



REPORT

From the Supervisor – Kathy Penner



The Wheeling Township mission – **‘Neighbors Helping Neighbors’** – is fulfilled on a yearly basis through an abundance of information, resources, programs and services available to residents. Our robust and plentiful **Food Pantry** successfully serves clients through its ‘client choice’ shopping model, and, at this time of year, hundreds of **LIHEAP** (Low Income Home Energy Program) and **Medicare Part D** appointments are being offered to help residents with their heating bills and 2022 drug plans. **Transportation**, our largest and most visible service, is the lifeblood for many of our seniors and persons with disabilities who strive to remain independent. Some services continue to be offered in slightly different ways than in previous years, but we are dedicated to serving all of our residents equally.

This past year, hundreds of residents made a difference to their neighbors by giving back through monetary and food donations. I cannot emphasize enough just how incredibly generous the residents of Wheeling Township are. The amount of support we continue to receive so that other residents don’t go without is truly unbelievable. Thank you! Your compassion toward your neighbors is inspiring. From Food Pantry donations, to produce from your gardens, we are eternally grateful!

For residents who might like to help others during the Holiday Season, we have several fun opportunities this year: **the Thanksgiving Basket Program** and **the Adopt-A-Family Christmas Program**. Each of these programs offers residents different methods of giving and donating. Whether buying and wrapping gifts for a family in need or filling a basket to the brim with Thanksgiving goodies, the end result is the same: generosity. I look forward to coming into the Township building this Holiday Season – our meeting room will be overflowing with donated baskets of food and then with wrapped presents for families in need. Be sure to read page 4, which will provide you with all the details on how you can participate in those specific programs. For those residents wishing to make a difference to service members stationed worldwide, please consider making a donation as part of our annual **Operation Support Our Troops Fundraiser** (*info located on page 5*).

All of us at Wheeling Township are indebted to you – our residents who remain steadfastly focused on helping their neighbors in need every year. We are grateful to those who show compassion, grace, and understanding, and we hope you will take the time to get involved with some of our Holiday programs.

From all of us at Wheeling Township — we wish you and your family a very safe, healthy and happy Holiday Season.



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FROM THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE... Jerry Sadler

2021 COOK COUNTY ASSESSOR APPEALS

2021 Wheeling Township property assessments can be appealed with the Cook County Assessor. The Assessor's office sets a 30-day appeal period annually for each township in Cook County. Appeal dates are posted on the Assessor's website www.cookcountyassessor.com. To check dates, click the Appeals tab and scroll to Calendar and Deadlines.

Our office can provide guidance and assistance for the appeal process. An appeal can be filed online (the preferred method) or a hard copy can be completed in our office.

To obtain comparables and instructions for an online appeal, email taxinfo@wheelingtowship.com. Please include the PIN in the subject line and name and address in the body of the email. We will provide you with comparables and instructions for the electronic appeal at www.cookcountyassessor.com.

If you are unable to file an online appeal, you may complete a hard copy appeal form and we will enter it electronically on your behalf. Residential appeal forms are available in our office, in the red info box located at the rear entrance of the Township building, and on the Assessor's website www.cookcountyassessor.com. Click All Forms and Tools, Forms, and search for Residential Property Appeal Form.

Please leave the signed, completed form in the black drop box near the rear entrance under the portico. We will research comparables and submit the appeal to Cook County Assessor. A decision letter from Cook County Assessor will be mailed to you a few months after the closing date.

If the Assessed Value is reduced, it will be reflected on the 2021 Second Installment Property Tax Bill Payable in 2022.

2021 EXEMPTIONS AUTOMATICALLY RENEW

House Bill 3289 extends the auto-renewal of most exemptions for the 2021 tax year. Under the new law homeowners who received the Senior, Senior Freeze, Persons with Disabilities, and Veterans with Disabilities exemptions on the 2020 tax bill will not need to apply next year. The exemptions will renew automatically, and will be reflected on the Second Installment Bill in July of 2022.

Seniors (born in 1956) and those who are newly qualified for the Senior Freeze, Disabled Veterans and Disabled Persons must apply for the exemption in 2022. Veterans with a change in disability will need to reapply with an updated VA letter. For further information and to apply online go to cookcountyassessor.com.

2021 AUTO-RENEW EXEMPTIONS

- Homeowner, Senior (annual auto-renew)
- Senior Freeze (2021 auto-renew)
- Persons with Disabilities (2021 auto-renew)
- Veterans with Disabilities (2021 auto-renew)



2020 SECOND INSTALLMENT TAX BILL

2020 Second Installment Tax Bills were mailed at the end of August and were due October 1st, 2021. Please review carefully as all exemptions are deducted from the Second Installment. If an exemption is missing from the bill you may apply for a Certificate of Error at www.cookcountyassessor.com to obtain a refund.

2021 FIRST INSTALLMENT TAX BILL

2021 Property Tax Bills will be mailed in early 2022. The first installment is 55% of total prior year taxes paid.

Payments can be made by mail, in person at any Chase Bank, or on the Treasurer's website www.cookcountytreasurer.com. No fee is applied if paid from a bank account.

Please note the Post Office does not forward property tax bills to a winter address.

MOST PROPERTY TAX ISSUES CAN BE RESOLVED BY PHONE OR EMAIL. PLEASE CONTACT US AT:

847-259-1515 or TAXINFO@WHEELINGTOWNSHIP.COM

To better assist you, please have the PIN (Property Index Number) available. The number can be found at the top of the tax bill.

FROM THE CLERK'S OFFICE... Joanna Gauza

2022 ELECTIONS AND VOTER REGISTRATION

As we enter the last part of 2021, 2022 will begin another election season. The Illinois legislature recently changed the primary date from March 15, 2022 to June 28, 2022. The change was needed because the census data for re-districting was just released. As a result, the primary election will be later, but the General Election will still be on November 8, 2022.

These elections will be for Governor, the State Legislature members, and Congress. If you want to vote in these 2022 elections and avoid the last minute rush, now is a good time to make sure you are registered.

DO YOU NEED TO REGISTER TO VOTE? If you are not registered, have just moved into the Township, have moved to another residence in the Township, or changed your name, you need to register to be able to vote in the next elections. You can register in the following ways.

1. Register to Vote at Wheeling Township. You'll need two forms of identification (one showing your current address), to be a citizen of the United States, be 18 years of age or older by the primary election date of June 28, 2022, and have lived in the Township for at least 30 days before the election. For naturalized citizens, you must prove the date of your naturalization.

2. Register Online. If you have an Illinois driver's license or Illinois state ID, you may register online at cookcountyclerk.com/agency/register-vote. If you do not have a driver's license or state ID, go to the same website and complete the form online, print, sign and mail it to the address on the application. If you register by mail, you must bring a valid state issued picture ID when you vote for the first time.

WHEELING TOWNSHIP ROAD MANAGEMENT

WINTER TRAVELING TIPS & REMINDERS

Winter, while beautiful, can be treacherous for drivers. Snow is nice to look at through your windows, but driving on roads that haven't been plowed or salted can be challenging.

This year, before the cold weather and snow arrives, if you have a roadside mailbox, check its condition, as well as the support post. You want to ensure that it is stable and doesn't lean into the road. Additionally, you are encouraged to inspect and clear your driveway culvert, so that any water can still flow. Once these simple tasks are completed in the fall you'll be able to enjoy the beauty of winter.

SEASONAL WINTER ROAD USE GUIDELINES

We all know that snow plows must have full access to road surfaces in order to operate safely, to remove the snow, and to apply critical pavement deicers. Your cooperation in keeping the roadways free of parked vehicles, debris, and garbage/recycling bins is vital, not only for your own safety, but also for allowing safe passage of Fire and Emergency equipment, school buses, senior/disabled buses, and postal/delivery vehicles, to name a few. Adhering to these simple rules can help make winter less of a burden on all of us.

SOME TIPS TO REMEMBER:

1. Observe local snow parking bans and don't leave vehicles on a street before or during a snowfall event. Your car may be ticketed and/or towed if it restricts the snowplow driver's ability to plow.



All residents are encouraged to keep parked vehicles off the road during snow events.

2. Please remember to place your garbage and recycle bins at the end of your driveway, but not out in the street. They may get hit and damaged by the snowplow or other vehicles.

3. As a reminder, it's illegal to plow, shovel, or direct snow from a snow blower into a public roadway. This could cause an unnecessary hazard and could subject you to tickets and fines.

4. Illinois law requires that you yield the right-of-way to all Emergency vehicles, which includes snowplow trucks.

5. Lastly, make sure any public fire hydrant near your house is accessible and visible. It could save your life!

Planning ahead for winter can really save time and pay dividends... be prepared. Know the rules, and remember to do your part in making your community a safer place to drive during the winter season. Following these common-sense guidelines will make life easier for both you AND the snowplows trying to get through.

ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS NOW TAKING APPLICATIONS

Residents can now apply for **LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program)** for the 2021-22 winter season. It is recommended that senior citizens & those receiving Social Security Disability or SSI benefits apply in the fall but applications will be open to everyone through May 2022, or until funding exhausts.

When applying, applicants will choose which energy program will best help their family.

Direct Vendor Payment (DVP) is designed to assist income-eligible households with energy services, in the form of a one-time benefit payment to the utility companies that is applied directly to the household's energy bills. The amount of the payment is determined by income, household size, and fuel type. Reconnection Assistance is available for imminent disconnect or disconnected households.

Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP) provides a monthly benefit payment to the utility company, based on household utility usage and monthly income. The qualifying account(s) are enrolled in utility budget billing and customers are required to pay a reduced amount on their utility bills each month to get the benefit payments. PIPP participants who make their utility payments on time will receive credits towards their outstanding balance. Disconnected households are not eligible.

Furnace Assistance (Renters are not eligible to apply) is designed to restore the home's heating system back to a safe and effective operation. Assistance is only available to applicants whose heating systems are not

operational or have been red-tagged by their utility company and are eligible to receive a LIHEAP benefit. The services are free of charge for income qualifying households.

Income Guidelines for the 2021-22 Season are as follows:

Household Size	Gross Income for 30 days Prior to Application Date
1	\$2,147
2	\$2,903
3	\$3,660
4	\$4,417
5	\$5,173
6	\$5,930
7	\$6,590
8	\$6,737

Those interested in applying must provide thorough documentation, including: a current photo ID, Social Security cards for everyone living in the household, current utility bills, and all sources of household income for the last 30 days. Additional documentation may be requested. To make an appointment to apply, please call the General Assistance Department at 847-259-7730.

Make a Difference this Holiday Season!

The holiday season will soon be upon us. A wonderful way to experience the joy of the season is to share it with someone else! Wheeling Township is seeking donations for both the Thanksgiving and Adopt-A-Family for Christmas Programs.

Thanksgiving Baskets: Provide a Thanksgiving meal with traditional fixings for a family from our food pantry. A list of items and drop off information will be provided after you sign up.

Adopt-A-Family for Christmas: Provide gifts to a low-income family from our community based on a "Wish List" with clothing and toy suggestions. Donors who commit to adopting a family are asked to spend between \$50 and \$100 per person. Family sizes vary and are chosen by the donor. Detailed instructions will be provided after sign up which assist in making this large program run smoothly.

To participate in either program, please follow these instructions:

1. Complete the form below.
2. Email it to: **GA@wheelingtowship.com** OR fax it to: 847-259-1570 OR Mail it to: Wheeling Township AFP, 1616 N. Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60004 **by November 12th.**
3. Receive your confirmation with instructions.
4. Drop off your basket or gift bundle on the assigned date.
5. Enjoy your holiday knowing that you brought smiles & seasonal spirit to a needy family!

Name: _____

Company _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Fax _____

E-mail _____

Number of Thanksgiving Baskets you will provide _____

Size of Family you wish to Adopt for Christmas _____



SENIOR AND DISABILITY NEWS

Call 847-259-7730 to register for any of the Programs & Services offered through Wheeling Township.

Home Delivered Meals:

Do You Know Someone Who Might Benefit?

Are you – or someone you know – finding it challenging to cook for yourself? Wheeling Township offers a reliable and reasonably priced home-delivered hot meal program (sometimes referred to as 'Meals on Wheels') for residents of the Township who meet eligibility requirements.



How does the program work?

A hot, nutritious meal is delivered at mid-day, Monday through Friday, right to the door of the recipient by a friendly volunteer. Applicants must agree to receive meals five days a week for at least a month.

Cost of the meals?

Wheeling Township's program is a self-pay program: The hot meal is \$6.50 per day. A supplementary cold meal (which is delivered at the same time) is available for an additional \$4.45 per day. Bills are mailed monthly for the meals received.

Who is eligible?

- Must be a senior over 60 or permanently disabled individual over 18
- Must reside within Wheeling Township
- Must be homebound and no longer driving
- Must not have a caregiver

Participation in the program is subject to availability on a route. As there are three types of meals available (Heart-Healthy, Carbohydrate-Controlled and Regular), a medical note for meal type is required from a doctor.

How do I participate?

Being able to reliably obtain, consume and metabolize nutritious foods is essential to your well-being. If you have concerns about your ability to shop or cook for yourself (or know someone who might need help), reach out to Anne Camarano, Wheeling Township's Home Delivered Meal Coordinator: 847-259-7730, ext 19.

DRIVER SAFETY

AARP Real Possibilities

AARP – SMART DRIVER COURSE

Tune up Your Driving Skills

The AARP Smart Driver Course is designed to help you **tune up** your driving skills, **learn** about normal age-related physical changes and how to **adjust** your driving to compensate, and **reduce** your chances of receiving a traffic violation or getting into an accident. Upon the completion of the two-session class, you will be issued a certificate, which may be submitted to your automobile insurance company for a possible discount.

Cost: \$20 for AARP members and \$25 for non-AARP members. These classes will be held in-person at the Wheeling Township offices; class size will be strictly limited because of social distancing. To register, call 847-259-7730.

Class time is 5 p.m. - 9 p.m. on the following dates:

- Monday, February 7 & Wednesday, February 9, 2022
- Monday, March 7 & Wednesday, March 9, 2022

Medicare can be complicated... SHIP Can Help You!

If you are enrolled in Medicare, are close to enrolling in Medicare, or have health insurance questions, Wheeling Township's SHIP Counselors may be able to help you. Our dedicated and knowledgeable volunteers are extensively trained by the **Illinois Department On Aging** to assist Medicare participants with understanding their benefit coverage, helping with filing medical bills and claims, explaining Medicare Supplemental and Part D Insurance, and providing resolution support for problems. Call the Township to make an appointment! All appointments continue to be virtual or by phone only. No in-person appointments at this time.



SHIP counselors can also assist those seniors who qualify for both **Medicare and full benefit Medicaid with their enrollment in the Medicare-Medicaid Alignment Initiative, also known as MMAI**. With this program you may choose to enroll in a health plan and receive all of your benefits through one MMAI health plan. If you feel you might qualify for MMAI, make an appointment with our SHIP Coordinator at 847-259-7730.



Help Support Our Troops... It's our Annual Donation Drive!

In cooperation with Operation Support Our Troops, America Inc., Wheeling Township will be holding its annual Donation Drive to support Military personnel this fall, although it'll be a little different again this year: due to COVID-19, we are only accepting financial donations and cards/letters/pictures. No food or personal items this year. If you have questions, please contact Lynndah Lahey at 847-259-7730, ext 21.

How to support our Troops:

- **Make a monetary donation:** Donations help to cover the cost of postage (each care package costs OSOT approximately \$25 to ship). Make checks payable to Operation Support our Troops – America, Inc. Please note that OSOT is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization, meaning your donation is tax deductible.
- **Write letters of encouragement:** The most coveted items in the care packages are letters of encouragement or drawings from school kids. **NO HOLIDAY CARDS**, please! Only cards, letters or pictures that can be used throughout the year are requested. Whether a scribbled drawing from a pre-schooler or a heartfelt letter, each message is precious and appreciated. **Address your letter or card to: "Dear Military Person."** Please do NOT seal any letters or cards.

Checks and cards/letters can be mailed to (or dropped off) at Wheeling Township, 1616 N. Arlington Heights Rd., Arlington Heights, 60004 from now through the end of November (9:00am - 4:30pm). **Thank you in advance for supporting our Troops!**

Wheeling Township Report, Inc.

1616 N. Arlington Heights Road
Arlington Heights, IL 60004
847-259-7730

www.wheelingtowship.com

Hours: 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. weekdays

Township Board Meetings: 8:00 p.m.
on the fourth Tuesday of each month

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WHEELING TOWNSHIP ELECTED OFFICIALS



Kathy Penner
SUPERVISOR



Jerry Sadler
ASSESSOR



Joanna Gauza
TOWN CLERK



Patricia Kozicki
TRUSTEE



Jeanne Hamilton
TRUSTEE



Joe Murglin
TRUSTEE



Darrel Talken
TRUSTEE

FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS NEEDED...

Looking for a way to help? Please consider purchasing some of these needed items on your next trip to the grocery store:

- Beans
 - Canned White Northern Beans
 - Canned White Cannellini Beans
- Potatoes
 - Instant Mashed Potato
 - Flavored Instant Potato Pouches
 - Flavored Potato Boxes (Scalloped, Creamy Cheese)
- Snacks
 - Protein Snack Bars
 - Crackers
- Soup
 - Cream of Mushroom
 - Cream of Chicken
- Vegetables
 - Canned Carrots
 - Canned Peas
- Paper Goods
 - Paper Towels



If you are unable to shop and would prefer to make a monetary donation, checks should be made payable to "Wheeling Township Emergency Fund, Inc.," which is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization.

WHEELING TOWNSHIP TRANSPORTATION

...So much more than just a ride!



Looking for safe and affordable transportation? If you are over 60 (or 18+ and permanently disabled), Wheeling Township's outstanding transportation service may be the perfect solution for your needs. Buses are sanitized and social distancing is being used.

When is service available? Rides are available for Township residents to a wide variety of locations within the Township, Monday – Friday, 9:00 am - 3:30 pm. **Call as soon as possible to reserve your ride, as buses fill up quickly** (you may call up to 30 days in advance for medical appointments).

How much? \$2 each way.

How do I sign up? Call the transportation department with questions – or for an application. Applications can also be found online at wheelingtowship.com.

Call today for more information: 847-259-7743.