

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR SUPERVISOR Joseph D. Baltz



As fall arrives and another calendar year is quickly coming to a close, I always find myself taking stock of the year that is passing and reflecting on how we at the township have reached out and impacted the lives of Troy Township residents.

Being the *Government Closest to the People*, I believe it is important that your township elected officials and the township staff be easily accessible to the residents which we serve. That is why the township participates at local community events such as the Shorewood Area Chamber of Commerce's Community Business Expo, the Crossroads Festival Parade and will be an exhibitor at the October Senior Expo sponsored by Will County.

In 2011, the township has continued to be visible and address the needs of our residents. Since you received the Spring 2011 newsletter, the township has continued to thrive; providing necessary programs and services and participating in events, such as:

- Offering **Free AARP Tax Preparation** for township seniors from February thru April.
- Hosting the inaugural Troy Township **Active Lifestyle Senior Expo** in June, featuring over 20 different vendors and service organizations focusing on bettering the lives of seniors. The expo also featured a blood drive by Life Source.
- Partnering with the Village of Shorewood to establish a **Community Garden** behind the Township Community Center.
- Collaborating with five other surrounding townships and the City of Joliet to provide the **PACE Dial-a-Ride** program for township seniors and those who are disabled.
- Providing **mosquito abatement** services for the unincorporated areas of the township through Clarke Mosquito Control.

Additionally, the Supervisor's office continues to administer the General Assistance Program as well as handle

weed complaints for the unincorporated areas of the township, provide voter registration services, early voting services, notary public services, computer cyber niche training and more.

I would also like to take this opportunity to introduce our new Township Administrator, Jennifer Dylik, to you. Jennifer came to the township in November of 2010 after having served as the President/CEO of the Shorewood Area Chamber of Commerce. Jennifer's strengths are public relations, customer service, process improvements, organization, P & L management and budgeting. She will be a true asset to the residents of Troy Township as she keeps the township running smoothly and works to address the needs of our township community. Jennifer is a graduate of Lewis University with a B.A. in Marketing and minor in Business Administration.

Here at Troy Township we are very proud of the fact that we operate so efficiently, are available to the people and are able to provide the services that our residents need. From the accuracy of our Assessor's Department to the reliability and dependability of our Highway Department; from the assistance and programs offered through General Assistance to our Troy Township Seniors, Cyber Niche and Community Center, at Troy Township we are here to serve you.

Not only should the township be accessible, it should also know and anticipate the needs of the community it serves. That is why we want to hear from you! Please bring your concerns to our attention and let us know how we can serve you better. We will do our best to make sure you leave our office with direction. My office can be reached by calling 815-744-1968.

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TOWNSHIP CLERK'S CORNER George E. Muentnich



General Primary Election March 20, 2012

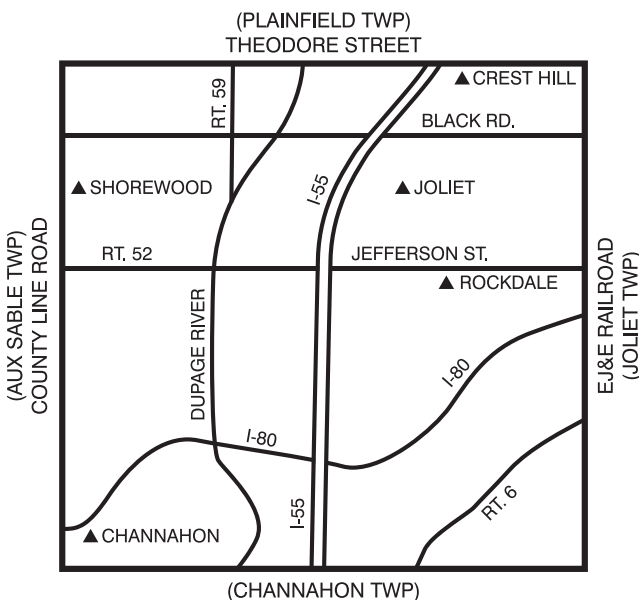
The next election will be the General Primary Election to be held on March 20, 2012. For this election, the Township will once again be a designated early voting and absentee voting site for residents of Troy Township. Both early and absentee voting will take place at the Troy Township Community Center located at 25448 Seil Road in Shorewood.

EARLY VOTING will be open starting Monday, February 27, 2012 through Thursday, March 15, 2012. Early voting hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

ABSENTEE VOTING will be offered on Friday, March 16, 2012 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

To be eligible to early vote or absentee vote at the township, you must:

1. Reside in Troy Township.
2. Be a registered voter.
3. Present a valid government issued ID.



NOT A REGISTERED VOTER?

You can register to vote at the township office. Hours for voter registration are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The last day to register to vote before the March 20, 2012 election is February 21, 2012.

For more information about early voting, absentee voting or registering to vote, please visit the Will County Clerk's website at www.thewillcountyclerk.com or call 815-740-4794.



ASSESSOR NEWS

Patricia A. Gabrielson, CIAO/I

The 2011 quadrennial year reassessment has been completed and notices have been sent to all taxpayers from the Will County Supervisor of Assessments office. Assessments were

published on August 17th in the Herald News and assessments can also be seen on the Supervisor of Assessments website at www.willcountysoa.com. Hopefully everyone paid close attention to this notice. It is too late to file an appeal with the Board of Review but if you have any questions regarding your new assessment, please call our office and we will explain how we arrived at the assessment.

Most residential homeowners saw a decrease in their assessment, perhaps not the decrease that was expected, but as I have explained in previous newsletters, assessments lag behind true market value. This was also true during the years when sale prices were increasing at a significant rate. The three year

sales study used by the Department of Revenue is beneficial to the homeowner when the market is increasing in value, but when that same principle is applied in a declining market the average homeowner finds this principle hard to understand. Remember, a decrease in your assessment does not necessarily mean a lower tax bill. Tax rates are based on budgets of the local taxing districts, so even if your assessment has gone down your tax bill may not.

Senior Citizens Assessment Freeze: There is still time to file for the 2011 exemption. You must be 65 years old with a total household income below \$55,000. This exemption freezes your assessment in the year you qualify and must be renewed each year. We also have the Senior Homestead Exemption that can be applied for in the year a person reaches the age of 65. This exemption is a \$4,000 reduction to the assessment on your permanent residence. There is no renewal required for this exemption and it is not based on income. Our staff will be happy to assist you in filing for these exemptions.

Community Garden Comes to Troy Township

This summer Troy Township partnered with the Village of Shorewood to bring Shorewood residents and residents of unincorporated Troy Township a community garden. The garden, located just north of the Troy Township Community Center was a flourish of activity this summer. With over 90% of the plots sold for the current gardening season, the Community Garden is considered a huge success! Watch the spring 2012 newsletter for information on next year's community garden.



COLLECTOR John Theobald



Eye Glasses and Cell Phone Collection Site

The Troy Township Community Center is a drop off location for your unwanted cell phones, cell phone chargers and eye glasses. They can be dropped off Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The phones and chargers are collected by The Will County Sheriff's Department who refurbishes and provides them to local area senior citizens who need them to make 911 calls. When donating your old cell phones, please erase all personal information from them.

Eye glasses are donated to the Lions Club who recycles them and distributes them to those in need.

Troy Township Community Room events:

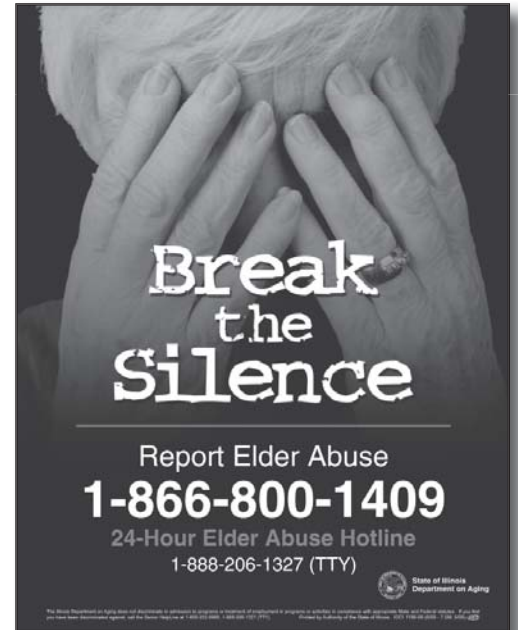
Troy Township Board Meeting –
Every 3rd Monday at 7:00 p.m.

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



Seniors, Need Help with Yard Work or Shoveling?

The Student Community of Community Christian Church in Shorewood has created the StuCo Yard Crew. The "CREW" consists of students ages 12 -18 who desire to give back to their community. The StuCo Yard Crew will be doing yard work in the warmer months and snow shoveling in the winter. For more information visit the services and links tab at www.troytownship.com or call 630-338-6157.

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 older 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.

Will County Offers FREE Household Electronic Recycling Pick Up

Will County now offers a new, convenient electronic recycling pick up service for Troy Township residents. This program is a free service offered to all residents with first floor entrances. The Electronic Products Recycling and Reuse Act, passed by the Illinois General Assembly in 2008, states some electronic materials will no longer be accepted at landfills beginning January 2012. Will County has been actively preparing for this new legislation, establishing electronic recycling sites at numerous key locations across the region.

This program will be the first free household pickup service offered in Illinois. Residents will be able to schedule a pickup of unwanted electronics by

contacting Vintage Tech Recyclers.

Items accepted include: computers, laptops, monitors, printers, televisions, all types of telephones, answering machines, computer mouse devices, keyboards, zip drives, computer cables, string lights, microwaves, fax, scanners, MP3s, PDAs, video game consoles, video cassette players/recorders, DVD players and more. There is a limit of 10 items per service call, but future service dates can be arranged as necessary.

Drop-off services will remain available for apartment residents or anyone without front-door access. For more information or to schedule a pickup contact Vintage Tech Recyclers at 877-786-4715.

Shredding Event –Saturday, October 15th Helps Township Residents Protect Identity and Save Money



On Saturday, **October 15, 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. Since identity fraud is a possibility for anyone, this service will help residents destroy personal papers in a safe and timely manner, not to mention save money. Some local retailers charge around \$0.59 per pound of papers you wish to recycle. **Each resident must show proof of township residency and is allowed to have two letter size file or copy paper boxes shredded.** The Township Community Center is located at 25448 Seil Road, Shorewood.

YOUR TRUSTEES



Jim McFarland



Larry Ryan



Cheryl Seil



Donald Walden

HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER Daniel R. Ward



Troy Township Highway Department Hard at Work

This past summer, the Troy Township Highway Department was hard at work on many projects throughout the township. Keeping township roads safe is a top priority for the Highway Department. As you travel around the township you will notice three road improvement projects completed this summer. They

are: Mound Road from River Road to just east of Mattox Lane; County Line Road from Seil Road north to Route 52 and Frontage Road from Mound Road south to Camelot Road.

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. 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.

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.

Branch & Brush Pick Ups

Branch and brush pick ups will be on the first Monday in October and the LAST branch & brush pick-up will be on Monday, November 7, 2011. This service will resume again in May.

Textile Recycling Now Available to Troy Township Residents

In an effort to keep clothing, bedding, towels and the like out of landfills, Troy Township has partnered with USAgain to offer textile recycling. Two clearly marked green and white textile recycling bins are now located at the Troy Township Highway Department, 25358 Seil Road, Shorewood, to serve as collection stations. Collection is available Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Troy Township

is working to keep the 100 million pounds of pre-owned, unwanted textiles out landfills every week. Aside from clothing and bedding, shoes, draperies, hats, belts, purses and other clothing items are being collected for recycling. All items should be bagged before being placed inside the green and white USAgain bins. For more information contact USAgain at (800) 604-9533.

Troy Township Seniors Enjoy Fun and Friendship at the Township Community Center

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. and enjoy friendship, food, programs, games, events and more!

Wii bowling, cards, monthly health screenings and a monthly birthday celebration are just some of the fun events happening with the Troy Township Seniors.

Lunch is optional and provided on a donation basis

by Senior Services Center of Will County. Lunch reservations must be made one week in advance either at the Center or by calling 815-744-1968 during regular business hours; Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

No reservations are required unless you wish to reserve a meal. The Troy Township Community Center is located at 25448 Seil Road, Shorewood. For more information call 815-744-1968.

Improve Your Computer Skills

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.

New computer users can search the web and use email after three or four sessions. Advanced users can improve their skills in single sessions by learning to “cut and paste” or manage files.

Some areas of instruction include:

- Email - creating & attaching photos
- 2010 Microsoft Office programs (Word, Excel and PowerPoint)
- Surfing the web
- Facebook
- Managing digital cameras and images
- Windows 7
- Windows Movie Maker

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 from 2:30 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. While sessions are free, a suggested donation of \$5 per session is appreciated and will be used for software upgrades. We have WiFi, bring your laptop.

An excellent way to learn quickly is to teach. We are looking for additional Cyber Niche volunteers. Call Rolland at 815-744-3197 for more information on volunteering.

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., Troy Township 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 Wednesday of each month at the Troy Township Community Center, but occasionally are held at other local area locations such as The Timbers and the Village of Shorewood Towne Center.

Please join us for these upcoming **TRIAD** meetings which are scheduled at the Troy Township Community Center from 9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. on the following Wednesdays:

October 12, 2011 • November 9, 2011 • December 14, 2011

For topic information or for a schedule of 2012 meeting dates, please visit www.troytownship.com or call the Will County Sheriff Senior Services Office at 815-727-5678.



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

25448 Seil Road
Shorewood, IL 60404-7620

IMPORTANT REAL ESTATE TAX INFORMATION



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.

25448 Seil Road
Shorewood, IL 60404-7620

Township Administrator
Jennifer Dylak

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