



# River Forest Township News

Spring, 2008

## Township Officials Staff & Volunteers

### Trustees

Jerry Davis  
Mark Kelty  
Anna Marie Romeo  
Mary O'Brien

### Supervisor

Veronica Krawczyk

### Assessor

Pamela Kende

### Clerk

Elizabeth 'Buff' Martin

### Staff

Social Worker:

Josie Lynn

Admin. Asst.:

Angelika Davis

### Mental Health Committee

Avis Rudner, Int. Dir  
Helene Connolly  
Margaret Tafilaw  
Susan Klock  
Bill Schmelling  
Linda Gusloff  
Patti Marino  
Jim Hartzler  
Veronica Zemgulys

### Youth Committee

John FS Williams, Dir  
John Hagensick  
Ann Pepper  
James Fitch  
Ange Davis  
Connie Geocariss  
Kelly Taira  
Richard Barrett  
Kathy Rigali

### Senior Committee

Desiree Scully, Dir  
Donald Pochyly  
Mary T. Small  
Peggi Mizen  
GeorgAnn Zussman  
Mary Bozzi  
Diana Berg  
Jim Flanagan

I want to begin by thanking all who donated their time, resources and monetary support to the Holiday Food and Gift Basket program. The season was brightened for the 900+ families who were touched by the generosity of so many members of our community. Thank You!

With a growing need in our community for Senior care, remember that your Township is there for you. If you find yourself suddenly a caregiver for an elderly spouse, parent, family member, or friend and are unsure of where to begin, turn to Oak Park/River Forest Township Senior Services for help and guidance. Feel free to call 708.386.8060, for information about a wide variety of resources, including Caregiver Specialist, Respite, Training and Education.

Remember, if you or a loved one find yourselves in need of social service resources, your Township tax dollars are used to support you in finding answers. We contract with a wide range of programs/services and can refer you to many agencies. Some of our service partners are listed in this newsletter for your convenience.

Community involvement drives the array of services supported by your tax dollars. The Township board is always looking for input from residents who have a strong interest in improving the quality of life in our community. Please contact me at the Township if you would like further information on how you might be able to volunteer.

~~~~ *Veronica Krawczyk, Township Supervisor 708-366-2029x1*

- **Township office hours:** Monday – Clerk Elizabeth “Buff” Martin - 10am to 12pm  
Wednesday – Supervisor Veronica Krawczyk – 9:30am to 2pm.  
(Please call 366-2029 for a daytime or evening appointment outside the stated hours.)  
Thursday – Assessor Pamela Kende – 10:00am to 12pm.
- **Senior Dine-Out program**– Please be aware of some major changes. First, the Original Pancake House no longer participates in the program. The participating restaurants are *MAPLE TREE*, a long standing partner, and *ROBINSON'S NO. 1 RIBS*, a welcome new addition. Secondly, due to rising costs, the suggested donation for the Dine-Out coupons has increased to \$3.50.
- **Senior Discount Metra Pass** – \$3.50 for picture ID - Wednesdays 9am to noon at Oak Park Township Offices, 105 S Oak Park Ave. - 383-8005 – Must show Driver's License, Passport or State ID.
- **Handicapped Parking** – *temporary cards* valid for up to 90 days or *permanent parking placards* - Please phone the Township Supervisor to request applications.
- **Register to vote** – Moved recently, even within the Village, or turned 18? Contact Clerk Martin for an appointment to register at your convenience – will make house calls! 366-2029 or 771-3355.

### Assessor's Corner

*Pamela Kende, Assessor 708-366-2787*

The Cook County Assessor, James Houlihan, is responsible for establishing the assessed value of each piece of property in Cook County. 2008 is a reassessment year for River Forest Township. All property in Cook County is reassessed every three years.

River Forest Township will be open for property tax assessment appeals to the Cook County Assessor in the spring. It is tentatively scheduled by the Cook County Assessor to open April 1, 2008. You will know River Forest Township is open for appeals when you get your notice of reassessment in the mail. You will then have 30 days in which to make your appeal. The filing date deadline will be printed on your reassessment notice. One can also check on the Cook County Assessor's web site at: [www.cookcountyassessor.com](http://www.cookcountyassessor.com) to find useful information regarding filing dates, the appeal process as well as how to file an appeal on-line.

I am available to help you complete an appeal form, find comparable properties in which to use for your appeal as well as file exemptions. I will be adding additional open office hours during reassessment. My current open office hours are Thursdays, 10 am to 12 noon. I am also available for appointments other times during the week. Appointments are recommended as work occasionally takes me out of the office. I can be reached at 366-2787, ext. 2. My e-mail address is [assessor@riverforesttownship.org](mailto:assessor@riverforesttownship.org)

New for this year: properties that had a 2006 Senior Exemption and did not change ownership, will automatically receive the 2007 Senior Exemption. Seniors who qualify for the Senior Freeze must fill out the Senior Freeze Exemption Application. (The Freeze income limit for 2007 is \$50,000).

I look forward to helping you.

**Your Needs are important to us! Contact the Supervisor at 708-366-2029, #1.  
For Property Tax Information, call the Assessor at 708-366-2787.**

## Guide to Township Supported Services . . .

(All phone numbers are in area code 708.)

Meals at Home: call 485-3422 to arrange for meal delivery to the homebound - \$4.75 per meal.

### **Contact the following agencies directly to inquire about services, or call the Mental Health Committee at 358-8855.**

**Mission:** *To enhance the mental health and developmental potential of residents, establish an appropriate continuum of community support services, and manage local resources in a fiscally responsible manner.*

- NAMI (National Alliance for Mentally Ill), 524-2582 Drop-in Center - Supervised opportunities for recreation and socialization.
- Community Support Services, 354-4547 A respite service for the developmentally disabled and their families.
- Family Service and Mental Health Center, 383-7500 – crisis intervention, psychiatric services and adult/family substance abuse.
- Oak/Leyden, 524-1050 Training program for adults with developmental disability who require vocational training and social services. Also, early intervention for children from birth to age 3 who are at risk of developmental disability. The program facilitates a normal development pattern in children who demonstrate a special or general delay in one or more abilities.
- Parenthesis/Parateen, 848-2227 Parent-child center offering support services and educational opportunities to families with preschool children. The Parateen program serves teen families including the parenting teens, their parents and children at weekly sessions which provide a shared meal, transportation, workshops on self-development and parent education on childcare.
- Sarah's Inn, 24 hour Hot Line 386-4225 Comprehensive services for victims of domestic violence. Evening counseling is available. Group treatment program for abusers.
- Sequin Services, 863-3803 Client and family support program for persons over the age of 14 with developmental disabilities. Links individuals and/or families with the services needed to prevent institutionalization.
- Community Care Options, 749-6767 Child and adolescent program of outpatient psychotherapy for children ages 3 to 18 who are experiencing serious emotional difficulties.
- Hephzibah, 386-8417 A child welfare and day care agency providing assessment services, crisis intervention, foster care, group homes and school-age childcare.
- Way Back Inn, 848-2065 Provides rehabilitation and support services to address the special needs of women who are suffering from alcoholism or drug dependence.

### **Targeting Youth . . .**

**Mission:** *To enhance the social and emotional development of youth and their families, and to work for the prevention of juvenile delinquency by addressing the needs of youth at risk of becoming involved in inappropriate or illegal activities.*

- Peer Power 383-0700, focuses on the ability of youth to discuss life problems/issues and to support to each other.
- Intramural Sports at OPRF High School 383-0700, serves a diverse youth population and also engages identified at-risk youth in positive, consistent supervised activity, linked to school performance, models conflict resolution skills.
- Summer School Work Study 383-0700, for high school students, encourages responsibility while obtaining job related skills; builds self-esteem and benefits local agencies by providing volunteer support.
- River Forest Community Center 771-6159, a variety of recreational programs serving children of all ages.
- I-Search 386-1841, enables elementary school students to learn about and discuss personal safety related issues with police officers and other community resource workers.
- TIME (Teen Initiative Meeting Expectations) 386-3393, early intervention program targeting at-risk youth.
- Financial Aid Scholarship 445-2727, helps children of families within income guidelines, to participate in activities.

### **Especially for Seniors . . .**

**Mission:** *To enhance the quality of life for seniors in our community by providing a broad array of supportive services that promote the values of independence, self-esteem and dignity.*

- ❖ Transportation: Blue or Red Cab books 771-6159 x200 / Bus service 383-4806 - call 24 hours in advance to arrange pickup.
- ❖ Call Senior Services at 383-8060 or visit the office at 418 Oak Park Avenue – 6<sup>th</sup> floor for:

|                        |                                 |                                  |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Information & Referral | Health & Wellness Activities    | Circuit Breaker                  |
| Case Management        | Senior Health Insurance Program | Elder Abuse Intervention         |
| Community Care Program | Chore Program                   | Are You OK? TeleCare Reassurance |
| Transportation         | Senior Advocate Program         | News & Views newsletter          |
| Senior Lunch Program   | Tax-Aide                        | Money Management**               |
| Home Delivered Meals   | Affordable Wills                | Education Programs               |
| Dine Out Program       | Energy Assistance               | Carrier Watch                    |

(\*\*Money Management Program assists low income older persons who have difficulty with household budgets, paying bills, keeping track of bank records, intervening with creditors, completing medical forms and other personal financial issues.)

- ❖ Senior Discount Metra Pass at 105 S Oak Park Ave., Wednesdays 9-12am, \$3.50. Identification required. Call 383-8005.
- ❖ Recreational Activities: Call the River Forest Community Center at 771-6159 and / or  
The Senior Citizen's Center of Oak Park and River Forest at 848-5251.