

Mainely NEWS



CAROL A. TESCHKY, SUPERVISOR

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 1850

Winter 2015



Carol's Corner

Supervisor,
Carol A. Teschky

Happy New Year to all! Maine Township has been busy doing what we do best: helping the less fortunate in

our community. In November we partnered with the Police Departments of Niles, Des Plaines and Park Ridge in a "Cops for Coats" drive. We distributed close to 700 children and adult coats and jackets along with knitted hats, gloves and scarves. Thank you to Officer Julie Genualdi from the Park Ridge Police Department for coordinating this annual event for the third time. Also thanks go to the Police Departments involved, all who donated and those who volunteered at the event.

We again filled our Thanksgiving and Christmas food boxes with frozen turkeys and all the trimmings for our food pantry clients. Many thanks go out to all the individuals, businesses and schools for their generous donations both in food and cash. You helped brighten the holidays for so many in Maine Township. We serve about 4,000 per year through the pantry.

On a sad note we had to say good-bye to our long time Director of Emergency Management Robert Cohen. Bob passed unexpectedly last October. He will be missed by all who came in contact with him for his dedication to helping others and his professional approach.

We now welcome Dagmar Rutzen as the new Director. Dagmar has served as assistant director and is very familiar with all OEM operations. Welcome aboard, Dagmar, and we wish you all the best in your new role.

I encourage you to review all the articles in our newsletter for a good look at what we do and all the services offered. If we can be of assistance, please come by or call 847-297-2510.

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 Senior Director of the Year, 2014 Youth Organization Award, and 2014 Youth Leadership Award. 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.

continued on page 3



MaineStay Director Evelyn Fennel, Award winner Leena Khoury and Supervisor Carol Teschky

Popular Maine Township Swing into Spring SENIOR EXPO Set for April 24

The ninth annual senior expo for Maine Township could prove to be another for the record books next April 24. An estimated 1,800 people visited the event in 2014 during its five-hour run at the Golf Mill Shopping Center in Niles. Designed to link seniors who need services with vendors who provide them, the *Swing into Spring* senior expo has grown in attendance for three straight years and may continue the trend this year.

So, plan to attend and mark your calendars. Hours will be from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Exhibitions will be open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Live entertainment starts at 1 p.m.

Applications for exhibit space are being accepted on a first-come, first-served basis while spaces last. Potential exhibitors are asked to call 847-720-4495 to inquire about space.

"We are very pleased that our MaineStreamers senior expo continues to be so popular and grow steadily," says Carol A. Teschky, Supervisor. "About nine years ago, we would see maybe 1000 visitors, and then more recently the crowd was in the 1600 range. But, the last expo in April, 2014 had an attendance that set a new record approaching the 2,000 mark."

continued on page 2



TRUSTEE'S CORNER

Trustee, Kimberly Jones



Recently I attended the 107th Annual Education Conference for the Township Officials of Illinois held in Springfield. As the newest member of the Township board, this was my first conference. Although I had read the descriptions of the various choices of seminars to attend during those three days, I really didn't know what to expect.

I was truly impressed by the number of educational opportunities to learn from in order to become the best steward of the public good I can be. I began with the basics in Township Board Governance Procedures and Relationships, Common Township Policies and Procedures, Building a Better Township Budget and finally Exploring the World of

Township Grants. Each class gave me a better understanding and perspective of my role as a new Township Official.

The conference also gave me a valuable opportunity to connect with and learn from my fellow Maine Township board members and also the dedicated and talented Maine Township administrative staff who attended. Even though I have been familiar with Maine Township for many years, I realize now that I had not fully appreciated the range of services Maine Township government provides to its citizens.

I encourage you to take a moment to peruse our website www.maintownship.com to see for yourself just how many services your local township government provides. For example the free prescription drug card offered through Coast2Coast RX has saved hundreds of residents thousands of dollars.

On behalf of the Maine Township Board, I wish everyone a very happy, healthy 2015 with a very special thank you and prayers for our servicemen and their families.

Senior Expo *(continued from page 1)*

She added, "Thanks to all the vendors from local, regional and state agencies along with a range of commercial companies for being a part of this popular event. We expect to expand the variety of vendors next year to help better serve the interests of our residents who attend."

This signature event was sponsored by Advocate Lutheran General Hospital, The Journal & Topics Newspapers, Chicagoland Senior News, Suburban Resource Guide for Seniors and Maine Township.

Kicking off the fun, the popular Early Bird Bingo will be hosted by Clerk Gary K. Warner. A variety of entertaining activities such as dance instructions or Tai Chi demonstrations have been held in past events. Product demonstrations, raffles, giveaways, and contests were also part of the regular activities.

The Illinois Secretary of State Mobile Driver Services Facility is expected to 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, voter registration and organ/tissue donor information and registration. Other state and regional agencies regularly exhibit as well.



The very popular musical act, the Denny Diamond Trio seen here will return for the 2015 Maine Township MaineStreamers Senior Expo on April 24. His performance will begin around 1 p.m. after exhibits close. Standing with the band members at last year's Expo are Clerk Gary K. Warner and Supervisor Carol A. Teschky.

The event will be concluded with a rousing mini-concert by The Denny Diamond Trio performing the music of Neil Diamond—as well as other famous artists—including Johnny Cash, Roger Miller, Dean Martin, and Ricky Nelson.

For more information about Maine Township and its MaineStreamers department, call 847-297-2510 or visit the Maine Township website at www.maintownship.com.



Maine Township Brings Home Three Awards from State Conference *(continued from page 1)*

Singled out for recognition from among more than 1,400 Townships across Illinois, Mary Swanson, Director of MaineStreamers, was named Senior Director of the Year by the Illinois Township Association of Senior Centers Services Committee (ITASCSC) at ceremonies held Nov. 11 in Springfield, IL. MaineStay, which provides youth and family services for all residents of Maine Township, received the 2014 Association of Illinois Township Committees on Youth (AITCOY) Youth Organization Award. MaineStay volunteer Leena Khoury received the 2014 AITCOY Youth Leadership Award.

Swanson, who has been director of MaineStreamers for the past 14 years, was recognized for her enthusiasm and dedication to the senior program. She has initiated many successful programs including "Swing into Spring" Senior Expo which averages more than 75 vendors and 1600 seniors in attendance each year.

MaineStay was recognized for its determination and dedication in discovering and meeting the needs of the youth in Maine Township, a community that is experiencing rapid economic, social and cultural changes. When results of a community survey showed that bullying was a concern to residents, MaineStay responded with a seminar that drew more than 400 people who heard Jarrett Payton, son of the late Walter Payton, and Camille Paddock, a teen who had been bullied, share their experiences. Another well attended seminar in April featured Carrie Goldman, author of *Bullied: What Every Parent, Teacher, and Kid Needs to Know about Ending the Cycle of Fear*.

Khoury, who is part of MaineStay's Future Leaders Program, is known by staff members as a young woman who identifies with the youth of Maine Township on a unique level. She is always first to volunteer and goes the extra mile in preparation for planned activities.

Congratulations to our township winners!

Maine Township Holds The Line On Tax Levy To Give Taxpayers A Break

The Maine Township Board of Trustees voted unanimously at its November meeting to hold the line again on the tax levy that will be collected in 2015. There was essentially no increase over the prior year's levy and only a slight increase over two years ago.

"We want to again give the taxpayers a break in their tax bills from Maine Township next year," said Carol A. Teschky, Maine Township Supervisor. "We have been consistently fiscally conservative in our spending over the last couple of years and are happy to pass along the savings to the taxpayers," she said.

The 2014 levy passed at the meeting is the amount of money that Maine Township asks Cook County officials to collect through property taxes to fund Maine Townships day to day operations. Maine Township levies taxes for the Town Fund and for the General Assistance Fund. The levy for the Town Fund is \$4,349,812. The levy for the General Assistance Fund is \$1,042,142.

Teschky said, "We never boost our levy over and above what is actually needed to run the township and service the disadvantaged."



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 2014 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.



NEWS FROM THE ASSESSOR

Assessor,
Susan Moylan Krey



Did you receive a Zero (\$0) Dollar 2013 Second Installment Property Tax Bill?

Each year two property tax bills are issued from the Cook County Treasurer's office. The first bill is an estimated bill. The second bill is the "true" calculated bill. If there is an overpayment from the first bill, a taxpayer may receive a second installment bill that indicates a zero dollar amount. The bill may reflect a refund due. Refunds are not made automatically. Those who overpaid their Cook County property taxes and received a zero tax bill must submit a Cook County Treasurer refund application. The application must be completed, signed and returned with proof of payment; copy of cancelled check(s), copy of register receipt from cashier or a letter from the mortgage company indicating taxes paid for tax year in question. The application is available on www.cookcountytreasurer.com or you may come to Maine Township for assistance.

Senior Citizen Real Estate Tax Deferral Program

The Senior Citizen Real Estate Tax Deferral program is a tax-relief program that works like a loan. It allows qualified seniors to defer a maximum of \$5,000 per year of their taxes on their primary home. The homeowner must be 65 years of age by June 1 of the year in which the application is made. Additionally, the homeowner must own and occupy the property for the last three years and the qualifying total household income may not exceed \$55,000. The cost of the program is 6% simple interest per year. Applications are available through the Cook County Treasurer's office after January 1 and the last day to file is March 1 of the year the taxes otherwise would be paid. This program is administered through the Cook County Treasurer and further details are available on the Cook County Treasurer's website or you may contact Maine Township for assistance.

Be Sure You Received Your Exemptions on Your Real Estate Tax Bill

Taxpayers are entitled to various exemptions which reduce the overall amount of taxes that are paid. The most common exemptions are Homeowner, Senior Citizen and Senior Freeze. These exemptions can be viewed on the Second Installment Real Estate tax bill. It is important to check your bill to ensure you have received the proper deductions. If you believe that you have not received the deductions, you may visit the Maine Township office and we will assist in completing the Certificate of Error paperwork required for a refund.

As always, we are here to serve our residents of Maine Township. Stop by or call 847-297-2510 with any questions.

JOURNAL & Topics Newspapers

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HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT NEWS

Highway Commissioner, Robert Provenzano

The winter months can present new challenges for us all. The snow and extreme frigid temperatures, strong winds, ice and sometimes heavy snow storms can pose dangerous situations. Are you ready, are you prepared? Planning ahead for winter

can really pay off, so consider taking the following precautions:

Winter Precautions

Know your terms – when a Winter Storm

WATCH is issued listen to radio and television stations or cable television for updates, be alert to changing weather conditions and avoid unnecessary travel; when a Winter Storm WARNING is issued stay indoors during storm, if you go outdoors dress in layers to keep you warmer and remember gloves, mittens and a hat to prevent loss of body heat. Keep your mouth covered to protect your lungs; walk carefully on snowy, icy walkways; avoid traveling by car in a storm, but if you must travel keep an Emergency Supply Kit in trunk; keep your car's gas tank full for emergency use and to keep the fuel line from freezing and if you must travel advise someone of your intended route. Please conserve fuel so if necessary keep your residence cooler than normal by temporarily closing heat vents to unused rooms.

Emergency Supply Kit – Plan ahead and have some non-perishable food, water, battery-powered or hand-crank radio, extra flashlights and batteries. You may want to consider purchasing rock salt to melt ice on walkways, sand to improve traction, snow shovels and other winter removal equipment. Also have adequate clothing and blankets to keep you warm.

WINTER ADVISORY – Residents are requested to please utilize off-street parking, when available and adhere to "No Parking - Snow Route" signs.

PLEASE DO:

Observe snow route parking bans on all streets after two (2") 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 as quickly as possible.

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.



Commissioner Provenzano surveys the salt supply that is ready for use this winter.

PLEASE DON'T:

Shovel, plow, or blow snow on to the streets or sidewalk from private property. Not only is this dangerous, but it is against the law. You may be ticketed and fined.

Park opposite another car on narrow streets since snowplows need room to get through.

Follow a snowplow or salt truck too closely, since weather conditions can make it very difficult for drivers to see you at times.

Street Lights and Signs

Please report any burned out street lights or missing street signs in the unincorporated area to the Highway Department at the number listed below during regular business hours. After hours or on the weekend you may leave a message, or, email our office at mthighway@aol.com at any time to report an outage.

First Tree Branch Pickup for 2015 Season

It may seem a bit far away, but it's closer than you think. Yes, spring is coming; maybe not fast enough for some of us, but it is on the way. The first pick up date of the year will be Monday, April 20, 2015, so please mark your calendar. Branches need to be curbside at 7 a.m., and due to our limited staff, we cannot go back once we complete a street. This service will continue the third Monday of the month through September.

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 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Phone: 847-297-5225

Email: MTHighway@aol.com



CLERK'S CORNER

Clerk, Gary K. Warner



May health and happiness be yours for this New Year!

The last 12 months have been exceptionally gratifying. The Clerk's office has served an overwhelming number of residents compared to prior years. We have assisted in processing 2,729 passport applications, sold 13,254 unincorporated vehicle stickers, registered 54 citizens to vote and issued 134 fishing and hunting licenses.

The Clerk's Neighbor to Neighbor program reached out to approximately 1,350 families last year who moved into Maine Township. The welcoming Neighbor to Neighbor packets contain information on all the services provided by Maine Township as well the information regarding

local Cook County Sheriff's Department, North Maine Fire Protection District, hospitals, schools, churches, libraries and the Maine Township Neighborhood Watch program.

We assist seniors age 65 and older to apply for the RTA and Ventra Cards. Last year 258 seniors applied for their transportation Free Ride or Reduced Ventra card. To apply there is a fee of \$2 to take your picture and to send in the picture and a copy of an ID with the applications for the applicant to receive his/her card.

Our passport services are still very popular. We take passport applications from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. No appointment needed.

Thank you for giving my staff an opportunity to serve you. We look forward to assisting you in the New Year. We remain fully committed to exceed your expectations.

We encourage all our residents to visit the Clerk's office at any time Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. or visit our website at www.maintownship.com.



Township officials proudly show some of the food donated by many individuals and generous organizations and companies during the holiday season. All the food is distributed throughout the year. An estimated 4,000 are served annually by the pantry.

Here, l to r, are Supervisor Carol A. Teschky, Trustee Walter Kazmierczak, Clerk Gary K. Warner, Trustee Laura Morask, Trustee Kimberly Jones, and Highway Commissioner Robert Provenzano.



Fight the Winter “Blues” and get involved with MaineStay

Fight the winter doldrums and the urge to be a “couch potato.” Get involved with MaineStay programs and groups!

Future Leaders

We are looking for youths ages 8-13 who want to interact with positive teen mentors, under the direction of our staff, at the Des Plaines Leisure Center on the second Thursday each month from 4 - 5:30p.m. Safe fun is key to this program designed to transition youths onto a successful high school path.

Maine BLAST (Building, Learning and Succeeding Together)

This new program is designed for youth ages 8-13 needing a little help with homework and who enjoy having fun and socializing through positive team building activities. We are looking for adults with education backgrounds or experience working with youth and qualified teens and college students to volunteer for this program. They meet at the township every Tuesday from 3:30 – 5 p.m. beginning January 27.

Parents Academy – March 19, 7-9 p.m.

Dr. Andrea Barthwell, M.D., F.A.S.A.M., an international renowned physician and speaker, will address parents on how to establish open dialogues with teens, identify risky behaviors and create an action plan. She provides parents a road map to foster healthy, functional habits in their teenagers.

2015 Group Opportunities

Girls Self Esteem (ages 10-14) Tuesdays
February 10 – March 17, 5-6 p.m.

Parenting – Mondays
February 23 – March 30, 7-8:30 p.m.

Teen Depression (ages 13-18) Mondays
February 23 – March 30, 5-6 p.m.

Teen Anger Management (ages 13-18) Thursdays
March 19 – May 7, 5-6 p.m.

Anxiety Coping Skills (ages 8-13) Thursdays
March 5 – April 23, 5-6 p.m.

For information: www.maintownship.com
or call 847-297-2510

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, 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.

Community Volunteer Opportunities

If you have just recently retired and have time on your hands, Maine Township has a list of volunteer opportunities currently available in the Township. Several local agencies offer a variety of volunteer opportunities including, clerical, phone work, event planning, driving, and direct client services. For a complete list contact the MaineStreamers at 847-297-2510.

Wanted: MaineStreamers 90 years of age and older in 2015 ...

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



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

- Jan. 27 at 7:30 p.m. – Board Meeting
 - Feb. 16 – Closed for President's Day
 - Feb. 24 at 7:30 p.m. – Board Meeting
 - Mar. 24 at 7:30pm – Board Meeting
 - Apr. 14 at 7 pm – Annual Town Meeting
 - Apr 28 at 7:30pm – Board Meeting
 - May 25 – Closed for Memorial Day
 - May 26 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



Peter Gialamas
Trustee



Kimberly Jones
Trustee



Gary K. Warner
Clerk



Susan Moylan Krey
Assessor



Robert Provenzano
Highway Commissioner