **Jeanne Winsted Rosser**, Social Services Administrator, at (847) 446-8201, if you have any questions about the Community Support Grants Program. The deadline for application submission is **Friday, January 18, 2019**.

Important Dates and Deadlines

New Trier Township offers a variety of assistance programs. Those interested in applying should visit www.newtriertownship.com and download the desired application or phone the office at (847) 446-8201 for more information.

Township Board of Trustees Meetings,

September 25, 2018

October 9, 2018

November 13, 2018

December 11, 2018

All at 7:30 p.m. Please check the website to verify as dates sometimes change due to unforeseen circumstances.

Maribeth Stein, Constituent Advocate for Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky -

is available to assist with Medicare, Social Security, Medicare Part D and Veterans Affairs issues the **second Tuesday of each month, 1:00-3:00 p.m.** Please bring along any documents that pertain to your case so she can better assist you.





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



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 lets us make a difference in the lives of many, keeping our communities strong.