



REPORT

From the Supervisor –
Kathy Penner



WHEELING TOWNSHIP QUIETLY MEETS COMMUNITY'S NEEDS

The Township has provided funding for human needs and mental health support through a range of programs and services that benefit Township residents.

As the first line of defense for ever-growing human service needs in the Northwest Suburban area, Wheeling Township has quietly addressed mental health and the public's well-being throughout the years. Whether directly or indirectly, the Township and its elected officials consistently recognize the need for additional social support being made available to residents of the community through services offered in-house, or by providing financial funding support to local organizations which already successfully offer preeminent, prospering programs.

Over the past decade, Wheeling Township has provided more than **\$7.4 million dollars** of funding to local agencies which offer dedicated and specialized mental health services, address homelessness, provide safety net services for youth, and a variety of other socially critical issues. Some of the organizations which receive significant funding from the Township include **the Josselyn Center** (mental health), **Journeys/The Road Home** (homelessness), **Omni** (behavioral health), **WINGS** (domestic violence), **Alexian Brothers Center for Mental Health** (mental health), **Clearbrook Center** (intellectual/developmental disabilities), **Little City** (intellectual/developmental disabilities), **Suburban Primary Healthcare Council** (health insurance for uninsured individuals), **Kindred Life Ministries** (teen families), **Shelter** (youth/family support), **Avenues to Independence** (intellectual/developmental disabilities), **Harbour** (youth homelessness), and the **Mobile Dental Clinic** (health/wellness). All of these organizations offer programs and services which support the needs of individuals who might be experiencing emotional, psychological and physical challenges due to a variety of significant life events, anxiety or other mental health issues.

Wheeling Township chooses to provide funding to these highly qualified organizations because they are staffed with talented, professionally skilled specialists who successfully deliver solutions to challenging issues. These organizations efficiently and professionally address our community's mental health and human needs concerns – and do so with firmness of purpose and dedicated resources.

In addition to providing allocated funding to pertinent organizations within the community, Wheeling Township delivers cohesive and indispensable services through its own programming and collaborative efforts. For example, recognizing the need for freedom and independence, the Township has six to seven buses on the road every weekday, providing rides to critically important medical appointments, grocery stores/pharmacies, jobs, and personal care. Rides are available for any resident over the age of 60 or for permanently disabled persons over 18. For those individuals who worry about food insecurity, access to nutritious food through the Township's Food Pantry is available. Others may be eligible for the Township's Home Delivered Meal program.

For persons facing life-threatening hardship, potential eviction or utility disconnections, financial assistance may be available through Wheeling Township's Emergency Assistance program, or ongoing aid through General Assistance. As a way to help ensure access to a warm home, grant funding is available to those who qualify for **LIHEAP** (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program). Other types of wellness, personal well-being, and community engagement programs are also available.

Wheeling Township considers itself to be a safety net for its residents, taking note of, and addressing their needs, issues and concerns for more than 150 years. There are approximately 155,000 residents living within Wheeling Township, and many face financial, emotional or physical challenges. Funding for Township services and programs is derived from less than 1% on the average homeowner's tax bill. The Township works tirelessly to increase the quantity and diversity of the services offered, while also reducing its reserves and keeping the budget flat so that taxpayers aren't negatively impacted.

The steadily increasing challenges of mental health and human support needs have been systematically addressed by Wheeling Township for many years, both internally and in tandem with the value-added funding of competent local organizations which skillfully provide targeted resources and results. For more information about the wide variety of programs, services and support that the Township offers its residents, please call 847-259-7730, or visit www.wheelingtowship.com.



FROM THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

Ken Jochum

Wheeling Township taxpayers are facing many challenges this year; inflation is at a forty-year high, the general economy may be in a recession, Wheeling Township property is being reassessed since this is the first year of our triennial, and in the November election voters will be asked to vote on referenda which will increase property taxes and in one case add an additional taxing body.

As Township Assessor my role is to be a taxpayer advocate by informing citizens of the implications of various actions regarding their property taxes, hence I will attempt to briefly state how tax related referenda work from a 50,000 foot level without fine detail, due to space limitations.

WHAT GETS TAXED?

Property tax impacts are generally described as being based on EQUALIZED ASSESSED VALUE (EAV) for the entire township including residential, commercial, industrial and other properties. All property owners whether residential, business or commercial are taxed. As you will recall residential properties are assessed at 10% and commercial/industrial at 25%. The EAV of Wheeling Township (our tax base), is \$5,713,696,276. This EAV will likely increase with the reassessment.

WHAT REFERENDUM IS BEFORE ALL TAXPAYERS OF WHEELING TOWNSHIP?

At this point there is a referendum to establish a 708 Mental Health Board as a portion of the township budget. This referendum establishes a new taxing body which will be able to levy 0.15% of the EAV in the township, an amount equal to \$8,570,544 if calculated at today's EAV.

IF THIS REFERENDUM ESTABLISHES ANOTHER TAXING BODY HOW MANY TOTAL TAXING BODIES WILL WE HAVE?

Illinois has over 6,500 taxing bodies. Wheeling Township supports about 55 taxing bodies and the average property owner supports 10-15 taxing bodies from their property tax. Of course, state and federal income tax and other taxes support additional taxing bodies.

WHAT IS THE CURRENT ANNUAL LEVY OF WHEELING TOWNSHIP AND WHAT CAN THE INCREASE BE WITH THIS NEW TAX?

This current year the Township Levy is \$3,167,658. If this referendum were in effect the budget could rise to \$11,738,203 or an increase of roughly 270%.

CAN A TAXING BODY INCREASE THEIR LEVY?

Yes. Without taxpayer approval a taxing body can increase its levy by 5% or the CPI, whichever is lower each and every year. If the taxing body wishes to go above the limit set, a new referendum is required.

WHAT QUESTIONS SHOULD I BE ASKING?

1. What is the cost of the referendum to me and by what amount am I willing to have my tax bill increase?
2. Do I understand the referendum upon which I am being asked to vote?
3. Is the request for increase duplicative of services provided or already paid for by federal, state, county, township or municipal governments?

Finally, be sure to vote; only about 10% of eligible voters, vote in municipal elections which determine the bulk of our property taxes.

GET YOUR EXEMPTION CHECK UP

Make sure to call or email us to get an exemption checkup. Please provide your pin number or address when contacting our office; 847-259-1515 or taxinfo@wheelingtowship.com

FAQ'S ON TAX INCREASE/MENTAL HEALTH REFERENDUM

This November there will be a property tax increase referendum on the ballot for Wheeling Township residents. If more than half of voters vote "YES" on the referendum, it will go into effect in 2023. The referendum was placed on the ballot by local residents who want to see increased governmental spending on mental health. Wheeling Township does not take an official position on the referendum, but as a service to our residents, we would like to provide you with information on the proposal.

- 1. What does the referendum actually say?** "Shall Wheeling Township levy an annual tax not to exceed 0.15% for the purpose of providing mental health facilities and services including facilities and services for the person with a developmental disability or a substance abuse disorder, which levy will have a single additional tax of a maximum of 0.15% of the equalized assessed value of the taxable property therein extended for such purposes?"
- 2. What does the referendum do?** The referendum would allow for the creation of a brand new governmental taxing district in Wheeling Township. That district would have authority to increase property taxes up to an additional \$8.57 million dollars every year. Illinois currently leads the nation in the total number of individual taxing districts at more than 6,500.
- 3. Who would be in charge of the new taxing authority?** The new taxing body would be governed by the Wheeling Township Supervisor and Trustees who would have the authority to levy (tax) the new \$8.57 million dollar property tax Year 1, possibly increase every year thereafter, and to determine how the money is spent.
- 4. What would the additional property taxes paid by homeowners and commercial property owners be spent on?** The new taxes could be spent on one or more buildings to house mental health facilities and for employees who would staff the facilities. In addition to or instead of building those facilities the Township could pay mental health providers who are currently providing mental health services.
- 5. Is Wheeling Township government currently providing any funding for mental health services?** Yes. Last year Wheeling Township provided \$575,089 funding to 26 non-profit organizations, most of which provide mental health services in our community. Those non-profit organizations include agencies as listed below.
- 6. How does this additional property tax compare with the amount Wheeling Township is already taxing residents?** Wheeling Township currently receives approximately \$3.17 million in property taxes from local property owners each year. The new property tax could constitute a 270% increase from \$3.17 million to a total of \$11.74 million each year.
- 7. Would this property tax ever increase?** The tax could increase up to the rate of inflation or 5% each year, whichever is lower.



FUNDING FOR THESE AGENCIES PROVIDED BY WHEELING TOWNSHIP

Wheeling Township funds a variety of important human care services for residents of all ages. Because of Township funding, services provided by these agencies are available to residents on a sliding-scale basis.

- AMITA Health - Alexian Brothers Center for Mental Health
- Avenues to Independence
- Northwest Compass
- Center For Enriched Living
- Children's Advocacy Center
- Clearbrook
- Connections to Care (Escorted Transportation Services/NW)
- Family Forward (Faith Community Homes)
- The Harbour
- Hands On Suburban Chicago
- Journeys | The Road Home
- Kindred Life Ministries
- Life Span
- Little City Foundation
- NCH Foundation-Mobile Dental Clinic
- Omni Youth Services
- Resources for Community Living
- Shelter, Inc.
- Hopeful Beginnings of St. Mary's
- Suburban Primary Healthcare - Access to Care
- The Josselyn Center
- WINGS

FROM THE CLERK'S OFFICE

Joanna Gauza

2022 GENERAL ELECTIONS AND VOTER REGISTRATION

With the June 28 Primary Elections complete, the 2022 election season now moves to the November 8, 2022 General Election. Because of re-districting that is done every 10 years, many who voted in the primaries and many who will vote in the November 8, 2022 General Election will be voting in districts with different district numbers. The Congressional and local legislative district boundaries have changed and the district numbers have changed. In the General Election, voters will choose the Governor, Statewide Officials, the State Legislature members, Judges, a U.S. Senator and U.S. Congressional Representatives. If you want to vote in the November 8, 2022 election and avoid the last minute rush, now is a good time to make sure you are registered.

DO YOU NEED TO REGISTER 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 the next elections. You can 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 on November 8, 2022, and have lived in the Township for at least 30 days before the election. 17 year-olds that will be 18 years-old by November 8, 2022 can register and vote in the November 8, 2022 General Election. For naturalized citizens, you must prove the date of your naturalization.

2. Register Online. If you have an Illinois driver's license or Illinois State ID, you may register online at 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.

Key Dates for the November 8, 2022 Gubernatorial Election:

Date	Event
10/11/2022	Voter registration closes for deputy registrars and local election officials
10/23/2022	Last day to register to vote by online application
10/24/2022	First day of early voting
11/3/2022	Last day to request a mail ballot , including military and overseas voters
11/7/2022	Last day of early voting
11/8/2022	Last day mail ballots can be postmarked
11/8/2022	Election Day

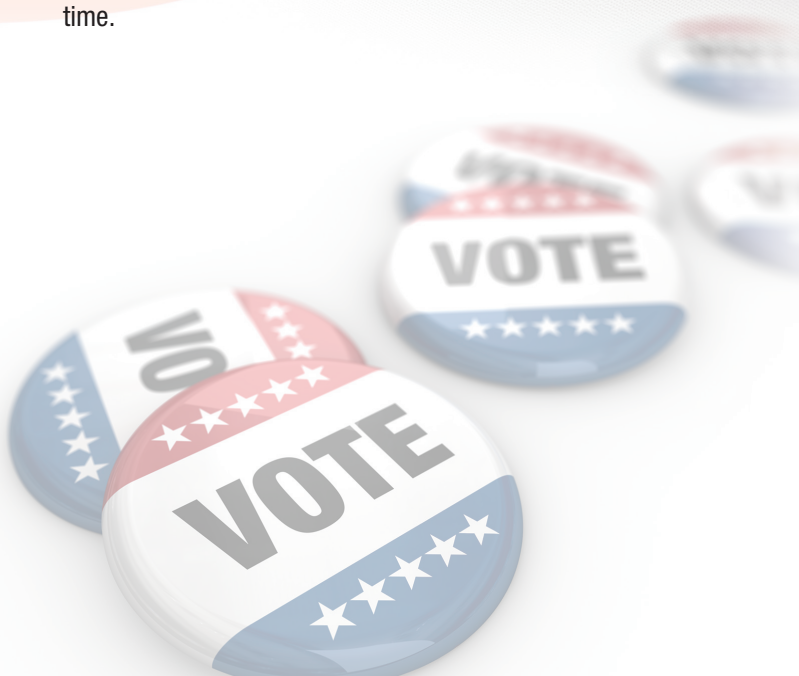
BECOME AN ELECTION JUDGE AND EARN \$200 - \$365

Every election requires a team of Election Judges and Polling Place Technicians to serve at the polling places. These poll workers are paid \$200-\$365 depending on the position they work on Election Day. Before Election Day, Election Judges and Polling Place Technicians receive training so they are able to serve voters.

- ★ **Election Judges** work to ensure voters can vote. They attend training about their duties. Then on Election Day, they check in voters, provide ballots, and process the votes. This position earns about \$200.
- ★ **Polling Place Technicians** work directly with the Election Judges to ensure the polling place is running smoothly. Polling Place Technicians also have more responsibility for setting up and maintaining the voting equipment. Due to the additional responsibility, Polling Place Technicians receive more training and higher pay.
- ★ **Students** can also be poll workers in the elections of 2022. They need to be at least a high school junior or senior, have at least a 3.0 GPA, their high school's permission, and reside in Cook County. Students also receive training and work with trained Election Judges and Technicians.

For more information about serving as an Election Judge or Technician in Suburban Cook County, email Elect.Judge@cookcountyil.gov or call (312) 603-0965. You can also contact the Wheeling Township Democrats at (224) 544-9836 or the Republicans of Wheeling Township at (847) 632-1774.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at jgauza@wheelingtowship.com.



Be a Santa This Season...

Have you ever wondered what it feels like to be Santa? It's more than putting on the big red suit; it's the feeling you get by sharing the joy of the season with someone else. A great way to experience that warm, heart filling to the brink happiness is to help a neighbor! Wheeling Township is seeking donations for the **Adopt-A-Family Christmas Program**.

Adopt-A-Family for Christmas: Provide gifts to a low-income family from our community based on a "Wish List" with clothing and toy suggestions. Donors who commit to adopting a family are asked to spend between \$75 and \$100 per person. Family sizes vary and are chosen by the donor. Detailed instructions will be provided after sign up is confirmed, which assist in making this large program run smoothly.

To participate, please follow these instructions:

1. Complete the form below.
2. Email it to: GA@wheelingtowship.com **OR** fax it to: 847-259-1570 **OR** mail it to: Wheeling Township AFP, 1616 N. Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60004 **by November 1st**.
3. Receive your confirmation with instructions.
4. Drop off your basket or gift bundle on the assigned date.
5. Enjoy your holiday knowing that you warmed the hearts of a neighbor!

Name _____

Company _____

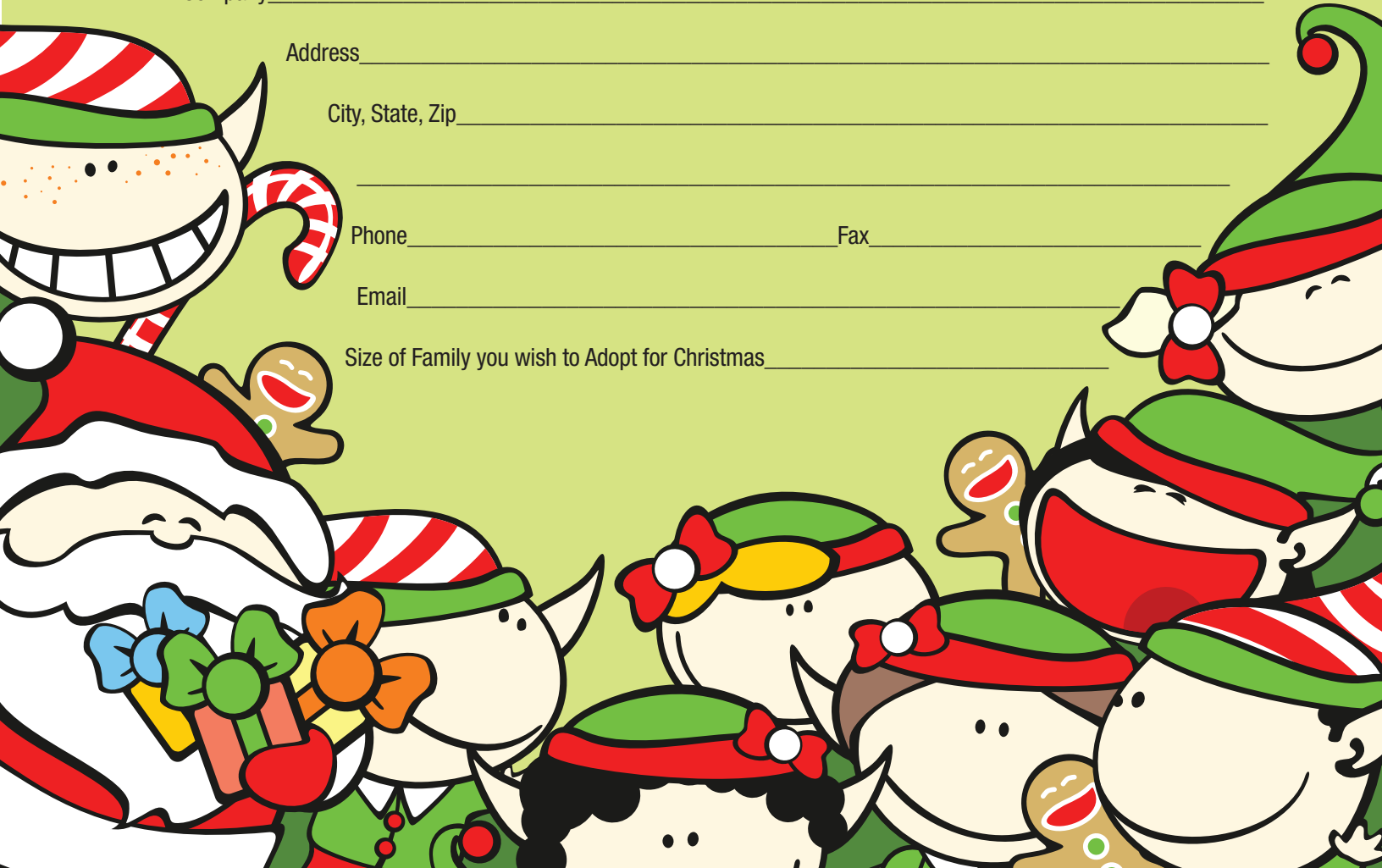
Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Email _____

Size of Family you wish to Adopt for Christmas _____



SENIOR AND DISABILITY NEWS

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



Monthly Educational Webinars on Zoom:

Don't Miss Out on Great Programs!

Every month, the Senior Advisory Board of Wheeling Township offers at least one educational webinar on Zoom. All programs are free – and you can either login on a computer/laptop OR call in from any type of phone. If you'd like to add your name to our email list so you know what programs are coming up, call Lynndah Lahey at 847-259-7730, ext 21 with your email address, or send an email to: LLahey@wheelingtowship.com. You will only be sent info on our upcoming programs, nothing else! You can also check the Wheeling Township website for an updated list of programs.

ALZHEIMER'S CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

Meets on Zoom: 3rd Tuesday of every month, 1pm – 2:30pm

Providing care for someone with memory loss can be a labor of love, but it can also be exhausting and stressful. Wheeling Township partners with the Alzheimer's Association, Greater Illinois Chapter, to offer a monthly support group for caregivers of individuals with Alzheimer's disease. Lynndah Lahey, Wheeling Township's Director of Senior & Disability Services facilitates this group, encouraging caregivers to maintain their personal, physical and emotional health. Please contact Lynndah at 847-259-7730, ext. 21 for more information.



VIP-VISUALLY IMPAIRED SUPPORT GROUP

Meets on Zoom: 1st Thursday of every month, 1pm – 2:30pm

If you have any type of vision loss, Wheeling Township's VIP Visually Impaired Support Group might be of help to you! Share with others, socialize, learn from educational presentations and find out about other services available to you. Started in 2000, the VIP group has over 40 members with eye conditions ranging from AMD and Glaucoma to total blindness. Please call Lynndah at 847-259-7730, ext. 21 to learn more about this great support group.



HOME DELIVERED MEAL PROGRAM

If you have concerns about your ability to shop or cook for yourself (or know someone who might need help), consider Wheeling Township's Home Delivered Meal Program. The Township offers a reasonably priced home-delivered hot meal program for residents of the Township who meet eligibility requirements.



How does the program work?

A hot, freshly prepared 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 30 days.

Cost of the meals?

Wheeling Township's program is a self-pay program: The hot meal is \$7.50 per day. A cold meal (which is delivered at the same time) is available for an additional \$5.45 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 considered homebound and/or no longer driving
- Must not have a caregiver
- There must be availability on a route

If you're interested in finding out more about the program, call our Home Delivered Meal Program Coordinator, at 847-259-7730, ext. 19, or send an email to: HomeDeliveredMeals@WheelingTownship.com.

We're Looking for More Volunteers!

Come join our amazing team of Home Delivered Meal Program Volunteers. This vital program is successful because of the many dedicated people who are willing to volunteer a little of their time throughout the year. Routes and days are pre-assigned, and you may deliver as little or as often as you like. For more information, call our Home Delivered Meal Program Coordinator at 847-259-7730, ext. 19. Or send an email to HomeDeliveredMeals@WheelingTownship.com.



Medicare can be complicated...

SHIP Can Help!!

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.

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.



WHEELING TOWNSHIP TRANSPORTATION

Much more than just a ride!

Looking for safe and affordable transportation? If you are over 60 (or 18+ with a permanent disability), Wheeling Township's outstanding transportation service and team may be the perfect solution for your needs.



When is the 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 the transportation department with questions – or for an application. Applications can also be found online at wheelingtowship.com.

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

Help Support Our Troops...

We're holding our Donation Drive this year!

During the month of November, Wheeling Township - in cooperation with Operation Support Our Troops, America Inc. (OSOT) – will be collecting the items below for "Comfort & Care" packages that OSOT puts together and ships to active Troops around the world.

*We hadn't been able to collect items for the past two years because of COVID, so let's see if we can top the 2019 amount of **2,307 POUNDS** of donated goodies! **Donations will be accepted the entire month of November.***

ITEMS MOST REQUESTED:

1. PB & Jelly (28 oz or less/no glass)
2. Pop-Tarts/breakfast bars/granola bars
3. Canned fruit or fruit cups (16 oz or less/no glass)
4. Crackers/nuts/cookies/candy (individual pks)
5. Gum/fruit snacks/raisins/krispie treats (individual pks)
6. Individual mac & cheese
7. Toothbrushes/dental floss/travel size products
8. White or black athletic socks
9. Beef jerky/Slim Jims
10. Cold/hot drink mixes (individual packets/sticks)
11. Antacids/eye drops/handi-wipes/sanitizer
12. Pringles/crackers/cookies (snack bag size)



You can also contribute to Operation Support our Troops, America, Inc. by:

- **Making a monetary donation via check:** Donations help cover the cost of postage (each box costs OSOT \$25 to ship). Make checks payable to Operation Support our Troops – America, Inc. Please note that OSOT is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization, meaning your donation to them is tax deductible and they will send you a thank you letter.
- **Writing Letters of Encouragement:** *The most coveted items in care packages are letters of encouragement or pictures from school kids. NO HOLIDAY CARDS, please!* Only cards or letters that can be used throughout the year are requested. Whether a scribbled drawing from a 1st grader or a heartfelt letter from a homebound senior, each message is precious and appreciated. Every care package sent to military personnel includes at least one letter or drawing. Address your letter or card to: "Dear Military Person." Please *do not seal* any letters or cards.

Donations of goodies, checks and letters can be dropped off at Wheeling Township, 1616 N. Arlington Heights Rd., Arlington Heights, **during the entire month of November (9:00am - 4:30pm)**. Thank you in advance for supporting our Troops! For more information, call Lynndah Lahey, Director of Senior & Disability Services at 847-259-7730, ext. 21, or email: LLahey@wheelingtowship.com.



Wheeling Township Report, Inc.

1616 N. Arlington Heights Road
Arlington Heights, IL 60004
847-259-7730

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



KEN JOCHUM
ASSESSOR



Joanna Gauza
TOWN CLERK



Patricia Kozicki
TRUSTEE



Jeanne Hamilton
TRUSTEE



Joe Murglin
TRUSTEE



Darrel Talken
TRUSTEE

TOWNSHIP ROAD MANAGEMENT

With the seasons changing and fall rain on the way, now is the time to inspect and verify that your downspout and sump pump discharge lines are flowing. These storm water pipes safely convey surface roof water and pumped ground water away from your home's foundation to keep your crawlspace and basement dry.

The best time to clean a culvert (or restore turf in a roadside ditch) is during September and October. For a drainage system to function as intended, resident cooperation is needed. The Township is responsible for maintaining drainage pipes that cross under Township roads and in to the storm sewer system that drains to the storm water management basin.

Residents in unincorporated areas of the Township are responsible for maintenance of their driveway and the culvert under their driveway. Water pressure from a hose or a landscape leaf blower are often sufficient ways to keep culvert pipes "free" of landscape waste – if it's dry and done on a weekly basis. If routine maintenance work is deferred, debris becomes packed, often requiring a contractor with more powerful equipment to perform the work. Frequent cleaning during dry weather is the best way to avoid costly work after heavy rains move debris and clog driveway culvert pipes.

As a reminder, residents in unincorporated areas need to collect and remove fallen leaves from the parkway ditch in front or side of their property. This is important in order to prevent soil erosion and silt

transportation, both of which reduce flowing pipes and water quality.

September and October are the best months for lawn restoration in parkways, ditches and swales. Application of a salt-tolerant seed mix with starter fertilizer, installation of a seed straw blanket, and frequent watering are needed to establish a healthy lawn.

This mutual resident and Township cooperation helps to ensure that the entire road drainage system operates at its maximum capacity for the benefit of both you and your neighbors, and to help keep costly drain system and pavement road repairs to a minimum.

As a reminder, it's required by law that you contact J.U.L.I.E. (dial 8-1-1) before digging in order to have underground utility lines marked and protected. Please review the Township website for grading "permit requirements" before starting landscape work that requires placement of "fill."

If you have any questions, call Highway Manager Mark J. Toberman, P.E., CFM, at 847-259-7730 or email: highwaymanager@wheelingtowship.com

