

A MESSAGE FROM SUPERVISOR Joseph D. Baltz

Township Government, What is it and what does it do for you?

Those are two questions that elected officials and Township staff members are regularly asked about our Township. Although township government has been around since the mid 1800's and is considered the government closest to the people that it serves, many people are still unfamiliar with the township in which they live and honestly don't know what their township does.

Your township provides many services for you from fairly and accurately assessing property values to cleaning and maintaining roadways; from providing General Assistance to providing Senior Programs and voter services plus so much more.

However, at Troy Township, we are not just about providing "services" to our residents. Our goal is to improve the quality of life of our residents. In our minds, our Highway Department doesn't just maintain roads, they provide adequate and efficient transportation routes; our General Assistance Department doesn't just provide funds for the indigent, they help residents navigate all of the social service programs available to them so that each person can sustain and then get back on their feet; our Senior Program doesn't just provide lunch, it feeds both the heart and soul by providing a nutritious meal, laughter, friendship and fun in a warm and welcoming environment.

Now, the challenge is...how do we go about letting residents know what we do? In an effort to answer that question we have decided to reach out to our residents

and broaden our horizons with our methods of communication.

We are now on Facebook! Yes, Facebook. You can like our page and follow our newsfeed at www.facebook.com/troytownship to stay up to date on all of Troy Township's happenings. Additionally, we now have the option of communicating with our residents via Constant Contact, an email marketing program. If you would like to join our email distribution list, please visit our website at www.troytownship.com and click on the "Get Email Updates" link at the bottom of the page.

These two methods of communication coupled with our existing website and semi-annual newsletter will allow the Township to increase its communication reach and stay connected with our residents. Our goal is to provide residents with accurate and timely information about the Township and its programs, services and events. We want you to be able to take advantage of everything that Troy Township has to offer. You can always find more information about our programs at www.troytownship.com or by following us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/troytownship.

We are always looking for suggestions on how we can improve or suggestions on new programs or services that we can bring to our residents. Please call us at 815-744-1968 or email us at information@troytownship.com. I look forward to hearing from you.



Troy Township History... Did you know?

Did you know that Troy Township was home to the Will County Poor Farm? Originally opening its doors in the winter of 1850, the farm was home to over 300 men who had served in various wars, including the civil war. Eventually the home served indigent men, women and

children. The cemetery on the farm was established as early as 1851. More information about the Will County Poor Farm's vast history, residents, burials, and volunteer opportunities can be obtained by calling Gina Wysocki at 815-926-2466.

TOWNSHIP CLERK'S CORNER Jim McFarland



humbled to have served the residents of the Township. We are happy to call Troy Township home.

April will mark my last meeting as one of your Troy Township elected officials. Over the past six years, my family and I have been truly honored and

Township Residents

As I move forward with the hopes of public service in another capacity, I look forward to the opportunity to continue to serve the residents of Troy Township with the same principals I have served with for the past six years--helping our tax dollars to go further by supporting actions that promote doing more with less. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Jim McFarland

Municipal Election set for Tuesday, April 9th

In November, the Will County Clerk's office completed another successful election; voter turnout countywide was 71.25%. It's your opportunity on Tuesday, April 9, 2013, 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 in Shorewood.

Early/absentee voting will be available from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on the following dates:

Monday, March 25th – Thursday, March 28th
Monday, April 1st – Friday, April 5th

To be eligible to early 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 815-740-4794.

Community Volunteer Workday Set for April 27th

Troy Township, Forest Preserve District of Will County and JULIE, Inc. are partnering in a volunteer workday on Saturday, April 27th, 8:00 a.m. until noon, at the Rock Run Greenway-Black Road Access, in Joliet. We are inviting volunteers to join workers from JULIE to contribute their time and efforts to improving the preserve during Earth Day weekend.

Volunteers will assist with trail maintenance, brush clearing, rubbish removal and wood chipping. These efforts will benefit native plants and wildlife and the community. Workday participants will park at St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church, at 3457 Black Road, just east of the preserve. For more information call 815-727-8700.



ASSESSOR NEWS

Kim Anderson

There is so much more to being an Assessor than any text book can teach you. I have just completed my first year of serving as your Troy Township Assessor and it has been a wonderful, enjoyable and hard-working year. Having worked in the office of the Assessor for five years before taking office and having a dedicated and experienced staff has made the transition a smooth one.

Spring is a very busy time for the Assessor's office. I am very happy to say that our field staff will be out measuring new residential construction throughout the Township; this is a good sign that the housing market may be starting to turn around in our area.

The 2013 reassessment process has begun. Assessors are required to do sales ratio studies throughout the township using a three year sales average for the study. Performing these studies allows for more consistency in assessments resulting in consistency in your property tax bill. In states where sales ratio

studies are not required, property owners tend to see greater fluctuations in property tax bills thus causing mortgage payment to be drastically inconsistent for owners that pay via escrow.

In general, the 2013 assessments will be reduced. The amount of reduction will vary by neighborhood based upon the sales ratio studies and if you have made any improvements to your property. Values will continue to be decreased until the housing market turns around and our studies show that an increase in value is warranted.

Reassessment notices are scheduled to be available August 7th or 8th. At that same time, you will be able to view your new assessment on the Will County Supervisor of Assessment's website at www.willcountysa.com or by calling our office.

Should you wish to appeal your assessment, forms and instructions will be available on our website at www.troytownship.com or on the Will County Supervisor of Assessment's website www.willcountysa.com in August. During appeal time, we will offer evening hours. Please call our office at 815-744-5806 or 815-744-5807 for the dates and times of evening hours, for any assistance you may need, or questions you may have regarding your assessment.

Senior Assessment Freeze

Senior assessment freeze forms are being mailed from Will County at the end of March. The forms are light pink in color. If you do not receive your form they will be available for download from the Will County Supervisor of Assessments website at www.willcountysa.com. On April 22nd staff members from the Will County Supervisor of Assessment's office will be in our office to assist residents with filling out

the freeze forms. If you received the light pink form, please bring it with you to our office as we will have a limited supply. As always, you may visit the Troy Township Assessor's office any time after the forms are available for assistance with completing the freeze form. The deadline for filing is July 5th. Please do not hesitate to contact our office at 815-744-5806 or 815-744-5807 with any questions that you may have.

Residential Property Information

As your Assessor, I encourage everyone to please check your residential property information for accuracy on our website at www.troytownship.com. Our staff strives for perfection and we are all fortunate that the employees in my office take their jobs very seriously and understand that mistakes can be costly. However, occasionally mistakes do

happen. If you find an error, please contact us immediately so that the correction can be made. My office takes great pride in the fact that we have an open door policy and are happy to assist you with any questions or concerns that you may have. Our office can be reached at 815-744-5806 or 815-744-5807.

Available Property Exemptions

As a reminder, several types of exemptions are available to our residents. Please note that exemption amounts reduce your assessed value.

If you are eligible, these exemptions will ease your property tax burden. All exemptions have qualifying criteria that must be met.

Continued on Page 5

HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER Thomas R. Ward



It is hard to believe that I have now had the pleasure of serving as your Highway Commissioner for almost 15 months. The past year has been exciting, eye opening and filled with a lot of hard work.

As your elected official, I am proud that I direct my crews to be as conservative as possible without compromising the best service to our community. As an elected official I am defaulted to the role of administrator; managing budgets, paying bills, planning for the future, etc. However, that is not my only role.

I am proud to say that I also work alongside my crews. Doing so allows me to have firsthand knowledge of our equipment, labor and material needs to get jobs done. Taking this knowledge and coupling it with my 25 plus years of experience in both road building (as learned in both the private sector and under the prior Highway Commissioner) and ditch and draining work allow me to plan, structure and execute our road and work projects

in the most efficient and conservative manner.

I believe that the condition of our property and our equipment is important. Not only as a reflection of the great community in which we live but to also maximize the useful life of each item. Therefore, future improvements to equipment and to the highway campus are being carefully considered. You may have noticed some changes already including some fencing around the recycling area and painting of our main buildings. Any future changes will be done in phases in order to be fiscally conservative and to not compromise any needed road projects.

We welcome your suggestions! If you have any suggestions, questions or concerns, I am only a phone call away. Please feel free to contact me at 815-405-3378.

Services for Unincorporated Areas of Troy Township

Annual Spring Clean Up April 8th-13th

Troy Township Highway crews will be picking up household items such as furniture, appliances, carpet (tied in rolls), etc. for residents in unincorporated Troy Township. Place items out in front of your residence near the road. Remember that Saturday, April 13th will be the last day for pick-ups. We have no way to handle garbage or papers so PLEASE....NO GARBAGE OR PAPERS!

Leaf Vacuuming

Starting around the middle of October and through November, Troy Township Highway Department will have the leaf vacuuming service for residents in the unincorporated areas of Troy 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. Residents do not need to call to have leaves picked up. Should an early snow or ice event happen, the Township will suspend leaf vacuuming while the roads are maintained as safety is our number one priority.

Branch & Brush Pick Ups

Beginning in May and continuing through September, on the first and third Monday of the month, branch and brush pick-up will resume for the unincorporated areas only of Troy Township. Brush and branches should be no more than six (6) inches in diameter and should be placed by the roadside, parallel to the road if possible. Should a significant storm come through, additional pick up service will be available as warranted. Please keep in mind that Troy Township equipment is not allowed on private property so all material will still need to be moved into the township right of way.

Recycling at the Troy Township Highway Department

The recycling center continues to flourish. Traditional recycling, textile recycling and electronic recycling are all available to residents. Anyone wishing to recycle paint or other items

that are not part of our recycling program should contact the Will County Land Use Department at 815-727-8834 or visit www.willcountygreen.com for available recycling locations.

Mobile Driver Services Unit Coming to Troy Township on June 11th

Secretary of State Jesse White announced on February 1, 2013, that his Mobile Driver Services Unit will be at the Troy Township Community Center 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 between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. A Rules of the Road Review Course will also be held from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 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: www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/pdf_publications/dsd_a1751.pdf

Property Tax Exemptions, *Continued from Page 3*

Details on eligibility and qualifying criteria are available at www.troytownship.com. Here is a summary of the exemptions that are available: General Homestead - \$6,000; Senior Homestead - \$4,000; Senior Freeze - available if 65 years old or older and income is less than \$55,000; Disable Person - \$2,000; Disabled Veteran - \$2,500 to \$5,000; Returning Veteran - \$5,000; and a Four Year Home Improvement Exemption. You may also call our office if you have any questions regarding these exemptions. If you wonder if you are already receiving any of these exemptions you can check your property tax bill or give us a call at 815-744-5806 or 815-744-5807.

Remembering Johnny



This past December the Highway Department experienced the loss of one of our greatest assets. The passing of employee John "Johnny" Rulec on December 7, 2012, was sudden and difficult. John worked on-site at our Highway Department Campus and will be best remembered as the smiling face and helpful hand who assisted residents as they were dropping off their recycling items. I'd like to take this opportunity to remember John for his hard work and extra efforts to make Troy Township a better place to live.

YOUR TRUSTEES



Larry Ryan



John Theobald



Donald Walden



Brett Wheeler

Shredding Event and Medication Disposal is Back!

Back by popular demand! Join us on Saturday, April 20, 2013, from 9:00 a.m. - 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. A list of acceptable items can be found on our website at 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 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, April 20, 2013, from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. at 25448 Seil Road in Shorewood. For more information please call 815-744-1968.

Lake Chaminwood Preserve



Picture: Forest Preserve District Board of Commissioners Vice President Don Gould (center) is flanked by dignitaries who participated in the ribbon cutting to officially open Lake Chaminwood. These are (from left) Marcy DeMauro, executive director of the Forest Preserve; Troy Township Supervisor Joseph Baltz; Shorewood Village President Richard Chapman; Commissioner Gould; Commissioner Laurie McPhillips; Troy Township Trustee Brett Wheeler; Commissioner Sharon May, and Minooka Village President Patrick Brennan.

Lake Chaminwood Preserve, partially located in Troy Township, opened to the public last fall. Located on Shepley Road, just west of the I-55 frontage road, the preserve is 120 acres in size and features two shoreline fishing lakes. The east lake is 12 acres, and the west lake, 35 acres. No ice fishing is permitted.

Other amenities include a 0.7-mile asphalt trail around the east lake, an

accessible canoe/kayak launch, fishing pier, and a small shelter with picnic tables and grill.

Canoes and kayaks are permitted from April 1-October 31. The shelter is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

For information on Lake Chaminwood, call 815-727-8700 or visit ReconnectWithNature.org.

Computer Training at Troy

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 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 and hardware upgrades in our own computer lab.

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.

Community Garden and Rain Barrels are Back at Troy Township

Troy Township will once again partner with the Village of Shorewood to bring the residents of unincorporated Troy Township and Shorewood a community garden. Rain Barrels will also be offered for sale for all residents of Troy Township. A Gardeners' Open House will be offered on April 24, 2013. For more information on the garden, rain barrels or open house, please visit the news, notes & events section at www.troytownship.com or call the Village of Shorewood at 815-725-2150x17.



Are you a WWII Veteran?

Time is running short to honor our surviving WWII Veterans. Honor Flight is a volunteer organization whose mission is to fly vets to see their memorial in DC at no cost to the Veteran. Local Chapters formed around the Country to accomplish this goal. Honor Flight Chicago is the local chapter covering our geographic area and they fly out of Midway Airport. The website is www.honorflightchicago.org for more information and applications for the trips. Please take a minute and learn more about this wonderful program and if your spouse, parent or grandparent is a vet, encourage them to go!

YOUR COLLECTOR Kristin Ethridge



Free Lunch Coupon

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 Fridays 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 December 31, 2013**



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25448 Seil Road
Shorewood, IL 60404-7620

IMPORTANT REAL ESTATE TAX INFORMATION



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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 Dylak

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