

Fall 2020

Issue 47



A MESSAGE FROM SUPERVISOR **Joseph D. Baltz**

Troy Township Tax Rates Drop for Five Consecutive Years

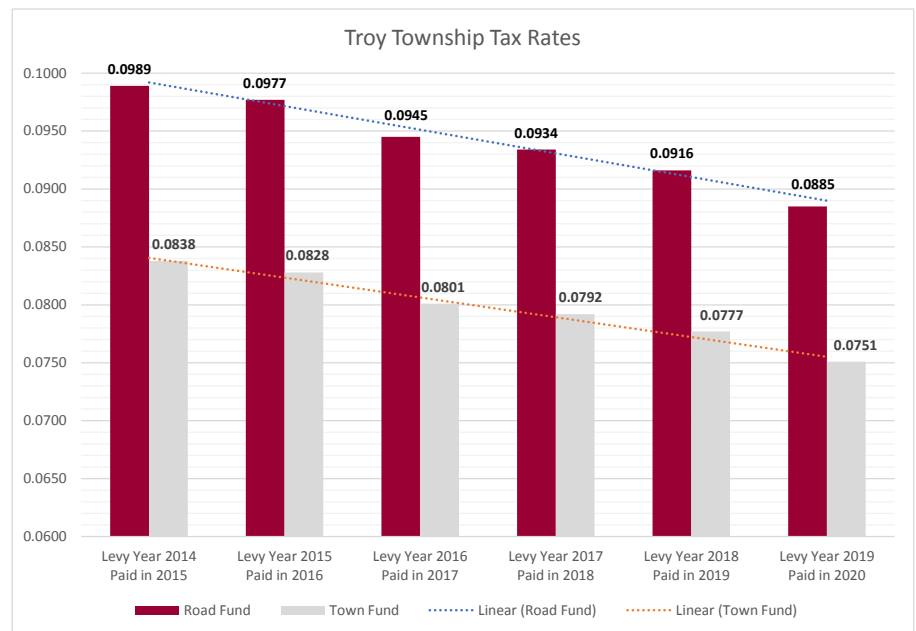
As Supervisor of Troy Township, I work diligently with the Township Trustees, Assessor, and Highway Commissioner through the help and guidance of our Township Administrator to run a fiscally sound Township that provides needed programs and services for our residents. We are always asking ourselves "is there more that we can be doing for our residents?"

By asking that question, we have added new programs or services within the last five to six years including:

- Educational Seminars*
- Micro Food Pantry
- Durable Medical Equipment Loan Closet
- Temporary Handicapped Parking Placards
- Satellite office for Senior Services of Will County*

I am proud to say that even while adding programs and services, the tax rate for both the Road District and Township have decreased for the past five years.

Using an average home price of \$200,000 you would pay approximately \$59.00 to the Township Road District (\$29.50 if you live in an incorporated area) and \$50.07 to the Township for your 2019 taxes payable in 2020.



* Temporarily suspended due to Covid-19.



NEWS FROM ASSESSOR **Kim Anderson, CIAO**

As we all know, this has been a difficult time for our country, county, township and neighborhoods in which we all live.

In mid-March of 2020, we decided as a Township that for the safety of our employees as well as the public, we would shut down daily operations and be closed until further notice. Within days, employees were all set up and able to work remotely from home. No phone calls or emails were left unanswered. Staff came into the office on limited, staggered schedules so that only 2 people were in the office at the same time. All reassessments were completed in a timely manner and sent to Will County for processing.

On June 1st Troy Township reopened fully staffed with guidelines and restrictions in place which still apply, such as requiring masks for entry and social distancing. We maintain social distancing by allowing one person at a time to be assisted and ask that anyone who feels sick or has a temperature not to enter the building. The guidelines and restrictions are posted before and after you enter the township and on our website.

The State of Illinois passed a law that for assessment year 2020 all exemption renewals for our seniors and disabled would not have to be filled out – they would automatically roll over as long as no change to ownership occurred. This enabled our most vulnerable citizens to remain home and not have to worry about renewing their exemptions.

If a person turns 65 in 2020 or became eligible for the senior freeze in 2020 applications must still be filled out and returned to Will County. If a person became disabled in 2020 the same rules apply. The necessary

forms are available on the Will County Supervisor of Assessments website at www.willcountysoa.com. We are always willing to assist you in filing out the necessary paperwork either over the phone or you can stop-in as long as you follow our guidelines.

The 2020 assessment appeal season had to be done differently this year. All assessment appeals had to be completed by filing out the proper paperwork and sent into our office for review. All Board of Review appeals were done by paper evidence only – no hearings will be held at the Will County office.

I am especially proud of my staff for all they did during this difficult time to keep us up and running. They are very committed to doing their very best for our Township and its residents and businesses.

We certainly hope that someday soon, life as we know it, returns to normal but for now we all will do the best that we can to provide the necessary service that you need.

As always stated in my articles, please make sure you check your property information either on-line at www.troytownship.com under the assessor tab – property search or by obtaining a copy of your property record card via email or postal service mail. If there is an error, we must correct it as soon as possible.

Always check your property tax bill when it arrives to be sure you are receiving all the exemptions you are entitled to. There is a list and explanation of each exemption that is available listed on our website under the assessor tab – exemptions.

If you would have any questions, please give us a call Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at 815-744-5806 or send an email to Assessor@troytownship.com





A MESSAGE FROM CLERK **Kristin Cross**

I hope everyone is safe and well during these crazy times. You may vote in the Presidential Election via either of the below methods that best suits your schedule and needs.

Early Voting: Will County Clerk's Office will hold early voting at Troy Township which will serve as an early voting site for Troy Township residents. Registered voters can early vote at the Troy Township Community Center Monday – Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. starting Monday, October 19, 2020 and ending on Friday, October 30, 2020. For more early voting options

or questions, please visit www.thewillcountyclerk.com or call 815-740-4615.

Vote by Mail: For more information on voting by mail please visit www.thewillcountyclerk.com or call 815-740-4615.

Election Day Voting: Election Day is Tuesday, November 3, 2020. For more information on Election Day including hours of voting, precinct locations, etc. please visit www.thewillcountyclerk.com or call 815-740-4615.

TROY TOWNSHIP OPEN TO PUBLIC WITH RESTRICTIONS

While Troy Township is open to the public, it is on a limited basis with restrictions. **Therefore, you should always call the office first before coming in. There are many times when we will be able to assist you over the phone and a visit is not needed.**

If visiting the office in person we have some very specific and important procedures that must be followed. Our office is following social distancing guidelines for your safety, the safety of our other guests, and the safety of our employees. Masks must be worn at all times while in the office.

For anyone wishing to visit our office in person:

- Do not come to the office if you are sick, have recently been sick, or have recently been around someone who is sick.
- Masks are required for all who enter and must be worn during your entire visit. Please make sure to wear your mask properly before entering the building.
- Follow the instructions below and, upon entry to the building, follow all signs and instructions.
- Enter the building through the office entrance (south side of building, closest to Seil Rd.)

Different services require different procedures for visiting the office. Therefore, instructions are provided based on the service needed.

| Department | Service | Visiting Instructions |
|---------------------|---|---|
| Assessor's Office | Property Tax Exemption Renewals | DO NOT COME TO THE OFFICE. Call us at 815-744-5806 for more information. |
| Assessor's Office | FIRST TIME APPLICATIONS for property tax exemptions, disabled veteran exemption with a change to disability status, property record card requests, assessment questions, appeal questions, etc. If you wish to file an assessment appeal, please visit our website under the assessor tab – how to file an appeal. All instructions and office protocol information are on our website. | Call us at 815-744-5806 to see if we can assist you over the phone or via email. If needed, you can visit our office and will be assisted on a walk-in, first come first served basis. No appointment will be taken for assistance with completing this application. Only one person will be helped at a time. Expect to wait in line. |
| Supervisor's Office | Durable medical equipment, handicapped placards, voter registration, notary services, financial or social service assistance or referrals, etc. | BY APPOINTMENT ONLY. You MUST call 815-744-1963 to schedule your appointment. Specific arrival instructions will be given to you at the time of making your appointment. |

Unfortunately, group activities in our Community Center remain suspended until further notice. We wish to thank you in advance for your patience and cooperation. Visit www.troytownship.com for the most current information.



A MESSAGE FROM HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER **Thomas R. Ward**



As I sit and write this article, we are about one week out from the August 10th storm that caused significant damage to trees and powerlines in our area. Our crews are still diligently working on the storm clean up to get our township back to normal. I'd like to extend a special thank you to Seward Township Highway Department who assisted us for several days in the clean-up efforts and to several employees from the Village of Shorewood who volunteered their time to assist us. This is perfect example of units of local government working together for the good

of all and I truly appreciate their assistance. Because of the storm damage we have trees that need to be removed. If it is a smaller tree the removal can be done by our own crew. Larger trees will require a contractor to remove them so timing of the work is unknown at this point. This unexpected storm damage has put us about two weeks behind on our regular tasks.

As clean-up comes to an end and as time allows, crews are continuing with ditch work and culvert replacement; soon to be followed by preparing for leaf season and plowing/salting of the roads during the winter months.

As always, I am very proud to serve the residents of Troy Township. Feel free to call me on my cell phone at 815-405-3378 with any questions or issues that you may have.

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**. Please do not bag the leaves. 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 at the beginning of May 2021 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.

CLEAN WATER IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS

The Clean Water Act Amendments of 1987 established the NPDES storm water program. The act called for implementation in two phases; Phase I addressed the most significant sources of pollution in storm water runoff while Phase II addresses other sources to protect water quality. With Phase II requirements, the Troy Township Highway Department was required to establish a Stormwater

Management Program Plan. The plan along with information about how you can help keep our water clean and be found on the Township's website at <http://www.troytownship.com/hwy--commissioner/stormwater-management-program-plan.aspx>.

Residents can report instances of pollution or suspected pollution by contacting the Township Highway Department at (815) 828-5275.



A.A.R.P. & SENIOR SERVICES OF WILL COUNTY INCOME TAX PREPARATION ASSISTANCE

A.A.R.P. Income Tax-Aide from Senior Services of Will County hopes to be moving forward with a mix of both virtual/online and in-person tax preparation for the 2021 tax season. However, at this time we are unsure if Troy Township will be to host this service due to the COVID-19 guidelines and restrictions.

We will post any updates on our website and Facebook page. You may also call the office at 815-

744-1968 or 815-744-1963 after January 4, 2021 for more information.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED! Interested in volunteering to be one of the tax preparers for this great program, please contact Shirley Marrs the District Manager at Senior Services of Will County at 815-476-2970 for more information. **The more volunteers they have, the more locations will be able to offer this great program.**

TREE & POWER LINE SAFETY

After the significant power outages from the August 10th storms, the Township wanted to provide information to residents regarding general safety around power lines. The below information is taken directly from ComEd's website.

Contact: 1-800-EDISON-1 or (800)334-7661 www.comed.com

TREES & POWER LINES

Tree Trimming Assistance

Large trees and branches can cause extended power outages when they come in contact with overhead power lines. For your safety, do not climb trees or trim trees that are located near power lines without taking necessary precautions first. Hiring a qualified contractor is a safer alternative. Always keep children away from trees that are near power lines. Even momentary contact with a power line, or a tree or branch that is in contact with a power line, can severely injure or kill. Contact ComEd for further assistance.

Service Wire

ComEd does not perform non-emergency tree trimming for the wire running directly to customers' meters (the service wire). If you hire a contractor, or plan to do any trimming on your own, ComEd will either drop or de-energize your service wire and will re-connect it once trimming is complete. Your home will be without power until your service line is re-connected. There is no charge for this service.

Between Utility Poles Line Maintenance Investigations (LMI)

ComEd will, in certain cases, stop the electricity flowing through the power lines near the tree(s) in question, allowing a private contractor to work around de-energized lines. Please contact ComEd at 1-800-EDISON-1 (1-800-334-7661) and request a "line maintenance investigation" (LMI) to see if this is an option for you. There is no charge for this inquiry.

Storm Damage

If you see a broken tree limb lying on a power line or likely to fall on a power line, **DO NOT TOUCH IT!** Please report it by calling 1-800-EDISON-1 (1-800-334-7661). Always try to avoid tree limbs near power lines and do not make contact with the tree. If possible, also notify neighbors to stay clear.

Debris Removal (after storms or natural occurrences)

- **ComEd Responsibility:** Cutting, trimming or removing trees or branches from our equipment in an effort to restore service and ensure future reliability.
- **Customer Responsibility:** The disposal of branches, logs or other debris associated with trees damaged by storms, ice, winds or other natural causes.

REMEMBER: Always assume power lines are live. This applies to power lines on utility poles as well as those entering your home or buildings. Even momentary contact can injure or kill. Be aware that ladders, equipment, branches, etc. can conduct electricity if proper clearance/distances are not followed.

For more information visit: <https://www.comed.com/SafetyCommunity/Safety/Pages/TreesPowerLines.aspx>

TROY TOWNSHIP SENIORS



Hey Seniors, Join me, Angela Scaggs, your Community Services Director for Coffee and Chit-Chat and other fun via ZOOM every Wednesday from 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. It's a great way to meet new friends and socialize in a safe way with no masks required.

If you don't have a computer, smart phone or tablet you can call in to join the fun. If interested or for more information, please email me at ascaggs@troytownship.com or call 815-744-1963.

We are looking to add other activities in the future, so visit our website and follow us on Facebook for updates.

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

Troy Township's Durable Medical Closet 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.



Temporary Handicapped Parking Placards Now Available at the Township Offices

Troy Township can issue temporary handicap parking placards valid for a 3 month period to qualified individuals. Individuals in need of a temporary handicapped parking placard must complete an application that's signed by their doctor. Applications are available at the Troy Township offices or at www.troytownship.com. Upon receipt of a proper completed application, the temporary handicapped parking placard will be issued immediately. For more information please call 815-744-1963 or visit www.troytownship.com.



Meals On Wheels Frozen Meal Box Program


Troy Township has partnered with Community Nutrition Network / Meals on Wheels to provide a weekly box of 5 frozen meals to seniors 60+. Each frozen meal box is a **suggested** \$20 donation. To order you must call Angela at 815-744-1963

and schedule your pick up time. Orders are placed every Wednesday for pick up here at the Township on the following Wednesday. Frozen meal boxes will be brought out to your car and cash or check donations will be collected at that time.

For questions or more information please call Angela at 815-744-1963.

At Home Meal Service & Volunteers Needed

If you are in need or interested in the at home meal service anyone 60 years of age or older is eligible, as is the spouse or caregiver of a 60+ senior, or a disabled individual who lives with a senior. Enrolling in the home-delivered meals program is easy – just give the Meals on Wheels Will County office a call at 815-726-0094, and staff will put the senior in touch with a case worker.

The meals are hot entrees, nutritionally balanced and provided by caterers who have been working with Meals on Wheels for years. Occasionally, Meals on Wheels will have shelf stable meals that come as a pack of five.

Volunteers are needed to help deliver the meals with

a particularly urgent need at Meals on Wheels' Monee and Joliet locations.

For those interested, volunteers are required to register on the volunteer database and complete a background check. The background check is necessary, considering the vulnerable people served, and the background check cost is paid by Meals on Wheels. Volunteers must be 18 or older, have their own car, and be willing to volunteer at least one morning a week, Monday through Friday.

For more information, contact Bill Vogt, Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator Will County, at bvogt@cnssa.org. Cell phone is 815-351-9285.

MEET YOUR TROY TOWNSHIP BOARD



TROY TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

JOSEPH D. BALTZ is a life-long resident of Troy Township and has served the township in various capacities since 1977, presently serving as Township Supervisor since 1984. Over 35 year career in local banking; served on the Troy Fire Department and many other local not-for-profit boards and organizations including the Township Officials of Illinois. Joe is married and has three children.



TROY TOWNSHIP HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER

THOMAS R. WARD is a long time resident of Troy Township growing up on the Ward Farm in Shorewood. He attended Troy Grade Schools, Joliet Catholic High School and studied agriculture at Joliet Jr. College. Tom is experienced in land development including subdivision, commercial and road building construction; is experienced in storm drainage and has been a member of the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 150 for 33 years. Tom is OSHA (1926) Competent Person Training Certified and certified in Hazardous Waste Awareness. Tom is also a member of the Will County Farm Bureau, and a member of the Moose Lodge in Joliet. Tom is married to his wife Kimberly and they have two children.



COLLECTOR JOHN D. GREENWOOD has been a Troy Township resident since 1973. John is a 1970 Business Administration Magna Cum Laude graduate of Alcorn State University with minors in Accounting and Business Finance. After graduation Greenwood served the Federal Government for over 48 ½ years holding various positions throughout the years within the Department of Energy and its predecessor agencies until his retirement in January of 2019. John's accomplishments and accolades were so vast that upon announcing his retirement, the Secretary of Energy, the Honorable Secretary Rick Perry, bestowed upon John Greenwood the Secretary's Distinguished Service Award. Greenwood has been active in his community over the years serving on many local non-for-profit boards and organizations. Greenwood is also the Founding Basileus of Nu Pi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, which he dearly loves. Greenwood is married with one son, daughter-in-law, and two grandchildren.



TRUSTEE LARRY RYAN is a lifelong resident of Will County with over 30 years in Troy Township. Honored to have been elected a Township Trustee in 2009. Member of the Township Officials of Illinois, St. Jude Parish in Joliet and Laborers' Local 288. He volunteers at St. Joe's PONY Baseball and St. Jude school. Larry holds a B.S. degree in Accounting from Bradley University and owns an underground construction business. Larry and his wife reside in unincorporated Troy Township and has two sons and a daughter.



TROY TOWNSHIP CLERK

KRISTIN CROSS was appointed to the position of Tax Collector in February of 2012 and was elected as your Troy Township Clerk in April of 2013. Kristin is a long time resident of Troy Township where she resides with her daughter.



TROY TOWNSHIP ASSESSOR

KIMBERLY ANDERSON is a lifelong Troy Township resident. She has been employed with the Assessor's Office since 2007. Kimberly obtained her CIAO designation in 2010 and is continuing her education with the Illinois Department of Revenue and the Illinois Property Assessment Institute. She is currently in her second term as Troy Township's Assessor. Kimberly is currently the President of the Will County Assessor's Association. She also serves as a member of the Shorewood Citizen's Advisory Committee. Kimberly is a prior 18 year business owner and former Shorewood ESDA Coordinator. She is married and has one son.



TRUSTEE BRYAN W. KOPMAN is a lifelong resident of Will County, living in Troy Township since 2000. Bryan was originally appointed as Collector in October 2015 then appointed to the Trustee position in June of 2017. He is a graduate of Joliet Catholic High School, Northwestern University, and University of Notre Dame Law School. Licensed as a lawyer in 1995, he has always practiced in Will County and is a founding member of Kavanagh Grumley & Gorbod, LLC. He is a member of the Cathedral of St. Raymond Parish and has served on the boards of numerous not-for-profit and charitable organizations as well as volunteered as a coach at Troy Baseball, St. Raymond School, Joliet Park District, and the YMCA. Bryan and his wife Jan live in Shorewood with their four children.



TRUSTEE JERRY NUDERA has been a resident of Will County and Troy Township since 1989. He retired as a Deputy Chief with the Will County Sheriff's Office in 2017 after 28 years of service. Jerry received his B.A from Lewis University and his MPA from Roosevelt University. Jerry spends his spare time as a Boy Scout leader. He is the Scoutmaster for Troop 256, chartered by Troy Schools 30C. Jerry also sits on the Rainbow Council, Boy Scouts of America, Executive Committee as the Vice President of Outdoors Adventures. Jerry is married and has three sons.



TRUSTEE BRETT WHEELER was born and raised in Joliet and owner/operator of The Body Werks Collision Repair Center in Shorewood since 1989. Brett is an active member of the Troy Fire Department having started out as a volunteer in 1996. Brett has served the Township as Collector from 2003-2005; was elected as Trustee for the 2005-2009 term; and was then appointed as Trustee in February of 2012. Brett currently resides in Shorewood with wife Laurie and daughter Megan.

**25448 Seil Road
Shorewood, IL 60404-7620**

IMPORTANT REAL ESTATE TAX INFORMATION



CONGRATULATIONS

Trustee John "Theo" Theobald

On Your Retirement

Thank you for your years of leadership and dedicated service to the residents of Troy Township.

Troy Township Collector

January 1, 2010 to November 20, 2011

Troy Township Trustee

November 21, 2011 to August 31, 2020

Troy Township Collector, Jerry Nudera, was appointed at the Troy Township board meeting on Monday, August 17, 2020 to replace Trustee John "Theo" Theobald.

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

TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR

Jennifer Dylik

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.

**when conflicting with a holiday, the meeting will be on the 4th Monday of the month.*