



REPORT



From the Desk of the Supervisor – Maria Zeller Brauer

Dear Neighbors,

As we enter the busy fall and winter seasons, I want to acknowledge that this year has brought challenges for many members of our community. Life's difficulties often happen quietly, and some of our neighbors may be carrying burdens that others cannot see. From financial hardships and health concerns to grief or caregiving responsibilities, there are resources available to help. If you or someone you know needs support, I encourage you to reach out. Through our **food pantry, social services, transportation programs, senior services, and mental health resources** – Wheeling Township is committed to ensuring every resident knows where to turn for help and feels supported along the way. Asking for assistance is often the first step toward stability and hope, and our staff is here to help connect residents with the resources they need.

One of the things that makes our community special is the way neighbors come together to support one another. As the holiday season approaches, our annual **Thanksgiving Baskets** and **Adopt-A-Family** programs will once again provide opportunities for residents, businesses, faith communities, and civic organizations to help local families celebrate the holidays. These programs depend on the generosity of our community, and I am continually inspired by the kindness of those who volunteer and donate to help others.

This fall also brings important reminders about the value of connection and recovery. September is **National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month** and **National Recovery Month**, and October 10 marks **World Mental Health Day**. The Wheeling Township Community Mental Health Board continues to support organizations that provide critical services to residents and families throughout our community. Their work reinforces an important message that no one should have to navigate life's challenges alone, and help is available for those who need it.

Our Senior and Disability Services Department continues to provide programs that help older adults and individuals with disabilities remain active and independent. From transportation and Medicare counseling to educational opportunities and supportive services, these programs help residents maintain their quality of life and remain engaged in the community.

As we prepare for the November 3, 2026, General Election, I encourage all eligible residents to ensure they are registered and ready to vote. This newsletter includes important information from the Clerk's Office about voter registration, vote-by-mail options, key election dates, and opportunities to serve as an election judge. You'll also find a brief article from the Township Assessor that provides general information about referenda and property taxes as residents prepare to make informed decisions at the ballot box.

I remain grateful for the dedicated staff, volunteers, elected officials, community partners, and residents who work every day to strengthen Wheeling Township. Together, we continue to build a community rooted in compassion, service, and support for one another.

With gratitude and commitment,

Maria Zeller Brauer
Wheeling Township Supervisor

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FROM THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

Ken Jochum

Election season is upon us, which means that voters will be asked to consider referenda that would increase their local property taxes if passed. This article provides general background regarding how certain referenda **could** affect a property tax bill and what voters may want to consider when evaluating them. As of this writing, two school districts are expected to place referenda before voters in portions of Wheeling Township, and other taxing districts may do so as well.

In Illinois, in general, the effect of a successful local tax or bond referendum **increases a property owner's tax liability, either by raising the maximum limiting tax rate or extension, or by authorizing new debt payable from property taxes**. Local non-home rule governments and school districts are restricted by the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL), which means they must obtain voter approval via referendum to authorize property tax extensions or rates above otherwise applicable limitations. Separately, voter approval may authorize a taxing district to issue bonds payable from property taxes, which can require debt-service payments over time.

POTENTIAL PROPERTY TAX EFFECTS

1. **INCREASED TAX RATES:** An approved operating fund or limiting-rate referendum will increase the amount a local unit is authorized to levy against property within the district, depending on the terms of the measure and your property's Equalized Assessed Value.
2. **BOND DEBT SERVICE:** An approved bond referendum will authorize borrowing for capital projects (such as new buildings or major repairs). If bonds payable from property taxes are issued, property tax bills within the district would include a debt service amount to repay the principal and interest over time.

IF A PROPERTY TAX REFERENDUM IS APPROVED, HOW WOULD THE INCREASE AFFECT FUTURE YEARS?

It is important to note that some referenda describe an increase for a stated levy year or years – but the long-term effect can depend on the structure of the measure and applicable law. An approved operating rate or extension increase will affect the base extension or rate used in later levy calculations. Bond referenda are different: their future effect generally depends on the amount borrowed, repayment schedule, interest costs, and any offsetting changes in existing debt service. Voters should carefully review the specific ballot language involved and consider the effect of the proposed referendum, the purpose of the increase or bonds, and the communication materials provided by the taxing district.

ASSESSMENT CHANGES VS. REFERENDUM

A referendum concerns a taxing district's authority to levy taxes, increase a rate or extension, or issue debt, which is separate from your home's assessed market value changing. Even if a referendum is tax-neutral or fails, your individual bill can still fluctuate if your property assessment goes up or down, relative to others in the Township – if exemptions change, other tax rates change, or the levies and debt-service requirements of taxing districts change.

QUESTIONS TO HELP YOU REVIEW A REFERENDUM

1. Do I understand what the referendum would authorize or do? Do I understand the purpose of the referendum?
2. What is the estimated effect of the referendum on my property tax bill? What estimates, if any, are available?
3. What other taxing districts appear on my tax bill, and what other increases or changes to their levies or debt have they made in recent years? (Refer to your last second-installment tax bill to see the taxing districts that apply to your property).

Voting is an important way for residents to participate in decisions that may affect their community and property tax obligations. Historically, referenda have been decided by a relatively small number of voters, but the outcome affects everyone in a given taxing district. Residents may want to review the official ballot language and available materials from the relevant taxing district and the election authority, so they can make an informed choice before voting.

As always, please feel free to contact the Wheeling Township Assessor's Office for further information by calling 847-259-1515, or for general questions, email taxinfo@wheelingtowship.com

For appeals ONLY appeal@wheelingtowship.com

Important Note: Wheeling Township (and the Wheeling Township Assessor's Office) does not advocate for or against any referendum. This article is provided solely for general, factual, educational purposes – and is not legal, tax, or financial advice. The Township Assessor's Office does not set tax rates or determine whether a referendum appears on the ballot; the Wheeling Township Assessor's Office serves as a "taxpayer advocate" by providing information about assessments and helping residents understand their property-tax bills.

FROM THE CLERK'S OFFICE

Joanna Gauza

NOVEMBER 3, 2026, GENERAL ELECTION & VOTER REGISTRATION



The General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2026. This election will determine the Illinois Governor, a U.S. Senator, U.S. Congressional Representatives, Illinois State Legislative offices, and other local governing officials. Now is a good 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 at 1616 N. Arlington Heights Road in Arlington Heights, Monday-Friday, between 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. All you need are two forms of identification (one showing your current address), be a citizen of the United States, 18 years of age or older by November 3, 2026, and have lived in the Township for at least 30 days before the election. If you have an Illinois driver's license or state ID, you can register online through the Illinois State Board of Elections website at <https://ova.elections.il.gov/>. If you don't have a driver's license or state ID, visit <https://www.cookcountyclerk.com/agency/register-vote> and complete the form online, then print, sign and mail it to the address provided on the application.

If you register by mail, you must bring a valid state-issued photo 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 email Cook County at <https://www.cookcountyclerk.com/agency/vote-mail> to request a mail ballot.

Key Dates for the November 3, 2026 General Election

Date	Event
10/6/2026	Voter registration closes for deputy registrars and local election officials
10/18/2026	Last day to register to vote by online application
10/19/2026	First day of early voting
10/26/2026	Last day to request a mail ballot , including military and overseas voters
11/2/2026	Last day of early voting
11/3/2026	Last day mail ballots can be postmarked
11/3/2026	Election Day



Work as an Election Judge or Polling Place Technician and earn between \$250 and \$400. Information on how to apply is available at <https://www.cookcountyclerkil.gov/elections/work-election-day>

WHEELING TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

President Lorri Grainawi

As we welcome the new season, the **Wheeling Township Community Mental Health Board (WTCMHB)** would like to recognize three important fall observances. September is both National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month and National Recovery Month – and October 10th is World Mental Health Day. These observances remind us of the importance of connection, support, and hope that recovery is possible for anyone facing mental health and substance use challenges.

The WTCMHB remains committed to ensuring that residents and families have access to resources that enhance mental and emotional well-being, as well as overall quality of life. Through partnerships with local organizations, the Board's mission is to ensure Wheeling Township residents are aware of, and have access to services and support for mental health, substance use disorders, and intellectual or developmental disabilities. These resources benefit not only those receiving services, but also their families and the greater community.

September's observances also serve as an important reminder that no one has to navigate life's challenges alone. Whether you are seeking assistance for yourself, a family member, a friend, or a neighbor – support is available through local organizations. The Board's funded partner agencies provide a range of programs that foster well-being, encourage independence, and help individuals and families overcome challenges.

One of the WTCMHB's core responsibilities is the thoughtful and effective investment of community resources to address local needs. By supporting a network of service providers, the Board helps ensure that a broad range of programs and resources are available to residents and families, through yearly grants. We are always mindful of our goal to eliminate the gaps in available services and reduce waitlists.

We invite you to review the list of funded partner organizations below and learn more about the valuable services they provide. We are grateful to the residents, families, providers, and community partners who contribute to the strength and the well-being of Wheeling Township.

Mission Statement

To ensure that every Wheeling Township resident can access and know about resources for mental and behavioral health, developmental disabilities and substance use disorders.

CURRENTLY FUNDED ORGANIZATIONS

- Arlington Heights Senior Center
- Ascension I Alexian Brothers Center for Mental Health
- Avenues to Independence
- Cancer Wellness Center
- Center for Enriched Living
- Children's Advocacy Center
- Clearbrook
- Gerry's Café
- Glenkirk
- Hopeful Beginnings
- Josselyn Center
- JOURNEYS I The Road Home
- Kenneth Young Center
- Kindred Ministries
- Little City
- Northwest Center Against Sexual Assault
- Northwest Compass
- OMNI
- Seach360 (formerly Search Inc)
- Shelter Inc
- Special Leisure Services Foundation I NWSRA
- Youth Services of Glenview/Northbrook
- Zacharias Center



The Giving Season Approaches...

The holiday season will soon be upon us, and Santa's Helpers are needed! A wonderful way to experience the joy of the season is to share it with someone else! You can be an elf and make a difference by participating in one of Wheeling Township's 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.

Calling all Elves!

Holiday Adopt-A-Family: 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 \$100 per person. Family sizes vary and are chosen by the donor. Once your sign-up has been confirmed, detailed instructions will be provided.

To participate in either program, 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 1.**
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 | UPCOMING PROGRAMS

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

You're Not Too Old & It's Not Too Late: Life's Second Half

Thursday, October 22

10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., In-Person Program

Author and psychologist, **Dr. Ilene Berns-Zare**, will discuss how to live well in midlife and beyond. Resilience, personal vitality, and transformation are nourished with inspiration, intention, effort, and a toolbox of resources. This will be a unique program – join us!

Class size is limited, register today!



2027 Medicare Drug & Advantage Plans

Friday, October 23

10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., In-Person Program

Join **Bob Kerr**, one of our skilled volunteer SHIP (Senior Health Insurance Program) Counselors, as he provides updates on changes to 2027 Medicare Part D and Advantage Plans to help you make informed choices. SHIP Counselors are trained by the Illinois Department on Aging and can't hold an insurance license or be affiliated with any insurance company – so you receive unbiased information.

Class size is limited, register today!



An Aging Life Care Pro Could Be Just What You Need!

Wednesday, November 4

10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., on Zoom

Aging life Care management is a service that offers a unique approach to planning with and caring for aging adults, or others facing ongoing health or disability challenges. Aging Life Care Professionals are health & human services specialists who act as a guide and advocate for families. They help navigate the challenges of aging and help families make positive, informed decisions and plans.

Learn from an experienced Aging life Care Professional, **Debra Feldman**, and discover more about this unique service provider for you or your loved ones to consider! Call to register: **847-259-7730**.



Make a Difference: Find Local Volunteer Opportunities

Thursday, January 28, 2027

10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., on Zoom

Want to volunteer but don't know where to start? Join an interactive discussion with local volunteer coordinators from the Arlington Heights Senior Center, Arlington Heights Memorial Library, and We Volunteer Northwest Suburbs. Learn how to match your skills and interests with opportunities, find options that fit your schedule, and discover the rewards of giving back. Volunteering strengthens our community, and can also support personal well-being, connection, and sense of purpose. Call to register: **847-259-7730**.



Annual Holiday Lights Tour

Wednesday, December 9

5 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

If you are a registered Wheeling Township bus passenger, call the 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.



This event is intended for our Township's seniors and disabled residents who can't 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.

Buses will pick up residents at their home for an evening tour of holiday lights throughout Wheeling Township and be dropped off at home after the tour. There will also be volunteer "Elves" on each bus!

Calls for reservations begin on **Monday, November 2**, and reservations are first come, first served because space is limited. Call the Transportation Office for more information at **847-259-7743**.

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 by a friendly volunteer at midday, Monday through Friday, right to the door of the recipient. The Lutheran Home in Arlington Heights prepares the meals.

Cost of the meals?

Wheeling Township's program is a **self-pay** program: The hot meal costs \$8 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. Applicants must agree to receive meals five days a week for a minimum of 30 days.

Who is eligible?

- Must reside within Wheeling Township
- Seniors 60 years of age and older, or permanently disabled individuals over 18 years of age
- Be considered homebound and/or no longer driving
- No full-time caregiver

To learn more about Home Delivered Meals, contact Program Coordinator **Katie Ferguson** at **847-259-7730, ext. 19**, or email **HomeDeliveredMeals@WheelingTownship.com**.





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

Wheeling Township's annual November Donation Drive to benefit **Operation Support Our Troops, America Inc. (OSOT)** will take place this November! We're collecting the items below for "Comfort & Care" packages that OSOT puts together and ships to active military personnel stationed around the globe. **Donations are accepted the entire month of November at our office, located at 1616 N. Arlington Heights Road in Arlington Heights.**

Let's try to top 2025's donation levels! Last year, 2,370 pounds of items were collected, as well as \$5,000 in financial contributions. More than 2,000 hand-written cards, letters or drawings were also donated.

Items to Donate (some new items this year)

1. Halloween candy is welcomed!
2. Peanut butter packets or jelly packets (no jars)
3. \$10 - \$25 Amazon gift cards
4. Small tissue packs
5. Slim-Jim or other brands of meat sticks
6. Small-sized puzzle books
7. Trimmable comfort shoe insoles
8. UNO or other types of card games
9. Travel-sized shampoo / conditioner / body wash / deodorant
10. Non-aerosol shaving cream

11. Chapstick / lip balms
12. Cough drops / rolls of antacids/ gum / mints
13. Breakfast bars / granola bars / protein bars
14. Tuna packets (no cans)
15. Individually wrapped packs of crackers / cookies / trail mix / nuts
16. Individual microwaveable macaroni and cheese cups or packets
17. Toothbrushes and travel size toothpaste
18. Travel size alcohol free mouthwash
19. White or black athletic socks (men and women)
20. Carnation Instant Breakfast packets
21. Rice Krispie Treats
22. Pop-Tarts (8-count boxes)

Please DO NOT Donate: bags of chips (they get crushed), plastic fruit cups (they often leak), and nothing with alcohol in it (hand sanitizer/mouthwash, etc).

Other Ways You Can Help:

- **Make a financial donation:** Donations help cover the cost of postage (each box costs OSOT \$30 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 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! Whether a scribbled drawing from a 1st grader or a heartfelt letter from a homebound senior – each message is precious and appreciated. **NO HOLIDAY CARDS**, please! Only cards or letters that can be used throughout the year are requested. Address your letter or card to: "Dear Military Person or Dear Service Person." Please do not seal any letters or cards.

Donations, checks and cards/letters can be dropped off at Wheeling Township, 1616 N. Arlington Heights Road in Arlington Heights, throughout November from 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. For more information, call Lynndah Lahey at **847-259-7730, ext. 21**, or email **LLahey@wheelingtowship.com**

NEW! 6-Part Medicare Series 2027

An exciting new Medicare series for 2027 has been designed to help ease your Medicare jitters. Whether you are 64 and just gathering information, or have been on Medicare for a decade - there's a program to help! Presenting each program will be **Kim Sauchgrow, Wheeling Township's Resource Specialist** and SHIP Counselor/SHIP Site Coordinator. You may sign up for one program - or all 6. All presentations will be offered at 10 a.m. on Zoom (every session will be recorded, so if you aren't able to attend on the day you can watch the recording later). For more information, or to sign up, call the Township 847-259-7730, or email Lynndah Lahey at **LLahey@wheelingtowship.com**



1. Planning Ahead for Medicare | Thursday, 2/11/27
2. New To Medicare – Now What? | Wednesday, 4/21/27
3. Deeper Dive into Medicare | Wednesday, 6/16/27
4. Annual Medicare Drug Plan Review | Thursday, 8/26/27
5. Ways to Save on Medicare Prescription Drug Costs | Wednesday, 9/15/27
6. Medicare Changes for 2028 | Wednesday, 10/13/27

AARP SMART DRIVER COURSE TUNE UP YOUR DRIVING SKILLS



The AARP Smart Driver Course is designed to help you **tune** up your driving skills, **learn** about normal age-related physical changes and how to adjust your driving to compensate, and **reduce** your chances of receiving a traffic violation or getting into an accident. Upon the completion of the 8 hour, two-session class, you will be issued a certificate which may be submitted to your automobile insurance company for a discount on your auto insurance. Attendance on both nights is required to obtain the certificate.

Cost: \$20 for AARP members and \$25 for non-AARP members. Checks or cash accepted; checks should be made payable to AARP and brought to the first class. Classes are held at the Wheeling Township building. Dinner is not provided, but attendees may bring a sandwich with them. Coffee, water and cookies will be provided. Call **847-259-7730** to register.

Class times: 4:30 - 8:30 p.m.

***October 5 & 6 or *November 30 & December 1**



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: 7:00 p.m.
on the fourth Tuesday of each month

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WHEELING TOWNSHIP ELECTED OFFICIALS



Maria Zeller Brauer
SUPERVISOR



Ken Jochum
ASSESSOR



Joanna Gauza
TOWN CLERK



John Geier
TRUSTEE



Lorri Grainawi
TRUSTEE



Trisha Chokshi
TRUSTEE



Sheri Williams
TRUSTEE

DONATE TO HELP YOUR NEIGHBORS!

The Wheeling Township
Emergency Fund, a 501(c)(3)
not-for-profit can accept online
donations. Scan the QR code to
donate to:

- Unrestricted
- Food Pantry
- Adopt-A-Family



**Sign Up for Our
Monthly eNewsletter**

 **Scan the QR Code**



**FALL
"TOP 5"**

FOOD ITEMS MOST NEEDED

- ☒ **Canned Meat** – spam, small hams, anchovies, herring, mackerel, sardines
- ☒ **Fruit** – applesauce, fruit cocktail, peaches, pineapple
- ☒ **Jelly** – strawberry or other flavors except grape
- ☒ **Pasta** – any shape except spaghetti
- ☒ **Peanut Butter** – crunchy

Make a donation at
**1616 N. Arlington Heights Road
in Arlington Heights**

