

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



Newsletter of Moraine Township, Illinois

Vol. 2, No. 1 - Spring 2007

## Talkin' About:

- ▲ *Pantry Plants Garden Project*
- ▲ *Transportation: Moraine Door-to-Door Paratransit Van Expands!*
- ▲ *Annual Grants Awarded Again With Help of Citizen Advisory Committee*
- ▲ *AssessorTalk*
- ▲ *ClerkTalk*
- ▲ *Website Updating Continues*  
<http://www.morainetownship.org>
- ▲ *Small Emergencies Task Force Meets*
- ▲ *Citizen Advocates Wanted*
- ▲ *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.

## Pantry Plants Garden Project: Family, Individual Volunteer Community Service Opportunity

Calling all community members who like to get "down and dirty" as volunteers! Add to your enjoyment of mild weather activities the opportunity to cultivate fresh produce to supply the Moraine Township Food Pantry.



The Pantry Plants Garden Project is launched in June, weather permitting. Thereafter, all summer long, we'd like to recruit volunteers on a regular basis to tend the Garden Project, through

*continues on page 3*

## On Track With Improved Transportation: 2nd Door-to-Door Van for Seniors, Disabled, Disadvantaged Added As Township Receives Grant

Beginning in Spring of 2005, the new Moraine Township Board set out to fill in transportation gaps on behalf of seniors and disabled area residents; taxi subsidies extending only to Township borders were not adequate for resident needs. By May of 2006, Township funds were allocated to the long-term lease of a small paratransit van, initiating a low-fee service (\$4 per ride) dubbed Moraine Door-to-Door. This May, 2007, we are very pleased to announce that a second van has been added to the service line-up. Medical-appointment destinations will be funded by a one-year \$60,000 grant from the Healthcare Foundation of Highland Park, enabling the expansion of this popular Township service.

The two vans are being increasingly used by local residents, and garnering appreciative kudos to Township staff who operate them. Van rides serve the needs of seniors and disabled residents (up to a 15-mile radius from Moraine Township), in combination with the taxi coupon program. Low income residents traveling to and from North Shore Health Center referrals are also served. All considered, we are closer to meeting our goals of improving access to wellness through effective transportation solutions.

"We hope that eventually the Township will be able to meet social, shopping or

*continues on page 4*

## 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, 2008

## 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



One of the striking features of life in the Moraine Township region is the prevalence of volunteer efforts at every level. At the Township itself, this is evident on a daily basis.

We are fortunate to have the willing hands and strong backs of those who help us organize and stock the Food Pantry and Clothing Closet. Reliable workers like Sharon Eisendrath are the backbone of the Pantry. In the non-winter months, volunteers have begun to help us provide fresh produce in the Pantry Plants Garden Project. And of course, the entire population pitches in with the donation of foodstuffs sponsored by the Postal Workers and Ravinia Festival Day.

In somewhat less visible ways, volunteers provide other assistance critical to the well-being of our residents. For example, longtime resident and retired social service administrator Ada Goldstein is a regular volunteer twice a week. Ada provides guidance for residents in need of assistance with navigating the paperwork of government programs. She also cheerfully helps with the general office overflow.

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Anthony Lucente is a special volunteer behind the camera during our 4th Thursday night Board meetings. He gets so enthusiastic, in fact, that sometimes he doesn't remain behind the camera, but comes up with questions and comments on business before the Board. Afterward, Anthony takes the taped meeting back to the Comcast studios, edits it, and arranges for it to appear on local Cable Channel 10.

Speaking of meetings, the community is represented admirably by Janet Freed, who has made it her job to be in the audience at probably every public meeting of the Township for most of the last 15 years. Janet, a key member of the United Way, keeps a watchful—and helpful—eye on all Township functions. Her insight and advice are always welcome.

A volunteer spirit pervades our atmosphere even among paid staff. Anyone familiar with the Township Office knows, for example, about the special warmth that General Assistance Director Tracy Coleman brings to her job. Tracy has been with the Township for over 12 years, and provides continuity as well as expertise and a friendly attitude.

We are very pleased with the new additions to the staff this quarter. Paula Peddle is the smiling new face greeting visitors, answering the phone, doing clerical work—and cheerfully performing the acrobatic feat of scheduling our Moraine Door-to-Door paratransit van. Her cohort, Shannon Mosier, hired during the same period, has taken over for retiring Ceil Marriott in bookkeeping, and also assists in myriad other clerical ways. Ceil has been working on finding everyone (on paper) in our cemeteries. Assessor Pete Koukos will tell you similar

*continues on page 3*

*SuperTalk...continued from page 2*

stories about the admirable new hires and seasoned staff on his side of the office.

Our Door-to-Door van drivers, Gordon Lind and Mike Walsh, have been joined by equally pleasant and reliable drivers Ron Peddle (yes, we keep the Peddle family employed) and Joe DuFore, now that we have added a second van. We're looking forward to a long and pleasant association with all of them. Reports from passengers are very positive.

Certainly, not least among those giving well beyond what duties call for are our dedicated Trustees. Margoth Moreno has thrown herself into a community liaison role on behalf of our Latino community. She has worked tirelessly to organize the Food Pantry and Clothing Closet, and was irreplaceable during the fire emergency at North Shore Estates earlier this year. Bryna Gamson keeps our communications going, designing and maintaining the website, sending our press releases and editing this newsletter. Her background in nonprofit marketing and development has been instrumental in our developing a systematic grant program, and in writing the van's Healthcare Foundation proposal. Jeff Zaluda brings his legal expertise, interests in affordable housing and the social services sector to the table. Cynthia Plouché is liaison to the Highland Park Human Relations Commission, and has worked long and hard on transportation plans for residents. Evidence of the success of this initiative is on our front page.

We've been encouraged by the high standards set by our Citizen Grant Advisory Committee, and hope to engage others in committee service as time goes on and issues requiring citizen input develop. In fact, see the related notice on the back page.

Personally, I'd like to thank my

*Pantry Plants...continued from page 1*  
harvesting time in the Fall.

Moraine Township initiated the Pantry Plants Garden Project last year as a fun way for residents to 'mix it up together' for a worthwhile cause. Working in family groups, in pairs or as individuals, residents who love to work the soil and see things grow met on common ground at Woodridge Park in Highland Park and produced a respectable amount of fresh produce to stock our Food Pantry.

"The cooperation of residents who rely upon our Food Pantry for nutritional assistance, as well as the volunteer support of people who just want to help created a unique, and successful joint project last year," according to Supervisor Mari Barnes.

The Park District of Highland Park has generously allowed the use of their park land, and prepares the soil for planting. Anton's Fruit Ranch donates the young plants our volunteers plant and tend. Last year, we had a bumper crop of fresh peppers, enjoyed by clients who don't otherwise have garden space available to them.

Join us! Bring your own tools and gloves. Make it a family affair!

Contact the Township Office during regular business hours at (847) 432-3240. ■



*Volunteer Ada Goldstein and General Assistance Director Tracy Coleman keep up with the paperwork*

family, especially husband Charlie Barnes and son Will, who not only share my time away as Supervisor, but so often are right there themselves, pitching in with expertise and labor.

We do indeed live in a wonderful community. If anyone you know is not being taken care of, don't let them fall between the cracks. Contact the Township Office to see if we can help.

Become a volunteer yourself! ■

### 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>

*Second Van Added...continued from page 1*

recreational destination needs someday,” according to Supervisor Mari Barnes.

“We recognize that residents who, for whatever reason, do not have access to private car rides or cannot afford to use taxis—even with the taxi coupon subsidy provided by Moraine—have needs beyond medical appointments,” adds Trustee Cynthia Plouché, who serves on the Township’s Transportation Committee.

“So, we’re monitoring the near-capacity use of these two vans to see if we can efficiently offer those social/personal trip rides to residents in need as well.”

Highland Park Mayor Mike Belsky was very helpful in securing the Healthcare Foundation’s grant in support of the van proposal. In combination with the City of Highland Park’s own Senior Center Shuttle, most seniors are well-served.

In the meantime, progress is being made at the County level, as the Lake County Coordinated Transportation Coalition has successfully facilitated the start of a professional regional study. The study’s goal is to be able to apply for federal funds, administered by the RTA, to create borderless, reliable public transportation. As the County grows, challenges of getting to work and getting around are growing. Trustee Bryna Gamson, who serves as Township representative to the Coalition, predicts, however, that the road to success on this path will be long.

In the meantime, Moraine is underwriting transportation needs for its residents, with the help of the Healthcare Foundation’s medical van support.

Moraine Door-to-Door operates Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Fees are \$4 per ride, with caregivers and mobility equipment traveling at no additional fee. Van reservations must be made 48 hours in advance to a dedicated phone line at the Township Office, (847) 432-3000. Call Paula! ■

## Annual Grants Made Citizen Advisory Committee Recommendations Adopted

At their meeting of April 26, 2007, the Board of Trustees of Moraine Township, upon recommendations presented March 22 by the Citizen Grant Advisory Committee, awarded funds totaling \$100,000 to the following 20 nonprofit organizations serving Moraine Township residents:

A Safe Place \$2,000  
Anixter Center North \$1,500  
Cancer Wellness Center \$2,500  
Career Resource Center \$2,000  
Center for Enriched Living \$1,000  
Family Network (3 programs) \$20,000  
Family Service \$14,000  
Glenkirk \$2,500  
Highland Park Community Nursery School & Day Care Center \$15,000  
Highland Park/Highwood Home Child Care Association \$3,000  
Interfaith Housing Center of the Northern Suburbs (*Homesharing Program*) \$1,000  
Josselyn Center \$5,000  
LaCASA/Lake County Council Against Sexual Assault \$2,000  
Links - North Shore Youth Health Service \$2,500  
Nicasa \$1,000  
North Shore Youth Sailing Coalition \$500  
Opportunity, Inc. \$5,000  
PADS Crisis Services \$2,500  
The Art Center (*Make Art Count* program) \$3,000  
Tri-Con Child Care Center \$14,000

We sincerely thank the Citizen Grant Advisory Committee for their dedicated volunteer time and efforts: Chair Wendi Ezgur of Highland Park; members Gerald Burke, MD and John Sirotti, of Highwood; Harry Crane, Helen Dombrow and Nancy Rotering, of Highland Park.

Nonprofit agencies will be required to submit midterm grant reports, involving appearances before the Board at public meetings. The public is encouraged to attend or view these updates on cable Channel 10, and get involved in local nonprofit agencies as volunteers and donors.

The Township’s fiscal year is April 1-March 31. Applications for funding are due February 1. Funding decisions are generally made by March 31.

Application forms are available on the Township’s website at <http://www.morainetownship.org>. For FY08-09, anticipate some revisions to the Application, to be posted by December.

Moraine Township is happy to work with agencies requiring some guidance, and also wishes to minimize wasted effort on the part of applicants. Call (847) 432-3240 for further information, especially before submitting an application for the first time. ■



## ClerkTalk: Ellen Gussin Voter Services Updates, More

The Consolidated Election of April 17 saw Early Voting moved to the Lake County Health Center clinic site with good results. Voters continue to appreciate and utilize the early voting option and we anticipate greater usage in future elections. The convenience of being able to vote early if one is going to be away on Election Day—or just because it is a nice day and the weather on Election Day is uncertain—seems to be an attractive enticement for voters.

It is encouraging to learn that so many citizens take their civic responsibility seriously and make a concerted effort to get to the polls. The Early Voting law has been a win-win for the State and all its residents.

Detailed election results are available online at <http://www.co.lake.il.us/cntyclk/elections/electionresults/default.asp>.

Next up on the election calendar is the March 18, 2008 General Primary followed by the General Election of November 4, 2008. It is anticipated at this time that Early Voting will again be held three weeks prior to both elections at the Lake County Health Center. Conveniently located at 1840 Green Bay Road in downtown Highland Park, this site accommodates all Highland Park and Moraine Township residents.

### Voter Registration: Change of Address, Coming of Age

Did you know that voter registration has increased to an all time high of over 380,000 voters in all of Lake County and an average of 1,200 new applications are processed by the County each week?

Voter Registration is always available at the Township office from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday. We encourage all of our young adults turning 18 this year to come in and fill out the registration application, as well as all newcomers to our community.

We also process changes of address at the Township office; the change of address card is completed by the voter and then submitted to the County. Make sure you and everyone in your family are registered to vote at their current address.

Additional voter registration information is also available at the County website at <http://www.co.lake.il.us/cntyclk/elections/voterservices/registering.asp>.

Polling place locations are also available online by at <http://www.co.lake.il.us/cntyclk/elections/voterservices/pollingplace.asp>.

### Election Judges Sought

The County is always actively recruiting election-day judges. All registered voters who may be interested in this very part-time position are encouraged to find out more about serving your community in this capacity. Visit the following website for information on the duties,

training, selection, compensation and more at <http://www.co.lake.il.us/cntyclk/elections/electionjudges.asp>.

### Spring Cleaning!

In other news from our office, the Township recently completed a “spring cleaning” that included a preliminary official audit by the State to review all records. After seeking and receiving approval to dispose of those records dated before the required keep-on-file requirement, we have shredded all old records from both the Assessor’s and Township’s Offices and gained much-needed space in our files and cabinets.

In fact, Moraine made use of the services of one of our grantee organizations, Opportunity, Inc., which provides excellent secure document shredding services; we recommend them! Call Opportunity, Inc. at (847) 831-9400. It just makes good sense!

As always, if you have any questions or suggestions of how we may be of service to you in the Clerk’s Office, please feel free to call during regular business hours at (847) 432-3240. Email me at [Clerk@morainetownship.org](mailto:Clerk@morainetownship.org). ■

## 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

If you’re using the web to follow up on these matters, start with the Moraine Township home page, link to Clerk or Assessor pages, and click on the handy links you’ll find there to access Election/Voting information or Property Assessment-related matters. Just go to

<http://www.morainetownship.org>

## “Small” Emergency Task Force Convened

In the wake of the fire emergency that put Highwood families and four bachelors out of their apartments last October and again in March, Township Supervisor Mari Barnes convened an informal task force to address developing procedures for “small” emergencies.

“We’ve had plans for quite some time on how to deal with major emergencies—disaster planning—but the fire at North Shore Estates awakened us all to the need to create a plan for coordinating the response to smaller-scale emergencies in the community,” according to Barnes.

The Highwood fire was as fortuitous as those sorts of things can be: the time of it, around 6:00 pm, meant that residents were awake and aware, and able to get out safely and quickly. The building complex happened to have vacancies into which residents were able to move, evacuating ruined apartments seamlessly. Accommodations for the night of the fire and even furnishings happened to be available next door at the shuttered Hotel Moraine, so that the Township was able to efficiently and inexpensively supply beds and linens within a couple of days.

Throughout, as was widely reported, community members and officials pulled together. Moraine Township Trustee Margoth Moreno was there helping to calm residents. A Township charge account was provided for use by those affected at the local Walgreens, whose manager generously volunteered to remain open as long as needed. Impacted families from the Oak Terrace School community were aided by their fellow members. Highwood Mayor Vince Donofrio ensured that residents could access the hotel resources and be moved into alternate housing.

*continues next column*

## AssessorTalk: Pete Koukos An Overview

As we’ve closed the books on one year, and open them for the next, we thought you might be interested in some overall stats on properties in Moraine Township: there are 13,192 parcels; there is almost \$43,000,000 worth of new property now on the assessment books; equalized assessed valuation is \$2,577,290,791 for 2006.

This year, 2007, is another quadrennial re-assessment year. Our last quadrennial was in 2005 and the next would normally have been in 2009, but the Lake County Board decided to have all Lake County townships on the same schedule. An Illinois statutory regulation requires a major review of property assessment every four years, to a property-by-property level of detail greater than other years. In other years, the Supervisor of Assessments of Lake County may impose a multiplier that impacts property value. The Township Assessor may also reassess at any time, especially in a rapidly changing market—which we try to do, to avoid sudden, steep changes in property assessment, such as that which provoked public outcry a few years ago.

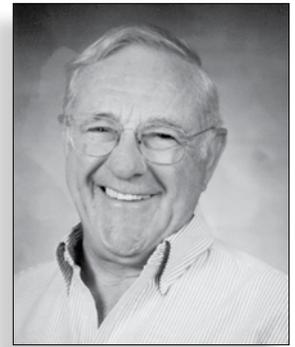
### Appeals Process and Tips

We’ve heard from folks protesting their actual property tax bills received earlier this Spring. Unfortunately, as we’ve tried to tell property owners before, it’s too late in the process to protest the 2006 assessments when their tax bills arrive. Residents need to be vigilant starting as soon as you receive the “blue cards,” which should be early this Fall for 2007.

For 2006, I think the County’s Board of Review was generally quite responsive and considerate to taxpayers. There were some instances in which the County Board did not agree to lower the assessed value to my recommendation. And, I disagreed with the Board’s decision to reduce a very few assessments, particularly those few that will adversely impact uniformity and perhaps add to the increased Township equalizer this year.

We plan to close our books this year on or before August 27th. Unlike last year, *all* properties will be listed and published in the *Highland Park News* a week or two after we close the books. The blue cards indicating the assessed value and resultant fair market value that has been applied to your property will be mailed from Lake County to property owners concurrently with that publication.

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### *Small Emergencies...continued*

Township Supervisor Barnes stated that “Although there was great cooperation among the parties, clear lines of direction would have made it go more smoothly. That’s what our task force is beginning to address in the event of another emergency.”

The task force convened included representatives of the Highland Park and Highwood fire departments, City of Highwood, Oak Terrace School, Family Service and Moraine Township. A flow chart of responsibilities was drafted by the task force. Similar to what the fire departments use, the chart establishes a hierarchy and the roles each group would fill in a “small” emergency, from first responders to those who would take charge of securing alternate housing and other supplies.

While this sort of plan is one we hope never to need, it is comforting to have in place. It is expected that plans will be finalized by the Fall. ■

AssessorTalk...continued from page 6

Property owners will have 30 days from the date of publication to file an appeal with the Lake County Board of Review. However, we urge you to come to the Assessor's Office first. We will do our best to provide you with the information related to the assessment and/or an appeal if you are not satisfied with our response. If you are getting a certified appraisal, you will have an additional 10 days to submit the appraisal itself. Just one note of caution: last year, we found some appraisals to be flawed.

Again this year, we will meet with property owners evenings and weekends to accommodate mutually convenient schedules. In short, we will 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.

### Progress Updates

In our last newsletter, we told you that one of our major goals for this year was to reduce the number of *quality grades* from 17 to 5. We have re-graded approximately 10,000 single family homes into one of six grades.

Another major goal was to review the *neighborhoods*, some of which were geographically too large and had many dissimilar stocks within them. We have accomplished that as well by considering zoning, house type, and new construction, thus increasingly comparing "apples to apples."

Last year, we faced a huge backlog of building permits that had not been processed since 2002. We are pleased to report that we are up-to-date in recording and processing all new construction as well as building permits. We continue to receive outstanding cooperation from the local building departments.

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

## Special Senior Exemptions

Particular thanks to our local legislators, Senator Susan Garrett and Representative Karen May, as well as Fremont Township Assessor and State Representative Ed Sullivan for their continued support and follow-up on our proposed legislation to make it possible for seniors who currently have a Senior Assessment Freeze to downsize their place of residence without a tax penalty.

Lake County Board Member Carol Spielman, Chief County Assessment Officer Marty Paulson and Chief Deputy Assessor Trish Lenzini provided valuable input to the process. They also deserve our thanks for keeping the process moving.

In addition, we hope that the State Legislature will increase the income requirement to a flat \$50,000 annual income. As of this writing, that bill is pending.

### Senior Income-Qualified Assessment Freeze

Application forms for the Senior Citizen Assessment Freeze are now being accepted by the Lake County Chief County Assessment Office. Forms have been mailed 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>. The Moraine Township Assessor's Office is available to help taxpayers at (847) 432-2100, or at the Moraine Township Office, 777 Central Avenue in Highland Park.

### Senior Tax Deferral Act

The Senior Tax Deferral Act is "a state loan with a 6% interest rate that is to be repaid after one year of the taxpayer's death or at the time the property is sold or refinanced." If you know of anyone who may be interested in this deferral, more information can be obtained at the Moraine Township Office, or call the Lake County treasurer's office at (847) 377-2323. ■

## Defining Terms

### "Quality Grade"

...classification refers only to the original construction materials and workmanship of a home when first built, and not its current condition. A very high quality grade may be applied even in a home whose condition has deteriorated. For the Assessor, it is another means to assess a zone of homes.

### "Neighborhood"

...is a selected area that includes similar homes, not necessarily geographically related. For example, new homes built since 2000 are now typically classified as a separate "neighborhood," looked at along with others similar to them, with consideration for differences in property values of north-south and east-west zones of the Township. These neighborhood divisions allow us to decrease the impact of large homes built among more modest, older ones.

## News Bits & Briefs

- In December, Supervisor Mari Barnes responded to a news report concerning the plight of a church on the south side of Chicago who could not meet the large numbers of requests for toys for their constituents. She arranged for the Sanctuary Church to obtain unused Township toys and goods.
- Need a carbon monoxide detector? Special discounts for seniors. Contact the Township.
- To clarify a possible mistaken impression left by the recently completely election season: Moraine Township Board of Trustees does not endorse candidates for office.
- Combating invasive species of plants like buckthorn and garlic mustard weed is an on-going fight. Be a good citizen, and help eradicate (pull 'em out!) in your own yards, and as you walk public trails.
- New website to be unveiled by July 1!

## 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
- Advocacy Advisory Committee



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Highland Park IL 60035  
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Assessor's Office 847.432.2100  
email info@morainetownship.org  
www.morainetownship.org

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## Stay Up-to-Date

Your Township Board, committed to open government, has made communication a top priority. Board members are liaisons to a number of civic committees. We issue press releases that often get printed in the local papers. We publish and mail this newsletter; to save costs, however, we only plan to publish *Talk of the Township* twice or three times a year. *Talk* consciously attempts to cover stories that don't become quickly dated, so that residents can use *Talk* as an informational resource for several months. Extra copies are available at the Deerfield, Highwood and Highland Park public libraries.

We encourage you to keep this issue of *Talk* around, but also to find the more timely information you might be seeking about our activities through other methods: attend a meeting (Thursdays, twice a month; see page 2 for details); stop in at the office; or go on-line periodically to check for "news" and read our meeting Minutes at [www.morainetownship.org](http://www.morainetownship.org).

Within the limits of our special-purpose government functions, there are many ways in which we can be responsive to the welfare needs of our residents. Rely upon us. Talk to us! We're listening. ■

## New Citizen Advocacy Committee Forming

A new Citizen Advisory Committee on Advocacy is being formed.

Residents with broad knowledge of community resources and an interest in helping others to full access and fair treatment are being recruited.

Bilingual skills are a plus. If interested, please apply to the Supervisor. ■

## Please! Think of the Township

*...when you have clothing or food stuffs to donate. Our Food Pantry and Clothing Closet welcome your generosity! Call (847) 432-3240. Thanks!*