



River Forest Township News

Spring, 2009

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

Mental Health Committee

Lisa DeVivo, Dir
Helene Connolly
Margaret Tafilaw
Susan Klock
Linda Gusloff
Patti Marino
Jim Hartzler
Andrea Lissuzzo
Richard Lim
Paul Nijensohn

Youth Committee

John FS Williams, Dir
John Hagensick
Ann Pepper
James Fitch
Ange Davis
Connie Geocaris
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

Your Township Board strives to be efficient and effective using resources and partnering with groups and agencies to maintain and expand our services to meet the growing needs of our residents. Our sincerest appreciation goes directly to the volunteers and organizations that we partner with time and time again, year round, so that we can meet our mission of serving the greatest number of people with the fewest tax dollars.

This past holiday season is a perfect example of the extraordinary generosity of our community. Even with the depressed economy, a record number of donors came forward to sponsor families less fortunate. Through the Holiday Food and Gift Basket program over 900 families equaling over 2000 individuals received gifts this holiday season.

Our Senior, Mental Health and Youth Programs and Services have also touched a record number of residents this past year. The economic situation has caused additional stress for many. We are seeing an increase in those seeking help to cope with situations they have never had to deal with before. Your township officials endeavor to find solutions for our residents by working cooperatively with other organizations to provide quality services at minimal cost.

This spring, the Township will be asking residents to participate in a Needs Assessment Survey regarding Mental Health issues. Your response will allow us to get a better handle on issues and needs and will help us direct our service providers as well. The survey will not be sent to everyone, but to a random selection of approximately 1000 households.

If you are one of the residents to receive a survey, please take the time to fill it out and send it back. Your responses mean a lot to us. We will be posting the results on the Township website once they are complete. Thank you in advance, for taking the time to fill out the survey, we appreciate your input.

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

### • **Township office hours:**

Wednesday – Supervisor Veronica Krawczyk – 9:30am to 2pm. (Please call for appt. outside these hours.)

Thursday – Assessor Pamela Kende – 10:00am to 12pm.

• **Senior Dine-Out program** – The participating restaurants are *MAPLE TREE*, a long standing partner, and *ROBINSON'S NO. 1 RIBS*. The suggested donation for the Dine-Out coupons is \$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.

• **WalkIn Ministry** – referral service. Mon-Sat. 10-11am at 848 Lake St. 708.386.1946

### Assessor's Corner

*Pamela Kende, C.I.A.O. 708-366-2787x2*

Property taxes are paid in two installments, the first installment is one half of the total property tax bill for the previous year, and was due on March 3, 2009.

First installment tax bills do not reflect any exemptions, nor do they reflect successful appeals that were filed in calendar year 2008. Second installment bills are mailed in the fall and will reflect exemptions, increases due to reassessment, as well any savings due to a successful 2008 assessment appeal.

The Cook County Treasurer's web site is a good way to verify that the taxes have been paid.

[www.cookcountytreasurer.com](http://www.cookcountytreasurer.com).

River Forest Township will be open for property tax assessment appeals to the Cook County Assessor in the spring. One can check on the Cook County Assessor's web site at: to find useful information regarding filing dates, the appeal process as well as how to file an appeal online at

[www.cookcountyassessor.com](http://www.cookcountyassessor.com).

My open walk-in office hours are Thursdays, 10 am to 12 noon. Appointments are recommended as work occasionally takes me out of the office during this time. I can be reached at 366-2787, ext. 2.

Properties that had a 2007 Senior Exemption and did not sell will automatically receive the 2008 Senior Exemption. Seniors who qualify for the Senior Freeze Exemption must fill out the Senior Freeze Exemption Application every year. To qualify for the Senior Freeze Exemption in 2008, the income limit is \$55,000 for the 2007 tax year. 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.**

Visit our site: [www.riverforesttownship.org](http://www.riverforesttownship.org)

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# 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 Marital/Family Counseling; Youth Services; 24-hour Crisis; Psychiatric Care; Medicaid, Medicare & Major Insurance accepted; Psychiatric Rehab Recovery Services.
- 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.
- Seguin 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.
- Aspire, 547-3550 Early intervention service for children with developmental disabilities, birth to age 3; pediatric therapies for ages 3 to 8.
- Pillars, 386-2100 Outpatient psychotherapy for children ages 3 to 18 and families who are experiencing serious emotional difficulties.
- Suburban Access, 799-9190 Individual MR/DD services, point of entry for purchase of service programs.
- 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.
- ASK After School at the River Forest Library.
- 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.
- ENUF 386-393, educates teen offenders / at-risk youth on the dangers and risks associated with use of alcohol and drugs.
- Youth Connect 386-393, one to one mentoring of at-risk youth ages 12-17. Youth are generally referred to this program.
- 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 | Senior Lunch Program       | Senior Advocate Program | Are You OK? TeleCare Reassurance |
| Case Management        | Home Delivered Meals       | Affordable Wills        | Elder Abuse Intervention         |
| Community Care Program | Dine Out Program           | Tax-Aide                | Carrier Watch                    |
| Transportation         | Health/Wellness Activities | Circuit Breaker         | Senior Health Insurance Program  |
| Money Management**     | Chore Program              | Energy Assistance       | News & Views newsletter          |

(\*\*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.
- Avoid Financial Exploitation – (The unauthorized or illegal use of an adult's funds, property or resources by a family member, friend or stranger which causes a monetary or property loss - even as small as \$20 per month.) If you are being exploited by someone you know, contact Steven Smith at 383-8060 or the IL Dept on Aging at 1-888-206-1327.
- 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.