

Talk of the TownshipSM



Newsletter of Moraine Township, Illinois

Vol. 5, No. 2 - Winter 2011

Make Use of Moraine Door-to-Door Senior, Paratransit Mobility Needs Met by Township Vans

Moraine Township has been operating its own van service to meet the needs of residents since 2006. At that time, in response to unmet needs identified in collaboration with the Highland Park Senior Center, the original taxi fare budget of nearly \$100,000 (for travel limited to within Moraine) was revised to provide not only taxi subsidy but also more convenient paratransit transportation for seniors, disabled and financially needy residents who require travel outside Township boundaries to get to medical appointments in particular. The program was recognized by a statewide award for senior services.

Today, hundreds of residents take thousands of rides a year traveling tens of thousands of miles in the two "Moraine Door-to-Door" paratransit vans leased from Pace. With income-challenged riders generously underwritten in part by successive grants from the Healthcare Foundation of Highland Park, seniors, disabled and economically challenged residents and their caregivers ride for a single one-way fee of \$4. The vans travel up to a 15-mile radius outside Township borders, primarily to medical appointments.

If you know of a resident who would benefit from participation in our transportation services, advise them to call the dedicated phone line at (847) 432-3000 48 hours in advance of need to be scheduled for prompt, courteous service by our own drivers, weekdays from 8:30am to 4:00pm. All seniors are also entitled to 10 taxi coupons per month, worth \$3 towards rides anywhere within or outside Moraine Township, except to airports.

Moraine is part of the Lake County Coordinated Transportation Services Committee/LCCTSC, a group working to bring 24/7 reliable public paratransit to Lake County. ■

Citizen Grant Advisors Study Proposals Annual February 1 Deadline Provides Multiple Applications

As we go to press, the hard-working Citizen Grant Advisory Committee is busy studying detailed proposals and budgets from 25 nonprofit organizations seeking public support for 29 programs on behalf of our residents. Grant proposals have been due at the Township on February 1 since FY06-07, with volunteers appointed to the Grant Advisory Committee spending the next two months reading, researching, discussing and making allocation recommendations to the Board of Trustees. Typically, their report goes to the Board at a late March meeting, and is voted upon at that time or the next meeting.

This year's group is again led by Chair Harry Crane. Members are Judy Datz, Wendi Ezgur, Matt Ferrari, Beth Olderman, and newcomer Mark Gilhooley. They are joined by Trustee liaisons Bryna Gamson and Jackie Schechter. For detailed information about the process and who has been granted funds in the past, consult the Township's website. ■

Talkin' About:

- ▲ *Grant Proposals Studied*
- ▲ *Latino Advisors Monitor Needs*
- ▲ *Santullano Gift Drive Success*
- ▲ *HealthTalk: Pantry Nutrition*
- ▲ *AssessorTalk: Big Picture*
- ▲ *ClerkTalk: Local Elections April 5*
- ▲ *CommunityTalk: Green Things*
- ▲ *Spotlight on Volunteers*
- ▲ *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.

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
 This meeting is recorded for cablecasting.

~ Of Special Interest ~

Spotlight on Nonprofit Agencies

Agencies receiving Township grants
 discuss their services & community needs
 at meetings 4th Thursdays. Attend our
 regular meeting in person or watch us on
 Cable Channel 10
 Thursdays at 12:30 pm, Saturdays at 6:00 pm



Moraine Township Grant Application
 Deadline: February 1, 2012

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

Mari Barnes Super@morainetownship.org
 Ellen Gussin Clerk@morainetownship.org
 Patty Powers PPowers@lakecountyl.gov
 Dwayne Douglas TrusteeDouglas@morainetownship.org
 Bryna Gamson TrusteeGamson@morainetownship.org
 Margoth Moreno TrusteeMoreno@morainetownship.org
 Jackie Schechter TrusteeSchechter@morainetownship.org

<http://morainetownship.org>

SuperTalk: Mari Barnes



This issue of our newsletter highlights some of our activities over the past six months. It's exciting to see how much we're actually accomplishing, thanks to dedicated staff, Board and volunteers. I'd like to share a few of my thoughts in this area.

The strides we're making on becoming a nexus to achieve coordination of community-wide outreach efforts is a topic dear to my heart. Working towards a single effort in feeding the hungry and providing gifts to the needy, in order to focus community help and target it to where it's really needed has been gaining real cooperation.

In a related topic, while addressing hunger we must also address nutritional needs and its relationship to community health. The Township is so pleased to have a new Pantry Plants Garden partner this coming summer: our neighbors at the Lake County Health Department's local clinic in Highland Park. In conjunction with discussions with our Latino Advisory Committee, clinic staff visited our Food Pantry to learn more about what we are providing. That we also attempt to supplement dried goods with fresh produce grown in our Pantry Plants Garden Project intrigued their staff. In fact, the Health Department started its first garden last year in North Chicago. Having excellent success there, they began looking into finding a site in Highland Park - and voilà! Their philosophy is similar to ours in that we both want to have residents come help us grow healthy vegetables that they can then take home and cook.

The Township has had a successful garden (located at Woodridge Park) due to a group of dedicated volunteers including Sam Piro, Fern Anderson, Barry Scholnick, and an NSSD student group under Steve Leverick's direction. Many thanks to all of them, to the Park District of Highland Park for donated space, and Anton's for donations of young plants. New workers will be welcome come the Spring thaw... And we hope there will be a second garden site operating in Highwood.

Again looking at collaboration, I was pleased to help plan, organize and participate in *Options & Opportunities: Making Connections with Resource Providers Fair* initiated by State Senator Susan Garrett. Working together, along with other Township Supervisors, we were able to showcase the nature and breadth of human services available to our citizens. The Fair took place at Highland Park Country Club on November 15. Details were posted to our website on the news pages. Participants seemed highly pleased.

We've strengthened our ties to the Nuestro Center, a highly successful project of Family Service, providing programs, resources and information to our Latino neighbors. The Board voted a capital, one-time contribution of \$50,000 to assist with build-out expenses when they finalize their planned move to new quarters in Highwood. There, it is expected they will be able to expand their activities to address health issues and more concerning not only the young people but also families—seniors in particular—in the community. The former location was limited to serving residents of the old North Shore Estates apartments; the new Center will concentrate on the population whose children attend Oak Terrace School.

Speaking of donations to underwrite important community services, we look forward to the recommendations of our Citizen Grant Advisory Committee, currently hard at work on reading proposals for annual grants. At the same time, the Board has begun the process of adopting a

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CommunityTalk: Speaking of Green

Green Schoolyards Program

Moraine hosted a free, well-attended program in cooperation with the Highland Park Public Library and Districts 112 and 113 to inform and stimulate residents eager to literally change the local environmental landscape. Highland Park-reared environmental planner Sharon Danks and colleague Rachel Pringle presented *Creating & Sustaining Green Schoolyards* on October 14 at the Library. The northern California-based women are each a newly published author of cutting-edge books with ideas for community implementation of replacing asphalt play areas with creative natural elements that provide recreation, education and even nutrition while improving local ecology.

Recycling Bulky Polystyrene Packing Material

Lake County Board member Anne Flanigan Bassi and Moraine Township facilitated local efforts to reduce the problem of bulky polystyrene foam (known by its trademarked name Styrofoam) by enlisting Abt Electronics to provide a trailer to collect these items and more on October 23. Abt generously hauled them to their Glenview store's recycling facility. The Park District of Highland Park provided their parking lot at Hidden Creek AquaPark for drop-off. Although the Township, Park District, Abt and Bassi volunteers were prepared to repeat the event periodically, happily, the City of Highland Park has fulfilled an ambition to recycle bulky plastic foam; they have begun to provide a twice-weekly opportunity for residents to drop it off for recycling along with old electronics on Half Day Road just east of Route 41.

We deeply appreciate the collaboration of all of these groups to fulfill our mission of being a help in the community. Links to articles about both of these events can be found on our website starting at <http://morainetownship.org/news.html>.

Pantry Plants Garden Project

The Pantry Plants Garden Project was a big success again last Summer, and we have big plans to extend it this Spring.

SuperTalk...continued from page 2

new budget for FY11-12, which runs April 1-March 31. Consult our website to find meeting Agendas for more information.

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.

See it on Cable Channel 10, Thursdays at 12:30 pm & Saturdays at 6:00 pm

Our deliberations are conducted in public.

I am so pleased to report here that free transit fares to seniors irrespective of financial means is a thing of the past: Governor Quinn finally signed the measure to rescind it in February. The new law restores the old system of half-fares for all seniors; Circuit Breaker qualification will be used as a means test for those who actually need free fares. The RTA has up to six months to implement the new system, so in the meantime, those who have the "smart card" pass should continue to use it, and watch their mail for instructions under the new law.

Our best to all of you in the new year. Stay warm! ■

CommunityTalk...concludes

First, a word of thanks to Project volunteer leaders Sam Piro and Fern Anderson. Lead Gardener Anderson has moved away, and so will be unavailable to us in the future. We wish her well and thank her for the huge contribution she made to organizing our garden at Woodridge Park! You can find action photos on our website.

We look forward to increasing beneficiary participation in maintaining the plots, as urged by our volunteer leaders and endorsed by our new partners from the Lake County Health Department's local clinic.

Looking ahead to next season, we hope to expand to a second site in Highland, making mutual participation convenient for all.

"Addressing nutritional needs of our local population by providing healthy fresh produce—along with community involvement—were motivating factors in my founding our Pantry Plants Garden Project in 2006," commented Supervisor Barnes.

Read related news from our Latino Advisory Committee, who passed along engaging graphics (posted on our website) promoting healthy eating habits and portion size, provided to them by clinic staff. ■

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 Patty Powers
Trustee Dwayne Douglas
Trustee Bryna G. Gamson
Trustee Margoth K. Moreno
Trustee Jackie B. Schechter

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



<http://morainetownship.org>

Meet the Staff: Grizell Toledo, Receptionist and Van Scheduler

Grizell Toledo joined our staff in the midst of our remodeling last year, taking over Paula Peddle's role as receptionist and van scheduler. Like Paula, she also brought another skill: bilingual communication. In fact, Grizell is fluent in English, Spanish, Italian and Portuguese! And before the end of 2010, Grizell also became a first-time mother.



Unlike the confusing arrangement before remodeling, our new reception area sports a clearly-identifiable waiting area, where every visitor is greeted by Grizell.

A resident of Highwood, she serves on that community's Latino Committee, and often acts as a liaison to the Township's Latino Advisory Committee. She also likes to go dancing with her husband.

"What I like about the job is the variety of people I'm able to help," says Grizell. "Each individual who steps into the office has different needs, and I try to accommodate them as best I can."

Whether it's coordinating van driver schedules for pickup and delivery of our passengers in Moraine Door-to-Door paratransit; sorting the mail; assisting with Food Pantry preparation and distribution; taking a resident's photo for an RTA pass; helping to make up bilingual flyers; answering the phone and greeting visitors, Grizell keeps very busy during the day!

"I enjoy watching people as they step out of the office, knowing that I have helped in some way," she adds.

We're pleased to introduce you to team member Grizell Toledo. ■

Latino Advisory Committee Update

Volunteer members of the Moraine Township Latino Advisory Committee have been actively meeting over the past year, and their feedback has been very productive on behalf of our constituents.

One goal of the Board in establishing an advisory committee was to improve two-way communication between the Township and residents we serve. Members of the Latino Advisory are ombudsmen to our Spanish-speaking neighbors, seeking to open channels of communication and bringing to the Board's attention gaps in information or services that might be improved through Township intervention. The Board also wishes to foster further grassroots government participation by establishing a welcoming atmosphere.

Members have volunteered to assist at emergencies requiring bilingual speakers. Some are also serving on other committees tied to the Latino community, thus networking and adding informed insight. Among achievements this year to increase awareness and comfort with Moraine Township was their distribution of a Spanish-language translation (accomplished by staff member Grizell Toledo) of the Township's basic handout describing services; the handout is also put into client Food Pantry bags as appropriate. Advisors also worked to encourage resident Latino turnout at the Highwood Great Pumpkin Fest, with satisfying results; Supervisor Barnes arranged for a table for carving pumpkins and others volunteered at the event. Our Food Pantry was also a continuing topic of conversation, and outreach efforts to improve nutritional habits in the community have begun.

Chair Paul Martinez reported at the Board meeting of December 16 (Minutes are online) that the advisors met with personnel from the Lake County Health Department's Highland Park clinic. Their eagerness to work with residents to improve overall eating habits and health dovetails neatly with the Supervisor's enthusiasm for the Pantry Plants Garden Project, and projects undertaken at Family Service's Nuestro Center. Plans are being made to further educate residents on applying healthy food portions to the Latino diet in particular. Diabetes and obesity prevention, and the importance of exercising for health benefits, were presented as well. Synergy is at work as the various agencies coordinate and collaborate on this topic; Moraine will be cooperating to promote resident health.

At their January meeting, financial literacy challenges within the Latino community were discussed. As follow-up, plans are underway to facilitate a program to educate interested residents in financial literacy, and to explore ways to coordinate volunteers for tax return preparation assistance.

In addition to Paul Martinez, members of the Latino Advisory Committee appointed by the Supervisor include Rosemary Espinosa, Michelle Flores, and Wendy Lerrick. Among others actively attending meetings are Gregorio Resendiz (from Family Service) and Lori Flores Weisskopf. Board liaisons are Trustees Dwayne Douglas and Margoth Moreno.

Interested members of the community are welcome to apply. Guidelines and an application appear on our website. Contact Supervisor Mari Barnes for further information. ■

Please! Check with the Township

before bringing in a donation of food. Our clients have varying needs, not always in line with what is donated. Clothing and miscellaneous items are no longer accepted, since there are nearby options like the ORT store right across the street from us. Call us at (847) 432-3240. Thanks!



ClerkTalk: Ellen Gussin Plan Ahead for April 5 Election

The April 5 Consolidated Election should draw a large voter turnout from those of us wanting to exercise our civic responsibility. The City of Highland Park will elect a new Mayor as well as three new members for City Council seats. Both School Districts 113 and 112 will elect new School Board members. The Park District of Highland Park will be electing new members. The City of Highwood will be electing a Treasurer and four

Aldermen, and there are candidates for College of Lake County Board and for Trustees of the Regional Board of Schools. In addition, there will be a tax referendum from District 113 on the ballot. (Go to their website at <http://dist113.org> for information.)

Attend the League of Women Voters' *Meet, Hear and Question the Candidates* event on March 6, from 12:30-5:30pm, at the Highland Park Country Club. Making up your mind may be difficult, but the process of voting has never been easier, nor with as many options.

Voter Services Thrive in Moraine Township

Early Voting and Voting by Mail continue to be popular options for Moraine Township residents. Because of the great number of voters casting their vote prior to Election Day, the number of polling sites has been reduced, yielding greater efficiency and cost savings. A complete Election Calendar will be available at <http://morainetownship.org> and linking to the Clerk page, or at <http://lakecountyiil.gov/CountyClerk/Elections/default.htm>. Locations for Early Voting for each of the four municipalities in Moraine Township are also noted on the Township's website via Clerk page.

Early Voting Begins 22 Days Before Election Day

Early voting is offered to any registered voter and begins 22 days before Election Day. Early voters are required to present to voting officials a valid Illinois driver's license, an Illinois identification card issued by the Secretary of State, or any other valid government-issued identification document containing their photograph and name. In Moraine Township, Early Voting takes place at the Lake County North Shore Health Center at 1840 Green Bay Road in Highland Park. It will begin on March 14 and end on March 31 for the April 5, 2011 Consolidated Election.

Voting By Mail - And NEW "Permanent" Vote By Mail

Illinois law now permits any registered voter to receive a ballot by mail. One-time requests for a ballot can be made via a form provided online at the County Clerk's website; by email at VotingByMail@lakecountyiil.gov; or by calling (847) 377-2406. Voting by mail will begin on March 11 for the April 5, 2011 Consolidated Election.

For voters who prefer to vote from home, the Lake County Clerk's office offers a new permanent voting by mail program. I've used it myself and find it extraordinarily easy and helpful. Enrollment forms are available online at the County Clerk's website. Permanent voting by mail helps reduce printing costs. As required by state law, voting by mail requests cannot be processed until 40 days prior to each Election Day. Ballots cannot be mailed any later than the Thursday before an election. Please note: voters requesting a ballot prior to Election Day are not entitled to cast a ballot on Election Day.

Snowbird Program

Voters who travel seasonally can enroll in the Snowbird Program and specify elections and an alternate address to which a ballot should be mailed. Those enrolled will automatically receive a ballot by mail as specified.

Student Program

The Temporarily Absent Student Program is available to students away at school. A student must be a registered voter in order to enroll in the program. Use the County's fillable online enrollment form which can be printed, signed and mailed to the County. Enrollment is valid for two years and each summer the County office confirms the student address for the coming year away at school.

Voter Registration

Voter Registration is available Monday through Friday at the Moraine Township Office during regular business hours of 8:30am to 4:30pm. 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.

Voter Registration ends on March 8 in order to be eligible to vote in the April 5 Election.

Questions and Concerns

As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to email me at clerk@morainetownship.org or call me at (847) 432-3240. ■

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

As the Northwest Territory was opened up in the 19th Century, surveyors were sent to lay out counties, divided into townships, as a means of noting natural features, and establishing property boundaries. To this day, real estate legally bears historic descriptions such as Moraine's township number (43 North), subdivided by a standard 6 square-mile grid overlay (having internal Sections, numbered 1-36), divided into acreage within them (640 acres per Section). Interestingly, to stick to this grid despite irregularities in nature, in fact, some of our Sections are "in the lake."

Early settlers worked together to solve community problems like caring for the sick and needy, and building roads and schools. Ultimately, to share the financial burden fairly, each according to his ability to contribute, a system of property assessment was established. Over time, many township functions were absorbed by growing municipalities, but in many areas of Illinois, townships still directly provide human services, road maintenance and even recreation programs.

In Moraine Township, property is appraised 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 Moraine Assessor calculates the value of the property; the Lake County Assessor applies an equalizer; and the County collects the taxes on behalf of all regional taxing bodies, including relevant city/city services, schools, Lake County operations and entities like Moraine Township government itself.

AssessorTalk: Patty Powers



Having completed my first year of Township Assessor, I would like to say what a rewarding experience it has been. I have attended many meetings throughout the year both at the Township and County levels and have met many interesting people. I am grateful to all who have shared their knowledge and ideas with me. The transition to Assessor from Deputy Assessor went smoothly, mainly because of my staff here in the office. Each staff member has completed their C.I.A.O. (Certified Illinois Assessing Officer) designation, and I'm very proud to report the positive feed back from taxpayers on how helpful and knowledgeable the office staff has been. They are happy to help during the appeal period and throughout the year with questions about exemptions, property record cards, the assessing process, etc.

As many of you know, the job of the Assessor is not to tax but to apportion the tax burden fairly and equitably throughout the Township. We have heard over and over again "I don't mind paying my taxes as long as I'm just paying my fair share." Assessors realize how personal property taxes are, and we do our best with the actual sales data we have, to ensure fair and equitable assessments. To make sure you are being assessed correctly, I again encourage you to review your own property record card to check for accuracy.

This past year, we have seen fewer new homes being constructed; however we are still receiving many permits for upgrades and additions. In recent years, the Township has had 143 "unqualified" sales (any sale that is not an arm's length transaction, such as foreclosures, short sales, sale between related individuals, court ordered sale, auction sale): in 2008 - 44, in 2009 - 53 and known to date for 2010 - 46. The majority of the 143 sales were foreclosures.

2011 is our general reassessment year, which means we will be looking at changes to assessments. The only change the majority of homeowners saw in 2008, 2009 and 2010 was the equalization factor applied at the County level. We may see land value changes, neighborhood boundary changes, and other factors that affect total assessments.

To determine values for 2011, we must still follow the law that states we use the three previous years of sales, which means we will be looking at sales that occurred in 2008, 2009 and 2010. Though you won't receive your assessment notice until August or September of 2011, our books are based on sales that have occurred prior to January 1st of 2011.

Here's a reminder for Township residents celebrating their 65th birthday this year: apply for the Senior Exemptions you may qualify for. These include a Senior Homestead Exemption in the amount of \$4,000 deducted from the equalized assessment valuation for all seniors. For those who further qualify for the Senior Freeze Homestead Exemption, which is based on a total household income of \$55,000 or less, an exemption freezes your assessment not your taxes. The Senior Freeze Homestead Exemption must be renewed annually. To qualify for any of these exemptions, you must have lived on the property which is your principal residence on or before January 1 of the tax year, and have reached age 65 during the tax year; otherwise, the value may be prorated for the portion of the year that it was owner-occupied by a senior citizen.

You can apply for exemptions at the Township Assessor's Office at 777 Central, Highland Park. For more detailed information, consult our website, stop in and talk to us or phone (847) 432-2100. ■

Food Pantry News

Residents often step forward when solicited during formal food drives like that from the Postal Workers in Spring, or at holiday times during December. In between, we often find generous donations of foodstuffs or funds to help us help our neighbors. As a member of the Northern Illinois Food Bank, the Township also regularly purchases meats and supplementary foods. The Food Pantry is open twice weekly on Tuesdays and Thursdays, when regular users know to come pick up bags made up for them by Township staff and volunteers. At times of emergencies, of course, food can be and is made available for the needy, but clients know to plan ahead for their shopping days at our office. You will find complete information and a shopping wish list on our website by clicking in the left column for "Food Pantry." We urge motivated residents to donate only food they would consume themselves: unexpired canned and boxed goods. And consider volunteering! ■



Join volunteers like Ann Siegel and Sharon Eisendrath and Barry Scholnick who help keep order in the Food Pantry and help prepare weekly bags for distribution

Donors to Community Chest

Moraine is pleased to recognize the following for their generous donations, totalling over \$7585, to our Community Chest in 2010:

- Immaculate Conception Church / Ann Baum Charitable Fund
- Highland Park Presbyterian Church
- Italian Women's Prosperity Club
- Highland Park Woman's Club
- Lincoln School Donations /From Holiday food drive & cash donations
- Lakeside Congregation for Reform Judaism /
from Collection at Southeast Lake County Clergy Assoc Interfaith Thanksgiving Service
- Kiwanis Club of Highland Park/Highwood
- Cub Scouts Pack No. 34
- Lakeland Life Member Club
- Cub Scouts Pack No. 46
- & 16 individuals who gave donations to the Food Pantry, including those made in honor of Barbara Herst's 80th Birthday in August.
- Gifts cards were also donated, instead of cash, by American Legion Post No. 145 and other various groups and individuals. And the Lions Club assisted a client with obtaining hearing aids.

Thank you, everyone! ■

Talk About Help

- The Township website has links to many helpful resources, provided by agencies we support with grants, and links to county, state and federal program information.
- We suggest that every resident—particularly elderly or those who live alone—prepare a clearly written list of whom they want called if there is an emergency. Put it on the refrigerator in a prominent spot and file a copy with the Township and local police department.
- Obtain smoke and carbon monoxide detectors via Moraine Township. We pay for First Alert for qualifying residents. Contact GA/EA Manager Paula Peddle.
- Make use of our transportation options: Moraine provides seniors with 10 taxi coupons per month, worth \$3 each off of taxi rides anywhere except airport as well as the Moraine Door-to-Door paratransit van rides for \$4 each way. See our article on page 1 for details on qualifications. Call our dedicated Van line at (847) 432-3000 48 hours ahead to reserve a seat.
- Enroll for an RTA pass at the Township Office. No charge for residents. \$5 fee for non-residents. We take your photo and submit your application to the RTA. Plan ahead for use. Persons 65 and older, disabled and income-qualified under Circuit Breaker standards may apply for an RTA reduced or free fare pass.
- Our General Assistance Manager Paula Peddle is always happy to provide a guiding hand into information about human service assistance. Do not hesitate to inquire when life circumstances change and you aren't sure where to go for help.
- Make use of our Food Pantry. We're here to help residents through hard times.
- Note Assessor's column for more tips. ■

Santa & Santullano: Community Shares

Once again, this past Christmas season, community members stepped up to help those less fortunate. The Township has worked hard over the last several years to encourage centralizing various overlapping gift drives, resulting in Moraine's assuming responsibility for the Phyllis Santullano Holiday Drive.

Working with lists solicited from District 112 and 113 social workers, and culling to coordinate those names, the Township strives to arrange for all needy families and individuals in our area to be provided with gifts for the children, and food appropriate to the festive season. Thank you, one and all, who generously shopped and helped us distribute items to grateful recipients, especially in this harsh economic time. ■

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
- Grant Advisory Committee
- Latino Advisory Committee
- Pantry Plants Garden Project
- Senior Services
- Transportation
- Township History Project



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

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

Are you a history buff?

Want to work with cemetery records or old Township archives and minutes? Did you know that there is not even a simple list of all Township officials with names and terms of office? Have you been reading about our efforts to document who's buried in Township cemeteries? We know a lot about the Daggitt family, for instance, but there are other historically interesting first settlers also buried there, and in Mooney's Cemetery.

We'd like to form an informal group to research records, eventually publishing it online. If you agree that it's fun to work with old documents, contact the Township and we'll start a committee. ■

Recent Activities by Moraine Township: Pumpkin Fest, 'Options & Opportunities' Fair, Foam Recycling



Above: Supervisor Barnes poses with Nuestro Center participant and leaders Elsi Rodriguez and Jose Hernandez; with Paula Peddle and Assessor Patty Powers at Resource Fair; and Bassi volunteer Cindy Wolfson at recycling event. See inside for details.