

# TROY TOWNSHIP

Established 1850 Will County - Illinois

## COMMUNICATOR

*Newsletter for Troy Township Residents*

Issue 37 • FALL 2015

### A MESSAGE FROM SUPERVISOR Joseph D. Baltz

As your Township Supervisor, I am always looking for ways to better our township facilities at little or no cost to you, the taxpayers. With that, I am pleased to announce the donation of an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) by Alden Estates of Shorewood to the Troy Township Community Center.

Our Community Center is used almost daily and



*Pictured (l-r) are from Troy Township: Jennifer Dylik, Administrator; Lisa Imbody, Community Services Director; Joseph D. Baltz, Supervisor, and from Alden Estates of Shorewood: Annette Borcky, Administrator; Ashley Bolyn, Assistant Administrator; Margaret Claussen, Account Manager.*

we are excited to be able to add this safety feature for our visitors. We are extremely grateful to Alden Estates of Shorewood, who is a short-term rehabilitation

center, for their generous donation. On August 19th Alden Estates of Shorewood also sponsored a lunch for the Troy Township Seniors and unveiled the new piece of equipment.

I'd also like to extend our thanks to the Troy Fire Protection District for their help with the selection of the AED Unit, determining the proper location for the AED in the building, and for providing training for staff on proper usage of the AED.

This is a great example of organizations working together for the betterment of our community.

Sincerely,

Joseph D. Baltz  
Troy Township Supervisor



**ALDEN ESTATES OF SHOREWOOD**

SHORT-TERM REHABILITATION & HEALTH CARE

Alden Estates of Shorewood is a five-star facility offering transitional care, short-term rehabilitation and post-acute services throughout the southwestern suburbs. Since it opened in May 2012, Alden Estates of Shorewood has been setting the standard in transitional care and exceptional customer service with its well-known Optimal Rehabilitation

Therapy Program, luxurious accommodations and five-star amenities. The Optimal Rehabilitation Program offers intensive therapy daily to get you back on your feet – and home – as quickly and safely as possible. For more information on Alden Estates of Shorewood visit [www.aldenestatesofshorewood.com](http://www.aldenestatesofshorewood.com) or call 815-230-8700.

### NEWS FROM ASSESSOR Kim Anderson



2015 is our quadrennial assessment year. My staff and I conducted sales studies and looked at the reassessment possibility for over 20,000 properties. I am happy to say that this task was completed on time and my staff did a tremendous job. This was no easy task.

For the first time since 2009 Will County realized an increase in values. The County-wide increase was 2.77%. Our Troy Township realized a 4.0% increase in overall value. This is a true sign of a better economy. This increase in value does not mean that all properties in Troy Township were raised 4%. The only increase in value to properties came from the results of our studies.

Our Township continues to grow. We had 92 newly constructed homes in 2012, 125 in 2013,

160 in 2014, and 2015 is looking even better. The Township has also seen commercial and industrial growth. There are many exciting projects coming to our Township that are currently in the works with Joliet and Shorewood. Commercial and industrial growth adds to our tax base thus keeping our property taxes lower than they would be without them.

We continue to work on our website as time permits. As we measure new construction, a drawing and photo is added to the property characteristics. As always, I encourage you to review your property information and contact us immediately should you find an error.

My office is always more than happy to assist you with any questions or concerns you have regarding the value placed on your property.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Anderson  
Assessor, CIAO

### Exemptions, Senior Freeze & Common Questions

The Assessor's office has all of the necessary forms to apply for exemptions. We are always happy to assist you in filling them out and getting them to the County. Exemptions that are available are: General Homestead, General Senior Homestead, Senior Freeze, Disabled Person, Disabled Veteran,

Returning Veteran and Home Improvement. Please note there are qualifications for each exemption. To see if you qualify, please visit the Assessor section of our website under the exemption tab. If you do not have access to a computer, please call us anytime between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. daily.

### Frequently Asked Questions

A commonly asked question is: ***"Do I have to renew my homestead exemptions?"*** The answer is "no" unless you move to a new home.

Another common question is: ***"When can I apply for the Senior Freeze and what does it do?"*** You must be 65 years old or older, the home you live in must be your primary residence, your **total**

**household income** must be less than \$55,000 and you must have lived in the home for two January's. The Senior Freeze freezes the assessed value of your home **NOT your taxes**. This exemption is especially valuable when market values rise. Your property's value will always be frozen at the lowest amount as long as you renew your application every year.

## A MESSAGE FROM CLERK Kristin Dawn Cross

As the Town Clerk, one of my primary duties is to maintain the township records. With the help of a local historian/librarian I have been overseeing the task of archiving and preserving some of Troy Township's oldest records. With township business dating back to 1850 the records contain some great history. While the records are still in the process of being digitized and indexed, our hope is to be able to share these books on our website very soon so that generations of township residents can have access to them and discover some of the great history of Troy Township.

Another duty as Town Clerk is to serve as your Local Election Official. I cannot stress the importance of exercising your right to vote. The General Primary Election coming up on March 15, 2016, is quickly approaching and will decide who will be running for President of our GREAT country. What an exciting page in history this will

be as our country comes out to decide our direction and future.

Early voting for the General Primary Election will start at the Troy Township Community Center on February 29, 2016 and end on March 11, 2016. Please visit our website

at [www.troytownship.com](http://www.troytownship.com) for updates and the link to the Will County Clerk's website.

In closing, I want to hear from you about ways I can improve the office of the Clerk here at Troy Township. Please feel free to email me at [kdcross@troytownship.com](mailto:kdcross@troytownship.com) or call 815-744-1968. I welcome all comments, suggestions and concerns that you may have.



## Save the Date - Annual Town Meeting April 12<sup>th</sup>

On April 12, 2016, Troy Township will hold its 167th 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.

## Staying Informed During Emergencies and More

How do you stay informed during emergencies, about severe weather, about road closures and more around town? We encourage you to sign up for Nixle alerts; messages from public agencies that come directly to your email or via text message to your cell phone. You can register for messages based on where you live, work or any other location or agency that you wish to stay informed about. Agencies that participate in Nixle alerts include

Shorewood Police Department, Joliet Police Department, Channahon Police Department, Crest Hill Police Department plus many more. You can select the agencies that you wish to receive communication from and how you wish to receive those messages. This is a great way to stay informed and receive up-to-date information about your community. For more information or to register for Nixle alerts visit [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com).



### HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER Thomas R. Ward



This past spring and early summer was one of the wettest on record. In fact, the National Weather Service estimates that since about March 1, 2015, our area has had upwards of 20 inches, if not close to 30 inches of rain. This heavy amount of rain creates standing water and drainage problems. We are doing our best to keep positive drainage throughout all of the unincorporated areas of the township. You can do your part by making sure that your culverts are free and clear of all debris.

This summer we did numerous seal coating and blacktop projects throughout the unincorporated areas of the township. Road projects are determined by need after each winter. Roads that need some minor repairs may not get resurfaced but are sealed to stop deterioration until funds allow for resurfacing.

At our yard, please be aware that we do not accept grass, weeds or any other yard waste. It is very costly to dispose of these items. We can accept branches but the Highway Department will not accept items such as tree stumps, shrubs, bushes, leaves, grass, etc. Residents with grass, shrubs, bushes, etc. should dispose of them per their garbage collection service company's requirements/specifications.

***Lastly, I would like to talk a little about recycling at the Troy Township Highway Department.***

Our facility is merely one of many sites for Will County. With that said, we can only take recycling for the containers we are allocated. The vendor that picks up our traditional recycling (paper, plastic, and glass) has informed us that pure garbage, along

with other foreign objects, is being thrown in these recycling containers. If this continues, the vendor will pull their recycling containers from our site and recycling will be discontinued here at Troy.

For electronic recycling, please do not leave equipment outside of our gates. This creates a hazard for those people who are using the bike path and causes extensive additional labor hours. Please remember that first and foremost we are a Highway Department here to take care of the roadways in the unincorporated areas of Troy Township. We do not have extra funding to provide the recycling services and therefore need the assistance of you, the residents, to follow procedures. Doing so will ensure the recycling program runs smoothly and does not become so cumbersome that it needs to be eliminated.

Please note that with our recycling program, we DO NOT accept paint, other household liquids, light bulbs, or batteries. We encourage you to visit [www.willcountygreen.com](http://www.willcountygreen.com) for more information on where to recycle these plus many other items.

As always, I am very proud to serve as your Highway Commissioner and welcome your feedback and comments. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 815-405-3378.

Thomas R. Ward

Highway Commissioner

### Troy Highway Crews Assist Coal City



On the evening of Monday, June 22nd an EF3 tornado touched down in neighboring Coal City, Illinois. The damage was devastating. As your Highway Commissioner, I was proud to have our Troy Township

Highway crews assisting with the clean-up in the days following the tornado. Our neighboring townships and municipalities have always lent a hand when needed; we were more than happy to return the favor.

### New Rail Road Crossing Gates Shepley Road

Thanks to grant funding provided by the Local Rail/Highway Grade Crossing program, the railroad crossing on Shepley Road in the unincorporated area of Troy Township will soon have LED flashing light signals and crossing gates. This is one of the most dangerous crossings in the Township due to the tracks being located

at the top of blind hill and curve in the road. We are excited to have this new safety feature added, at no cost to the tax payers, which will help to ensure the safety of those traveling across this crossing.

Work is expected to be completed in the fall of 2015.



## New Hours at the Highway Department Recycling Center

### Recycling Center

25358 Seil Rd., Shorewood, IL

Items Accepted: Electronic Recycling,  
Textile Recycling, Traditional  
Recycling, Cardboard, Car Batteries

**If an item is not listed, we do not accept it.** For information on where to recycle items not accepted at our recycling center, please visit [www.willcountygreen.com](http://www.willcountygreen.com) and search the Green Guide Database.

If you have general questions about recycling at the Highway Department

### Hours of Operation

Monday – Friday: 7:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
1st and 3rd Saturday Each Month: 8:00  
a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

**CLOSED HOLIDAYS**

please call 815-744-1968 or visit [www.troytownship.com](http://www.troytownship.com). If you have specific questions or concerns about the Highway Department itself, road projects, tree trimming, etc. please contact Highway Commissioner Ward at 815-405-3378.

## 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.willcountygreen.com](http://www.willcountygreen.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.

## 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.** Please be advised that the leaf vacuuming service may be put on hold with the occurrence of a snow or ice event.

### BRANCH & BRUSH PICK UPS

The final branch and brush pick ups for this fall will be on Monday, October 5th, Monday, October 19th and Monday,

November 2nd. This service will resume again at the beginning of April 2016 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.

## YOUR TRUSTEES



Larry Ryan



John Theobald



Donald Walden



Brett Wheeler



### Shredding Event and Medication Disposal October 3rd

Join us on Saturday, October 3, 2015, 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](http://www.troytownship.com) under the News, Notes & Events section.

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.

The Shredding Event and Medication Disposal Drop Off Event will take place simultaneously on Saturday, October 3, 2015, from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. at 25448 Seil Road in Shorewood. For more information please call 815-744-1968.

### Have a Short-term Need for a Wheelchair, Walker, Cane or Crutches?



Troy Township offers short-term loans, up to 90 days, of wheelchairs, walkers, canes or crutches. Free for any township resident! Call 815-744-1963 for more information.

### New Troy Township Calendar of Events

Please visit our website at [www.troytownship.com](http://www.troytownship.com) and check out the new Calendar of Events tab on left side of the page. The calendar lists every Township event, function, class, or meeting for the month and includes color coded categories to easily identify a senior function, an Assessor function, a Highway Department function and so on. Most events are hyperlinks to attain additional information about that specific event. The calendar is in PDF format so it can be printed to have at home for easy reference.



### Temporary Handicapped Parking Placards Now Available at the Township Offices

Troy Township can now issue temporary handicap parking placards to qualified individuals. Individuals in need of the temporary handicapped parking placard must complete an application which is available at the Troy Township offices or at [www.troytownship.com](http://www.troytownship.com). Upon receipt



of a property completed application, the temporary handicapped parking placard will be issued immediately and is valid for a period not to exceed 90 days. For more information please call 815-744-1963 or visit [www.troytownship.com](http://www.troytownship.com).

## The Troy Township Cyber Niche Changes Name to "Troy Township Gadget Gurus"



The Troy Township Gadget Gurus are local Troy Township residents who volunteer their time to help other Township residents (geared towards adults and the senior community) make the best use of their gadgets including computers, laptops, phones, cameras, apps, social media, programs, etc.

The Gadget Gurus can offer help and advice over the phone, via email, in person via a scheduled one-on-one appointment, or in person during one of their open sessions. Open sessions are held on the first Friday of every month (closed on holidays) from 2:30 p.m. until

3:45 p.m. at the Troy Township Community Center. No appointments are required during the open session time. To reach the Troy Township Gadget Gurus visit them during one of the open sessions, call them, or email them with the details of what it is that you need assistance with. One of the volunteers will get back in touch with you.

- To leave a message for the Troy Township Gadget Gurus call 815-744-1968 ext. 500.
- To email the Troy Township Gadget Gurus please email [gadgetgurus@troytownship.com](mailto:gadgetgurus@troytownship.com).

All Troy Township Gadget Guru programs, one-on-one appointments, and open sessions are free and are held at the Troy Township Community Center located at 25448 Seil Road in Shorewood.

## YOUR COLLECTOR

**Sharon Cemenon Hicks**



## 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 4, 2016. Please call 815-744-1968 or 815-744-1963 for more information at that time.

## Mobile Driver Services Unit Coming to Troy Township on October 27th

Secretary of State Jesse White announced that his Mobile Driver Services Unit will be at the Troy Township Community Center on October 27, 2015. The Community Center is located at 25448 Seil Road, in Shorewood, Illinois. Illinois residents will be able to renew their drivers' licenses, obtain duplicate or corrected licenses and obtain Illinois identification cards between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. A Rules of the Road Review Course will also be held from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The review course combines an explanation of safe driving techniques, Illinois driving laws and a practice written exam. If you are wanting to

participate, please call 815-744-1963 to pre-register.

An applicant renewing a current Illinois driver's license or identification card need only present a current valid driver's license or identification card. If the applicant is applying for either a duplicate or corrected driver's license or identification card the applicant must present two forms of identification. To find out which documents are considered acceptable forms of identification, and also the license renewal fees, please call 217-782-7044 or visit the Illinois Secretary of States website at: [http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/drivers/drivers\\_license/home.html](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/drivers/drivers_license/home.html)



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

25448 Seil Road  
Shorewood, IL 60404-7620

## IMPORTANT REAL ESTATE TAX INFORMATION

**TROY**  
**TOWNSHIP**

Established 1850 Will County - Illinois

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](http://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