

Mainely NEWS

CAROL A. TESCHKY, SUPERVISOR



SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 1850

Winter 2014



Carol's Corner

Supervisor,
Carol A. Teschky

Happy New Year! As we start 2014, we reflect back on our banner year at the Township. Over

the past year, we proudly continued our excellent services to the less fortunate among us. We were able to feed over 4,000 adults and 1,000 children. Thank you to all who donated to our Food Pantry with non-perishable goods or cash donations.

For the second time, we partnered with the Police Departments of Park Ridge, Niles and Des Plaines in their "Cops for Coats" program. After collection, we opened the Township doors one Saturday for men, women and children to come and choose a free winter coat, hat and gloves. Thank you to all who donated for this worthwhile program.

We were happy to again be a drop off point for the U. S. Marines' Toys for Tots drive. All these efforts show how generous the people of Maine Township really are. Also, our gratitude is extended to all who donated to the Golf Mill Festival of Trees event. The Township was the recipient of over 2,000 non-perishable food items.

On the recycling front, the Township sponsored a document shredding day last June in our parking lot. Over 100 cars came through at no cost. We also partnered again with the Park Ridge Chamber in sponsoring two electronic recycling events.

We also hosted the popular Senior Expo last spring. This event brings together seniors and vendors which provide necessary services and products to improve their lives. We provide free space

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Maine Township Brings Home Three Awards from State Conference

Maine Township recently brought home three more awards from the annual conference of Township Officials of Illinois (TOI). They were Township of the Year, Friend of Youth Award, and Best Photo of the Year. The Township was acknowledged in multiple categories for its many outstanding services that enhance the lives of all residents, according to Carol A. Teschky, Township Supervisor.

"Thanks in great part to the dedication of our elected officials and township staff our work is regularly recognized by our peers around the state for being innovative and of high quality," she added.

Singled out for recognition from among more than 1,400 Townships across Illinois, Maine Township was named Township of the Year by the

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Supervisor Carol Teschky, left front, displays the Township of the Year Award. To the right of Teschky is Trustee Laura Morask who received the Friend of Youth Award.

Also attending the conference were, l to r, Highway Commissioner Robert Provenzano, Trustee Walter Kazmierczak, Trustee Peter Gialamas, Trustee Susan Moylan Krey, and Clerk Gary K. Warner.

For many years, Maine Township has been a consistent winner of statewide awards for individual, department and township-wide programs and initiatives.

2014 Maine Township MaineStreamers Swing into Spring Expo is April 25

Over 1,600 visitors are expected to attend the 9th Annual MaineStreamers "Swing into Spring" Senior Expo scheduled for Friday, April 25, 2014. Designed to link seniors who need services and products with vendors who provide them, the event will be held at Golf Mill Shopping Center. Product demonstrations, raffles, giveaways, entertainment and contests will also be part of the day's activities.

In addition to an array of Township Departments, Presence Life Connections, Fireside Theatre, Honor Flight Chicago, Illinois State Treasurer, Illinois Secretary of State, AARP Smart Driver, Cook

County Sheriff and a wide variety of other businesses and organizations have already signed up for spots which are in demand for anyone marketing to older citizens.

Advocate Lutheran General Hospital is one of the major event sponsors along with The Journal & Topics Newspapers, Chicagoland Senior News, Highway Commissioner Robert Provenzano and Maine Township.

The overall event's extended hours will now run from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. but **exhibits will have new hours** from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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Carol's Corner

Continued from page 1

to state, regional and local service agencies as well.

If you had not participated in any of these events, you will get another opportunity as all these popular events will be repeated in 2014.

The effort for good never stops thanks to our dedicated staff and elected officials. For example, through our initiative in the Coast 2Coast free prescription drug card, our residents saved 65% over previous costs. If you are not part of this program, please stop by the Township for your free card.

In the coming year, we at the Township pledge to continue serving you. All our programs and services are available to residents regardless if they live in one of our fine cities or in the unincorporated areas. Call or stop by anytime.



TRUSTEE'S CORNER

Trustee, Peter Gialamas

I know it is hard to think about August as we are in the midst of a cold and snowy winter, but it will be here before we know it. It is time

to start planning for our annual National Night Out Against Crime which will be held on Tuesday, August 5 in Dee Park.

This is my first year as the Event Chairperson. I am taking over for fellow Trustee Susan Moylan Krey who has done an excellent job for many years. She and the other elected officials will be involved along with the township staff and our all-important volunteers.

To make the event a success, we rely on help from local businesses and the

community. We are now looking for volunteers to help in event planning and to participate the day of the event as well.

If you are a local business owner, we can use your help too. We raffle gift certificates as prizes and to present to winners of our poster contest. So, please consider showing your support for this annual event with a donation. What could be a more worthy cause than helping young people and fighting crime at the same time?

National Night Out is one of the Townships most heavily attended events and is an excellent chance to come out, meet your neighbors and show your support to the community.

If you are able to contribute in any way, please contact me at Petegialamas@yahoo.com or call the Township at 847-297-2510 to leave a message.



Swing into Spring Expo *Continued from page 1*

The popular Early Bird Bingo hosted by Highway Commissioner Robert Provenzano will start at 9 a.m.

A Zumba Gold demonstration by Regina Mundt is planned for 11 a.m. A fitness program for seniors, Zumba Gold transforms the Latin and International dance rhythms of original Zumba into a safe and effective total body workout for older adults.

Denny Diamond & the Family Jewels will perform at 1 p.m. The family trio performs the music of Neil Diamond—as well as other artists including Johnny Cash, Roger Miller, Dean Martin and Ricky Nelson.

Coordinated by the Lions Club and the Lions Foundation of Illinois, free hearing screenings will be offered this year. The hearing test takes just a few minutes and results will be available immediately. The Secretary of State Mobile Driver Services Facility will be on hand for renewal, replacement and corrections to Driver's License/State ID Cards, vision screening with a Driver's License renewal, Vehicle Sticker sales, Motor Voter registration and Organ/Tissue Donor information and registration.

"Each year, our Senior Expo becomes even more popular," said Carol A. Teschky, Supervisor of Maine Township.

The very popular musical act, Denny Diamond and the Family Jewels seen here will return for the 2014 Maine Township MaineStreamers Senior Expo on April 25. His performance will begin around 1 p.m. after exhibits close. Standing with the band members at last year's Expo are Supervisor Carol A. Teschky, left; Clerk Gary K. Warner, center; and Highway Commissioner Robert Provenzano, right.

"We are thrilled that MaineStreamers continue to offer this valuable community event and greatly appreciate the cooperation of the fine folks at Golf Mill."

Golf Mill management has assured that the Expo will not be affected by any pending sale of the shopping center as noted in recent news media articles.

Potential exhibitors and sponsors may inquire with the Expo Office at 847-720-4495 or download application forms from the Township website.

For attendee information, please call 847-297-2510 or visit the Maine Township website at www.maintownship.com.



State Conference Awards *Continued from page 1*

Illinois Township Association of Senior Centers Services Committee (ITASCSC) at ceremonies held during November.

Recognized for its outstanding services that meet the needs of seniors, especially the MaineStreamers senior program, Maine Township was honored for the full scope of programs that directly enhance the lives of older residents. Free and open to all residents of Maine Township 55 years of age and older, with more 5,000 members MaineStreamers is one of the largest senior programs in the area.

Maine Township Trustee Laura Morask also received the 2013 Association of Illinois Township Committees on Youth (AITCOY) Friend of Youth Award. Morask has been a Maine Township Trustee since 2001.

Well-known for her outstanding dedication to helping the youth of Maine Town-

ship, Morask has created innovative programs at no cost to the community to help improve services to youth. Those programs include Anti-Gang Education Forums which she has conducted annually over the past six years and an Anti-Hazing and Bullying panel discussion, as well as her committee work for National Night Out Against Crime.

In the public communications category called the Mighty Message competition, Ed Beauvais of MaineStay Youth and Family Services took the Best Photo award.

Beauvais' winning photo captured a fishing victory shared by a day camper and a senior citizen at the "Adventure Maine Township" summer day camp program. The program is one of many offered by MaineStay which gives disadvantaged children an opportunity for educational, cultural and other outings that they might not otherwise be able to experience.



Ed Beauvais of MaineStay Youth and Family Services and Maine Township Supervisor Carol Teschky accept the award for the Best Photo of the Year given by the Township Officials of Illinois at the recent annual conference of Township Officials of Illinois.



Maine Township has been a drop-off site for the **Toys for Tots** campaign for several years. Here gathered to launch a campaign are, l to r, Trustees Walter Kazmierczak and Laura Morask, Gunnery Sgt. Damien M. Harvey, Ruth Jaworsky, Trustee Peter Gialamas, Clerk Gary K. Warner, Supervisor Carol A. Teschky, Assessor Tom Rueckert, Highway Commissioner Robert Provenzano, Alred J. Kolodziej, and Trustee Susan Moylan Krey.



Officer Julie Genauldi of the Park Ridge Police Department, left, thanks Supervisor Carol A. Teschky for all the cooperation and assistance given by Maine Township including use of the Town Hall Board Room for the 2013 Cops for Coats drive. Police departments from Niles, Des Plaines and Park Ridge collected donated coats and distributed them at the Township and elsewhere to needy individuals and families.

No Tax Increase from Maine Township

Supervisor Carol A. Teschky announces that due to fiscal conservative spending and budgeting, Maine Township was able to hold the line on real estate taxes this year.

"We requested no increase from the prior year's levy," Supervisor Teschky said. "But, residents should remember that Cook County and the State of Illinois both do an "equalization factor" before the final tax bill is sent out".

Remember our Assessor's Department has always been available to assist in obtaining all the deductions you are entitled to.



NEWS FROM THE ASSESSOR

Assessor,
Tom Rueckert



New State Law on Erroneous Tax Exemptions

Effective January 1, 2014, a new state law requires Cook County homeowners to repay savings on property tax exemptions that they should not have received. They will also have to pay a penalty and interest. Illinois law makes it clear that tax exemptions are available only on a homeowner's principal residence.

Who is affected by the new law? People who own more than one residential property, and people who own properties where senior citizens have recently lived, should pay attention to the new law.

Under the law, most property owners can be made to repay the savings from erroneous tax exemptions going back three years. But, property owners with a significant

number of erroneous exemptions may be liable for as many as six prior years.

As the Maine Township Assessor, I urge anyone with questions about the new law to call my office. My office can help residents determine whether they had any erroneous exemptions. We can also offer advice and assistance on how to repay the exemptions.

2013 Exemption Process

In January, the Senior Freeze Exemption applications were mailed. If you have not returned your application, our office is here to help you complete it. Once completed, we track the application in order to guarantee that it was received and inputted into the Cook County Assessor's database therefore ensuring that the exemptions will properly appear on the second installment property tax bill. The Senior Freeze total household income limitation will remain at \$55,000.

If you were born in 1948, this is the first time you are eligible for the Senior Exemption. You must come to Maine Township to complete the application. Please bring your driver's license and a current tax bill.

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HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT NEWS

Highway Commissioner, Robert Provenzano

The past year presented some challenges from nature for the highway department. In the months of April and June there was not one, but two 100-year intensity floods that our department and residents

had to deal with. FEMA did provide some monies to private individuals affected by the flood, but the township was denied any additional funds to handle the costs involved with cleanup and maintenance of the roads during the flood. The best course of action for us all is to prepare ourselves.

Accomplishments for the year include the completion of Community Development Block Grant 12-019 Margail/ Noel Street Reconstruction Project, as well as the 2013 Street Resurfacing Project of Church Street, Aspen Drive, Aspen Lane and Chester Avenue, maintenance of the roads, snow plowing and providing tree branch pick up service for the unincorporated area of Maine Township.

Tire Recycling Is Now Available: A new popular recycling tire program Provenzano began this year is available to all Maine Township residents at no charge.

Notice: FREE drop off of Electronics is available at Cabrini Retreat Center, 9430 Golf Road, Des Plaines, IL 60016.

Below please find a list of snow removal advice that will assist our department in dealing with snow issues:

Please Do:

- Observe Snow Route parking bans on all streets after two inches of snowfall. Your car may be ticketed and/or towed to allow us to properly clear the street. Please use off-street parking whenever possible to allow our plows to clear the streets quickly.
- Shovel your sidewalk for your mail carrier, school children and all pedestrians especially seniors and the handicapped. Please make sure the fire hydrant nearest your house is clear of snow and is visible from the street.
- Please be patient and allow emergency vehicles and snowplows the right of way to do their job. Your property and possibly even lives depend on uninterrupted service.

Please Don't:

- Shovel, plow, or blow snow on the streets or sidewalk from private property. Not only is this dangerous, but it is AGAINST THE LAW. You may be ticketed or fined.
- Park opposite another car on narrow streets since snowplows need room to get through.
- Follow a snowplow or salt truck too closely, since it is very difficult for drivers to see you at times.



Pictured left to right, Commander Frederic A. Drummond Jr., Chicago District, Jeffrey K. Zuercher, P.E., Project Manager, US Army Corps of Engineers and Robert Provenzano, Highway Commissioner, Maine Township.

At a recent meeting of the upper Des Plaines River/Tributaries Advisory Committee at the headquarters of U.S. Army Corp of Engineer in Chicago, municipalities were given a status report on Phase I and Phase II for the Des Plaines River flooding issues. Phase I should be completed by the end of this year. Phase II preliminary report will be presented to the U.S. Congress for review.

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 at 312-603-0500, regarding permit requirements for your project.

First Spring Branch Pickup (Unincorporated Area ONLY) – It may seem a bit far away, but it’s closer than you think and spring will be right around the corner. The first pickup of the year will be Monday, April 21 (third Monday of the month. This schedule will continue through September). The last pickup date will be 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 listed below during regular business hours. For after hours or on the weekend, you may leave a message or email us at your convenience.

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 Clerk's Office wishes you and your loved ones a Happy and Healthy New Year.

We would like to express our appreciation for allowing us to serve you this past year. The Clerk's Office remains committed to provide quality service to all the residents of Maine Township. In 2013, our office accepted 1,457 passport applications, sold 11,583 Cook County vehicle stickers, assisted 231 seniors with applying for the free or reduced RTA cards and registered 16 residents to vote. We also issued 130 fishing and hunting licenses, sold 3,176 ARC yard waste stickers and 1,440 MaineLines tickets. We reached out to 1,820 new residents who received welcome letters in the "Neighbor to Neighbor" program.



Clerk's office is Tuesday, February 18, 2014. The Gubernatorial Primary Election is March 18, 2014 and Gubernatorial General Election is November 4, 2014.

Early Voting allows residents to vote before the Election Day. First day of Early Voting is Monday, March 3, 2014 and the last day Saturday, March 15, 2014.

Seventeen-year-olds will be able to vote in the primary if they will be eighteen by November 4 this year.

The Clerk's office provides numerous services and information to Maine Township residents. Visit our office at any time, call 847-297-2510 or visit www.maintownship.com.

Voter Registration/Early Voting

All residents who would like to vote in the 2014 Primary Election but are not yet registered may register at the Clerk's office. To register, you must be a U.S. citizen and provide two pieces of identification. The last day to register in the Maine Township's



Area Flood Meeting Held

Maine Township Supervisor Carol A. Teschky, left, and Highway Commissioner Robert Provenzano, third from left, recently attended a first-time flood control meeting called by Cook County Homeland Security. The pair gave a lengthy presentation on the flooding conditions in Maine Township and possible solutions. Shown here reviewing flood control maps, l to r, are Teschky; Michael Masters, Executive Director of Cook County Homeland Security and Emergency Management; Provenzano; Inspector Jack Conti; and Bob Mack, Engineer from the Cook County Highway Dept. Other agencies present included the Army Corps. Of Engineers, Cook County Planning and Zoning Commission, Illinois Department of Transportation, and the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District.

The purpose was to review areas of potential flooding and work toward multi-agency and intergovernmental cooperation and solutions. "We in Maine Township were very glad to have the opportunity to meet with so many agencies and mutually start the work needed to address area flooding," said Teschky. "Solutions may be costly and difficult but are vital to health, safety and the economics of our area."

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MaineStay Responds to Resident Needs

Based on the results of MaineStay's community survey, we have created several new programs listed below. Since the primary concern of residents was bullying, we are responding with the following presentations:

MaineStay Invites Jarrett Payton to Speak on Bullying Wednesday, March 12, 7-9 p.m.

Maine West High School Auditorium

MaineStay has invited Jarrett Payton, son of Chicago Bears running back, Walter Payton, to discuss the dynamics of bullying and how to combat it in our township. Also included is 15-year-old Camille Paddock. She was bullied to the point of almost killing herself until she decided to take a stand and help others. Middle and high school students and parents are invited to attend this *free* presentation. Advance registration is required.

Bullied: What Every Parent, Teacher and Kid Needs to Know

Carrie Goldman – Thursday, April 17, 7-9 p.m.

Maine Township Town Hall

Besides being an award-winning author and speaker, Carrie Goldman blogs regularly for PsychologyToday.com and the Huffington Post, and was also featured on NPR, MSNBC, CNN Headline News, ABC Radio and WGN TV.

NEW

Bullying Support Group – March 20 5-6 p.m.

Youth Anxiety Coping Skills – February 24 5-6 p.m.

Our Future Leaders Mentoring Group – Second

Thursday each month at Des Plaines Leisure Center

Life Skills – Second Tuesday each month 4:30-6 p.m.

ALSO

Adolescent Anger Management – February 18, 5-6 p.m.

Parenting the Love and Logic Way –

February 19, 5:30-7 p.m.

Mentoring Program -- Mondays 6-7:30 p.m.

FISH – Provides rides to medical appointments.

EARN – Connects residents with youth able to do chores.

*For more information or to register visit
www.maintownship.com/mainestay.*

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 can 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.

AARP Driver's Safety Course Offered at Maine Township

Some drivers age 50-plus have never looked back since they got their first driver's licenses, but even the most experienced benefit from brushing up on their driving skills. After completing the course, you may be eligible to receive an insurance discount, so consult your agent for details. The next course offered at Maine Town Hall is Monday, February 24 and Wednesday, February 26 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. To register call 847-297-2510 and ask for a MaineStreamer staff person.

Wanted: MaineStreamers 90 years of age and older

If you are one of these special people or if you know of someone, please contact the MaineStreamer Staff at 847-297-2510 so we can send the celebrant an invitation to a special event in May.

Free Document Shredding Event Announced

On Sat., June 7 from 9 am to 12 noon, Maine Township will be sponsoring a Document Shredding Event in our parking lot located at 1700 Ballard Rd., Park Ridge.

Opportunity Secure Data Destruction Co., a division of Glenkirk Enterprises, will perform the document shredding. You will be able to view the shredding via a monitor located on the truck.

Shredding is limited to three small grocery-type bags so as to allow all the residents the opportunity to participate.



MAINE TOWNSHIP • 1700 Ballard Road, Park Ridge, Illinois 60068-1006
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Town Hall Hours

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

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

- Feb. 25 at 7:30pm – Board Meeting
 - Mar. 25 at 7:30pm – Board Meeting
 - Apr. 8 at 7 pm – Annual Town Meeting
 - Apr 22 at 7:30pm – Board Meeting
 - May 26 – Closed for Memorial Day
 - May 27 at 7:30pm – Board Meeting
- 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