



# REPORT

From the Supervisor –  
**Kathy Penner**



## *The Giving Season Begins...*

At Wheeling Township, we take pride in consistently demonstrating our dedication to the mission, “Neighbors Helping Neighbors.” Whether providing access to reliable transportation, beneficial support groups, Emergency and General Assistance for those who qualify, help with property taxes, Medicare, or referrals to others who can help, our team is always ready to assist residents. Our substantial and plentiful Food Pantry successfully serves clients through its ‘client choice’ shopping model, and, at this time of year, hundreds of residents are setting up appointments for LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program) and Open Enrollment Medicare Part D 2025 drug plans help.

We make a difference in this community...and so do you! I can never say **thank you** to residents enough. Hundreds of monetary donations and endless boxes and bags of food arrive in our offices year-round, demonstrating the compassion of our citizens toward one another. The amount of support we continue to receive so that other residents don’t go without remains unbelievable. From Food Pantry donations to fresh produce from your gardens, **we thank you for your generosity.**

For residents who might wish to help their neighbors this Holiday Season, there are several meaningful opportunities: the Thanksgiving Basket Program, the Adopt-A-Family Christmas Program and Operation Support Our Troops Donation Drive. Whether buying and wrapping gifts for a family in need or filling a basket to the brim with Thanksgiving goodies, the end result is the same: generosity. I look forward to coming into the Township every Holiday Season, as the building will be overflowing with donated baskets of food and wrapped presents for families in need. Be sure to read page 5, which will provide you with all the details on how you can participate in the Thanksgiving Basket and Adopt-A-Family programs. For those wishing to make a difference to those actively serving in the Military, consider participating in our Operation Support Our Troops Donation Drive (info located on page 7).

All of us at Wheeling Township are indebted to you – our residents who remain steadfastly focused on helping their neighbors in need every year. We are grateful to those who show compassion, grace, and understanding, and we hope you will take the time to get involved with some of our annual Holiday programs. ***Everyone at Wheeling Township wishes you and your family a very happy, healthy and safe Holiday Season.***

At the time this Newsletter went to press, we were waiting for the full results from the Wheeling Township Community Mental Health Board’s Needs Assessment, as carried out by Harper Business Solutions. We look forward to reviewing the results and determining our next steps, and there will be an update in the next issue. The full results will also be available on our website: [wheelingtownship.com](http://wheelingtownship.com). Any questions about the Wheeling Township Community Mental Health Board: [wt708mhb@wheelingtownship.com](mailto:wt708mhb@wheelingtownship.com).

### **INSIDE THIS ISSUE...**

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# FROM THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

## Ken Jochum

### LEGISLATION REMOVES PROPERTY TAX CAPS

As your taxpayer advocate, I am advising you about a recent legislative development that has the potential to significantly increase taxes in the future.

Approximately thirty years ago, Illinois passed legislation which capped the property tax levy that non-home rule taxing bodies could levy at either 5% or consumer price index (CPI), whichever is lower. This legislation was called the PROPERTY TAX EXTENSION LIMITATION LAW (PTELL) and had the effect of capping property tax levies for non-Home Rule taxing bodies such as Wheeling Township, thereby providing a level of protection against uncontrolled taxation and requiring referenda approval when additional money was needed.

During the last thirty years inflation has been below 5% thereby limiting the taxation by non-Home Rule taxing bodies. Each Wheeling Township property taxpayer supports between 10 or 15 different taxing bodies which are listed on your second installment tax bill. This past year with high inflation, the CPI increased above 5% and taxing bodies could choose to levy a full 5% increase.

This year, in a major piece of legislation, the Illinois Legislature decided to exempt one taxing body, Community Mental Health Boards, from property tax caps thereby allowing that taxing body to levy whatever they choose each year up to approximately \$8.5 million dollars annually without referenda or approval of the taxpayers.

Before bringing this issue to your attention, we surveyed taxpayers who came into our Township office for various services. We asked, "Should tax caps be removed?" 95% of the respondents said they did not want tax caps removed.

For your reference the legislation to remove this particular property tax cap, exempting this taxing body from PTELL was passed in June 2024, PA1030592 entitled NEIGHBORHOOD CONCERT TAX.

#### ATTENTION SENIORS RECEIVING THE SENIOR FREEZE!

**After January 1, check your mail for the renewal form for your Freeze for next year.**

### 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.

- |                                      |                            |  |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| ■ Ascension Center for Mental Health | ■ Family Forward           | ■ NCH Foundation-Mobile Dental Clinic          |
| ■ Avenues to Independence            | ■ The Harbour              | ■ Omni Youth Services                          |
| ■ Northwest Compass                  | ■ HandsOn Suburban Chicago | ■ Resources for Community Living               |
| ■ Center of Concern                  | ■ Journeys   The Road Home | ■ Shelter, Inc.                                |
| ■ Center For Enriched Living         | ■ KAN-WIN                  | ■ Hopeful Beginnings of St. Mary's             |
| ■ Children's Advocacy Center         | ■ Kindred Life Ministries  | ■ Suburban Primary Healthcare - Access to Care |
| ■ Clearbrook                         | ■ Life Span                | ■ The Josselyn Center                          |
| ■ Connections to Care                | ■ Little City Foundation   | ■ WINGS  |



# FROM THE CLERK'S OFFICE

Joanna Gauza

## 2024 GENERAL ELECTIONS AND VOTER REGISTRATION

**2024 ELECTIONS & VOTER REGISTRATION** The November 5, 2024 Presidential, Congressional, Illinois State Legislative and Local Judge Elections are here. The political party candidates for President, U.S. Congress, Illinois State Legislative offices, and Local Judges will be on the General Election ballot. Early voting begins October 21, 2024. Now is the time to make sure you are registered. 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. To register, come to the Township Clerk's Office, Monday-Friday, between 9:00-4:30. All you need are two forms of identification (one showing your current address), to be a citizen of the United States, be 18 years of age or older on November 5, 2024, and to have lived in the Township for at least 30 days before the election. For naturalized citizens, you must prove the date of your naturalization. If you have an Illinois driver's license or state ID, you may register online through the Illinois State Board of Elections website <https://ova.elections.il.gov/>. If you don't have a driver's license or state ID, go to <https://www.cookcountyclerk.com/agency/register-vote> 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. As always, you can register to vote in-person during early voting or on Election Day. If you want to vote by mail, please contact Cook County at <https://www.cookcountyclerk.com/agency/vote-mail> to request a mail ballot. However, ballots will not be mailed to voters until late September or early October 2024.

### Key Dates for the November 5, 2024 Presidential Election

Date	Event
10/8/2024	Voter registration closes for deputy registrars and local election officials
10/20/2024	Last day to register to vote by online application
10/21/2024	First day of early voting
10/31/2024	Last day to request a mail ballot, including military and overseas voters
11/4/2024	Last day of early voting
11/5/2024	Last day mail ballots can be postmarked
11/5/2024	Election Day

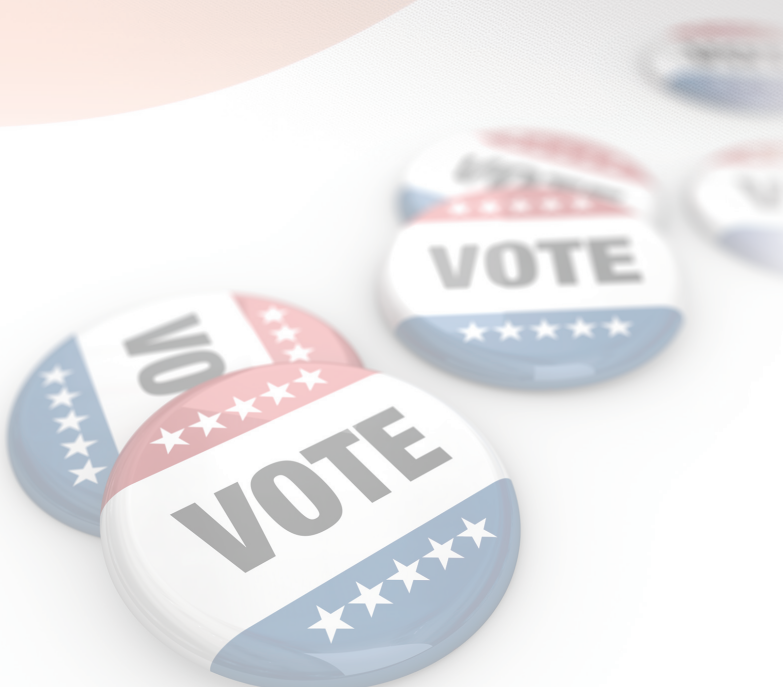
### BECOME AN ELECTION JUDGE AND EARN \$250 - \$400

**ELECTION JUDGES** Every election in suburban Cook County requires a team of Election Judges and Polling Place Technicians. These poll workers are paid \$250-\$400 depending on the position they work on Election Day. The two positions are as follows:

- **Election Judges** check in voters, provide ballots, and ensure the polling place runs smoothly. This position usually pays \$250 for an election judge.
- **Polling Place Technicians** work directly with the election judges to assist voters. 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 usually \$400.

For information on signing up to work as an Election Judge or Polling Place Technician, please go to <https://www.cookcountyclerk.com/agency/work-election-day>. You can also contact the political parties. Contact the Democratic Party at <http://www.wheelingdems.com> or the Republican Party at <http://www.rowtgop.org>.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at [jgauza@wheelingtownship.com](mailto:jgauza@wheelingtownship.com).



# TOWNSHIP ROAD MANAGEMENT

## Lower Des Plaines River Watershed Protection

What are ‘watersheds,’ and why does understanding them matter? According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), A watershed is the land area that drains to a stream, lake or river. It directly affects the water quality in the water body that it surrounds. Healthy watersheds not only help protect water quality - but also provide greater benefits than degraded watersheds - for the people and wildlife that live there.

Watersheds vary in size, shapes and slopes. Storm sewers, drain tiles, swales, ditches and culverts carry the water collected from rainfall, melting snow, and the groundwater that’s pumped from home sump pumps. The majority of unincorporated Township roads either have ditches in the parkways or private driveway culverts, all of which eventually drain toward the Lower Des Plaines River.

To avoid drainage issues which can arise from the improper conveying of water, it’s important that homeowners do their part. “Best practices” seasonal preparation includes ensuring that the grass in ditches gets cut, driveway culverts get properly cleaned, and appropriate grass and leaf disposal occurs. These activities protect lot drainage, improve run-off water quality, and assist in recharging groundwater aquifers for homeowners using private wells for potable water.

It’s important to avoid practices that create unsafe watershed conditions, such as fence installation which might negatively impact drainage or create site distance obstructions. The placement of

boulders, cut tree stumps, masonry mailboxes, unauthorized signs or other obstructions, including the filling of roadside ditches, can create unexpected hazards for personnel when plowing snow.



Please remember that in its unincorporated areas, the Township only maintains public roads, road culverts and storm sewers that were installed using Township funds. This article serves as a seasonal reminder to do your part to responsibly maintain neighborhood drainage, thus protecting the health, safety, and welfare of all residents.

Residents in unincorporated Wheeling Township who wish to learn more about watersheds should review the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District’s stormwater website: [mwrdd.org/stormwater](http://mwrdd.org/stormwater). Maintaining watershed areas within unincorporated Wheeling Township is a duty shared equally by the Township, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, and Cook County. Everyone’s goal is to protect public health, safety, and welfare.

## ENERGY ASSISTANCE NOW TAKING APPLICATIONS

LIHEAP, or Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program is now accepting applications for the 2024-25 winter heating season. Senior citizens & those receiving Social Security Disability or SSI, and families with children under 5 years old, can begin applying in October. The program will open to all low-income households in November.

DVP, or Direct Vendor Payment, is designed to assist income-eligible households with energy services, in the form of a one-time benefit payment to the utility companies that is applied directly to the household’s energy bills. The amount of the payment is determined by income, household size, and fuel type.

Income Guidelines for the 2024-25 are as follows:

Household Size	Gross Income for 30 days Prior to Application Date
1	\$2,510
2	\$3,407
3	\$4,303
4	\$5,200
5	\$6,097
6	\$6,993
7	\$7,890
8	\$8,787

Those interested in applying must provide thorough documentation, including: Social Security cards for everyone living in the household, current gas and electric bills, and proof of all sources of household income for the last 30 days. Additional documentation may be requested. To make an appointment to apply, please call the General Assistance Department at **847-259-7730**.



# 'tis the Season to Give...

Looking for a warm fuzzy feeling without the calories of a pumpkin spice or gingerbread latte? If you would like to share the joys of the giving season, please consider participating in one of our holiday programs.

**Thanksgiving Baskets:** Provide a Thanksgiving meal with traditional fixings for a family from our food pantry and a gift card for the meat purchase. A list of items and drop off information will be provided after your sign up has been confirmed.

**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, which assist in making this large program run smoothly, will be provided to donors after sign up has been confirmed.

**To participate in either program, please follow these instructions:**

1. Complete the form below.
2. Email it to: [GA@wheelingtowship.com](mailto: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 the holidays with a warm heart knowing that you warmed the hearts of a neighbor!

.....  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Thanksgiving Baskets you will provide \_\_\_\_\_

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.

## ANNUAL HOLIDAY LIGHTS TOUR

Wednesday, December 11th  
5pm – 8:30pm

If you are a registered Wheeling Township bus passenger, call our Transportation Department at 847-259-7743 to make your reservation for our festive Holiday Lights tour – it's our annual neighborhood bus event to let you see the beautiful holiday lights in our community! Date: Wednesday, December 11th; time: 5pm – 8:30pm.

*This event is intended for our Township's seniors and disabled residents who aren't able to get out to see the lights on their own – it is not for children or groups. All passengers must live in Wheeling Township, and every participant must already be a registered bus rider. We cannot accommodate any last-minute additions or extra guests.*

We will pick you up at your home and take you on an evening tour of the holiday lights in Wheeling Township and return you safely home after the tour, so visions of sugar plums can dance in your head. We even have volunteer "elves" on each bus!

Calls for reservations **begin** on **Friday, November 1**. It is first come, first served. Space is limited and you must be a registered rider to participate.

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

### SMP: Avoid Medicare/Medicaid Fraud

Friday, November 8th  
10 – 11:00am In-Person

Medicare loses an estimated \$60 billion each year due to fraud, errors, and abuse. Every day, these issues affect countless beneficiaries nationwide. The Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) Program empowers consumers to prevent healthcare fraud – it helps people with Medicare and Medicaid to **Prevent, Detect, and Report** Medicare & Medicaid fraud, waste, and abuse. Program will be held in-person at Wheeling Township; call to register: 847-259-7730.



### STROKES: RISK/LIFESTYLE/PREVENTION

Wednesday, October 9th • 10 – 11:00am Virtual - Zoom



Nick Gonnella, Stroke Coordinator at Endeavor Health/Northwest Community Hospital will talk about a subject many adults want to know more about: Strokes. He'll provide an in-depth look at risk factors, lifestyle, and prevention. Program will be virtual; call to register: 847-259-7730

## 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 \$8.00 per day. A cold meal (which is delivered at the same time) is available for an additional \$5.75 per day. Bills are mailed monthly for the meals received.

### Who is eligible?

- Must be over 60 or permanently disabled over 18
- Must reside within Wheeling Township
- Must be considered homebound and/or no longer driving
- Must not have a full-time caregiver
- There must be availability on a route

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

Our SHIP counselors are here to help! Last year, Wheeling Township's SHIP counselors assisted over 400 residents. They're especially busy during the annual Open Enrollment period – call to make an appointment to see one of our dedicated SHIP counselors today. Call the Township 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](http://wheelingtowship.com).

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

## IMPROVE YOUR DRIVING SKILLS...

**Secretary of State  
“Rules of the Road”  
Review Course**



**Thursday,  
November 14th  
10am - Noon**

This FREE, two-hour Secretary of State Refresher Course will help prepare you for your driving test and soothe those road test jitters! This class is designed to give drivers the knowledge and confidence needed to renew a driver's license. The review course combines an explanation of the driving examination with a practice written examination. **Date: November 14th, 10am – Noon.**  
**Location: Wheeling Township office.** Call today to register: 847-259-7730.

## Help Support Our Troops... It's Donation Time Again!

Wheeling Township - in partnership with Operation Support Our Troops, America Inc. (OSOT) -- will be holding its Annual Donation Drive for the Troops! We'll be collecting the items below for “Comfort & Care” packages that OSOT puts together and ships to active Troops around the world. **Donations will be accepted the entire month of November at our office: 1616 N. Arlington Heights Rd., Arlington Hts, 60004.**

Let's see if we can top 2023's donation levels. Last year, 2,000 pounds of goodies were collected, as was an amazing \$4,965 in financial contributions! Over 1,000 hand-written cards, letters or drawings were donated, too. **Let's see if we can beat that!**

### ITEMS TO DONATE:

1. Peanut Butter - 16 oz or less (**no glass**)
2. Jelly cups or packets (**no jars**)
3. Breakfast bars/granola bars/protein bars
4. Canned fruit - 16 oz or less (**no glass - no plastic fruit cups!**)
5. Individually wrapped packages of crackers / cookies / trail mix / nuts
6. Gum / Mints
7. Individual microwaveable mac & cheese cups or packets
8. Toothbrushes and small/large toothpaste (**no mouthwash**)
9. White or black athletic socks
10. Carnation Instant Breakfast packets
11. Hydrating cold drink mix packets (Gatorade/Propel/Liquid IV)
12. Foot Powder/Antacids/Cough Drops
13. Pringles (individual lunch size or full-size tubes)
14. Rice Krispie Treats
15. Pop-Tarts (only small boxes, not warehouse-store sized boxes)
16. Halloween candy is welcomed



**Please DO NOT donate:** bags of potato chips (they get crushed), meat products (beef jerky, tuna, chicken, soups, canned pasta or chili with meat), plastic fruit cups (they often leak), coffee products, and nothing with alcohol in it (hand sanitizer/mouthwash, etc). Heightened security and changes at USPS have changed what may be mailed to many locations. Anything donated that OSOT can't use will be given to the Wheeling Township Food Pantry.

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

- **Make a financial donation:** 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.
- **Write encouraging cards:** *The most coveted items in care packages are encouraging cards 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, the entire month of November (9:00am - 4:30pm). Thank you in advance for supporting America's Troops! For more information, call Lynndah Lahey, Director of Senior & Disability Services at 847-259-7730, ext. 21, or email: [LLahey@wheelingtowship.com](mailto:LLahey@wheelingtowship.com).**



**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**



Ken Jochum  
**ASSESSOR**



Joanna Gauza  
**TOWN CLERK**



Patricia Kozicki  
**TRUSTEE**



Jeanne Hamilton  
**TRUSTEE**



Joe Murglin  
**TRUSTEE**



Darrel Talken  
**TRUSTEE**



## FOOD PANTRY ITEMS NEEDED...

From March to August this year, the pantry has served 3,152 households, consisting of 6,712 people, of which 1,475 were children and 2,852 were senior citizens. We could not have done that without your generous support. We appreciate each and every donation which helps us to fulfill our mission of "Neighbors Helping Neighbors".

When shopping this autumn, please consider buying a few extra items for the Wheeling Township Food Pantry. Both food and non-food items are always appreciated. The list below can be clipped and taken with you as you shop.

**Condiments:** ketchup, mustard, pickle relish, salad dressing, mayonnaise

**Beans:** white northern beans, white cannellini beans, red kidney beans, baked beans

**Fruit:** peaches, pineapple, mandarin oranges

**Potatoes:** instant mashed potatoes, flavored potato boxes, canned white potatoes

**Soup:** cream of chicken, cream of mushroom, cream of celery, beef vegetable, minestrone

**Paper Products:** facial tissue, paper towels, toilet paper

**Personal Essentials:** soap, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, cleaning supplies