

Fall 2019

Issue 45



A MESSAGE FROM SUPERVISOR Joseph D. Baltz

Where do my property tax dollars go?

Taxes in Illinois are on the rise and no doubt, property taxes are of major concern to our residents. Most people are not even sure where their property tax dollars go or what services they receive. If you were to look at your property tax bill you would see a list of units of governments including schools (elementary, high school, and junior college), counties, cities, villages, fire districts, park districts, library districts, and more, all of whom receive a portion of your property tax dollars.

What am I paying the Township for and what does it do?

Township government is the oldest form of government in America originating with the Pilgrims in 1636. In 1849 the Illinois legislature authorized Illinois counties to adopt the township system of government and on April 2, 1850 Troy Township held its first election. Township government by law is tasked with three main functions:

1. Maintenance of roads and bridges in the unincorporated areas.
2. Assessing the value of all property within the township.
3. Providing General Assistance which is financial assistance for the indigent.

Beyond the three mandated services, township government provides other vital services to the residents in the community. Programs may vary from township to township but here at Troy Township we offer assistance with exemption and senior freeze paperwork, notary public services, durable medical equipment loan closet, temporary handicapped placards, a senior program, micro food pantry, early voting services, community center rental, educational seminars, recycling program, shredding and medication disposal events, a veteran's honor roll, unincorporated leaf vacuum service, unincorporated tree branch and brush pick up service, and much more.

Why do we still need township government?

Township government is under attack from our state legislature; however, townships perform vital functions. From the afore mentioned mandated functions of assessments, financial assistance to the indigent, and maintenance of roads in the unincorporated areas to the many varied social service programs, your local township government is the government

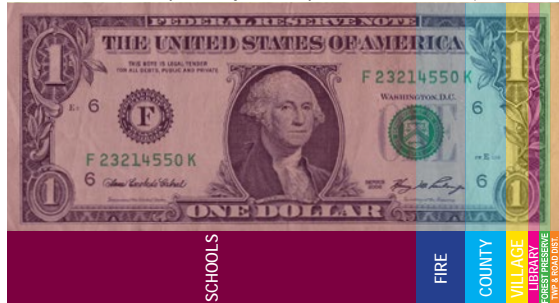
closest to the people. Townships do the most with the least amount of funds. We do all of this with most of our funding coming from general property taxes as the Township does not receive sales tax or income tax. In fact, on the home page of our website (www.troytownship.com) you will find links to two reports that discuss the importance of township government and its cost effective operations. On the home page scroll down to the Quick Links and view the article "Townships-Government Closest to the People" by Natalie L. Pesin, Matuszewich & Kelly, LLP, and the report "Local Democracy and Townships in the Chicagoland Area" by Wendell Cox.

How much do I pay Troy Township?

Looking at a property tax bill you will see that most of your property tax dollars go to local schools. Properties within Troy Township are made up of dozens of combinations of taxing bodies based on school boundaries, city or village boundaries, etc. To show you an example of how tax dollars break down by type of service, I looked at the taxing bodies for the area that the township office is located:

As you can see, Troy Township operates on a very small amount of property tax dollars and likely accounts for the smallest portion of your property tax bill. In this specific example, the

Schools: 74.4% • Fire: 9.1% • County: 7.2% • Village: 4.1% • Library: 2.0% • Forest Preserve: 1.8% • Twp & Road Dist: 1.5%



*The example provided is for only one of the many tax codes located in Troy Township. The exact amount of taxes paid will vary based on tax code, tax rate, assessment, etc. The example shows the 2018 tax year paid in 2019 for tax code 0565.

Township and Township Road District combined would receive 1.5% of every dollar paid or \$0.015 per \$1.00. For an \$8,000 property tax bill it would be a total of \$120.00*.

We at Troy Township are proud of the work that we do and are here to serve our residents. If you have any questions about our programs or services or have any suggestions for a new program or service, please never hesitate to call our office at 815-744-1968.



NEWS FROM ASSESSOR **Kim Anderson**

2019 was our quadrennial assessment year or general assessment year. Per state statute, quadrennial or general assessment years occur every four years. During those years, local township assessors must reassess every parcel in their township regardless of age, location, size or value of improvements. Every parcel within a township's jurisdiction will receive a notice in the mail from their respective county. Please note: there are no exemptions included in the market value on your reassessment notice. Quad years are times for the county to take an inventory of all taxable property and investigate them.

My staff and I conducted sales studies in our township and reviewed them for possible changes in value. Not all properties in Troy Township received a change but they were considered for a possible change dependent on market value sales as well as uniformity with comparable properties. Troy Township currently has 20,351 parcels located within our borders. This was no easy job, but it was completed in a timely manner and I must congratulate my staff on a job well done.

Just a reminder that if your value was increased it does NOT necessarily mean your property taxes will. Property taxes are the result of the demand of funds for our taxing bodies to fulfill their budget requirements. A property tax bill is figured by the assessed value, minus any exemptions, times the tax rate that is determined by the taxing bodies.

Troy Township has experienced increased market values over the last 4 years on average 5 1/2 percent. This is a positive thing as people are finding our area a desirable place to live and conduct business and those once foreclosed homes are now being resold.

As always, I encourage everyone to review your property card that is on file with my office. Information on your property can be found online at www.troytownship.com under the assessor tab-property search or you may stop in to view your card in person. If an error would be found, they can be corrected. If the error would result in a change in your property value, we can go back one year to correct it.

Please always check your property tax bills to ensure you are receiving all the exemptions you are entitled to. This also can be corrected if an exemption would be missing or if you did not apply for one and were eligible the prior year. There is criteria that must be met for each exemption that is available to you. For a complete list of exemptions and their criteria, please visit our website under the assessor tab – and click on exemptions or please feel free to give us call at 815-744-5806.

All Township residents are always welcome to visit my office for any assistance that we can provide with regards to the value on your home or business and for assistance with exemptions. I am very fortunate to have a kind and knowledgeable staff that always welcome our residents into our office.





A MESSAGE FROM CLERK **Kristin Cross**

As the Town Clerk, one of my primary duties is to maintain the township records. With township business dating back to 1850, these records contain some great history. A few years back, with the help of a local historian/librarian, we started work on scanning the records so they can be maintained in a digital format. While the scanning process was completed a while back, for the records to be searchable and usable each image must be indexed; a very lengthy and cumbersome process. I try to spend time each day processing the information into a database. The process is ongoing and will take quite a bit of time. Our hope is to one day share these records on our website so that generations of township residents can have access to them and discover some of the great history of Troy Township.

As your Town Clerk I also serve as your Local Election Official. I cannot stress the importance of exercising your right to vote. The General Primary Election is coming up on March 17, 2020. This will decide who will be the Democratic and Republican candidates for the General Election to be held in November of 2020.

You can vote in the General Primary Election by either mail, early voting, or Election Day voting, you may choose to vote via the below method and time that best suits your schedule and needs.

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

Early Voting: Troy Township will once again 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, March 2, 2020 and ending on Friday, March 13, 2020. For more early voting options, please visit www.thewillcountyclerk.com or call 815-740-4615.

Election Day Voting: Election Day is Tuesday, March 17, 2020. For more information on Election Day including hours of voting, precinct locations, etc. please visit www.thewillcountyclerk.com or call 815-740-4615.

CENSUS DAY IS APRIL 1, 2020

UNITED STATES CENSUS 2020: WHY SHOULD IT MATTER TO ME?

Not only is the census data used to determine the number of legislative seats Illinois has in Washington or Springfield, it also determines the amount of federal money Illinois receives each year to support: Infrastructure needs such as construction and repair, schools and school districts in your community, hospitals and emergency healthcare centers for the insured and uninsured, social services programs that provide assistance for senior citizens, veterans and low-income families, and large companies' and

local business enterprises' decisions to potentially build or expand their corporate offices or factories that bring employment to communities.

The most important thing you can do is respond to the census questionnaire when you receive it. Your census questionnaire answers are kept confidential by the U.S. Census Bureau. The information is not shared with other federal or state government agencies. For more information you may visit www.illinoiscensus2020.com

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



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

The spring of 2019 was very wet. This unfortunately set us back on several projects but did allow for some catch up on projects like organizing the yard at the Highway Department and performing much needed maintenance on our equipment.

The wet spring did bring some flooding and draining issues to light which required the jetting of some blocked pipes and some culvert repairs. We are still catching up on culverts that run under driveways that need replacement. With that said, I am thankful to have such a great team and summer help, to get the piled-up work done. We are continuing to answer the needs of our residents to the best of our abilities and make up for lost time. We hope to be caught up soon and thank you for your patience.

As you know, fall is fast approaching. Please read the details for the leaves and branch pickup. Winter will be here before we know it and crews will be getting ready to keep the roads safe and cleaned up. I ask that you please watch out for school buses this winter season and always drive with caution.

Once again, we will be assessing and prioritizing our roads after the winter season for resurfacing projects next summer.

Thank you, and remember I am only a phone call away. You may reach out to me at 815-405-3378 with any questions or concerns. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Troy Township Highway Commissioner.



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.

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 7th, Monday, October 21st and Monday, November 4th. This service will resume at the beginning of May 2020 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.

SHREDDING EVENT AND MEDICATION DISPOSAL OCTOBER 5TH



Join us on Saturday, October 5, 2019, from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. when Troy Township will host its next semi-annual shredding and medication disposal event. This event will take place simultaneously at 25448 Seil Road in Shorewood. 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 onsite by Iron Mountain. **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. 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.

NEEDLES APPROPRIATELY CONTAINED WITHIN AN APPROVED SHARPS CONTAINER WILL NOW BE ACCEPTED AT THE EVENT!

Bio-One has agreed to partner with us and will be onsite to collect and properly dispose of the needles. IMPORTANT.... only needles that are properly contained within an approved sharps container will be accepted. You can purchase approved sharps containers at most drug stores or pharmacies.

A list of accepted medications and more information about the event in general can be found on our website at www.troytownship.com under the News, Notes & Events section. For more information please call 815-744-1968.



MOBILE DRIVER SERVICES UNIT COMING TO TROY TOWNSHIP ON OCTOBER 1ST



Secretary of State Jesse White announced that his Mobile Driver Services Unit will be at the Troy Township Community Center on Tuesday, October 1, 2019. Illinois residents will be

able to renew their drivers' licenses, obtain duplicate or corrected licenses and obtain Illinois ID cards between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. The new Real ID for travel is NOT available at mobile drivers' sites, you must go to the DMV. A Rules of the Road Review Course will also be held from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. If you want to participate in the Rules of the Road Review Course, please call 815-744-1963 to pre-register.

To find out which documents are acceptable forms of identification, and what the license renewal fees are, please call 217-782-7044 or visit the Illinois Secretary of States website at: http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/drivers/drivers_license/home.html

The Mobile Drivers Service Unit will return on Tuesday, April 14, 2020.

TROY TOWNSHIP TO HOST AARP DRIVER SAFETY PROGRAM COURSE

Troy Township will host an AARP "Smart Driver" Driver Safety Program. Under Illinois law, those above age 55 - whether AARP members or not - qualify for a worthwhile multi-year auto insurance discount* by completing this course.



*Please check with your insurance company for the exact discount and the correct procedure to obtain it.

This is a two-day course and participants **must attend both classes** to be awarded the certificate upon completion. Class dates are Tues., Nov. 5th and Nov. 12th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Classes will be held at the Troy Township Community Center, located at 25448 Seil Road in Shorewood. The cost of the course is \$15.00 for AARP members and \$20.00 for Non members. Registration is required by contacting Angela at 815-744-1963 or email ascaggst@troytownship.com by Friday, Nov. 1st.

TROY TOWNSHIP'S INFORMATIONAL SEMINARS / PRESENTATIONS

Wise
people
never stop
learning

All seminars and presentations are informational and free to help inform Troy Township residents about important topics. They are held at the Troy Township Community Center located at 25448 Seil Rd. in Shorewood. Refreshments will be served and registration is required for each seminar by calling Angela at 815-744-1963 or email ascaggs@troytownship.com. If there is a topic, you'd like Troy Township to consider having, please contact Angela.

MEDICARE 101

Thursday, October 17, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. — Register by: Tuesday, October 15th

Presented by: Courtney Hedderman, AARP

All Troy Township residents 50+ are invited to come to this free presentation by AARP to find out more about Medicare and what all the parts are and what they mean. Whether you're currently on Medicare, you're about to become eligible, or you're a caregiver for someone on Medicare, this presentation is for you! You will also find out important information about how the Affordable Care Act impacts Medicare beneficiaries.

FLAG FOLDING — WHAT DO THE 13 FOLDS MEAN?

Thursday, November 7, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. — Register by: Tuesday, Nov. 5th

Presented by: Abraham Lincoln Memorial Squad

Ever wonder what the 13 folds mean in a flag folding ceremony? Bring your family to this great presentation and demonstration of the 13 folds. You will learn the meaning behind the ceremonial 13 folds of the American Flag which drapes a veteran's coffin. Pass along and be proud of the country we live in and even more proud of those who serve to protect our rights and freedoms. What a great presentation to share with your family so close to Veteran's Day on Monday, November 11th.

SMART TAX STRATEGIES FOR RETIREES SEMINAR

Thursday, November 21, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. — Register by: Tuesday, Nov. 19th

Presented by: David K. O'Dell, RFC & Brian D. O'Dell CFP, Delco Tax Advisory Group

Tax reform and changes to the federal tax code will have a "HUGE" impact on retirement in 2019 and beyond. Please join us for a fun night of learning about new tax brackets, increased standard deduction, changes to itemized deductions, IRA planning opportunities and so much more. Tax planning before it is filing season is vital in a year like this. Learn about what opportunities are now available for seniors and retirees.

WILLS & LIVING TRUSTS

Thursday, February 20, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. — Register by: Tuesday, February 18th

Presented by: Elder Law Attorney, Jerome J. Goergen, P.C.

Do you think having a Will is enough? If so, come to this valuable informational seminar and see why it may not be enough and learn about:

- advantages and disadvantages of Wills and Living Trusts; and
- protecting your assets and your privacy if you become incapacitated; and
- creating a plan to protect your assets before you need long term care in a nursing home, and
- why putting property in your children's names may be a mistake; and
- how probate works, and more importantly, how you can avoid probate all together.

WHAT IS JOLIET AREA COMMUNITY HOSPICE AND WHAT DO THEY DO?

Thursday, March 19, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. — Register by: Tuesday, March. 17th

Presented by: Sherry Lindstrom, R.N., BSN with Joliet Hospice

What is Palliative Care versus Hospice care? What is Hospice care...how do you access care, when is it used, what meds and supplies are covered under hospice, and what does insurance cover? All these questions and more will be answered along with what a DNR (Do Not Resuscitate) form is, why have a power of attorney for medical, and how grief support is available for families before and after a person passes away. Not the happiest topic, but valuable information if or when the time comes that you may need it.

MONEY-SAVING TIPS TO REDUCE UNNECESSARY INVESTMENT FEES

Thursday, April 16, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. — Register by: Tuesday, April 14th

Presented by: William Hardesty, J.D., Arboretum Wealth & Trust Management

Are you aware of common, but often unknown, investment related fees and expenses eating away at your investment portfolio's return? This free and informational seminar will show you what fees to look for, where to find these fees, what investment expense questions you should be asking yourself or your investment professional, and what lower-cost alternatives are available to you. Not only will this topic include information benefiting personal investments but also investing for others in estates, trusts and guardianships.

TROY TOWNSHIP SENIORS

A.A.R.P. & Senior Services of Will County Offer Income Tax Preparation Assistance

Thanks to the success of recent years, Troy Township will once again be a site for A.A.R.P. Income Tax assistance from Senior Services of Will County to assist seniors with the preparation of simple income tax returns which will be filed via e-filing only. Complicated tax returns should be taken to other tax professionals. More information on dates and times of available appointments should be available after January 24, 2020. Please call 815-744-1968 or 815-744-1963 for more information at that time.



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.**



Operation Care Package Donations

Leftover Halloween Candy...
And don't want the temptation at home??
Donate it to Operation Care Package

Do you have any leftover Halloween candy and don't want the temptation at home? If so, drop it off at the Township by Monday, November 4th from 8:30am – 3:30pm and we will deliver it to Operation Care Package. They will send it to our troops.

If you know anyone that is serving in the military and you'd like them to receive a care package anytime during the year, email ProudArmySis4@sbcglobal.net with the name and address of the serviceperson whom you'd like to receive a care package.

Small Christmas Gift Donations

Operation Care Package is collecting small Christmas gifts for our military men and women. Please drop them off at the township by Monday, November 4th from 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. as they will start mailing out care packages over Thanksgiving weekend. If you'd like to enclose a card of encouragement and thank you that would be great. Or, if you are a teacher, have all the students in your class make cards and we will donate those also.

Troy Township is a permanent drop off site. Donations may be dropped off Monday – Friday from 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. throughout the year. For a list of items needed please visit www.operationcarepackage.com or stop by the township to pick up a list.

For more information and ways to help please visit www.operationcarepackage.com



25448 Seil Road
Shorewood, IL 60404-7620

IMPORTANT REAL ESTATE TAX INFORMATION



SUPERVISOR

Joseph D. Baltz

TOWN CLERK

Kristin Cross

ASSESSOR

Kim Anderson CIAO

HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER

Thomas R. Ward

COLLECTOR

Jerry Nudera

TRUSTEES

Bryan W. Kopman John "Theo" Theobald
Larry Ryan 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

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.*