

TROY TOWNSHIP

Established 1850 Will County - Illinois

COMMUNICATOR

Newsletter for Troy Township Residents

Issue 33 • FALL 2013

A MESSAGE FROM SUPERVISOR

Joseph D. Baltz



This past April, the residents of Troy Township elected the Troy Township Board which will serve the residents of the township for the next four years. I would like to take this time to congratulate those individuals who were reelected to serve and welcome those individuals who are newly elected to their positions.

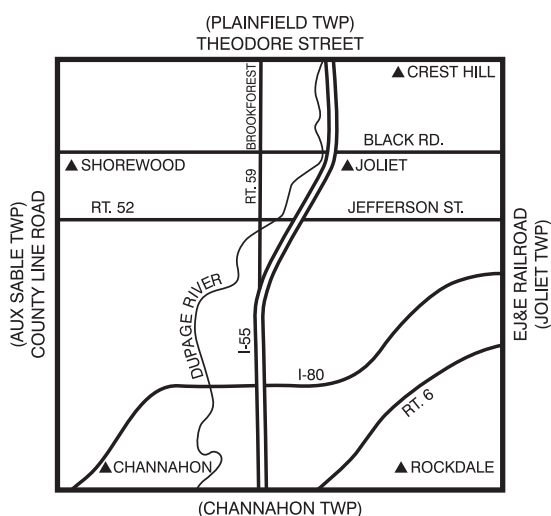
Your elected officials of Troy Township include Joseph D. Baltz, Supervisor; Thomas R. Ward, Highway Commissioner; Kimberly Anderson, Assessor; Kristin Dawn Cross, Clerk; Sharon Cemen Hicks, Collector; and Larry Ryan, John "Theo" Theobald, Donald Walden and Brett Wheeler as Trustees.

These individuals are your friends, neighbors and business associates. They are tax payers and township residents just like you. They care about Troy Township; which is why we want to know....what do you need? We want to hear from you. We need you to tell us what is important to you. Please contact my office with any questions, concerns or comments that you have about the township. I can be reached at 815-744-1968 or via email at jdbbravinia@sbcglobal.net.

I have had the privilege of serving the residents of the township for over 35 years now. During this time, I have worked hard to build longstanding mutually beneficial working relationships with the other units of local government who also have an impact on Troy Township. Fortunately all of these entities understand the positive aspects of these working relationships. The group, which meets quarterly, includes representatives from the City of Joliet, Joliet Junior College, Joliet Township High School District #204, Minooka Community High School District #111, Minooka Grade School District #201, Shorewood Area Chamber of Commerce, Shorewood-Troy Library District, Troy Fire Protection District, Troy School District 30-C, Troy Township, Village of Channahon, Village of Minooka, and Village of Shorewood. Our meetings are also regularly attended by your State Elected Officials, or their representatives, from the following offices: Senator Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant, Representative Tom Cross, Representative Natalie Manley, Senator Pat McGuire and Representative Larry Walsh, Jr. This quarterly meeting is a collective effort of local taxing districts working together for the betterment of their communities; and I am proud to have initiated the gathering many years ago.

Again, your feedback and input is very important. Please stay in communication with us and contact me at 815-744-1968 or via email at jdbbravinia@sbcglobal.net and let me know what you need from your township. I ask that you please join our email distribution list by visiting www.troytownship.com and clicking on the link at the bottom of the page titled "Get Email Updates". Don't forget to follow us on facebook at www.facebook.com/troytownship.

Troy Township Boundaries



A MESSAGE FROM CLERK Kristin Dawn Cross



Commissioner Thomas R. Ward, Collector Sharon Cemen Hicks and Trustees Larry Ryan, John "Theo" Theobald, Donald Walden and Brett Wheeler. It is my honor to serve Troy Township with these committed and caring individuals.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate my fellow Board Members elected this past April; Supervisor Joseph D. Baltz, Assessor Kimberly Anderson, Highway

My position as Clerk takes many forms including record keeping, filings, publication of required notices, and meeting minutes. It is also my duty to serve as Clerk of the Road District and serve as the Local Election Official.

I was appointed to the position of Tax Collector in February of 2012 and was elected as your Troy Township Clerk in April of 2013. I am a long time resident of Troy Township where I reside with my daughter.

Below please find some helpful information regarding early voting for the March 2014 Primary Election as well as information on our Annual Meeting. I am always available and interested in comments, suggestions and concerns on how the Clerk's office can improve. Please feel free to email me at kdcross@troytownship.com.

General Primary Election - March 18, 2014

The next election will be the General Primary Election to be held on March 18, 2014. For this election, the township will once again be a designated early voting and absentee voting site for residents of Troy Township. Both early and absentee voting will take place at the Troy Township Community Center located at 25448 Seil Road in Shorewood.

EARLY VOTING will be open Monday through Friday starting Monday, March 3, 2014, and ending Friday, March 14, 2014. Early voting hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

To be eligible to early vote or absentee vote at the township, you must:

1. Reside in Troy Township.
2. Be a registered voter.
3. Present a valid government issued ID.

NOT A REGISTERED VOTER? You can register to vote at the Troy Township office. Hours for voter registration are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The last day to register to vote before the March 18, 2014, election is February 18, 2014.

For more information about early voting, absentee voting or registering to vote, please visit the Will County Clerk's website at www.thewillcountyclerk.com or call 815-740-4794.



Save the Date - Annual Town Meeting April 8th

On April 8, 2014, Troy Township will hold its 164th Annual Town Meeting. All Troy Township residents are invited to attend. Please join us at 7:00 p.m. at the Troy Township Community Center located at 25448 Seil Road in Shorewood. Please call 815-744-1968 with questions.



NEWS FROM ASSESSOR Kim Anderson

The 2013 assessment notices were sent out in early August. Most residential homeowners again saw a reduction in their value. It is my belief that most assessments will continue to fall over the next few years.

Residential assessments are based on a three year average of sales, so even when the market does level out and start to increase, the three year average may keep assessments lower for some time. The good news is that some neighborhoods are already beginning to stabilize. Developers are again building new homes. Our township has seen new homes being constructed in "The Fields", "Shorewood Towne Center", "Kipling Estates", "Shorewood Glen", "Fall Creek" and "Cumberland South". Our mini-malls are also beginning to fill up with new businesses. We

can all help these businesses by visiting them to see what they have to offer.

Please visit our website or stop in anytime to review your home's property information as well as any other residential properties within Troy Township. On our website you can search by address or parcel identification number. Please note that if you search by address only put in the property street name. Example: If you are searching 123 Smith Road - just type in Smith. All homes on Smith Road will appear and you can choose the one you want. If you should find an error on your property information, please contact my office.

As always, please feel free to contact my office from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday by phone or in person. You may also email me anytime at Assessor@troytownship.com. Please include a parcel number or address when inquiring about a property.

Property Tax Exemptions

As stated in every newsletter, there are several assessment exemptions available to our homeowners. These exemptions are:

- General Homestead
- Senior Homestead
- Senior Assessment Freeze
- Disabled Person
- Disabled and Returning Veteran
- Home Improvement Exemption

Please visit our website www.troytownship.com under the Assessor section or call the Assessor's office at 815-744-5806 to find the necessary requirements to receive these exemptions or to see if you are already receiving them.

Senior Citizen Homestead Exemption Increase

If you are a senior citizen age 65 or older you will be interested to know that the Senior Homestead Exemption has increased from \$4,000 to \$5,000. This will be an automatic increase in your exemption if you are already receiving it. If you have not filled out an application to receive the Senior Homestead Exemption you may visit the Troy Township Assessor's office and they will assist you. The necessary forms can also be downloaded from the Supervisor of Assessments' website at www.willcountysoa.com. This increase in exemption amount will save the average senior approximately \$80.00 more on their tax bill. The amount varies by the tax rate in your neighborhood.

Coming Soon to the Assessor's Website

In the future, the Assessor's section of the Troy Township website will contain a photo and drawing of your home. My staff and I are working on this project daily but it will take some time as Troy Township has just shy of 19,000

residential properties. Also coming soon, for the first time ever, will be commercial property information. I am truly excited about the advances to our system and hope you will find it useful.

HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER Thomas R. Ward



I am honored to have been elected this past April as your Troy Township Highway Commissioner and am looking forward to serving you over the next four years.

This past spring and summer have been exceptionally busy for the Highway Department and the storms have kept us overflowing with branch clean up service. The flood in April caused significant damage around the township and I certainly hope that our residents have recovered.

The wet spring and summer brought some drainage problems to light and we are working diligently to continue to solve these issues. Please keep in mind that on heavy rain days, especially when the rainfall occurs over a short period of time, you can expect to see water in the ditches until the storm sewers can catch up. That is the exact purpose for which the ditches were designed. We are always looking for the best possible solutions to get the ditches completely dry and you can assist us with this

by not dumping any debris into the ditch or culvert areas around your property.

This winter I urge all residents of Troy Township to use caution when traveling on the country roads. School bus traffic as well as young drivers going to and from school are traveling on these roads and extra care and caution should be used.

Lastly, when dropping off recycling at the Highway Department, please do not put garbage, furniture, etc. into the recycling containers as the recycling vendor will not take it.

As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have. I can be reached at 815-405-3378.

Services for Unincorporated Areas of Troy Township

Leaf Vacuuming

Starting the middle of October through November, Troy Township Highway Department will have the leaf vacuuming service for residents in the **“unincorporated” areas of the township**. Residents must rake leaves to the edge of the street so the vacuum machine can reach them easily. **Do not place leaves in ditches as the vacuum cannot reach leaves in ditch areas. Grass cuttings will not be picked up as we have no way of disposing them.**

Branch & Brush Pick Ups

The final branch and brush pick ups for this fall will be on Monday, October 7th, Monday, October 21st and Monday, November 4th. This service will resume again at the beginning of April 2014 on the first and third Mondays of each month.

Winter Snow Removal Reminder

Winter weather is just around the corner. Township trucks and road crews will be out plowing and salting the “unincorporated” road areas. We ask that the residents keep their vehicles off the streets when there has been a snowfall so the plows can safely and efficiently plow the streets and cul-de-sacs. Please use extra caution when driving near these vehicles as our trucks, plows and road crews are on the streets working for your safety.

Open Burning Restrictions

Everyone loves a fall bonfire and along with fall comes leaf raking and sometimes leaf burning. Residents in the unincorporated areas of Troy Township must follow Will County's Nuisance Ordinance which restricts open burning. Both the Will County Sheriff's Office and the Will County Land Use Department have the authority to enforce the ordinance. Specifics about what is allowed for open burning can be found at www.willcountygovern.com

or by calling the Will County Land Use Department, Resource Recovery and Energy Division at 815-727-8834. Residents who are in an incorporated area should check with their specific municipality for their open burning ordinances.



Shredding Event and Medication Disposal October 19th

Back by popular demand! Join us on Saturday, October 19, 2013, from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. when Troy Township will host its increasingly popular semi-annual shredding event. Troy Township residents can bring their personal papers and documents to the township parking lot on the west side of the township offices and community center to be shredded by ShredX. Each resident must show proof of township residency and is allowed to have two letter size file or copy paper boxes shredded.

Troy Township is proud to once again partner

with the Shorewood Police Department and will be offering medication disposal along with the shredding event. Township residents can bring their unneeded medication so that it can be disposed of properly. A list of acceptable items can be found on our website at www.troytownship.com under the News, Notes & Events section.

The Shredding Event and Medication Disposal Drop Off Event will take place simultaneously on Saturday, October 19, 2013, from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. at 25448 Seil Road in Shorewood. For more information please call 815-744-1968.

Items Accepted (expired or unwanted):

- Prescription Medications
- Over-the-Counter Medications
- Medicated Ointments
- Medicated Shampoos
- Liquids Containing Medications
- Prescription Inhalers
- Over-the-Counter Inhalers
- Glass Thermometers (contain mercury)
- Medical devices containing mercury (blood pressure units, barometers, etc.)

Items NOT Accepted:

- DEA Controlled Substances*: Narcotic Medications, Illegal Drugs
- Bio-Hazard Materials
- Sharps/Needles
- Radioactive Materials
- Other Household Wastes

Make sure to bring only residentially generated medication items. No medications from businesses or doctor's offices will be accepted. Use a permanent marker to black out your name or personal information on the label.

YOUR TRUSTEES



Larry Ryan



John Theobald



Donald Walden



Brett Wheeler

A.A.R.P. & Senior Services Center of Will County Offer Income Tax Preparation Assistance

Thanks to the success of recent years, Troy Township will once again be a site for A.A.R.P. Income Tax volunteers from Senior Services Center of Will County to assist seniors with the preparation of simple income tax returns which will be filed via e-filing

only. Complicated tax returns should be taken to other tax professionals. More information on dates and times of available appointments will be available after January 1, 2014. Please call 815-744-1968 or 815-744-1963 for more information at that time.

Troy Cyber Niche Offers Training on Today's Technology

Want to learn new technology like the iPhone, iPad, Kindle, Facebook and more? Then let the Troy Township Cyber Niche team help! The training format is geared towards adults with one-on-one lab sessions. Volunteer tutors are familiar with most common software applications and have access to online tutorials. Other areas of instruction include: Email, Microsoft Office programs, surfing the web, file and folder organization, working with photos and much more! Plan to bring your laptop, camera, whatever,

along with the cables, books, CDs, etc. and we'll try to help make it all more useful for you. For more information or to schedule a session, call 815-744-1968 and please tell us how we can help you. Walk-in appointments are taken on the first and third Friday of every month from 2:30 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. While sessions are free, a suggested donation of \$5 per session is appreciated. Your donations will be used for software and hardware upgrades and repairs in our own computer lab.

Troy Township Community Room events:

Troy Township Board Meeting – Every 3rd Monday at 7:00 p.m.

Joliet Quilters Guild – Mondays 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

T.O.P.S. Take off Pounds Sensibly – Thursdays 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Cyber Niche Computer Classes – First & Third Fridays 2:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.
or by appointment

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Do you Play Euchre, Bridge or Pinochle?



The Troy Township Seniors are looking for people who are interested in playing euchre, bridge or pinochle. Senior Center Director Lisa Imbody is trying to gather enough people to play and join our seniors who gather weekly on Friday's. Please call Lisa at 815-744-1963 for more information and to let her know if you are interested in playing.

Dial-A-Ride Bus Service

Troy Township contracts with PACE Dial-A-Ride Bus Service for residents within Troy Township. Rider eligibility under the program is for persons ages 60+ and persons with disabilities. Service is door-to-door transportation within the

designated ridership area at a cost of \$2.00 for each trip. Reservations should be made 24 hours in advance by calling 800-244-4410 between the hours of 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday - Friday; closed on some holidays.

**YOUR
COLLECTOR
Sharon Cemen
Hicks**



TROY
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Seniors Free Lunch!

Come join the Troy Township Seniors for games and friendship & stay for a free lunch!

Requirements:

Troy Township Seniors Age 60+; RESERVATIONS REQUIRED; Valid on Friday's Only!

Call 815-744-1963 for more information and to make your reservation.

One coupon only per person. Coupon must be presented at the Center on your reservation day. Valid ONLY at the Troy Township Community Center located at 25448 Seil Road in Shorewood. Troy Township is a congregate meal site for Senior Services Center of Will County. Coupon Expires June 30, 2014.



PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID PERMIT
NO. 277
JOLIET, IL

25448 Seil Road
Shorewood, IL 60404-7620

IMPORTANT REAL ESTATE TAX INFORMATION



Follow us on Facebook at
www.facebook.com/troytownship

25448 Seil Road
Shorewood, IL 60404-7620

Town Board Meetings:
Third Monday of every
month at 7:00 p.m.
in Community Center

Office Hours:
Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Township Administrator
Jennifer Dylik

Supervisor
Joseph D. Baltz

Town Clerk
Kristin Dawn Cross

Assessor
Kim Anderson CIAO

Highway Commissioner
Thomas R. Ward

Collector
Sharon Cemen Hicks

Trustees
Larry Ryan
John "Theo" Theobald
Donald Walden
Brett Wheeler

Information:

Troy Twp. Website.....	www.troytownship.com
Supervisor & Community Center...	(815) 744-1968
Township Office Fax	(815) 744-1910
Assessor.....	(815) 744-5806
Assessor Fax	(815) 744-5803
Highway Department.....	(815) 828-5275
Highway Commissioner Cell	(815) 405-3378
General Assistance Program.....	(815) 744-1963