

Mainely NEWS



CAROL A. TESCHKY, SUPERVISOR

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 1850

Summer 2014



Carol's Corner

Supervisor,
Carol A. Teschky

As I stated during the Annual Meeting in April, despite misleading claims made by a few

individuals recently, an independent audit has verified that the financial status of Maine Township for the past fiscal year ending Feb. 28, 2014, is in great shape. Showing no debt, our reported numbers are all in line with Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB).

Regarding the erroneous statement about the tax rate, **there was no increase**. Set by the Cook County Clerk, the tax rate bears no relationship to your actual property tax bill. In fact, the township is under the 5% tax cap. The December, 2013, levy was flat, basically the same as the December, 2012, levy.

As the government closest to the people, Maine Township continues to provide for both individual and collective needs of all residents. Our Food Pantry provided 2,888 boxes of food to 4,089 adults and 948 children. Many thanks go to all the individuals, churches, organizations, schools, businesses and chambers of commerce for their generosity in both food and cash donations.

MaineStay offered low cost counseling to 4,796 individuals from 1,326 families. The Community Garage Sale netted \$4,373 that was split between Adventure Day Camp for at risk children and our Food Pantry.

Currently helping 38 individuals who are out of work, General Assistance continues to help with public aid applications for

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Maine Township Assessor Tom Rueckert Passes

In lieu of flowers, memorials are requested to The American Lung Association.

"Tom was a good friend and a wonderful public servant who went above and beyond the call of his office to faithfully serve the residents and taxpayers of Maine Township for nearly three decades," says Township Supervisor Carol A. Teschky. "He and his staff helped an estimated 150,000 people with their real estate tax exemptions, complaints, and general real estate tax questions, and, always with a kind word and helpful attitude. He will be missed."

The long-serving Assessor of Maine Township, Thomas E. Rueckert, 73, passed away May 7 after a long battle with lung disease. He was first elected as Assessor in 1985 and has served continuously since then.

Rueckert was also a former Maine Township High School Board President and Chairman of the Oakton College Law Enforcement Advisory Committee.



National Night Out

National Night Out Set for August 5

The proud winners of the 2013 poster contest pose with elected officials. This year's NNO is August 5 in Dee Park, Emerson and Dee Roads. It begins at 6:30 p.m. Residents will enjoy an evening of family fun which is also full of information on local services and ways to fight neighborhood crime. Call 847-297-2510 for event information or visit www.maintownship.com.



Carol's Corner

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benefits which include food stamps and medical assistance. We also processed 1,072 applications for the Low Income Home Energy Program.

In spite of its own limited resources, I am proud of the way Maine Township continues to do good for all of our residents. Have a good summer!



TRUSTEE'S CORNER

Trustee, Laura Morask



Even though debatable, spring is supposedly here. While we all welcome warmer weather, it can also bring an unwelcome

increase in gang activity, graffiti, mob action, drug related crimes, and speeders ripping down your street. Although overall gang crime statistics are trending downward because of the vigilance of our Cook County Sheriffs and local police departments, here are some common sense tips to keep Maine Township safe and protect yourself.

Watch out for your neighbor. The tighter knit the sense of community, the better protected it is. Consider giving your neighbor an extra key to your house in case of an emergency.

Report graffiti. Graffiti lowers your property value and attracts more gang

members. Report graffiti by phone at 847-297-5225 or email at: MTHighway@aol.com

Attend the Neighborhood Watch Program the first Wednesday of every month at the Township Town Hall at 1700 Ballard Road, Park Ridge, where residents share information and issues with the Cook County Sheriffs Police and hear about important issues from guest speakers.

Do not open your door to strangers.

Many of our elderly residents fall prey to door-door scam artists who fake a hard luck story to gain access to your home and/or your money!

Teach your children the Text-A-Tip hotline number for any child who feels trapped in a situation beyond their control to anonymously get help-no questions asked. Simply start the message with the Keyword I CARE and then type your message and send it to 274637 or C-R-I-M-E-S.

Information Fair



The first-ever Information Fair at Maine Township was held May 9. Here, Administrator Dayna Berman kicks off the Fair which featured informational displays from all the major departments and presentations by department heads. Invited guests including a wide range of civic group leaders, representatives of area governments and others. It was a very successful day.

Crop Walk



The Niles-Park Ridge Crop Walk organized by area churches under coordinator Lynda Santrella, a representative of Our Lady of Ransom Church, raises funds for food pantry operations. Here, Santrella, front row center, presents a check for \$7,661 to Maine Township. On hand to gratefully accept the donation were, 1 to 1 in the front row, Trustee Susan Moylan Krey and Supervisor Carol A. Teschky. In the back row, 1 to 1, are Trustees Peter Gialamas and Walter Kazmierczak, Highway Commissioner Bob Provenzano, and Clerk Gary K. Warner.



2014 Annual Meeting



◀ The 2014 Annual Meeting was very successful and well attended. Here, l to r, Frank Kaminski, Police Chief of Park Ridge served as Moderator, Supervisor Teschky, Sean Sullivan served as Parliamentarian, and Clerk Warner who ran the meeting.

▶ The Sgt. Karen Lader Memorial Good Citizen Award was presented at the Annual Meeting to Carolyn Lee Simmons of Des Plaines. Carolyn, in the center, has been caring for others for over 40 years. Here, she is joined by, left to right, Patrol Lt. John Konrad and Night Duty Commander Jeff Flyke of the Cook County Sheriff's Police and Trustee Susan Moylan Krey. Sgt. Lader was a community-minded, dedicated officer with the Sheriff's Police who passed away after a battle with cancer.



▶ John Aykroid, center, earned the 2014 William B. Cox Memorial Award for Excellence in Emergency Management. It was presented at the Annual Meeting by Robert Cohen, Director. Here, John is congratulated by Cohen, the Township elected officials and some family members.



MaineStreamers

At a recent state conference in Joliet, Maine Township's MaineStreamers program was just given the Mind, Body and Spirit Award from The Association of Illinois Senior Centers (IASC). MaineStreamers is one of only two senior programs in the state to receive this award given in recognition of outstanding commitment to meeting the needs of seniors. L to r, Deb O'Brien, Monika Jaroszewicz, Supervisor Carol Teschky, Therese Tully, MaineStreamers Director Mary Swanson, and Marie Dachniwsky. For information on MaineStreamers programs, activities, and trips call 847-297-2510 or visit www.maintownship.com



NEWS FROM THE ASSESSOR

Assessor,
Tom Rueckert



2013 Sunset Relief Exemption Explained

Beginning this year, the northern suburbs of Cook County will no longer be eligible to receive the seven percent Expanded Homeowner Exemption (EHE). As a result of this exemption phasing out, the Illinois General Assembly is offering a one-year sunset provision in this law.

This law may allow some homeowners an additional exemption savings of \$5,000 in equalized assessed value

on their 2013 tax bill (payable in 2014). To qualify for this one-time additional 2013 exemption savings, the property owner must have:

- A total household income of less than \$30,000 for income tax year 2012.
- Not receive a Senior Citizen Assessment Freeze Exemption in the taxable year 2013 (second-installment bills paid in 2014).

If you feel you meet these criteria, please bring your 2012 Federal Income Tax to our Maine Township office and we will assist you in completing the application.

Note: The Assessor's Office is open Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. to serve you and help answer questions. For further information, visit www.maintownship.com or call 847-297-2510.

This report was compiled before Tom Rueckert's passing.

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HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT NEWS

Highway Commissioner, Robert Provenzano

First, let me thank all Maine Township residents for their patience and understanding this past winter when we experienced record snowfall, ice, cold temperatures and salt shortages. Finally it looks like

winter is in our rear view mirror and it's time to look ahead to a wonderful summer. Summer is a time to enjoy our family, friends and vacation. With this in mind, there are a few things we should be thinking about before we leave our homes for a fun outing or extended trip. Always remember to take the time to burglar proof your home before you leave:

- Place house lights, television or radio on timers
- Temporarily stop newspaper delivery
- Tell your neighbors you will be out of town
- Make sure your extra vehicles are not parked in a restricted zone
- Leave outside lights on

It is well worth the time involved to take some preliminary precautions to insure a pleasant homecoming from your trip.

Things that will make your neighbors happy, so that we can all enjoy our time outdoors in the warmer weather:

- Keep up with lawn maintenance and pick up litter
- Put out and bring in your refuse containers on time
- Always pick up after your pets when walking in the neighborhood. **Remember** pet waste attract rodents (rats & skunks)
- Report any violations to your local police department. Never forget You are the eyes and ears in your neighborhood

Building Permits – Unincorporated area residents only must obtain a Maine Township Highway Department Permit or Waiver Letter for any type of construction that may “affect the public right of way,” such as new construction, substantial remodeling or additions, driveways, fences or sheds. In addition, you must also contact Cook County Building and Zoning 312-603-0500, regarding permit requirements for your project.

First Spring Branch Pickup (Unincorporated Area ONLY) – Began on April 21 (third Monday of the month, this schedule will continue through the month of September), the last pickup date being Monday, September 15. Please mark your calendars, so you do not miss out. We cannot go back once we complete a street.

Street Lights, Signs and Inoperable Vehicles – Please report to the highway department any burned out street lights, missing street signs or if you have an inoperable vehicle that needs removal in the unincorporated area at the number



We are all thankful winter is behind us.

listed below during regular business hours, or after hours or on the weekend you may leave a message or email us at your convenience.

Recycling Used Tire Program – Used tires are a breeding ground for mosquitoes carrying West Nile Virus. We offer a **free** pick up service to recycle used tires. Please call our office to schedule a pickup appointment.

Barricades are available for closing the street for block parties.

“Louie,” a popular Maine Township resident is seen photographed with Highway Commissioner Robert Provenzano.



Should you have any questions, or for more information on the services we provide, please contact us by phone or email.

Regular Hours: Monday through Friday – 7 am to 3:30 p.m.

Phone: 847-297-5225

Email: MTHighway@aol.com



CLERK'S CORNER

Clerk, Gary K. Warner



The dismal long snowy winter is finally over. Spring is here. Birds are singing their sweet songs and flowers have started to bloom. It's time to put your garden gloves on and start working with nature so you can enjoy a magical summer with your loved ones.

The Clerk's Office is extremely busy with accepting passport applications. In February, 264 applications were accepted. March was even busier! This March we accepted 315 applications which are 164 more applications than we did last March.

We assist seniors age 65 and older to apply for the RTA and Ventra cards. There is a fee of \$2 to take your picture and we send the picture and a copy of an ID with the application for the applicant to receive their Ventra card.

All unincorporated area residents must display the 2014 Vehicle Stickers by July 1 which will expire on June 30, 2015. If you purchase your stickers after July 1, you will be charged a late penalty. Please note that our office accepts only checks or money orders for payments for vehicle stickers. A \$2 (cash or check) convenience fee is added to cover processing for vehicle stickers. However, the fee is waived for seniors, physically handicapped and disabled veterans.

Additional services offered are voter registration, refuse and yard waste stickers, hunting and fishing licenses, temporary handicapped parking cards, and free notary.

The Clerk's Office is committed to exceed your expectations of service.

For complete information of all our services visit www.maintownship.com or call 847-297-2510.

Circuit Breaker has a NEW NAME: **BENEFIT ACCESS**

If your 2013 income was less than:

\$27,610.00	1 Person Household
\$36,635.00	2 Person Household
\$45,657.00	3 or More, Person Household

BENEFIT ACCESS

gives a discount on your license plates.

You Can Also Receive
The **SENIORS RIDE FREE** or
DISABLED RIDE FREE Card.

*The application is **ONLINE ONLY**.*

Call today for an appointment:
(847) 297-2510 ext 236

Are you a current participant in the PIPP Energy Assistance Program?

Is your gross monthly income less than:

Household Size	Gross Income
1	\$1459
2	\$1966
3	\$2474
4	\$2981

Then you need to **Renew PIPP**
for the next year.

PIPP gives monthly assistance to **Nicor**
and **Com Ed**, to help you pay your bills.

Call for an appointment
Maine Township General Assistance
847-297-2510 ext 236



MaineStay Youth and Family Services offers some great volunteer opportunities

MaineStay Launches “Our Future Leaders” Mentoring Program

If you are a student age 8 to 13, or a high school student age 16 or older with a desire to empower youth to succeed, “Our Future Leaders” may be just what you are looking for. This program will allow select high school youth to mentor and serve as positive role-models to younger children. They will accomplish this through positive interaction and activities while under direct supervision of our MaineStay adult staff and other adults from the Des Plaines Park District. “Future Leaders” will meet on the second Thursday of each month from 4-5:30pm at the Des Plaines Leisure Center adjacent to Iroquois School in Des Plaines.

MaineStay Child/Adolescent Mentoring Group

In this mentoring program, youths age 8-13 and their volunteer mentors interact in a group setting. The activities are directed toward skill building and improved socialization, with time allotted for both group involvement and one-on-one sharing between the youth and mentor. All activities are planned and supervised by our trained staff. This group meets two Mondays each month from 6-7:30pm at the Maine Township Town Hall.

If you are interested in either Mentoring program, call Ed at 847-297-2510, ext. 270

FISH

MaineStay coordinates the Maine Township FISH program which provides rides for residents in need of transportation to doctor or health related appointments. If you need a ride or are willing to be a volunteer driver, contact Gloria 847-297-2510, ext. 283.

Maine Township Annual Garage Sale is September 27.

Exhibitor information will be available in late summer.

MaineStreamers are looking for Baby Boomers!

The Maine Township MaineStreamers program offers a variety of opportunities for residents 55 and older. All residents and property owners are invited to apply for membership. Membership is free and includes a subscription to the MaineStreamers monthly newsletter which showcases all of the interesting, educational, fun programs, classes and trips.

We have a growing membership which includes recently retired Baby Boomers so we want you to be aware of these wonderful and exciting social opportunities. Upon receiving your “free” monthly newsletter, you pick and choose what activities you would like to partake in and pay for them individually.

For more information contact the MaineStreamers at 847-297-2510 or visit us at www.maintownship.com.

MaineStreamers enjoy Summertime Trips

The MaineStreamers are offering a variety of summertime trips including an evening Lake Geneva Cruise including dinner, entertainment and a Fireworks display on Saturday, August 9.

Other destinations include a peach picking trip which includes a dune buggy ride and time in Saugatuck, Michigan, a White Sox game and so much more...

So if you are 55 years of age and older and a resident of Maine Township and would like to receive the monthly newsletter that highlights all the activities and trips call the MaineStreamers staff at 847-297-2510.



MAINE TOWNSHIP • 1700 Ballard Road, Park Ridge, Illinois 60068-1006
847-297-2510 • www.maintownship.com

Town Hall Hours

Mon - Fri : 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Evening *MaineStay* appointments are available by advanced request.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

Free document shredding June 7 in parking lot 9 a.m. to noon.
Board Meetings on June 24, July 22, Aug. 26 and Sept. 23 at 7:30 p.m.
Offices closed on July 4 and Sept. 1 due to holidays
National Night Out Against Crime Aug. 5 in Dee Park at 6:30 p.m.
Community Garage Sale on Sept. 27 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
For other meetings, please call 847-297-2510 or visit www.maintownship.com

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HOW TO CONTACT OUR DEPARTMENTS

Main Phone 847-297-2510

Departments/Extension Numbers

- Assessor's Office, Ext. 227
- Clerk's Office, Ext. 222
- Code Enforcement Officer, Ext. 259
- General Assistance, Ext. 236
- MaineStreamers, Ext. 240
- Veteran's Assistance, Ext. 236
- MaineStay Youth & Family Services 847-297-2510
- Office of Emergency Management 847-297-5911
- Highway Department 847-297-5225

You may also e-mail any department by accessing the Township Web site: www.maintownship.com.

MAINE TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS



Carol A. Teschky
Supervisor



Walter Kazmierczak
Trustee



Laura J. Morask
Trustee



Susan Moylan Krey
Trustee



Peter Gialamas
Trustee



Gary K. Warner
Clerk



Tom Rueckert
Assessor



Robert Provenzano
Highway Commissioner