



# REPORT

## From the Supervisor – Kathy Penner



Watching this community pull together throughout the pandemic has been incredibly inspiring. I really believe that Wheeling Township exemplified its motto – “*Neighbors Helping Neighbors*” – more than ever in 2020 - 2021. From incredible outpourings of community generosity to our staff remaining dedicated to providing key services for residents, Wheeling Township and its citizens are, together, *neighbors helping neighbors*.

In 2020 – with everyone experiencing an ever-evolving pandemic – residents really stepped up. From whole neighborhood food collections to donations of gift cards for our Adopt-A-Family program, Wheeling Township’s neighbors affirmed their belief in the betterment of mankind through helping others.

I’m equally impressed by our dedicated staff, who, throughout the pandemic, continued to provide assistance to our residents. Key services – including Food Pantry, General Assistance, Transportation and Home Delivered Meals – continued throughout the early days of the pandemic, and are still going strong.

While a few other programs or services needed to be modified, the generosity of Township residents just continued to increase. Donations to the Wheeling Township Emergency Fund, Inc. were up last year, outmatched only by the significant increase in individuals donating to the Food Pantry. Ordinarily, food drives are held by many schools and organizations during the year, but with COVID-19, those types of donations could not take place. We say thank you to everyone who donated, and also to our host of remarkable volunteers, all of whom continued to go out of their way to ensure that others didn’t go without.

***Some of the many ways the Township provided - or received - assistance last year include:***

- **Food Pantry:** 11,796 people were fed (2,823 of which were children under 18). As a response to the shutdown early in the pandemic, the Food Pantry model had to shift from Client Choice (i.e., resident ‘shops’ in the Pantry) to providing pre-packed bags of food, but this allowed the Township’s pantry to rapidly assist residents. By early fall, the Township had moved to a hybrid method, allowing clients to fill out a shopping list, which was then packed by volunteers. We are very excited to be returning to our Client Choice model by the summer.
- **Home Delivered Meals Program:** Meal deliveries to some of our most vulnerable residents never stopped during the pandemic. Last year, 11,731 hot, freshly prepared meals were delivered to our homebound seniors and permanently disabled residents.
- **Giving Garden:** Residents with ‘green thumbs’ generously donated their home-grown produce for Food Pantry clients. This allowed the Pantry to supplement shelf-stable products for recipients.
- **Thanksgiving Baskets:** A holiday meal was provided to 354 lower income families. Hundreds of residents and community groups were still willing to donate baskets overflow cards, rolls and stuffing to potatoes and dessert.
- **Adopt-A-Family:** Although the Adopt-A-Family program had to be adapted in order to reduce potential virus exposure for everyone, donors still came through in a big way! 232 families (618 children) received gift cards to Walmart, Kohl’s or Target.

Wheeling Township’s Board and employees are indebted to the residents who, even in the middle of unprecedented times, remained dedicated to ensuring their fellow citizens were able to have plentiful access to food, holiday items and other compassionate services. The Township also wishes to acknowledge the many volunteers who selflessly continued to assist in the Food Pantry, with Medicare, or by delivering hot meals to the homebound. Their steadfast commitment to helping their neighbors is remarkable.

*All of us at Wheeling Township remain focused on helping our neighbors in need - every year. Call the Township at 847-259-7730 for more information on any of our programs, and be well!*

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# FROM THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

Jerry Sadler

## 2020: ALL EXEMPTIONS AUTOMATICALLY RENEW

House Bill 685 was signed into law which automatically renews many exemptions for the 2020 tax year. Under the new law homeowners who received the Senior Freeze, Persons with Disabilities, and Veterans with Disabilities exemptions will not need to file. The exemptions will renew **automatically, only for 2020**. Households should have received a letter confirming the renewed exemptions, or an application if there has been a change in the property, such as sale or death. Cook County Assessor has changed the application process to electronic; a hard copy of the forms is not available.

This renewal also applies to the Homeowner and Senior Exemption as it did for 2019. The exemptions will be reflected on the second installment bill in July of 2021.

*Seniors not currently receiving the exemption (born in 1955) and those who are newly qualified for the Senior Freeze, Disabled Veterans and Disabled Persons must apply for the exemption in 2021. Veterans with a change in disability will need to reapply with an updated VA letter. For further information and to apply online go to [cookcountyassessor.com](http://cookcountyassessor.com).*

## 2020 COOK COUNTY BOARD OF REVIEW APPEAL

Decision letters were mailed in late February. If reduced, the new lowered assessed value will appear on the 2nd installment bill of 2020.

## 2021 COOK COUNTY ASSESSOR APPEAL

The next opportunity to appeal the 2021 assessed value will be with Cook County Assessor. The County has not posted a schedule; however Wheeling Township is usually open late spring. Appeal dates will be available on their website [www.cookcountyassessor.com](http://www.cookcountyassessor.com) or can also be found at [www.wheelingtowship.com/assessor](http://www.wheelingtowship.com/assessor). The Cook County Assessor sets a 30-day appeal window for each township.

## 2020 AUTO-RENEW EXEMPTIONS

- Homeowner, Senior (annual auto-renew)
- Senior Freeze (2020 auto-renew)
- Persons with Disabilities (2020 auto-renew)
- Veterans with Disabilities (2020 auto-renew)



The Township Assessor's office is available to provide information and directions for an online appeal. To obtain comparables and instructions email [taxinfo@wheelingtowship.com](mailto:taxinfo@wheelingtowship.com). Please include the PIN in the subject line and name and address in the body of the email.

If the Assessed Value is reduced, it will be reflected on the 2021 Second Installment Property Tax Bill Payable in 2022.

## 2020 FIRST INSTALLMENT TAX BILL

2020 Property Tax Bills were mailed in February with a due date of March 2nd, however the bill can be paid with no penalty until May 3, 2021. Payment can be made on the Treasurer's website, [www.cookcountytreasurer.com](http://www.cookcountytreasurer.com) or at Chase Bank. No fee is applied if paid from a bank account.

Please note the Post Office does not forward property tax bills to a winter address.

MOST PROPERTY TAX ISSUES CAN BE RESOLVED BY PHONE OR EMAIL PLEASE CONTACT US AT:

**847-259-1515** OR [TAXINFO@WHEELINGTOWNSHIP.COM](mailto:TAXINFO@WHEELINGTOWNSHIP.COM)

TO BETTER ASSIST YOU, PLEASE HAVE THE PIN (PROPERTY INDEX NUMBER) AVAILABLE. THE NUMBER CAN BE FOUND AT THE TOP OF THE TAX BILL.

# TOWNSHIP ROAD MANAGEMENT

## The Benefits of Bioswales

Many residents in the unincorporated areas of Wheeling Township rely on private wells for their water. The IEPA (Illinois Environmental Protection Agency) and IDNR (Illinois Department of Natural Resources) have partnered to create *best management* practices that recharge ground water aquifers and treat surface water runoff. One recommended practice for homeowners is to create a bioswale. A bioswale can improve water quality and increase the recharge rate for private wells that often rely on shallow groundwater aquifers as their only water source.

## What is a Bioswale?

Bioswales are vegetated open trenches filled with special plants and a soil mixture. As a "green" alternative to traditional private storm sewer drain lines, they temporarily store, naturally treat, and safely move water. They are usually rectangular in shape and vary in width and length and

are built in side or rear yards – areas that often collect water.

Successful bioswales are planted with deep-rooted native grasses and specially-chosen flowering plants. The grasses and plants soak up water and provide nutrients for growth. The selected plants are hardy, drought tolerant and often require less maintenance than turf grass. A portion of the water moves down through the soil by gravity to recharge groundwater aquifers.

## Why use them?

*Reduce flooding* – When heavy rain falls, water runoff flows to the parkway, where it can cause street and yard flooding. When the water



Rendering of Bio-Swale

# FROM THE CLERK'S OFFICE

Joanna Gauza

## 2021 ELECTIONS AND VOTER REGISTRATION

Although we just completed the General Election this past November, The Consolidated General Election for our local Township and Municipal elections will be held on April 6, 2021. These elections will select your Wheeling Township Officials, local Mayors and local Legislative Officials, including school boards. If you want to vote in these elections, now is time to make sure you are registered.

### REGISTERING TO VOTE?

If you are not registered, have just moved into the Township, have moved to another residence in the Township, or changed your name, you need to register to be able to vote in this election. Register in the following ways.

- 1. Register to Vote at Wheeling Township.** You'll need two forms of identification (one showing your current address), to be a citizen of the United States, be 18 years of age or older by April 6, 2021, and have lived in the Township for at least 30 days before the election. For naturalized citizens, you must prove the date of your naturalization.
- 2. Register Online.** If you have an Illinois driver's license or state ID, you may register online at [cookcountyclerk.com/agency/register-vote](https://cookcountyclerk.com/agency/register-vote). If you do not have a driver's license or state ID, go to the same website and complete the form online, print, sign and mail it to the address on the application. If you register by mail, you must bring a valid state issued picture identification when you vote for the first time.
- 3. Register During Early Voting or on Election Day.** If you register on Election Day, you may only do so in your home precinct. You can also register to vote at the early voting locations. If registering on the same day as voting, you will need to bring two forms of identification and one must show where you live. For what identification is acceptable, please go to [cookcountyclerk.com/agency/register-vote](https://cookcountyclerk.com/agency/register-vote).

### HOW TO VOTE:

- 1. At your local polling place.** Cast your vote on April 6, 2021. However, if you moved and you have only lived less than 30 days in your new home, you need to vote in your old precinct or change your registration at your new polling place on Election Day.
- 2. Early Voting.** From March 10, 2021 to April 5, 2021, you can vote in person at certain early voting locations. In Wheeling Township, the Arlington Heights Village Hall is an early voting location.
- 3. By Mail.** If you wish to vote by mail, obtain an application for a mail ballot at Wheeling Township or contact Cook County at [cookcountyclerk.com/agency/vote-mail](https://cookcountyclerk.com/agency/vote-mail). Applications for mail ballots may be requested until April 1, 2021.

### Key Dates for the April 6, 2021 Consolidated Election

DATE	EVENT
3/9/2021	Voter registration closes for deputy registrars and local election officials
3/10/2021	First day of early voting
3/21/2021	Last day to register to vote by online application
4/1/2021	Last day to request a mail ballot, including military and overseas voters
4/5/2021	Last day of early voting
4/6/2021	Last day mail ballots can be postmarked
4/6/2021	Election Day

can be absorbed and volume and velocity of water reduced, there is also a reduction in potential for soil erosion to occur.

*Protect our water resources* – When rainwater is absorbed in the ground, it keeps our streams and rivers flowing with less chance of soil erosion which transports sediment downstream. Sediment that accumulates in storm pipes and catch basins could create clogging maintenance issues and blockages.

*Climate resiliency* – Should climate change occur, our area could become drier, wetter, or hotter. “Green” practices can help improve a community’s sustainability.

*Beautify neighborhoods* – Flowering plants and deep-rooted native grasses add beauty to our neighborhoods and natural habitats, thus attracting more butterflies, birds and other wildlife.

*Cool the air* – Planted, deep-rooted vegetation in bioswales can help to cool the air and reduce ‘heat islands.’

*Save money* – Reducing the amount and velocity of surface water flowing to a storm sewer system ultimately reduces the need for larger diameter storm sewer pipes, thus lowering conveyance and installation costs.

*Bonus* – Bioswales can reduce water runoff whether from rainfall or from groundwater that’s been pumped from a basement or crawlspace sump pump pit.

### Why Do They Work?

Bioswales slow the rate of water runoff, improve water quality, reduce the potential of soil erosion and transport of sediment downstream, and improve recharge rates for groundwater aquifers needed by private well owners that rely on their wells for water.

For more information on how to select plants and create your own bioswale, go to the IDNR website: <https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/education/Pages/PlantListBioswale.aspx>

# SENIOR AND DISABILITY NEWS

Call 847-259-7730 to register for any of the Programs & Services offered through Wheeling Township.

## 34th ANNUAL COMMUNITY PAINT-A-THON



**Saturday, September 11th**

Even during the pandemic, the Community Paint-A-Thon persevered! In 2020, 9 local homes were painted. In 2021, Wheeling Township is once again one of 10 area organizations participating in the Paint-A-Thon. Older (60+) or disabled homeowners of single-family residences who are financially disadvantaged and are physically unable to paint their homes themselves are eligible to get the exterior of their home painted. *Homes must be owner-occupied and in sufficient condition so that scraping and spot priming are the only preparations needed. Applications are due by June 1.*

Paint-A-Thon is a major volunteer event. Teams of volunteers are recruited from businesses, churches, social service and civic groups. *Volunteers must be at least 14.* If you're interested in an application or for more information, contact Lynndah Lahey, Wheeling Township's Director of Senior & Disability Services at 847-259-7730, ext. 21.

**Medicare can be complicated...**

## SHIP Could Help You!



If you are enrolled in Medicare, are close to enrolling in Medicare, or have health insurance questions, Wheeling Township's SHIP Counselors may be able to help you. Our dedicated and knowledgeable volunteers are extensively trained by the **Illinois Department On Aging** to assist Medicare participants with understanding their benefit coverage, helping with filing medical bills and claims, explaining Medicare Supplemental and Part D Insurance, and providing resolution support for problems. Call the Township to make an appointment! 847-259-7730. All appointments continue to be virtual or by phone only. No in-person appointments at this time.

SHIP counselors can also assist those seniors who qualify for both **Medicare and full benefit Medicaid with their enrollment in the Medicare-Medicaid Alignment Initiative, also known as MMAI.** With this program you may choose to enroll in a health plan and receive all of your benefits through one MMAI health plan. If you feel you might qualify for MMAI, make an appointment with our SHIP Coordinator at 847-259-7730.

## HOME DELIVERED MEALS:

**Do You Know Someone Who Might Benefit?**



*Volunteers Diane & Jack Ferguson on their delivery route*

**Are you – or someone you know – finding it challenging to cook for yourself?** Wheeling Township offers a reliable and reasonably priced home-delivered hot meal program (Meals on Wheels) for residents of the Township who meet eligibility requirements.

### **How does the program work?**

A hot, nutritious meal is delivered at mid-day, Monday through Friday, right to the door of the recipient by a friendly volunteer. Applicants must agree to receive meals five days a week for at least a month.

### **Cost of the meals?**

Wheeling Township's program is a self-pay program: The hot meal is \$6.50 per day. A supplementary cold meal (which is delivered at the same time) is available for an additional \$4.45 per day. Bills are mailed monthly for the meals received.

### **Who is eligible?**

- Must be a senior over 60 or permanently disabled individual over 18
- Must reside within Wheeling Township
- Must be homebound and no longer driving
- Must not have a full-time caregiver

*Participation in the program is subject to availability on a route. As there are three types of meals available (Heart-Healthy, Carbohydrate-Controlled and Regular), a medical note for meal type is required from a doctor.*

### **How do I participate?**

Being able to reliably obtain, consume and metabolize nutritious foods is essential to your well-being. If you have concerns about your ability to shop or cook for yourself (or know someone who might need help), reach out to Lynndah Lahey, Wheeling Township's Director of Senior & Disability Services at the Township: 847-259-7730, ext 19.

# Thank You for Your Giving Spirit for our Holiday Programs ...

The 2020 holiday programs were a tremendous success thanks to all of our caring neighbors! Some program changes were made in order to reduce exposure to the COVID-19 virus, but it didn't squelch the giving spirit.

Bountiful Thanksgiving Baskets stuffed with food were distributed drive-up style to 354 families, which included 1,234 people. Each basket also included a gift card to purchase the turkey.

In lieu of physical presents, generous donations of gift cards to the Adopt-A-Family Program helped to make Christmas special for 232 families, which included 618 children and 459 parents! Parents were able to buy needed clothing items as well as wanted toys or other surprises for their children.

These programs would not be possible without all those who shared the true spirit of the season. A heartfelt thank you goes out to each and every private donor, as well as to the businesses, churches and community organizations listed below. ***We couldn't do it without you!***

ABC Plumbing, Heating, Cooling & Electric  
AGSCO Corporation  
Alligator Aquatics  
AMCA International, Inc.  
Amcors Cares  
American Legion Auxiliary #208  
Argon Medical Device  
Arlington Countryside Church  
Arlington Heights Police Department  
Arlington Heights Jr. Woman's Club  
Arlington Pediatrics  
Athletico Arlington Heights  
Barrington Dental  
Barrington Orthopedic Specialists  
Belmont Village  
Beverly Lane Neighborhood  
Bright Horizons at North Kennicott  
Capps Plumbing & Sewer  
Chicago Northwest Suburban Alpha Phi Alumnae  
Christian Church of Arlington Heights  
Christ Centered Instruction Ministries, Inc.  
Church of the Incarnation UMC  
Church World Service, Inc.  
CJBS, LLC  
Cleats Manufacturing Co.

Costello & DeHart Dental Excellence  
Cub Scout Pack #169  
Daugherty Business Solutions  
DFS Corporate Services LLC  
Drost, Kivlahan, McMahon & O'Connor, LLC  
Dunton Questers #255  
EcoShield Pest Control  
EdgeOne Medical  
Elenco Electronics Inc.  
Elite Soccer Community Organization  
Encore  
Excell Road Service  
Fedex Ground  
First United Methodist Church of Arlington Heights  
Forse Real Estate  
Get Burbed  
Girl Scout Troop #45970  
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Grace Unfolding  
Happy Old Guys  
Herman B. Lustigman Charitable Foundation  
Highland/Chestnut Book Club  
Illinois Tool Works  
Indian Trails Public Library District  
In Working Order  
Kiddie Academy of Arlington Heights  
Kopka Pinkus Dolin  
Lake Arlington Towne West  
Lake Shore Circle Book Club  
Lions Club of Arlington Heights Foundation  
Little Elves "Stock The Shelves"  
Living Christ Lutheran Church  
Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd  
Maverick Pools  
Munch Supply, LLC  
National Catholic Society of Foresters  
New Testament Church  
North Northfield United Methodist Church  
Olive Mary Stitt School & Garden  
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church  
Peggy's Fresh Takes, Inc.  
Picket Fence Realty of Mount Prospect

Proper Title  
Prospect High School Marching Knights  
Rebekah Circle of Lutheran Church of Good Shepherd  
Redeeming Grace Church  
Re/Max Suburban  
Remke Industries  
Republican Women of Wheeling Township  
Rolling Green 9 Hole League  
Rolling Green Country Club  
Rotary Club of Arlington Heights Noon  
Schneider for Congress  
Sherwood Neighbors  
Sonoco Thermosafe  
Sunshine Tuesday School  
South Church of Mount Prospect  
Southminster Presbyterian Church  
St. James School Parish 8th Grade Confirmation Group  
St. Paul Lutheran Church  
St. Viator Hockey Club  
Summerhill Neighborhood  
Taylor Plumbing  
Team Logic IT of Arlington Heights  
Teleflex, Inc.  
Terrazzo & Marble  
The Arlingtones  
The Kid's Pantry  
The Orchard Evangelical Free Church  
The Porsam Group  
ThermoFisher Scientific  
Topco Associates, LLC  
Vail Ave. Condo Association  
Vent Products  
Village Bank and Trust  
Visualedge Creative Services, Inc.  
Westgate Elementary Brownie Troop #45801  
Wheeling Auto Center  
Wheeling Park District  
Wheeling Township Democrats  
Willow Creek Community Church  
Willow Creek Small Group  
Women of St. James (St. Clare)



**Wheeling Township Report, Inc.**  
 1616 N. Arlington Heights Road  
 Arlington Heights, IL 60004  
 847-259-7730

[www.wheelingtowship.com](http://www.wheelingtowship.com)

Hours: 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. weekdays

Township Board Meetings: 8:00 p.m.  
 on the fourth Tuesday of each month

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## WHEELING TOWNSHIP ELECTED OFFICIALS



**Kathy Penner**  
**SUPERVISOR**



**Jerry Sadler**  
**ASSESSOR**



**Joanna Gauza**  
**TOWN CLERK**



**Ruth O'Connell**  
**TRUSTEE**



**JoAnne Schultz**  
**TRUSTEE**



**Ken Jochum**  
**TRUSTEE**



**Patricia Kozicki**  
**TRUSTEE**

### Letters of Gratitude from Holiday Gift Card Recipients...

This is just a sampling of the many letters of thanks sent to Wheeling Township from the families that received Holiday Gift Cards from our very generous donors. Thank you again for "Making Spirits Bright" this past Holiday season!



## Wheeling Township Transportation

...So much more than just a ride!



**Looking for safe and affordable transportation?** If you are over 60 (or 18+ and permanently disabled), Wheeling Township's outstanding transportation service may be the perfect solution for your needs. Buses are sanitized and social distancing is practiced.



**When is service available?** Rides are available for Township residents to a wide variety of locations within the Township, Monday – Friday, 9:00 am - 3:30 pm. **Call as soon as possible to reserve your ride, as buses fill up quickly** (you may call up to 30 days in advance for medical appointments).

**How much?** \$2 each way.

**How do I sign up?** Call our transportation department if you have any questions – or for an application. Applications can also be found online at [www.wheelingtowship.com](http://www.wheelingtowship.com).

**Call today for more information: (847) 259-7743.**