

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR SUPERVISOR

Joseph D. Baltz

Reducing expenses and increasing services; that is what our focus is at Troy Township. As Supervisor of Troy Township, a life long Troy Township resident and a local businessman, I try to bring a common sense, conservative approach to the township and combine that with practical every day business practices. Pulling from my business and also prior government service experience, I look for ways to keep costs down and review areas where the township can expand the services offered to our residents, without additional cost to the taxpayers.

After a thorough review of our health insurance, the township was able to make some changes at our renewal and thanks to the great work done by our Health Insurance Committee, led by Trustee Brett Wheeler, the township was able to realize a 38% reduction in premiums.

Utility expenses are another area where the township has taken

steps to see significant cost reductions. Taking advantage of reduced electricity rates, we contracted to reduce our electricity rate by 18% for May 2013 to May 2014.

As I stated, we have taken steps to add programs or services for the residents. Here are just a few of the programs added in the last year:

- In the spring of 2012 the township partnered with the Shorewood Police Department to offer medication disposal along with our very successful shredding event. The event was a huge success and will be repeated again on October 13, 2012.
- The township hosted its first Community Expo and Open House this past June. The expo and open house was free to the public and offered local business & service organization information, a touch a truck event, a rock wall, a bounce house, a dj, raffles, free give-away items and some craft activities for the kids. Watch your Spring 2013 Communicator for more information about next year's event.
- In 2012 the township partnered with the Will County Center for Community Concerns to serve as an outreach site.
- In June we had Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White's Mobile Drivers Services Unit out to the township for residents.
- In 2011 we partnered with the Village of Shorewood to bring a community garden to the township for the residents of Shorewood and unincorporated Troy Township.
- In the spring of 2012 we partnered with the Village of Shorewood to offer rain barrels for sale for all residents of Troy Township.

These are only a few of the services and programs we offer here at Troy Township. I encourage all of you to learn more about your township and get involved in the programs and events that we offer. More information about your township can be found at www.troytownship.com.

Your feedback and suggestions are always appreciated. Please, never hesitate to contact me and let me know what you need from your township. I can be reached at jdbbravinia@sbcglobal.net or by calling (815) 744-1968.



Troy Township Services

Annual Spring Clean Up*
Community Center
Community Garden*
Computer Classes
Early & Absentee Voting
Emergency Preparedness
Expos & Community Events
General Assistance
Leaf Pick Up*
Medication Disposal Events**
Mosquito Abatement*
Notary Public Services
Polling Place
Property Tax Information
Recycling Program
Referral Services
Road Maintenance*
Senior Nutrition Site & Senior Activities
Shredding Events**
Snow Plowing*
Tree Branch & Brush Pick Up*
Voter Registration
Voting Booths for All Township Precincts
Weed Control*

*Unincorporated Areas Only / **Event Offered Twice Per Year

TOWNSHIP CLERK'S CORNER

Jim McFarland



As an American Citizen, Your Vote is Your Voice.

In March, the Township Clerk's office completed another successful election, yet, unfortunately, voter turnout countywide was just 20.98%. It's your

opportunity on Tuesday, November 6, 2012, to be heard--to hold elected officials accountable for their decisions and to have a say in important issues affecting your community.

On Election Day, every vote matters.

If you are unable to vote on Election Day, you can exercise your right to early vote or absentee vote at the Troy Township

Community Center, 25448 Seil Road, Shorewood.

Early voting will be available from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on weekdays from Monday, October 22nd - Thursday, November 1st.

Absentee voting will be offered on Friday, November 2nd from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

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

- Reside in Troy Township
- Be a registered voter
- Present a valid government issued ID

For more information about early voting, absentee voting or registering to vote, please call (815) 740-4620.

Are You or a Member of Your Family Missing Money or Assets?

Illinois State Treasurer Dan Rutherford has launched a new I-Cash Program, adding 780,000 new names to the unclaimed property database.

Some examples of unclaimed property currently held by the treasurer's office include the following:

- Money from inactive savings and checking accounts
- Unpaid wages or commissions
- Stocks, bonds and mutual funds
- Money orders and bill overpayments
- Paid up life insurance policies
- Safe deposit box contents

To find out if you have unclaimed property through I-Cash, you can visit www.icash.illinois.gov.

The web site is updated weekly to reflect new properties remitted to the office. You can also contact the unclaimed property division via phone by calling (217) 785-6998.

Have You Visited the "Transparency Portal?"

Troy Township taxpayers can get an inside look at the township government's spending and operations through the, "Transparency Portal," an online tool designed to bring better visibility, openness and accountability to township government. The portal contains information ranging from budgets, meeting minutes and agendas, as well as the township's checkbook.

To access the portal, please visit:

<http://www.troystownship.com/transparency-portal.aspx>

Information on the portal will be updated regularly. We strive to utilize your tax dollars as efficiently and effectively as possible, and look forward to sharing this information with you.

Your Suggestions Welcomed

The Township Clerk's Office is committed to responsive, accurate and efficient service. Please feel free to contact me on my cellular phone at (815) 260-6011 if you have any suggestions or questions for the Clerk's office.



ASSESSOR NEWS

Kim Anderson

It is truly my privilege to have been appointed to the office of Troy Township Assessor effective April 1st of 2012. I was first employed in the assessor's office in 2007 and obtained my Certified Illinois Assessing Official (CIAO) designation in

2010. I am currently continuing my education with the Illinois Department of Revenue and the Illinois Property Assessment Institute to ensure that the residents of Troy Township have the best possible service from their Assessor and our staff.

A lifelong resident of the Village of Shorewood and Troy Township, prior to joining the assessor's staff in 2007 I owned and operated my own business in Shorewood for 18 years. Over the years I have enjoyed serving my community while volunteering for the Troy Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary holding the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary

and Treasurer; serving as Emergency Services Coordinator for the Village of Shorewood with 15 volunteers serving under my coordination; and serving as a current member of the Village of Shorewood's Citizen's Advisory Committee. I have been married for almost 26 years and have one son.

It is my commitment to maintain the quality of service that Troy Township residents are accustomed to when visiting the Assessor's Office. We are here to assist you with the filing of paperwork for exemptions and to assist you with any questions regarding the assessment on your home or business. You may contact us by phone, e-mail or a visit to our office. Our website www.troytownship.com contains all residential information about homes in our township as well as sale information on residential parcels. Our website also contains a link to the Will County Supervisor of Assessments web-site www.willcountysoa.com that can give you current assessment information on your property.

Once again, I am truly excited to be your Township Assessor and if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Re-Assessment Notices

The 2012 re-assessment notices were mailed out on August 8th & 9th and were published in the Joliet Herald News on August 8th. If you didn't see your new assessment, they are available on-line through the Will County Supervisor of Assessment's website at the www.willcountysoa.com or you may call our office at (815) 744-5806 or (815) 744-5807.

Most Troy Township residential parcels received

a decrease in their assessed value. Percentages of the decreases were based upon the three year sales ratio study. Please remember that a lower assessment does not always mean a lower tax bill. Your assessment, minus any exemptions, times the tax rate is what determines your tax bill. Tax rates are based on budgets and levies of our local taxing bodies.

Property Tax Exemptions

There are several exemptions available to homeowners. Below you will find a list of exemptions that you may be eligible for. Our office has all the necessary applications to request an exemption and our helpful staff will assist you with the completion of all applications.

Requirements do vary based upon the exemption. Here is a short list of the exemptions and the basic requirements for each. Please call our office to learn more or visit www.troytownship.com or www.willcountysoa.com under the assessor section heading- exemptions.

Exemptions Available: *(please note the amount of*

exemption is off your assessed value) (you may check the right side of your property tax bill to see if you are already receiving any exemptions)

General Homestead - \$6,000

Must be the property owner, must be your principle residence and must be responsible for the payment of property taxes. This exemption will remain with your property unless you move.

General Senior Homestead - \$4,000

Same as above, plus must be 65 years of age or older, do not have to renew unless you move.

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HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER Thomas R. Ward



The Troy Township Highway Department has been very busy this summer. You have probably noticed some street sign replacement, upgrading them to a new quality of reflectivity, and have added some additional signage where residents expressed concerns.

Our crews have been working on, and will continue to address, fixing those sidewalks in unincorporated areas that show immediate danger to pedestrians. Several road projects were completed this summer and our focus for the upcoming years is to phase out the use of a program called "tar and chip" and strictly use blacktop on all of the roads maintained by the Troy Township Highway Department. Additionally, the Township is seeking grant funding opportunities for improvements on those roadways that have significant drainage issues.

Our Highway Department's recycling center continues to be one the top recycling centers in Will County. Another dumpster has been added for traditional recycling materials (paper, plastic, metal) and we continue to lead the way in collection of electronics and textiles.

Lastly, in an effort to reduce the maintenance expenses on our equipment, the Highway Department now performs about 96% of all maintenance and repair work in-house. If you have any questions about the Highway Department or the services we provide, please do not hesitate to contact me 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 1st, Monday, October 15th and Monday, November 5th. This service will resume in April 2013 on the first and third Monday 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- Nuisance Fires

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.

Make Note! Troy Highway Department Has New Phone Numbers

The Troy Township Highway Department has some new contact numbers. The new office number is (815) 828-5275. The new fax number is (815) 828-5490. Please make note of this change.

Recycling Center Continues to Flourish

The Troy Township Highway Department continues to lead the way in Will County with its recycling program. As always, here at the **Troy Township Highway Department**, residents can drop off **traditional recycling** items like paper and plastic, as well as electronics recycling including computers, televisions, VCRs, radios, answering machines and electronic toys. All items with a computer chip will be allowed for drop off and once the items are placed in the containers they can not be removed. About a year ago, **textile recycling** was added to the recycling center. Aside from clothing and bedding, shoes, draperies, hats, belts, purses and other clothing items are being collected for recycling. Items can be dropped off between 7:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Seniors who might need assistance getting heavy items out of their vehicle should call Highway Commissioner Thomas R. Ward in advance

at (815) 405-3378 to ensure someone is on site to assist.

For more information about the Troy Township Recycling Program visit www.troytownship.com or call the **Troy Township Highway Commissioner Thomas R. Ward** at (815) 405-3378.

For more information on other types of recycling in our area, visit www.willcountygreen.com. The website sponsored by the Will County Land Use Department features special recycling events going on in our local area as well as information about various collection sites, items to be recycled and times and specifics on the items that can be accepted.



Right of Way Blocked?

If you notice any trees or bushes blocking the right of way view on any unincorporated roads, please report this to the Troy Township Highway Department by calling (815) 828-5275.

Keep Troy Township Safe! Drive cautiously this winter season.

Fall is here and winter will be quickly approaching. Please be extra careful driving during the snow season. For residents traveling from Shorewood to Minooka or on any country roads please be careful at all intersections. Make sure to come to a complete stop at all stop signs and watch your speed.

Property Tax Exemptions, *Continued from Page 3*

Returning Veteran - \$5,000 (*one time per deployment*)

Requirements are the same as General Homestead plus DD214. If still active, military orders and travel voucher DD 220.

Disabled Persons Homestead Exemption - \$2,000

Requirements are the same as General Homestead plus Class 2 or 2a state disabled ID card or proof of social security benefits which includes an awards letter. No age requirement but must name must be on the deed. (This exemption requires an annual renewal.)

Disabled Veteran - \$2,500 to \$5,000

Requirements: Property owner, principle residence and responsible for the payment of property taxes plus DD214,

your disability letter stating "service connected disability", disability must be over 50%. (This is an annual renewal.)

Senior Freeze – Varies (please note the freeze does not freeze your taxes-it freezes your assessed value)

Requirements: Property owner, principle residence, responsible for the payment of property taxes, plus 65 years of age or older and total household income must be below \$55,000. (This exemption is an annual renewal.)

Homestead Improvement – Up to \$25,000

Requirements: Property Owner, principle residence, responsible for the payment of property taxes. (Certain improvements that would add to your assessed value such as decks, in-ground pools, additions, etc.) (Four year exemption).

YOUR TRUSTEES



Larry Ryan



John Theobald



Donald Walden



Brett Wheeler

Shredding Event and Medication Disposal is Back!

Back by popular demand, please join us on Saturday, October 13, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. when Troy Township will once again host the semi-annual shredding event. Troy Township residents can take 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. Since identity fraud is a possibility for anyone, this service will help residents destroy personal papers in a safe and timely manner, not to mention save money. Some local retailers charge around \$0.59 per pound of papers you wish to recycle. **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.

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-Hazardous 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 can be taken. Use a permanent marker to black out your name or personal information on the label.

The Shredding Event and Medication Disposal Drop Off Event will take place simultaneously on Saturday, October 13, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. at 25448 Seil Road in Shorewood. For more information please call (815)-744-1968.

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.

Save the Date! Mobile Driver Services Unit Coming to Troy Township, June 2013!

After the success of the township's June 2012 program, Secretary of State Jesse White will once again bring his Mobile Driver Services Unit to Troy Township located at 25448 Seil Road, Shorewood, Illinois, on June 11, 2013. Illinois residents will be able to renew their drivers' licenses, obtain duplicate or corrected

licenses and obtain Illinois identification cards. A Rules of the Road Review Course will also be offered which will combine explanations of safe driving techniques, Illinois driving laws and a practice written exam. More information will be forthcoming in the spring 2013 newsletter and at www.troytownship.com.

Calling All Troy Township Seniors!

Troy Township seniors age 60+ are welcome to attend activities at the Troy Township Community Center. Troy Township Seniors meet on Wednesdays and Fridays from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. and enjoy friendship, food, programs, games, events and more!

Wii bowling, cards, monthly health screenings and a monthly birthday celebration are just some of the fun events happening with the Troy Township Seniors.

Lunch is optional and provided on a

donation basis by Senior Services Center of Will County. Lunch reservations must be made one week in advance either at the Center or by calling (815) 744-1968 during regular business hours; Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

No reservations are required unless you wish to reserve a meal. The Troy Township Community Center is located at 25448 Seil Road, Shorewood. For more information call (815) 744-1968.

**YOUR
COLLECTOR**
Kristin Ethridge



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 time of available appointments will be available after January 1, 2013. Please call (815) 744-1968 for more information at that time.

Troy TRIAD Brings Educational Health and Safety Programs to Seniors

TRIAD is a national organization that began in 1988-89 by the National Sheriff's Association, AARP and the International Association of Police Chiefs. The concept is that local senior citizens working with local law enforcement and other service agencies in the areas where they reside can help in the reduction of crimes against the elderly. **TRIAD** has also promoted safety and health improvement awareness

among senior citizens. Upcoming **TRIAD** topics include:

- How to Manage Stress During the Holidays
- Senior Home Inspection Program
- Weather Preparedness

For dates, times, locations and more information on the Troy **TRIAD** programs and events, contact Will County Sheriff Senior Services Coordinator at (815)-727-5678.

Computer Skills Rusty?

Let the Troy Township Cyber Niche guys help! The training format is geared towards adults with one-on-one lab sessions. Our volunteer tutors are familiar with most common software applications and have access to online tutorials. New computer users can search the web and use email after three or four sessions. Advanced users can improve their skills in single sessions by learning to "cut and paste" or manage files. Some areas of instruction include: Email, Microsoft Office programs, surfing the web and much more!

For more information or to schedule a session call (815) 744-1968. 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 and will be used for software upgrades. We have WiFi, bring your laptop. An excellent way to learn quickly is to teach. We are looking for additional Cyber Niche volunteers. Call Rolland at (815) 744-3197 for more information on volunteering.



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

25448 Seil Road
Shorewood, IL 60404-7620

IMPORTANT REAL ESTATE TAX INFORMATION

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
Jim McFarland

Assessor
Kim Anderson CIAO

Highway Commissioner
Thomas R. Ward

Collector
Kristin Ethridge

Trustees
Larry Ryan
John 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