

# Talk of the Township<sup>SM</sup>



Newsletter of Moraine Township, Illinois

Vol. 1, No. 1 - Fall 2006

## Talkin' About:

- ▲ *Transportation: Moraine Door-to-Door Paratransit Van, Taxi Subsidy*
- ▲ *Changes Large and Small*
- ▲ *Grants Awarded With Help of Citizen Advisory Committee*
- ▲ *Pantry Plants/Food Pantry Progress*
- ▲ *AssessorTalk: Customer Service, Senior Discounts and more*
- ▲ *Clerk: Election Information*
- ▲ *Working on the Website*  
<http://www.morainetownship.org>
- ▲ *Calendar*
- ▲ *Contact Us*

## Mission

*Moraine Township government administers public funds to provide responsive, efficient and compassionate services and support for residents in need.*

Our boundaries include all of Highwood, most of Highland Park, and small portions of Deerfield and Lake Forest. The Township officially provides general assistance to individuals; property assessment services in the Assessor's office; election and record-keeping functions in the Clerk's office; and operates two cemeteries, Mooney and Daggitt, in Highland Park.

## Moving Right Along: Transportation Service Options Increased for Seniors, Disabled, Disadvantaged

Moraine Township initiated an overhaul of the transportation options underwritten for residents beginning in Spring of 2005, and already boasts one of the most complete public service systems of any Lake County township. Seniors, disabled and disadvantaged residents whose quality of life and health are at risk are now being more completely served.

“Other township officials call us to ask what we’re doing, and how we’re doing it,” says Supervisor Mari Barnes, “but it isn’t so unattainable if you’re as determined as our Board.”

In sum, for the same budget money that once only paid for a handful of senior/disabled residents to take taxi rides restricted to within Township borders, Moraine Township is not only continuing to subsidize taxi rides, but also leases and operates a PACE 7-9 passenger van – termed “Moraine Door-to-Door” – equipped for paratransit users. Qualified residents are taken to medical appointments up to 15 miles outside Township borders. Some of these

*continues on page 4*

## Holiday Time: Moraine Strives to Consolidate Helping Hands

You can make a difference to Moraine Township residents who require assistance in making their holidays warm and complete.

The Township strives to arrange for all needy families and individuals in our area to be provided with food appropriate to the festive season ahead, and throughout the year.

“Since assuming office, our Board has realized that one highly useful role Moraine Township’s Food Pantry can perform is helping to coordinate and consolidate various independent holiday drives being conducted on behalf of the same economically disadvantaged target population,” according to Supervisor Mari Barnes. “We take seriously our role as taxpayer and recipient advocates.”

Last year, Moraine Township invited church, school and independent generous groups

*continues on page 8*



*National City Bank Volunteers Pause to Pose at Food Pantry*

## Calendar

Moraine Township Board of Trustees meets in the Township Office  
 777 Central Avenue, Highland Park  
 2nd Thursdays of the month at 5:00 pm  
 &  
 4th Thursdays of the month at 7:30 pm  
 at Highwood City Hall, 2nd floor  
 17 Highwood Avenue, Highwood  
 This meeting is recorded for cablecasting.

### ~ Of Special Interest ~

#### *Spotlight on Nonprofit Agencies*

Agencies receiving Township grants discuss their services & community needs  
 4th Thursdays (attend our regular meeting in person) or catch it on cable  
 Tuesdays at 5:30 pm, Fridays at 7:00 pm  
 Cable Channel 10

Moraine Township Grant Application  
 Deadline: February 1, 2007

## Talk to the Township

Township Office ..... (847) 432-3240  
 Supervisor ..... (847) 432-3240  
 Clerk ..... (847) 432-3240  
 Assessor ..... (847) 432-2100

Van Line ..... (847) 432-3000

Fax ..... (847) 432-2178

Email ..... [info@morainetownship.org](mailto:info@morainetownship.org)

Mari Barnes ..... [Super@morainetownship.org](mailto:Super@morainetownship.org)  
 Ellen Gussin ..... [Clerk@morainetownship.org](mailto:Clerk@morainetownship.org)  
 Pete Koukos ..... [PKoukos@co.lake.il.us](mailto:PKoukos@co.lake.il.us)  
 Bryna Gamson ..... [TrusteeGamson@morainetownship.org](mailto:TrusteeGamson@morainetownship.org)  
 Margoth Moreno ..... [TrusteeMoreno@morainetownship.org](mailto:TrusteeMoreno@morainetownship.org)  
 Cynthia Plouché ..... [TrusteePlouche@morainetownship.org](mailto:TrusteePlouche@morainetownship.org)  
 Jeff Zaluda ..... [TrusteeZaluda@morainetownship.org](mailto:TrusteeZaluda@morainetownship.org)

<http://www.morainetownship.org>

## SuperTalk: Mari Barnes



I am so pleased to present our first Moraine Township newsletter. I hope you will find it informative. Your Trustees and I are working hard to proactively provide cost effective, quality programs for all Township residents.

The Moraine Township Office is a busy place with a variety of things always going on at once. We have the Food Pantry/Clothing Closet open on Tuesdays and Thursdays, serving 90 to 110 people per month. The Township helps residents apply for state programs including Li-heap (a low income utilities subsidy), Circuit Breaker, and RTA Senior Discount Passes. We also offer free notary services, and provide emergency and GA/General Assistance to those who qualify. Tracy Coleman, our Director of General Assistance, is knowledgeable in everything from Kid Care to Medicare Part D. And of course, our Clerk, Ellen Gussin, oversees a range of voter services throughout the year.

All year long, we accept and process generous donations of food stuffs and clothing



*Director of General Assistance Tracy Coleman and Supervisor Mari Barnes dig in unloading donated goods*

from the community, but especially at holiday time, the office turns into a virtual Santa's workshop, dispersing items to residents of all ages.

You will read much in this newsletter about our "Moraine Door to Door" van service and subsidized taxi program, but not about how we send taxi coupons monthly to hundreds of seniors, or how staff member Annie Wleizen has become a van scheduler extraordinaire. These programs alone take hours of staff time.

Ceil Marriott has been the Township bookkeeper for five years and has worked with me to improve recordkeeping functions. My first task as Supervisor was to hire an auditor who helped us tighten up fiscal management and use budgeting as a way to set clear action priorities. Everyone involved is proud of our fiscal management and welcomes public inspection. Our primary responsibility as elected officials is to spend taxpayer money appropriately and efficiently. Your Board of Trustees feels so strongly about this that it was adopted into the new Mission Statement language.

*continues on page 3*

## Pantry Plants Garden Project: Help Wanted

### Add fresh local produce to Food Pantry

One springtime initiative at the Township was the planting of a garden to provide fresh produce to the existing Food Pantry.

The Township maintains a Food Pantry stocked with generous donations of canned and boxed goods from many community outreach activities, like the Postal Drive in May, and the Ravinia Festival Day held at the end of their season. In addition, Moraine is part of the Northern Illinois Food Bank program, and purchases frozen meats and other items to distribute to the needy in our service area.

“Nutrition is so important to growing families,” notes Trustee Margoth Moreno, “but there is rarely a time when fresh vegetables are available at the Pantry. Mari’s idea to grow our own over the summer was seized upon with enthusiasm, and works on many levels.”

Moraine Township enlisted the cooperation of the Park District of Highland Park, who allowed the garden to be created at Woodridge Park and assisted in getting the plot ready for cultivation. Volunteers and beneficiaries alike pitched in with garden cultivation.

“It makes a wonderful, ‘hands on’ family project,” according to Moreno, “and teaches kids about so many things, in nature and in human kindness.”

The harvested crop of many varieties of peppers, eggplant and tomatoes was enjoyed by clients coming to the Food Pantry for essential nutritional assistance.

Join the Pantry Plants cadre next year by calling the Township Office. Cultivators needed! ■

## Please! Check with the Township

*before bringing in a donation of food or clothing. Unfortunately, some things simply aren't useful to those we serve, and might be put to better use elsewhere. Call (847) 432-3240. Thanks!*

## Catch us on Cable!

Board of Trustee meetings held on 4th Thursdays of the month are recorded. These meetings include reports on community needs from our grantee agencies and all public business.

Shown on Cable Channel 10, Tuesdays at 5:30 pm and Fridays at 7:00 pm

*SuperTalk...continued from page 2*

On a personal note, I have to say I enjoy every day at the office and am so pleased to be in a position where I can apply what I’ve learned from elsewhere in government and business. It is pure pleasure to work on behalf of our constituency, the public, to assist neighbors in need. Special-purpose township government is like nothing else.

Members of the community are cordially invited to join us in these satisfying endeavors, by volunteering to serve on a Citizen Advisory Committee, or for short stints helping organize the Food Pantry/Clothing Closet or seasonal garden cultivation.

Please call us with comments, suggestions and/or concerns. ■

## Township Changes Large & Small

This administration made changes large and small, physical, financial and service-related this past year. In addition to other topics covered in *Talk*, your Supervisor and Board

- adopted a Mission Statement and logo identity to aid in the public’s understanding of township government purpose and intentions
- established a website operating free of charge via NorthStarNet
- issue press releases and other communications to increase public awareness and use of Moraine Township services
- significantly increased scope, time and importance of Board meetings, plus announced Agendas, posted Minutes to website, monthly televising on cable
- actively participate in monthly county-wide Supervisor meetings and information sessions
- have Board members deployed as liaisons to municipal commissions and public committees

*continues on page 4*

## Talk of the Township

Moraine Township is pleased to communicate with residents about Township business. We hope this periodic publication will foster our goal to keep the public fully informed about Township services and activities.

Supervisor .....	Mari A. Barnes
Clerk .....	Ellen S. Gussin
Assessor .....	Peter J. Koukos
Trustee .....	Bryna G. Gamson
Trustee .....	Margoth K. Moreno
Trustee .....	Cynthia R. Plouché
Trustee .....	Jeffrey A. Zaluda

Consult our website for timely information, including Agendas, Meeting Minutes, links to related information and on-line versions of *Talk of the Township*.



<http://www.morainetownship.org>

*Changes...continued from page 3*

- joined TOIRMA (Township Officials of Illinois self-insurance plans), saving \$12,000 a year in liability insurance costs, including an increased Supervisor's bond – freeing up public funds for direct services
- purchased catastrophic insurance coverage for General Assistance protection where previously there was none
- hired Spanish-speaking staff
- did a massive clean up of the Clothing Closet; orderly appearance and culling invites fuller use
- set regular hours for Food Pantry/ Clothing Closet
- opened the grant process, formerly mainly the domain of the Supervisor, now the responsibility of the Board, advised by a Citizen Committee
- invite grantee organizations to report on the state of community needs at Board meetings that are televised, in an attempt to better understand needs, and engage the public in support
- purchased economical office furniture allowing staff workspace ergonomic improvements and a more pleasant, inviting environment for the public
- hung pictures on blank walls
- replaced 15-year old office computer
- approved Assessor's Office computer purchases and staff augmentation to facilitate timely, responsive professional activity
- formed transportation committee to work with City of Highland Park in developing a coordinated plan
- invite coordination with other agencies with similar missions, such as food and clothing drives
- updated Employee Manual
- work as a team with Assessor's Office ■

*Transportation...continued from page 1*

users wouldn't qualify for such assistance under usual PACE Dial-A-Ride, and for the convenience of locally based door-to-door service, their lives are measurably improved.

Driver Mike Walsh says the most gratifying thing about his job is the people. "Folks are so appreciative of the door-to-door service, that saves them a lot of money. It's a great job."

"Riders are so glad not to be dependent on their families or neighbors as much, plus the big savings," agrees Gordon Lind, the van driver sharing part-time hours with Mike.

Personalized local service is such a boon to Township residents that the Board is already looking into grants, sponsorships and further cooperation with local units of government to expand the program to an additional van for non-medical purposes in and around Township borders. Right now, the Moraine Door-to-Door van is dedicated chiefly to medical appointment rides outside the boundaries.

Riders pay \$4 per ride, and caregivers and wheelchairs ride at no extra fee.



According to Trustee Cynthia Plouché, who serves on the Board's Transportation Committee, "One of our long-term goals is to support and increase resident use of Lake County's new Community Health Center clinic in Highland Park. So, if transportation is an issue for economically disadvantaged, senior or disabled residents, we hope eventually to increase low cost rides within Moraine boundaries and help them get to those appointments. We also need to eventually consider after school and evening working hours, even weekends," she says.

"That mix of other needs being identified is the basis for our seeking extra funds from other sources, to support a second van or alternate means of subsidy," adds Trustee Bryna Gamson, who serves on the Township's Grant Committee.

Moraine Township signed on in 2005 as a member organization of the Lake County Coordinated Transportation Services Committee. Plouché and Gamson represent Moraine at this long-term planning and advocacy group working to achieve borderless, reliable paratransit throughout Lake County.

In the meantime, Moraine invites senior and disabled residents of any age in need of transportation, especially to medical appointments, to contact our office. Senior/disabled taxi subsidy coupons apply 24/7 in and outside borders for any purpose except airport.

Moraine Door-to-Door operates Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Van reservations must be made 48 hours in advance to a dedicated phone line at the Township Office, (847) 432-3000. ■



## ClerkTalk: Ellen Gussin Voter Services Thrive in Township

At the writing of this article, the elections have not yet taken place but we are well into the Early Voting period which started on October 16 and continues through the Thursday prior to the election, November 2. The opportunity to vote early has really caught on with the voting public. A steady stream of voters has been coming to the Township Office; on average, 50 people have been voting each day.

The Early Voting process, enabled by the state legislature before the Primary Election last March, is providing flexible options to accommodate the schedules of more voters than ever before. In the General Primary, there were over 3,000 early voters in Lake County, and we are expecting to have much greater numbers in the General Election due to continuing efforts to inform the public about the accessibility Early Voting provides. Results thus far prove the prediction, and we anticipate a continuing effort on the part of the state legislature and the County Clerks to further improve voting efficiencies.

Voter Registration resumes in the Township following the election, and is available Monday through Friday at the Moraine Township Office from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. To register to vote, bring two forms of identification – one with your name and current address. You must be a United States citizen, 18 years old by the next election (a 17-year-old can register as long as his/her birthday is on or before the date of the next election) and have resided in the voting precinct for 30 days prior to the next election.

The voter identification card is your official source document for determining where to vote. Your polling place is determined by your precinct number and is listed on your voter registration card. Polling place locations, addresses, as well as maps, are also available online directly at <http://www.co.lake.il.us/cntyclk/elections/voterservices/RegVoter.asp>, or follow the Clerk links from our own website at [www.morainetownship.org](http://www.morainetownship.org).

### Maintaining Township Records

In addition to Voter Services, the Clerk is responsible for the official records of the Township, including the Township Board agendas and minutes, notices of elections, resolutions, and bid documents. These records are public and in compliance with state regulations. We have completed a state-supervised audit of our old records and are in the process of destroying old records that by law do not need to be retained on file.

As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to call the Clerk's Office during regular business hours at (847) 432-3240. Or email me at [Clerk@morainetownship.org](mailto:Clerk@morainetownship.org). I will be happy to assist you in any way I can! ■

### Do I live in Moraine?

Township boundaries include 100% of these Lake County Voting Precincts: 200-229  
Lake Forest - 200, 201 • Highwood - 202 (shared with HP), 205, 206 • Deerfield - 221  
Highland Park - all others 202-229.

To view boundaries, go to [www.co.lake.il.us/gis/ElectionPrecinctGallery/](http://www.co.lake.il.us/gis/ElectionPrecinctGallery/)

### Get Election Results by Precinct

Go to <http://www.co.lake.il.us/cntyclk/elections/electionresults/current/precinctlist.htm>

## Donations

Moraine Township is fortunate to have received generous donations of time, goods and/or financial aid from the following:

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- Highland Park Hospital
- North Shore Synagogue Beth El
- Congregation Solel
- Willow Creek Church Northshore
- Highland Park Woman's Club
- Italian Women's Prosperity Club
- Home Instead Senior Care
- JCYS Lutz Family Center
- City of Highland Park employee Toy Drive

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*Sincere thanks to everyone who made contributions large and small. Our apologies if your name doesn't appear here. If you have made a contribution to the Township and would like to be listed in our next issue, please notify the Supervisor.*

## Grant News

This year, a formal grant application and review process was established, using a volunteer Citizen Grant Advisory Committee. After an exhaustive review including selected site visits, the committee made recommendations on how to allocate the \$80,000 budgeted by Moraine Township for local nonprofit agency grants. Our thanks to Wendi Ezgur, Chair; Dr. Gerald Burke, Judy Datz, Helen Dombrow and Dan Solender. Twenty-one of 27 applications received were awarded grants ranging from \$250 to \$15,000. A complete list of FY06 grantees is on page 8, with amounts awarded listed on our website.

In view of the unmet needs of agencies, the Board of Trustees voted to allocate \$100,000 for FY07. Applications will be due to the Township by February 1, 2007, with awards determined by the start of the next fiscal year, April 1, 2007. Revised guidelines are available by mail and are posted online on the Township's website, [www.morainetownship.org](http://www.morainetownship.org). ■

## Report Emergency Contact Information Especially Important for Elderly Living Alone

Do you have elderly parents living alone? Do you have an elderly neighbor or friend living alone? Are you a senior who has a cat or dog that you care for? In any of these situations, if there is an emergency, who should be notified?

We suggest that every resident prepare a clearly written list of whom they want called if an emergency occurs in their home. Put the list on the refrigerator in a prominent spot.

A second copy should be filed at the Township or your local police department. Moraine Township, along with our local police and fire departments, are hoping to compile a list of emergency contacts for all citizens who live alone. This program is similar to a Lake County program called *Are You Okay*, in which some local seniors already participate.

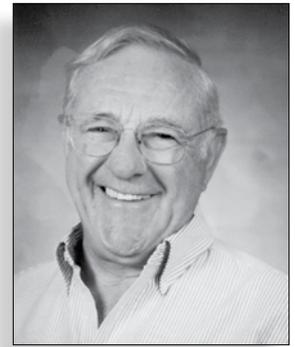
Supervisor Mari Barnes and General Assistance Director Tracy Coleman meet monthly with representatives from the Highland Park Senior Center, police, hospital, and other local social service agencies to discuss how we as a community can meet the needs of our senior population. One of the recommendations was to have an emergency contact list for all seniors living alone.

Residents of Moraine Township are urged to share their emergency contact information with us.

Call Tracy at (847) 432-3240 or email [Tracy@morainetownship.org](mailto:Tracy@morainetownship.org). ■

## AssessorTalk: Pete Koukos

I am most pleased to report that we closed our assessment books two days earlier than promised, September 13. Any changes in assessments other than the equalizer of 1.0916 for Moraine Township were published in the *Highland Park News* on September 28. The blue cards indicating the assessed value and resultant fair market value that has been applied to your property were mailed from Lake County to property owners on September 27.



We have been meeting with property owners evenings and weekends to accommodate mutually convenient schedules. In short, we continue to do our best to insure that our assessments are fair and equitable for all taxpayers as well as treat all our customers with respect. (Also see *Appeals* article, page 7.)

If your increase is 9.16%, that is the effect of the equalizer. We are not likely to be in a position to make any change. This increase from the County and the Illinois Department of Revenue has been applied to all properties in Moraine Township.

People have asked why we have properties that sell for \$3,000,000 or more and are still valued at \$2,500,000 or even \$2,000,000 on our books. Certainly, very frustrating to me. An Illinois Supreme Court decision prohibits Illinois assessors from assessing homes at a sale price – that notwithstanding the state statute that requires properties to be assessed at the “fair market value.”

Next year is another quadrennial re-assessment year because the Lake County Board decided to have all Lake County townships on the same schedule.

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*This year, since January 1, 2006, we have caught up on posting about 700 building permit changes going back to 2002.*

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This year, since January 1, 2006, we have caught up on posting about 700 building permit changes going back to 2002. These were primarily building additions that had not been on the assessment rolls. We also adjusted effective age calculations on about 3200 properties. This is a calculation that is made for additions placed on properties that measures depreciation.

Currently, homes are graded for quality of construction. They range from “Poor” to “High Value Plus Plus.” Our goals for next year are to address reducing quality grade categories from 17 to 6 or 7; ravine properties; and the issue of “neighborhoods” as clustered for assessment purposes. Some of the current neighborhoods are much too large in my opinion. For example, “East not on Lake” roughly ranges from Lake Cook Road on the south to Walker on the north and from St. Johns on the west to Sheridan on the east.

We are working with our state legislators to make changes to the Senior Assessment Freeze to enable them to downsize their abodes without paying a penalty in property taxes.

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AssessorTalk...continued from page 6

Also, the Lake County Board of Review has agreed to our assessment process for valuing affordable and subsidized housing, so that those residents aren't outpriced by steeply rising values. Trustee Jeff Zaluda, who is an executive board member of the Lake County Housing Commission, was especially pleased that they agreed with the logic of this policy to keep the properties affordable.

We have had great cooperation from the local building departments in securing building permits, but there are instances when a personal visit is required. If we are denied access, then we will assume more than normal but still use general criteria to arrive at an assessment. We can make any corrections if and when there is a complaint filed. We have had some instances of property owners telling us one thing over the phone but subsequently learned that more had been done. In my opinion, that is unfair to the rest of the community.

You are welcome to contact us with any questions about the assessment process. ■

## Assessment Freeze for Income-Qualified Senior Citizens

Do you qualify for a real estate assessment freeze? It's possible to hold the line on the next increase in assessed property valuation if you do.

Application forms for the Senior Citizen Assessment Freeze should be submitted to the Lake County Chief County Assessment Office. They mail forms to all senior citizens currently receiving a Senior Homestead Exemption. Seniors qualify for the assessment freeze if they are 65 years old, have lived in their home as their primary residence from January 1, 2006 through January 1, 2007, and their total household income is \$50,000 or less. The application packet includes descriptions of what income is to be included as a part of the exemption application.

Completed application forms are to be mailed back to the Chief County Assessment Office, 18 North County Street - 7th Floor, Waukegan, Illinois, by July 31, 2007. If you believe you qualify and do not receive a form, you can call (847) 377-2050 or visit <http://www.co.lake.il.us/treasurer/exemptions/freeze.asp>. ■

## Appeals

Our office encourages you always to check with us first before spending time on the appeals process or other property assessment questions in Waukegan. Often, there are things that can be cleared up locally.

Chief Deputy Assessor Trish Lenzini says "We're always sorry to hear how much time a taxpayer has wasted by not starting by talking to our staff."

The last day to file an appeal on the announced property assessments for 2006 (payable in 2007) with the Lake County Board of Review was October 30.

Our website has current information and links to County sources. ■

## Citizen Advisory Committee

We've been wisely advised this year by an outstanding Assessor Advisory Committee.

Many thanks to members who have served since we've been in office, 2005-2006: Deloris Axelrod, Martha Gray, Kris Hoerter, Herb Kamin, Bill Lolli, Don Rubin, Leonard Schiller, Dianne Schlair and Assessors Steve Stanger and Theresia Yakes.

## What's The Assessor Got To Do With Township Government?

*We're so glad you asked!*

*Townships were established by settlers working together to solve community problems like caring for the needy, providing for burial, and building roads. To share the financial burden fairly, each according to his ability to contribute, a system of property assessment was established at the same time that "general assistance" was formalized. Over time, certain services were absorbed by municipalities, but in many areas of Illinois, townships still directly provide human services, road maintenance and even recreation programs.*

*In Moraine Township, property is assessed in value as objectively as possible so that each provides a fair share to the taxing bodies whose rates are applied to the valuation. The Assessor determines value of the property; Lake County collects the taxes on behalf of all regional taxing bodies, including relevant city/city services, schools, Lake County operations and Moraine Township government itself.*

## At your service

Contact our office at any time! The Moraine Township Assessor's Office is available to help taxpayers.

We are located in the Township Office at 777 Central Avenue, Highland Park.

Hours are 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, with evening and weekend times by appointment.

Obtain useful information by following the Assessor link online from our website at [www.morainetownship.org](http://www.morainetownship.org).

Call us directly at (847) 432-2100. ■

*Holiday Time...continued from page 1*

in the area to consolidate lists or work directly with our Food Pantry, so that every family or individual truly in need is served. That way, we can help avoid the possibility of duplicate contributions made at the expense of others in need.

Our office is again inviting all organizations to work closely with us, to share lists and distribution dates, or use the Pantry as a conduit.

If you are asked to contribute this year, encourage the group to work with Moraine Township. Your tax dollars and donated goods support our Food Pantry/Clothing Closet. These endeavors are the perfect mechanism for united community efforts to share the warmth of the season, and all year around. We strive to ensure that no one goes hungry in Moraine.

Volunteers and hands-on contributors are always welcome! ■

## Talk Back/Volunteer

We welcome feedback on any or all of our programs in Moraine Township. If you have a comment or question about something you've read in this issue of *Talk of the Township*, contact the Supervisor's Office at (847) 432-3240 or email Super@morainetownship.org.

If you are interested in joining our efforts in public service – for brief or on-going tasks – also contact the Supervisor's Office. We are always looking for volunteers to serve on Citizen Advisory Committees, in the following or other developing *ad hoc* capacities:

- Food Pantry/Clothing Closet
- Grant Advisory Committee
- Pantry Plants Garden Project
- Senior Services
- Transportation
- etc.



**Moraine Township**  
777 Central Avenue  
Highland Park IL 60035  
ph 847.432.3240 • fx 847.432.2178  
Van/Taxi Hotline 847.432.3000  
Assessor's Office 847.432.2100  
email info@morainetownship.org  
www.morainetownship.org

PRSR STD  
US Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 31  
Highland Park IL

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## How Big is the \$\$ Bite?

Property tax bills were paid this summer, so you may still be smarting over the hole in your pocketbook. Did you happen to notice the tiny line apportioned to Moraine Township?

We'd print a pie chart to show you the portion of your tax dollar that goes to the Township, but the slice is so small, you wouldn't be able to make it out unless the chart filled this page!

Our 2005 tax rate was .045, which again was down from the previous year. According to Assessor Pete Koukos, the median market value home in Moraine Township is \$472,168, which meant the median tax "bite" to Moraine was \$70.82.

Altogether, residents of Highwood, much of Highland Park and small portions of Deerfield and Lake Forest who comprise Moraine Township generate about \$1,000,000 in revenue. With that, all of the operations of the Township are paid for: Assessor's Office, Clerk's Office, cemetery maintenance, and the range of compassionate human welfare services provided through the Supervisor's Office.

We think it's a pretty darned good return on that tax bite, but we're always happy to hear from you about how to improve Township services. Our books are open to the public. We welcome your inquiries. ■

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## Grant Recipient Groups 06

Congratulations to Township grantees: Cancer Wellness Center, Career Resource Center, Center for Enriched Living, Family Network Parent/Child Drop-In Center & After School Activity Program, Family Service & Family Service/Nuestro Center, Glenkirk, Highland Park Community Nursery School & Day Care Center, HP/Hwd Home Child Care Assoc., Interfaith Housing Center of the Northern Suburbs, Josselyn Center, LaCASA, Links, Nicasa, North Shore Youth Sailing Coalition, Opportunity, Inc., PADS Crisis Services, Shoes That Fit, The Art Center, Tri-Con Child Care Center

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## A Word About the Website

We're pleased to be keeping the campaign promise to maintain a website so that residents can easily access information about our activities. It's been up and running for a year, for free, via the Highland Park Public Library/NorthStarNet. We recognize that though it is functional, it's time to make it a little prettier. Keep checking in at [www.morainetownship.org](http://www.morainetownship.org). Beautifying is next on the to-do list! ■