



REPORT

From the Supervisor –
Kathy Penner



Welcome... and Thank You!

Township Welcomes Three New Trustees

The election held in April brought some changes to the Board of Trustees at Wheeling Township. Three new Trustees were elected, as was a new Assessor. Additionally, **Supervisor Kathleen Penner, Clerk Joanna Gauza** and **Trustee Patricia Kozicki** were all re-elected.

The three recently elected Trustees are: **Jeanne Hamilton, Joseph Murglin, and Darrel Talken**. While the three of them bring different points of view and unique strengths to their positions on the Township Board, they all share the attribute of being first-time elected officials. A warm welcome to Trustee Hamilton, Trustee Murglin, and Trustee Talken.

The re-elected Board Members and new Trustees were sworn in by the Hon. Steven A. Kozicki at a special ceremony in May. Their terms are for 4 years.

At the April election, outgoing Trustee **Ken Jochum**, was elected to the position of Assessor. He will assume the role after being sworn in at the beginning of 2022. Thank you Trustee Jochum, and good luck in your new role as Assessor.

Continued on page 2

Pictured below (l to r); Trustee Jeanne Hamilton, Trustee Patricia Kozicki, Clerk Joanna Gauza, Supervisor Kathy Penner, Trustee Darrel Talken and Trustee Joseph Murglin.



FROM THE CLERK'S OFFICE... Joanna Gauza

2022 ELECTIONS & VOTER REGISTRATION

Although we just completed the Consolidated General Election this past April, in 2022, we will have primaries in the spring and the General Election on November 8, 2022 for Governor, the State Legislature, and Congress. Currently, the primary date has not yet been set. If you want to vote in these 2022 elections 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 2022 elections. Registering to vote has never been easier or more convenient. You can register online, in person, or you can download registration forms and register through the mail. Below is information on all the 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 the primary election date in 2022, 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 www.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.

Voting: 1) it is your democratic right; 2) Representation drives change; and 3) Every vote counts. Be sure you're registered to vote.

Welcome... and Thank You!

Township Welcomes Three New Trustees...

(continued from front page)

I am especially grateful to outgoing Trustees **Ruth O'Connell** and **JoAnne Schultz** for their years of service and dedication. Trustee O'Connell served 20 years; Trustee Schultz served 17 years. Their insight, guidance, commitment, and support of the Township's programs will be felt and missed by all. *Thank you, Trustee O'Connell and Trustee Schultz!*

Lastly, all of us at the Township remain grateful and humbled by the amount of donations – *both financial and physical* – we continue to receive. A special thanks to the **Arlington Heights Noon Rotary** for their continued support of the Food Pantry with weekly eggs and cheese, their recent donations of non-perishable food and gift cards. Thanks to you, our residents in need always know they have a place to turn for assistance.



Wheeling Township bids farewell to long-serving Trustees Ruth O'Connell and JoAnne Schultz



Hon. Steven A. Kozicki swears in new Trustees Darrel Talken, Jeanne Hamilton and Joseph Murglin.

(l to r); Hon. Steven A. Kozicki, Trustee Patricia Kozicki, Clerk Joanna Gauza, Trustee Jeanne Hamilton, Trustee Darrel Talken, Trustee Joseph Murglin and Supervisor Kathy Penner.



FROM THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE... Jerry Sadler

2021 COOK COUNTY ASSESSOR APPEALS

The next opportunity to appeal the 2021 assessed value of your property is with the Cook County Assessor. At the time this newsletter went to press, Wheeling Township's open date had not yet been determined. On the Cook County Assessor's website (www.cookcountyassessor.com), you can find the calendar, as well as sign up for email updates.

Our office can assist in finding comparable properties for an online appeal (the preferred method). Contact our office at 847-259-1515, or email taxinfo@wheelingtowship.com. Please include the PIN number (found at top of the tax bill) in the subject line and name and address in the body of the email. We will send a list of comparable properties and instructions for the online Appeal Portal on the Cook County Assessor's website.

If you are unable to file an appeal online, you may fill out an appeal form and we will enter it electronically *on your behalf*. Appeal forms are available in our office, or can be found in the red info box located outside the Township building near the rear entrance. Please leave the signed, completed form in the black drop box near the rear entrance, under the portico. Additionally, you can find all forms on the www.cookcountyassessor.com website.

2020 Second Installment Property Tax Bills were tentatively scheduled to be mailed in early July; however, they may be delayed to the end of the month. Updates will be posted on the Wheeling Township website.

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)



If you do not receive your bills, a copy can always be found on the Cook County Treasurer's website www.cookcountytreasurer.com. Property tax bills can be paid by mail, or in person at any Chase Bank. You will need an original or a duplicate tax bill. Payments can also be made at www.cookcountytreasurer.com with no fee from a bank account. Please review your bill carefully for appropriate exemptions. If an exemption is missing from the bill, you may file a "Certificate of Error" at www.cookcountyassessor.com to obtain a refund.

The Chicago and Skokie Assessor's offices have reopened for in-person visits, by appointment only.

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

847-259-1515 or **TAXINFO@WHEELINGTOWNSHIP.COM**

TO BETTER ASSIST YOU, PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR PIN NUMBER, WHICH CAN BE FOUND AT THE TOP OF YOUR TAX BILL.

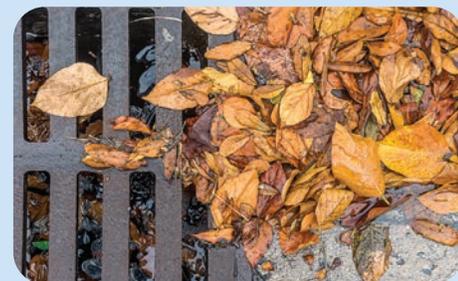
WHEELING TOWNSHIP ROAD MANAGEMENT...

Help Keep Drainage Ditches Clean and Flowing...

The unincorporated areas of Wheeling Township use ditch and culvert systems to handle drainage. They are designed to collect and transport surface water runoff from road pavement, private storm drainage lines, and adjoining lots with swales. To function properly, these ditch and culvert systems depend on mutual Township and property owner cooperation. The Township is responsible for maintaining drainage pipes that convey water under roadways and the storm water basins they drain into.

Residents in the unincorporated areas of the Township are responsible for their driveway apron and the culvert that runs beneath it. This means it's the homeowner's responsibility to keep their driveway culvert pipe clear of obstructions, which allows storm water to flow freely. Assuming it's done frequently, water pressure from a garden hose or the use of a leaf blower should be sufficient to clear a culvert of debris. Lawn clippings and leaves should be collected and removed. If lawn waste or landscape debris becomes packed, a contractor with more powerful "jetting" equipment may be needed.

Residents who reside in unincorporated Wheeling Township are responsible for maintaining the lawn in their ditch(es). It's recommended to rake out lawn clippings and leaves, and remove trash, brush and weeds on a weekly basis.



Maintaining proper grass covering in the ditches is vital in order to prevent soil erosion and the transport of sediment downstream (which could accumulate and clog culverts and drainage pipes).

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

If you see any ditch-dumping, or have questions, please contact the Highway Manger, Mark Toberman, or Township Administrator Regina Stapleton at 847-259-7730.

WHEELING TOWNSHIP FOOD PANTRY

A Return to Pre-Pandemic Client Shopping

We're pleased to announce that the Wheeling Township Food Pantry returned to its pre-pandemic "Client Choice Model" of shopping on June 1, 2021. Throughout the entire pandemic, the Wheeling Township Food Pantry never closed its doors! Rather, safer methods of food distribution were adopted. From mid-March, 2020, to the end of July, 2020 – while information regarding how the COVID-19 virus could be transmitted was constantly changing – pre-packed bags of food were provided to those in need. Starting in August, 2020, a hybrid method was used; which asked recipients to choose desired items from a list and wait while a volunteer food pantry crew member packed it for them.



The hybrid method remained in place until our return to Client Choice Shopping on June 1, 2021. In preparation for our clients' return, safety precautions were put into place, such as a plexiglass shield for the "cashier," a hand sanitizing station, and signage to remind recipients to keep a safe social distance from others while shopping. A new area for bagging groceries after shopping was also established in order to avoid congestion at the checkout desk.



Wheeling Township's ability to remain open and productive throughout the pandemic can be summed up in one word: Community. Last year, during May, June and July, the Pantry experienced an enormous increase in distributions (over 50% more than during those same months in 2019). A 'distribution' refers to a household, which may be comprised of one or more persons. While distributions increased



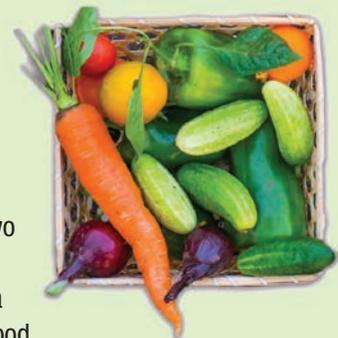
during that time, what was more significant was the increase in the household/family size requesting the food. Thankfully, community donations poured in to rescue thinning shelves and prevent them from being left bare. Community is also what kept the food pantry working physically, with the dedicated volunteer food pantry crew continuing to come in to work their weekly shifts. Community is additionally reflected in the relationship the Wheeling Township Food Pantry has with the Greater Chicago Food Depository (GCFD), which used grant funding to waive food purchase costs during the pandemic! GCFD partners with Township staff to provide SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly called Food Stamps) applications online to residents unable to apply on their own. Because no pantry distribution alone is enough to sustain a family, SNAP benefits are a vital part of fighting food insecurity.

During 2020, there were 4,978 pantry distributions overall. Those distributions fed 11,746 people, of which, 2,836 were children. The largest age group using the pantry is over 62, representing 41% of the total visits. *Thank you to the entire community for the support.*

Are You a Gardener?

DONATE TO THE TOWNSHIP'S GIVING GARDEN

Summer is in full swing and gardens are in bloom! As you tend to your home garden, please consider planting an extra row or two for the Wheeling Township Food Pantry. Donations of garden-fresh vegetables are a welcomed addition to the non-perishable food items from the Pantry. Many Pantry recipients are unable to have a garden because of where they live. Having a locally grown, perfectly ripened tomato is a healthy alternative to canned vegetables and is a wonderful treat.



Fresh veggies and fruits are welcomed by Wheeling Township in the Supervisor's Office Monday through Thursday, from 9:00am until 4:30 pm. Items need not be washed; however, please remove all loose dirt and lingering insects prior to dropping off.

If you need food, or know someone who does, please call the Wheeling Township General Assistance Department at 847-259-7730.

SENIOR AND DISABILITY NEWS

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



Have trouble hearing on the phone?

Test amplified phones on September 28th

Do you have trouble hearing on the phone?

Join Wheeling Township on **Tuesday, September 28th** from **10 a.m. – 3 p.m.** to test the ITAC free amplified telephones and learn more about getting a **FREE** amplified phone. (Clients are eligible for a new phone every four years.)

Appointments will be held at Wheeling Township, but participants MUST make their appointments with Schaumburg Township in advance. Call 847-884-0030 to set up an appointment. Walk-ins are NOT allowed.

Free amplified telephones are available to qualified Illinois residents with a hearing loss. To qualify applicants must:

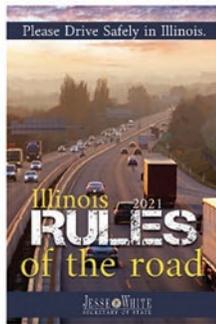
- Be a legal resident of the State of Illinois
- Have their telephone service at the address shown on their application form
- Have a licensed physician, speech pathologist, audiologist or designated DHS/DRS counselor sign the application form certifying the applicant is deaf, hard-of-hearing, Speech-Disabled or Deaf-Blind



Improve Your Driving Skills...

Secretary of the State "Rules of the Road" Review Course

This free, one-session 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. *Classes will continue to be held on Zoom through 2021. 2022 programs will most likely be in person. Call today to register!*



10am – Noon
Thursday, September 9
Thursday, November 18

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.

The annual Open Enrollment period (October 15 – December 7) is coming! We'll begin taking appointments in July for Open Enrollment. Call the Township to set yours up at 847-259-7730.

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

...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.



What about Sanitization and Masks? All of our buses are continuing to be sanitized, and passengers must wear masks on all public transportation through 9/17/21. We will continue to follow CDC guidelines for the safety of our passengers.

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 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.



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



Jerry Sadler
ASSESSOR



Joanna Gauza
TOWN CLERK



Patricia Kozicki
TRUSTEE



Jeanne Hamilton
TRUSTEE



Joe Murglin
TRUSTEE



Darrel Talken
TRUSTEE

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS NEEDED...

Looking for a way to help? Please consider purchasing some of these needed items on your next trip to the grocery store:

- **Beans**
Canned White Northern Beans
Canned White Cannellini Beans
- **Potatoes**
Instant Mashed Potato
Flavored Instant Potato Pouches
Flavored Potato Boxes (Scalloped, Creamy Cheese)
- **Snacks**
Protein Snack Bars
Crackers
- **Soup**
Cream of Mushroom
Cream of Chicken
- **Vegetables**
Canned Carrots
Canned Peas
- **Paper Goods**
Paper Towels/Toilet Paper



If you are unable to shop and would prefer to make a monetary donation, checks should be made payable to "Wheeling Township Emergency Fund, Inc.", which is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization.

SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCIES SUPPORTED 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.

- Access to Care
- Avenues to Independence
- Center for Enriched Living
- Clearbrook Center
- Connections to Care
- Faith Community Homes
- Hands On Suburban Chicago
- The Harbour
- Journeys - The Road Home
- Lifespan
- NCH Foundation - Dental Clinic
- Resources for Community Living
- St. Mary's Services
- WINGS
- Shelter, Inc.



- Alexian Bros. Center for Mental Health
- Catholic Charities
- Children's Advocacy Center
- Countryside/Little City
- The Josselyn Center
- Kindred Life Ministries
- Northwest Compass Housing
- Omni Youth Services