

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR SUPERVISOR

Joseph D. Baltz



The chill of winter is almost past us, the days are getting longer, gardens are starting to grow and it is official, *spring is in the air*. After some incredible snow falls this winter, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Highway Commissioner and Highway Department employees for a job well done during the blizzard of 2011 and throughout the entire winter season keeping our township roads plowed. After the long winter, I know the warmer weather is a welcome relief throughout the township.

The start of spring each year also brings the close of the township's fiscal year and approval of the budget for the next fiscal year. With that, I'd like to take this opportunity to review with you the financial strength of your township, talk a little about where your tax dollars go and the services the township provides.

The township will end the 2010-2011 fiscal year under budget. In fact, since elected in 1984 as Supervisor, this will be the 27th consecutive year that the township will end the fiscal year with a balanced budget. In an era of deficit spending in many areas of government, Troy Township takes great pride in this accomplishment.

As the Township Board of Trustees and I look to pass the 2011-2012 fiscal year budget, we will be taking a hard look at all expense items and asking ourselves from the tax payer's perspective, "How are these funds being spent?"

While there are many outdoor physical services that you can see being done, like the Township Highway Department's maintenance of roads and bridges, the township itself provides many services that your tax dollars support that you might not realize.

In fact, on an average real estate tax bill in Troy Township it is estimated that less than 1.3% of your total tax bill goes toward funding township services. Remember, townships fill a gap between local, county, state and federal government...

we are the government closest to the people.

About 4% of the tax dollars collected by the township fund the General Assistance Program; a program that provides temporary financial assistance to those who qualify under the guidelines of the Township Supervisors of Illinois General Assistance Handbook. 54% of the tax dollars collected fund the Highway Department's budget, 30% fund the Town's budget and 12% fund the Assessor's budget.

The township office building is also home to the Troy Township Community Center which is used for the township seniors to gather in every Wednesday and Friday, the Joliet Quilters Guild meets there every Monday, T.O.P.S. Taking Pounds off Sensibly meets there on Thursdays and Tai Chi classes are available on Thursday afternoons. The community center also houses a Cyber Niche where residents can take one-on-one computer training with local volunteers. The community room is also available for rent to township residents for their own functions as well.

The township supports the PACE Dial-A-Ride bus service, mosquito abatement services and storm water management. Additionally the township provides both traditional and electronic recycling at our Highway Department, voter registration, notary public services and early voting for township residents.

On April 16th the township will host a shredding event FREE for township residents in an effort to help our community members protect themselves from identity theft. Again, this is a free event and you will find more information about it inside this newsletter.

As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 815-744-1968.

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- Recycling Program Celebrates 3 Years of Success
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TOWNSHIP CLERK'S CORNER

George E. Muentnich

IMPORTANT DATES

Election Day – Tuesday, April 5th

Don't forget to vote! For more information about the Tuesday, April 5th election including your precinct voting location, a list of who is up for election in your precinct and more, visit the Will County Clerk's website at www.thewillcountyclerk.com or call 815-740-4615.

Annual Town Meeting Set for April 12th

Please join us on Tuesday, April 12, 2011 for Troy Township's Annual Town Meeting. Starting promptly at 7:00 p.m., the Annual Town Meeting will be held in the Troy Township Community Center located at 25448 Seil Road in Shorewood.



Top Ten Reasons To Get Out and Vote

1. **To speak your mind:** Your vote is your voice. It tells elected officials how you feel about education, healthcare, social security and other important issues.
2. **To make them listen:** Your vote is your loudspeaker, too. When we turn out to vote, you can bet that the politicians know it – and you can be sure, when we all crank up that loudspeaker, they'll pay attention to what we have to say.
3. **For our children:** Our children can't vote – so we have to do it for them. That's how we make our views known about schools, safety, the environment and other issues that will affect our children's future.
4. **For our community:** Do you ever wonder why one neighborhood gets passed over for the things it needs while other neighborhoods seem to get it all? One big reason is voting. When we vote, we get results we can see right where we live.
5. **For yourself:** Let's face it – it's no fun to sit on the sidelines and complain. To win the game, you have to be in it. Voting puts you in the game that counts most of all – democracy.
6. **To honor our history:** As long as this country has existed, there have been people who didn't want us to vote. Well, guess what? Today, there are still people who don't want you to vote. And it's your turn to stand up and vote to preserve and honor those who went before us.
7. **To control our future:** Elected officials make decisions that affect our daily lives. From homeland security to social security, the individuals we vote for will make decisions about our quality of life.
8. **To stop something:** Voting lets you stop complaining about things in your community. It puts you in the driver's seat instead of the back of the bus.
9. **To start something:** Voting gets to be habit-forming, and it's contagious, too. Once you get out and vote, it'll feel so good that you'll want to do it again and again. Pretty soon your kids and neighbors will want some of what you've got, and from there on, the rest will be history.
10. **To win:** In every election year, some races are decided by just a handful of votes. Those who vote demand respect. When we vote, we win.

(From Will County Clerk website
www.thewillcountyclerk.com)



ASSESSOR NEWS

Patricia A. Gabrielson, CIAO/I



Our office has begun work on the 2011 quadrennial reassessment. Although sales studies are done each year to determine any increase or decrease in values, the State requires by law that all

properties be reassessed every four years. **Reassessment notices will be sent to all taxpayers** from the Supervisor of Assessments some time in August and the date of the publication will be listed on that notice. Publication of our township's assessments will be in the Herald News. **Please pay close attention to this reassessment notice.** You have **30 days** from the date of publication to file an appeal with the Board of Review.

We have received numerous calls regarding the Senior Citizen Homestead Exemption. It was reported on television that renewal forms were going to be sent out to seniors for the Senior Homestead Exemption. This only

applies to Cook County Seniors. There are **no renewal forms for the Senior Homestead exemption required for Will County Seniors.** A renewal is only required for the Senior Assessment Freeze.

The Senior Citizens Assessment Freeze renewal forms will be sent out by the Supervisor of Assessments office at the end of March. The forms are light gray in color and are sent out to seniors already receiving the exemption or to those seniors who have just signed up for their senior exemption. If you do not receive a renewal form or if you believe you can qualify for the exemption, please call our office. To qualify for this exemption you must be 65 years old with a **total household income below \$55,000.**

Property tax bills will be sent out by the Treasurer's Office by May 1st. Please check your tax bill for **all** eligible exemptions. If an exemption is omitted, please contact our office at 815-744-5806. Tax bills are due in two installments, June 1st and September 1st.

Troy Township Honors Mark Carlson as one of the Township's Most Interesting Residents

On January 26, 2011 Troy Township Supervisor Joseph D. Baltz was proud to honor Troy Township resident, Mark Carlson, for being one of Troy Township's "Most Interesting Residents."

Mark, who is an umpire for Major League Baseball, enjoyed lunch with the senior citizens of Troy Township and then gave a short presentation to those in attendance. Mark's presentation included video of some of his most notable calls as a MLB umpire as well as raffle prizes including game balls and an official MLB umpire hat.

Mark has been a MLB umpire since 1999 and has worked such notable events as the 2003 All-Star Game and the 2007 National League Division Series. Mark resides in Troy Township with his wife and two daughters. An Illinois resident his entire life, Mark attended Joliet West High School and Parkland College as well as having served in the United States Marine Corps.



Pictured above are Supervisor Joseph D. Baltz and Mark Carlson

Congratulations to Mark for being one of Troy Township's Most Interesting Residents. If you know of anyone who resides in Troy Township that you feel is deserving of this honor, please call the Supervisor's office at 815-744-1968.

COLLECTOR John Theobald



Tree Branch & Brush Pick-Up

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 6 inches in diameter.



Troy Township Proudly Sponsors "Ride the Rock" – Saturday, May 14th



To celebrate National Bike Month, the Forest Preserve will be hosting its fifth annual Ride the Rock bike tour. The 16-mile looped trail begins at I & M Canal Access on Houbolt Road/Empress Drive, then proceeds north to Joliet Junior College and Theodore Marsh in Crest Hill, before heading south along the Joliet Junction Trail to where it connects with the I & M Canal State Trail along Larkin Avenue and Route 6. The majority of the trail is paved, and includes some sidewalks and street routes. The degree of difficulty

is easy to moderate. Four rest stops will be available along the way. Pre-registration is recommended to assist with check-in. All early registrants will be entered into a raffle for a chance to win a bicycle. Although open to all ages, it is recommended that individual riders be at least 11 years of age. Participants are encouraged to wear safety helmets. For registration and additional information, visit the Forest Preserve Web site at ReconnectWithNature.org or call 815-727-8700.

Cell Phone Collection Site

The Troy Township Community Center is a drop off location for old cell phones and cell phone chargers. The phones and chargers are collected by The Will County Sheriff's Department who refurbishes them and provides them to local area senior citizens who need them

to make 911 calls. When you donate your old cell phones, please erase all personal information from the phones. Cell phones and chargers and be dropped off at the Community Center during regular business hours, Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Senior Freeze Assessment Assistance – Monday, April 4th

Representatives from the Will County Supervisor of Assessments office will be at the Troy Township offices on Monday, April 4, 2011 from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. to assist Troy Township seniors with the completion of their senior citizen

assessment freeze application and all other renewable exemptions. No appointments are necessary as residents will be helped on a first come first served basis. For more information please call the Troy Township Assessor's office at 815-744-5806.

Shredding Event – Saturday, April 16th



On Saturday, April 16, 2011 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., 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. Each resident **must show proof of township residency** and is allowed to have two letter size file or copy paper boxes shredded. Since identity fraud is a possibility for anyone, this service will help residents destroy personal papers in a safe and timely manner. The event will be repeated on Saturday, October 15, 2011.

Troy Township Community Room events:

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

Joliet Quilter's Guild – Mondays 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

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

Tai Chi Classes – Thursdays 2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

Computer Classes by appointment Monday - Friday

YOUR TRUSTEES



Jim McFarland



Larry Ryan



Cheryl Seil



Donald Walden

HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER Daniel R. Ward

Recycling Program Celebrating Three Successful Years!



This summer will mark the third anniversary of the Troy Township Recycling Program. Right here at the **Troy Township Highway Department**, residents can drop off traditional recycling items like paper and plastic, as well as electronics

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. Items can be dropped off between 7:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

This recycling program is made possible through the Township's partnership with the Will County Land Use Department and their willcountygreen.com initiative along with the hard work of dedicated **Troy Township Highway Department** staff members who monitor the collection site and assist residents with the drop off. I encourage all of you to visit willcountygreen.com and learn about how you can help Troy

Township and Will County "Go Green". The site features a green guide database that will help guide you to the right location for recycling materials such as batteries, fluorescent lights, latex paint plus much more.

The willcountygreen.com website also features special recycling events going on in our local area. In fact, willcountygreen.com will be hosting Household Hazardous Waste collection days on May 7th in Bolingbrook and again on May 14th in Plainfield. Visit the website willcountygreen.com for more information about the collection sites, times and specifics on the items that can be accepted.

For more information on willcountygreen.com contact 815-727-8834 or visit their website at willcountygreen.com. For more information about the Troy Township Recycling Program call the **Troy Township Highway Department** at 815-744-7760.



Weed Control Reminder!

By law (IL State Law Ordinance, Chapter 139:126:16) vacant private property in unincorporated Troy Township **MUST BE MAINTAINED BY ITS OWNER**, further stating that owners are responsible for the cutting

of "weeds and grass" on their property. If you live in unincorporated Troy Township and have problems with a specific lot or residence, call the Township Office at 815-744-1968.

Annual Spring Clean-Up in Unincorporated Areas Only of Troy Township – April 4th thru 8th

Troy Township Highway crews will be picking up household items (furniture, appliances, etc.), carpet (tied in rolls), branches & limbs tied in 4 ft. lengths. Place items out in front of your residence near the road. Remember that Friday, April 8th will be the last day for pick-ups. We have no way to handle garbage or papers so PLEASE.... NO GARBAGE OR PAPERS!

Blizzard of February 2011

The Troy Township Highway Department is working with the Will County Emergency Management Agency and the State of Illinois as Governor Quinn asks the President to issue a disaster declaration for 60 counties and an emergency declaration for 43 counties; both of which include Will County. The Troy Township Highway Department was able to track all of our expenditures associated with the additional equipment and man hours needed to keep our township roads plowed during the storm and have submitted our figures in an effort to re-coup some of the expenses incurred during the storm.

TOWNSHIP SENIOR'S CORNER

All 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. Join this great group of seniors for games, fun and friendship. Lunch is optional and provided

on a donation basis by Senior Services of Will County. Lunches must be ordered one week in advance either at the Center or by calling 815-744-1968 during regular business hours; Monday thru Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For more information call 815-744-1968.

Are You Overwhelmed By Computers?

Let the Troy Township Cyber Niche guys help! The training format is geared towards adults. They are one-on-one lab sessions with volunteer tutors. Our tutors are familiar with most common software applications and have access to online tutorials.

"Newbie" computer users can search the web and use email after three or four sessions. Advanced users can learn a new skill in single sessions.

Some areas of instruction include:

- Email - creating & attaching photos
- Microsoft programs like Word, Excel and PowerPoint
- Surfing the web
- How to organize files on a computer
- Creating your own web page
- Photoshop Elements 8
- Digital Photography techniques including downloading, file management, photo edition & video and digital presentation.

For more information or to schedule a session call 815-744-1968. Walk-in appointments are taken on the first and third Fridays of every month 2:30-3:45 p.m. While sessions are free, a suggested donation of \$5 per session is appreciated and will be used for software upgrades.

TRIAD - What is it?



By now, most of you probably have seen the flyers advertising events that are sponsored by **TRIAD** and may have wondered what it is and who is behind it?

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 idea was/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.

Our local Troy Township **TRIAD** group consists of township residents, representatives of the Shorewood Police Dept., Shorewood Library, Troy Township, Will County Sheriff's office and more.

Local meetings and seminars are put together by the Troy Township **TRIAD** for the benefit of our senior community. These local meetings are generally held on the second Tuesday of each month at the Troy Township Community Center, but occasionally are held at other local area location such as The Timbers and the Village of Shorewood Towne Center.

For more information on upcoming meetings, seminars and topics please send an email to troytriad@live.com or call the Will County Sheriff Senior Services Office at 815-727-5678.

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 age 60+ and persons with disabilities. This service provides door-to-door transportation within the designated ridership area. The cost for use of the Dial-A-Ride service is \$2.00 for each trip. Reservations should be made 24 hours in advance by calling 800-244-4410. Reservation and service hours are 6:00 a.m.

to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Requests for service the day of the trip will be honored on a first come/first serve basis, to the extent that the request can be accommodated according to availability of that day's schedule. The passenger will be notified of the approximate pick-up time. This service does not operate on New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.

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
George E. Muentnich

Assessor
Patricia Gabrielson CIAO/I

Highway Commissioner
Daniel R. Ward

Collector
John Theobald

Trustees
Jim McFarland
Larry Ryan
Cheryl Seil
Donald Walden

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) 744-7760
Highway Commissioner Cell (815) 405-3482
General Assistance Program..... (815) 744-1963

IMPORTANT REAL ESTATE TAX INFORMATION

Shorewood, IL 60404-7620
25448 Seil Road

Established 1850 Will County - Illinois

TROY TOWNSHIP

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