

A MESSAGE FROM SUPERVISOR Joseph D. Baltz



Thank goodness it is spring! First and foremost I would like to thank and compliment Highway Commissioner Thomas R. Ward and the entire crew at the Troy Township Highway Department for a job well done this winter. The volume of snow and extreme temperatures made this past winter challenging. The Troy Township Highway Department rose to the challenge and did an exceptional job keeping our township roads plowed, salted and safe. The road maintenance crews of our surrounding municipalities should be applauded as well. A special thank you to our Building Maintenance Coordinator, Roger Engstrom, who worked diligently to make sure the township facility was warm and accessible for both residents and employees.

This past winter proved to be a draw on resources; not only on manpower but also on our budget. As we prepare for our 2014-2015 fiscal year we will continue to be conservative with tax payer dollars yet try to plan accordingly for these types of natural phenomenon.

The township building did not make it through the winter unscathed. Just as residents had to deal with frozen

pipe issues, we too were doing the same. A water pipe froze and burst causing some damage in the office areas of the township building. The Assessor's portion of our building sustained the most damage. I'd like to thank Assessor Kimberly Anderson and her staff for their understanding and cooperation as working conditions were a bit of an inconvenience while the damage was repaired.

Most importantly I would like to thank you, the residents of Troy Township, for your understanding, support and cooperation as we work to keep our residents safe and well informed.

If I can be of any assistance or you have any concerns or suggestions for the township, please do not hesitate to call our office at 815-744-1968.

Sincerely,
Joseph D. Baltz, Supervisor

Troy Township Opens Durable Medical Equipment Loan Closet

As Supervisor of Troy Township, I am excited to announce the opening of our Durable Medical Equipment Loan Closet. The purpose of the DME Loan Closet is to allow individuals who reside in Troy Township who have a temporary or permanent disability to borrow durable medical equipment for a period not to exceed 90 days. We currently offer items such as wheelchairs, walkers and canes. Items are loaned on a first come first served basis and based on availability of inventory. The person using the equipment must be a Troy Township resident. An application must be completed and will include the individuals name, address, phone number and an explanation of the need of the equipment. Applications and more details on the program can be found on our website at www.troytownship.com under the Services & Links page.

Troy Township is grateful for all of the equipment that has been donated thus far. Without these donations, this program would not be possible. Because the township is unable to invest in the replacement and maintenance of the equipment we are always looking for items to be donated. However, due to limited storage space, liability reasons and sanitary reasons the following items cannot be accepted:

- Beds (hospital or regular)
- Stair lifts
- Commodes
- Vehicle lifts
- Linens
- Vehicle ramps
- Mattresses
- Toilet lifts
- Shower Chairs

If you have any questions or are interested in borrowing or donating a piece of equipment please call Lisa Imbody at 815-744-1963 or Jennifer Dylik at 815-744-1968.

NEWS FROM ASSESSOR Kim Anderson



Spring is always a busy time for the Assessor's office. Staff will be out measuring new properties and the 2014 reassessment process is in full swing.

On the residential side we had 94 new homes added to our Township in 2013. **This is good news!** In comparison, in 2012 we had 47 new homes added and in 2011 we had 50 added. We consider this to be a hopeful sign that the housing market is picking up. On the commercial side the Heartland warehouse facility is adding another large warehouse and our shopping centers are filling up.

As I mentioned above, the 2014 reassessment process is in full swing. If your home has been reassessed for 2014, you will be notified by mail. Please watch your mail during the first week of August for this notice. All reassessments will be published in the Joliet Herald News August 7th – 8th. If you do not receive a notice regarding a change in your assessment, you can visit www.willcountysoa.com to review your assessment or you can call or stop by our office. I strongly encourage every homeowner to review your property information. This information is available on our website as well as by visiting our office to review your actual

property record card. We strive for accuracy but if an error would be found, we can certainly correct it.

After you review your 2014 reassessment, if you are not satisfied with the value of your home, you may appeal your assessment. Please read the article on page 3 titled "Appealing Your Assessment" for details on how to appeal.

In every newsletter we make mention of the exemptions that are available to our residents. The requirements are sometimes lengthy. Below is a list of the available exemptions. Please check our website under exemptions or contact us for further information. *Please note: the amounts are off of the assessed value – not actual tax dollar savings.*

- General Homestead Exemption - \$6,000
- General Senior Homestead Exemption - \$5,000 (increased from \$4,000 in 2013)
- Returning Veteran - \$5,000
- Disabled Veteran - \$2,500-\$5,000
- Disabled Person - \$2,000
- Homestead Improvement – up to \$25,000

As always, if there is anything the assessor's office can assist you with please do not hesitate to contact us at 815-744-5806 or via email at Assessor@troytownship.com.

Sincerely,
Kimberly Anderson
CIAO, Assessor

Senior Assessment Freeze

Senior assessment freeze forms are being mailed from Will County at the end of March. The forms are light purple 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.willcountysoa.com. On April 25th from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. 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 purple form, please bring it with you to our office as we will have a limited

supply. You must also bring your filed income tax and social security benefits statement in order to complete the senior assessment freeze form. 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. Our office is open Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. The deadline for filing is July 7th. Please do not hesitate to contact our office at 815-744-5806 or 815-744-5807 with any questions that you may have.

Appealing Your Assessment

As mentioned earlier, the 2014 reassessment process is underway. Once you have received your reassessment notice, if you are not satisfied with the value of your home you may appeal your assessment. Please note that your assessed value is 1/3 of the market value. For example, if your home is assessed at \$100,000 then the market value of your home would be \$300,000.

If you wish to appeal your assessment, please start by reading the "How to Appeal Your Property Assessment" page under the Assessor's section of our website at www.troytownship.com or come visit our office. ***Please note that time is of the essence. You will have only 30 days to file an appeal with the Board of Review. The 2014 deadline to file is September 8th, which is 30 days after the Herald News publication. As your Assessor, I encourage you to contact our office to discuss ways to appeal without going directly to the Board of Review.***

There are two reasons you can appeal your assessment. Reason number one is market value which means that you do not believe your home is worth what the assessor says it is worth. In this case you will look for similar homes that sold in your neighborhood for less than the value we have placed on your property. You will fill out a grid completely using your current property information in comparison to these sold properties and return to my office.

Reason number two is equity which means that you do not believe you are being assessed equally as other properties like yours in your neighborhood. You will look at homes like yours and if they are valued lower than yours, you will fill out the grid using your current property information in comparison to those properties and return to my office.

Grids are available in our office or for download from the "How to Appeal Your Property Assessment" page under the Assessor's section of our website at www.troytownship.com

The appeal process is not difficult. It takes time but all the information you need is located on websites or within sales books that we maintain in our office. Once your grid is complete please return it to my office for our review. After we have reviewed your grid, you will be contacted with our decision. If we cannot reach an agreement on your assessment you may go on to the Will County Board of Review. They also require paperwork. Their packet of information can be found at www.willcountysoa.com under the forms section. Your appeal to the Board of Review must be filed by September 8th.

My staff and I are always willing to assist you with whatever we can. Please do not hesitate to call us, stop in, or send us an email if you are having any difficulties. We will have evening hours during the appeal season, please check our website for dates and times as the appeal season nears.

YOUR TRUSTEES



Larry Ryan



John Theobald



Donald Walden



Brett Wheeler

HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER Thomas R. Ward



As you know, this past winter was rough and brought with it some pretty severe weather. Not only did we experience significant amounts of snow but also extreme temperature fluctuations. The sub-zero temperatures followed by more moderate conditions bring about a freeze & thaw cycle that is very hard on the roads. The freeze & thaw cycle can be hard on the road itself and can compromise the road surface. Crews are out this spring evaluating road conditions and will prioritize the work that needs to be completed. Some roads may require resurfacing while others may only require what we refer to as “tar and chip”. Resurfacing a road is very expensive. Although we are trying to move away from the tar and chip process, tar and chip still remains the most economical and effective method to preserve the roadway until a full resurfacing can be completed.

For the residents in unincorporated Troy Township, please check below or on the opposite page for details on the Annual Spring Clean Up, Tree Branch & Brush Pick Up and Leaf Vacuuming.

I am proud to serve the residents of Troy Township as your Highway Commissioner and am available to discuss any problems or concerns that you may have. I am only a phone call away and can be reached at 815-405-3378.

Sincerely,

Thomas R. Ward

Highway Commissioner

Shredding Event and Medication Disposal April 26th



Back by popular demand! Join us on Saturday, April 26, 2014, 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.

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, April 26, 2014, from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. at 25448 Seil Road in Shorewood. This event will be held again on Saturday, October 4, 2014. For more information please call 815-744-1968.

Services for Unincorporated Areas of Troy Township

Annual Spring Clean Up April 21st to April 26th

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 26th will be the last day for pick-ups. Please do not mix your

everyday garbage, twigs, grass, etc. in with the items being picked up during Spring Clean Up week. We will not pick up paints or liquids of any kind as they will break and spill out of our equipment. Again, we have no way to handle garbage or papers so PLEASE.... NO GARBAGE OR PAPERS!

Branch and Brush Pick Up

Beginning in May 5th and continuing through November 3rd, on the first and third Monday of the month, branch and brush pick-up will resume for the unincorporated areas only of Troy Township. If a holiday falls on any of these Mondays, pick up will be the following day. Please keep in mind that during some weeks the branch route may not be completed in a single day. In these instances, the route will be completed the following day.

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. It is not necessary to

put the branches into bags and please do not put grass clippings in with the branches.

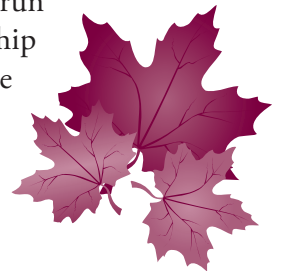
Should a significant storm come through, additional pick up service will be available as warranted. Please keep in mind that if emergency work is required as a result of the storm, i.e. flooding, the branch route will be postponed until the emergency work is complete. However, if a tree happens to go down in the roadway, please call us immediately. 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.

Leaf Vacuuming

Starting around the middle of October and running through November (specific dates are weather dependent) the 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. Leaf pick up will likely overlap with branch and brush pick up. It is important that you do not put twigs, branches or grass in with the piles of

leaves. Items such as branches or twigs will cause very costly and significant damage to the vacuums.

Residents do not need to call to have leaves picked up. We have two vacuums that run every day throughout the township and continue to run until crews are caught 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.



A MESSAGE FROM CLERK Kristin Dawn Cross



It has been almost a year since I was elected to be your Troy Township Clerk. It has been quite an experience; one that I find challenging as well as very rewarding. I am honored to be able to serve my community

in this capacity. I continue to receive education from the Township Officials of Illinois and take every opportunity to fine tune my position.

It has been my pleasure to work closely with all of our elected officials and staff. My position as your Troy Township Clerk takes many forms. I serve as Clerk of the Troy Township Board and my duties include record keeping, filings, publication of required notices, administration of oaths, and taking meeting minutes. I am not a voting member of the Board except in the case of a tie vote to fill a vacancy in a township office. It is also my duty as your Troy Township Clerk to serve as the ex officio clerk for the Highway Commissioner. I also serve as the local election official.

My role as your township clerk is also to serve as the clerk of our Annual Town Meeting. The Annual Town Meeting must take place the second Tuesday of April and be held no earlier than 6:00 p.m. I must post written or printed notices in 3 public places within the township at least 10 days before the Annual Town Meeting and must publish the notice in a local paper before the meeting. Various parts of the Annual Town Meeting include admission to the meeting, call to order, recess to a larger hall in the event of space issues, election of the moderator, taking of minutes for the township record, motions for items such as disposition of surplus items and selecting an auditor and then lastly the close of business of the meeting.

Troy Township's 164th Annual Town Meeting will take place on April 8, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. at the Troy Township Community Center located at 25448 Seil Road in Shorewood. All Troy Township residents are invited to attend.

In closing, I would like to hear from you about ways I can improve the office of Clerk here at Troy Township. Please email me at kdcross@troytownship.com or call 815-744-1968. I would like to hear any and all comments, suggestions and concerns that you may have.

Mobile Driver Services Unit Coming to Troy Township on June 10th

Secretary of State Jesse White announced that his Mobile Driver Services Unit will be at the Troy Township Community Center located at 25448 Seil Road, Shorewood, Illinois, on June 10, 2014. 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 in the review course, 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

Overwhelmed with Today's Technology?

Do words like iPhone, iPad, Kindle, Facebook and iCloud sound like a foreign language to you? 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.

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



Community Garden is 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. A Gardeners' Open House will be offered on April 23, 2014. For more information on the garden or the open house, please visit the news, notes & events section at www.troytownship.com or call the Village of Shorewood at 815-725-2150.



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 December 31, 2014



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

25448 Seil Road
Shorewood, IL 60404-7620

IMPORTANT REAL ESTATE TAX INFORMATION

Annual Town Meeting, Tuesday April 8th – See page 6 for details.

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