



MAINELY NEWS



KAREN J. DIMOND
Supervisor

Spring 2025

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 1850



Karen's Column

In this, my last column, I want to say that it has been an honor and a pleasure to serve as your Township Supervisor during the past four years. It gave me an opportunity to learn more about our township, work with a great staff, and meet many of you whom I otherwise would not have known. Also, in this column, I would like to remind you of some of the continuing and new services offered by Maine Township and to add a few words about our efforts to keep taxes low. Please read to make sure you are taking advantage of all the Township has to offer:

MaineStay

This year, our MaineStay Department celebrated its 50th anniversary of providing high-quality mental health services and programs for at-risk youth. During the past few years, Mainestay has expanded to provide sessions at five different locations, including at four local schools. This year MaineStay also began 11 new programs for children and families.

Food Pantry

Our food pantry ensures that all Maine Township residents have access to plenty of fresh, nutritious and healthy food. This year the Food Pantry has greatly expanded the amount of food it takes in and the number of families it serves. It now has 800 -1000 family visits to the pantry per month, and it prepares bags of food every week for School District 63 children who may be food insecure over the weekend.

Transportation Program

New this year is our Lift Van ("Van Go"), which provides seniors and disabled residents with free rides to medical appointments and to some Mainstreamer events. Call for a ride if you need one: (847) 297-2510.

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Maine Township Food Pantry



Our food pantry plays a vital role in supporting individuals and families in need, and its success relies heavily on the dedication of volunteers who help distribute food, organize donations, and ensure that no one in the community goes hungry.

right: With the help of our Highway Department and OEM team, thousands of dollars' worth of food donated by the Salvation Army was picked up and carefully sorted. A huge thank you to all who took part in this effort, as it will make a meaningful impact on our pantry clients.



left: As part of their Food Check-Out Day initiative, the Cook County Farm Bureau makes a thoughtful and generous donation to our Food Pantry. Food Pantry Director Michael Pitzafferro (back right) and Food Pantry Assistant Sally Bowman (second from right) graciously accept the donation.

Holi Celebration



This event, sponsored by Care & Cure and Township Trustee Asif Malik, is a Hindu festival celebrated as the Festival of Colors. The tradition of throwing colors during Holi is a joyful and vibrant way of celebrating. Holi also celebrates the arrival of spring and the end of the winter season.

MaineStreamers

This past year, for the first time, our Senior Department provided free vision and hearing tests and free informative lectures. And, as in the past, they organized fitness classes and combatted isolation by offering innumerable programs for seniors throughout the year.

General Assistance

General Assistance supports the health of residents by signing them up for many benefits such as the LIHEAP program which helps them pay their utility bills. Last year, I raised the monthly general assistance benefit for qualifying residents, which had not been raised in 6 years.

Office of Emergency Management

The goal of this office is to create a disaster-resistant community. The office issues weather alerts, works with other first responders during a crisis, and enlists volunteers and part-time employees to help with traffic and crowd control at large events.

Recovery Connection

Recovery Connection continues to hold Friday night meetings for residents battling addiction problems, and it hosts sober golf, sober yoga, and a number of other events throughout the community to build sober fellowship, educate and save lives. This year we added a part-time staff member to assist in this work.

Code Enforcement

This Department enforces our Codes to maintain our community's appearance and property values. A couple of years ago, we placed our Code on-line, so you can easily find its provisions.

Maintenance Department

While this Department's primary function is to maintain our building, I have also imposed upon its members to help us host a trio of summer events – Paper Shredding, Electronics Recycling, and Dumpster Days - plus Holiday Lights Recycling in January. Their efforts have helped our residents clean house and recycle unneeded household materials.

Township Clerk Peter Gialamas - The Clerk's Office has continued to provide many services such as issuing passports and selling various types of licenses, but they also recently expanded their hours to accommodate residents who work from 9 to 5.

Township Assessor Susan Moylan Krey

This past year, our Assessor's Office processed over 2000 exemption requests, both current and past, including Homeowner, Senior Freeze, Veterans', and Disabled Persons' Exemptions, helping eligible residents receive the tax relief they deserve. The office also assisted over 14,000 Maine Township residents with their questions

and concerns, providing guidance on property tax matters.

Highway Commissioner Ed Beauvais

- the Highway Department continues to maintain our roads by removing snow and making repairs. This past year, Ed also held a Toys for Tots collection and a Pollinator Giveaway.

Other Health, Safety and Fun Programs

Over the past year, we hosted many other events which contributed to residents' health, such as immunization clinics, pet immunizations clinics, blood drives, and the 2024 Health Fair. We also helped you stay safe and avoid being a crime victim with our Neighborhood Watch Meetings with the sheriff's police and firefighters, a free Catalytic Converter painting event to discourage thefts, the Niles Maine Public Library's seminars on spam, cybersecurity, and media literacy, and the North Suburban Legal Aid Clinic on Renters' Rights. Plus, we also gave residents events to gather at and enjoy such as the Halloween Trunk or Treat fest and the Turkey Give-Away.

Keeping Taxes Low

I am pleased to say that the board did not raise the levy rate this year, but the Township was still able to expand services through grants, donations, and cost-saving measures.

In terms of raising money, our Community Garage Sale, raised about \$5000 to support MaineStay's Summer Camp program. MaineStay also received a grant for in-school counseling, Recovery Connection received a grant to expand its services, while I applied for and received a grant for our food pantry.

Tax dollars were not needed to buy any food for our food pantry as all was provided by



Supervisor Karen Dimond (r) presents Monika Jaroszewicz (l), Project Coordinator for the Maine Streamer Department, with her 25 year Certificate of Appreciation.

the Greater Chicago Food Depository, regular donations from local restaurants, grocery stores, corporations, and individuals who donated food and/or money. And for the past couple of years, we have raised some food in our very own garden! In addition, about 60 volunteers cumulatively provide about 600 hours of service a month without any compensation– thus saving taxpayers from having to hire additional staff.

Finally, we recently began investing in the Illinois Fund, where we are able to earn a higher rate of interest than available in banks, thus making our saved dollars work hard for you, the taxpayer.

In conclusion, I wish Maine Township the best and look forward to seeing you all at upcoming Township events. ●



Clerk Peter Gialamas (l) along with representatives from Cook County Sheriff's Office, present the Sgt. Karen Lader Memorial Good Citizen's Award to Sam & Carol Ricchio at the Annual Town Meeting.



TRUSTEE'S CORNER

Trustee, Kelly Horvath

Spring is finally here—and with it comes longer days, warmer weather, and that fresh burst of energy we've all been waiting for. It's the perfect time to roll up your

sleeves, get outside, and start those projects you've been dreaming about all winter. Whether you're planting a garden, freshening up your yard, or just enjoying the sunshine, there's no better season to reconnect with the outdoors.

It's also the time of year when things start to pick up around Maine Township. We've got some great outdoor events on the horizon, starting with our Shredding Event on Saturday, May 31st, from

9:00 am to 12:00 pm in the Township parking lot. Bring your old documents and clear some clutter—it's a quick and easy way to kick off your spring cleaning!

Planning a summer getaway? Or maybe a fishing trip? Don't forget to check in with our Clerk's Office—we can help you with passport applications and fishing licenses, so you're ready to hit the road (or the water) without a hitch.

There's a lot to look forward to this season, and we're excited to enjoy it with you. From community events to travel prep, spring in Maine Township is all about getting outside, getting ready, and getting inspired.

Maine Township Shredding Event

Saturday May 31, 2025

**Town Hall Parking Lot
1700 Ballard Rd. • Park Ridge, IL 60068**

**Time: 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Or Until Truck Reaches Capacity**

**Maine Township Residents Only
ID's will be checked**

- Please limit your shredding to 3 plastic or paper grocery-type bags
- Make sure to remove all paper clips, binder clips and rubber bands
- Staples are acceptable
- Spiral notebooks and plastic notebooks will not be accepted



*For more information call 847-297-2510 ext. 251
or visit www.maintown.com*

Neighborhood Watch

If you have concerns about your neighborhood and would you like to meet with law enforcement representatives in your community, join us for Neighborhood Watch meetings which meet the **first Wednesday of every month at 7:00 pm at Town Hall**. All Maine Township residents are welcome to attend, however most topics relate to the unincorporated area.

Neighborhood Watch brings residents together with local government and law enforcement to help build community awareness, boost safety, and resolve issues. Present at the meetings are representatives from Cook County Sheriff's Office, North Maine Fire Department, and representatives from your Maine Township Board.

Maine Township Neighborhood Watch works with the Cook County Sheriff's Police to sponsor "National Night Out Against Crime," which works to build the relationship between residents and local law enforcement. If you have questions or would like more information please call Maine Township at 847-297-2510.

Maine Township is Honoring All Our Veterans

Maine Township is proud to honor the Veterans who have served our country.

If you are a Veteran and reside in Maine Township, we invite you to a special event in your honor.

Date: Friday, November 7, 2025

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

To be recognized at the event, please register by calling 847-297-2510 ext. 252 no later than July 1st.

Registered attendees will receive additional event details by mail.
Thank you for your service—we look forward to celebrating you.



The Annual Crop Walk, sponsored by Park Ridge Community Church, raised over \$7000 for our Food Pantry. (Pictured here Food Pantry Director Michael Pitzaferrro and Crop Walk organizer Lynda Santrella.)



NEWS FROM THE ASSESSOR

Assessor,
Susan Moylan Krey

2025 Maine Township Reassessment Update

As of March 31, 2025, I have not been informed of the mailing date for Maine Township Reassessment Notices. The Cook County Assessor has indicated that they will be sent out sometime this summer. I will post the appeal dates on the Maine Township website as soon as I receive confirmation of the reassessment mailing and appeal period.

What is an Assessment Appeal?

An assessment appeal is a request to lower a property's assessed valuation by demonstrating that the assessment is unfair or inaccurate. A successful appeal can reduce a property owner's share of the local tax burden.

How to File an Appeal

We will assist residents in filing appeals once reassessment notices are mailed. The best way to initiate an appeal is by downloading and completing the **Maine Township In-Take Appeal Request Form**. This form will be available on the Maine Township website **only when we are open for appeals**.

If you are unable to complete the form, you may call us at 224-257-4830. Please leave a message with the following details:

- Name
- Address
- Telephone Number
- Property Index Number (PIN)
- Email Address
- Brief Description of Your Request

Please do not call more than once. Due to the high volume of calls, we cannot return all calls immediately, and repeat requests will slow down the process.

Grounds for an Assessment Appeal

1. **Lack of Uniformity** – Similar properties (in terms of square footage, age, and construction) within the same neighborhood and property class are assessed at a lower valuation.
2. **Overvaluation** – If you recently purchased a home in an arms-length (open market) sale and the purchase price is lower than your current **Estimated Market Value**, or if you have had an appraisal, you may file an appeal. Supporting documentation such as:
 - A Settlement Statement from a closing within the last three years
 - A USPAP-compliant appraisal within the last 18 months
3. **Major Error in Property Description** – If your property has incorrect information that significantly impacts its market value, such as inaccurate square footage or classification, you should file an appeal. However, minor errors (e.g., number of bedrooms or bathrooms) may not necessarily indicate an incorrect assessment.

For updates and further details, please visit the **Maine Township website**.

Hours: Monday-Friday from 9 AM to 4 PM
For more information, call 847-297-2510, ext. 255,
email smkrey@mainetown.com or visit www.mainetown.com

Agency Partner Spotlight: Center of Concern

In the heart of Des Plaines, the **Center of Concern** has been a beacon of hope and a vital resource for individuals and families in need. For over 40 years, this nonprofit organization has provided essential services aimed at alleviating poverty, fostering self-sufficiency, and offering compassionate care to those facing difficult circumstances.

The Center's mission focuses on supporting older adults, people with disabilities, and individuals experiencing financial hardship or housing insecurity. Through its wide range of comprehensive programs, which include housing assistance, legal and financial counseling, older adult services, and many more, the Center helps individuals gain stability and independence.

One of the Center's standout services is its Older Adult Services program, which offers resources to seniors and people with disabilities to help them live independently in their own homes for as long as possible. The Center's Older Adult Services provide quality services such as at-home assistance, educational counseling, personalized case management and support, and



much more. These programs aim to improve the quality of life and level of independent living for seniors and people with disabilities.

As the challenges of poverty and housing instability continue to impact many, the Center of Concern remains dedicated to making a positive difference in Maine Township and beyond. The Center's holistic approach, combining direct aid with empowering education, has earned it a reputation as a community cornerstone. Whether it's through direct assistance or advocacy, Center of Concern has long been a pillar of support for those in need, and remains an essential part of the local community.

For more information on how to get involved or support the Center, visit their website at www.centerofconcern.org.



HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT NEWS

Ed Beauvais, Highway Commissioner

Spring is officially here!

First and foremost, I am very much looking forward to beginning another

4-year term serving the residents of Maine Township. I plan to continue to work hard for you and implement your ideas and suggestions directly into our annual projects whenever possible.

I appreciate the community input and want to thank everyone who took the time to participate in and complete our highway department survey. My focus this year will be divided into four parts. **First**, there will be our annual street improvement project to include but not limited to, improving drainage within the unincorporated area of Maine Township, and the repair/resurfacing of streets.

Secondly, and equally important is the safety of our streets. Improvements will include enhancing existing stop signs, restriping of streets and improvements to pedestrian crossings, bicycle paths, as well as multi-use sidewalks. **Third**, I am looking to expand environmental services to plant more trees in our right-of-ways and provide additional recycling events. I will be attending sustainability seminars throughout the Township to better educate myself and position ourselves to provide more environmentally friendly options for our entity and to the public at large. **Finally**, I will continue to prioritize community engagement throughout the year. Please do not hesitate to come and say hi if you see us out at a community event.

Be sure to check out the township calendar on our website to keep yourself informed of Touch a Truck Events, Recycling Events, and an assortment of fun activities for the whole family.



Highway crew preparing chipper for season.



Trustee Jim Maher (r) and Highway Commissioner Ed Beauvais (l).



Township Board with Winners of Maine Township Highway Department's Truck Naming Contest.

Permit & Waiver Letter Requests – Not sure if your project requires a permit or Waiver Letter from the highway department? The quickest way to find out is to go to the township's website maintown.com search for Highway Department, click on Permit where you may print out our one-page user friendly Project Review Form. Then all you need to do is email completed form to highway@maintown.com and we will be happy to guide you through the process.

Also, if you would like to report any issues or concerns to the highway department, please go to township website maintown.com print out our **Resident Request Form**, complete and return to highway@maintown.com for quickest response.

The annual **Tree Branch Pickup Program** (third Monday of the month) starts on April 21st, and continues May 19th, June 16th, July 21st, August 18th, ending September 15th for the season. For your convenience, you may download our 2025 Calendar with Tree Branch Pickup dates noted, at our website maintown.com highway department tab. Please make yourself familiar with our guidelines for branch pickup. Residents who place unauthorized items in your tree branch pile, may be passed up for pickup.

Please be aware that our highway crew wears earplugs and protective face gear when operating the tree branch chipper. For your safety and the safety of our crew, we ask you to please refrain from attempting to talk to or distract them. If you have a question or concern, please call the office 847-297-5225.



Park Ridge Chamber of Commerce Night of Stars Event

Hours: Monday-Friday from 7 AM to 3:30 PM
***Appointment Required* Call 847-297-5225**

To report an emergency dial 911. If you leave voicemail please include your name, address & phone number or quickest response is via email at highway@maintown.com.

If your vehicle was parked in restricted area and towed call Gene's Village Towing 847-537-9693.



CLERK'S CORNER

Clerk, Peter Gialamas

Hello everyone and Happy Spring!

We have a big announcement to make here at the Clerk's office. We are now open until 7 pm every Monday to allow greater access to all of our services for our residents.

Please note, that you will need to make an appointment for passports, RTA and notary services. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to the Clerk's Department at 847-297-2510.

Once again Maine Township will be hosting our National Night Out Against Crime event on Tuesday, August 5th at Dee Park in Des Plaines. We are always looking for volunteers to be on our NNO committee as well as donations from local businesses to be used as raffle prizes for the event. If you would like to get involved or contribute, please email me at pgialamas@mainetown.com.

Hours: Monday-Friday from 9 AM to 5 PM
For more information, call 847-297-2510, ext. 222,
email pgialamas@mainetown.com
or visit www.mainetown.com

MaineStay Youth & Family Services - Upcoming Programs

MaineStay is an award-winning department that has been serving the mental health needs of our community for 50 years by providing affordable strength-based counseling along with youth and community programs focused on prevention and education.

Summer Camp – June 9-20 & July 14-24 | 9 am - 3 pm | 2 weeks | ages 8-13 | \$50

Our Adventure Maine Township summer camp program is open to children who qualify based on family income. This camp provides a supportive and structured environment where children can improve their social skills while being exposed to new activities they may not otherwise be able to experience.

Youth Mentoring – every other Tuesday | 6-7:30 pm | ages 8-12 | free

This program will help your child enhance their social skills, confidence, and ability to be successful in school and in the future. Carefully-selected matches meet in a structured group setting and participate in fun activities and field trips. We currently have several openings for girls.

NEW SUMMER PLAY THERAPY GROUP PROGRAMS

- **Stepping into Summer: Group Play Therapy Intensive** – June 2 | 3-3:30 pm | 2 weeks | ages 3-4 | \$45
- **Special Playtimes for Toddlers: A Play-Based Parenting Program** – June 6 | varies | 7 weeks | ages 15-23 months, adults 18+ | free
- **Circle of Friends: Play Therapy Group** – June 9 | 1-1:40 pm | 10 weeks | 3rd grade | free
- **Stepping into Summer: Group Play Therapy Intensive** – June 10 | 4-4:40 pm | 2 weeks | 1st grade | \$45
- **Peaceful Pathways: Play Therapy Group for Siblings** – June 10 | 1-1:40 pm | 9 weeks | ages 6-11 | free
- **Shifting Sands: Sandtray Therapy Group** – June 20 | 3-3:30 pm | 8 weeks | ages 3-4 | \$15

- **Circle of Friends: Play Therapy Group** – June 30 | 2-2:40 pm | 8 weeks | 1st grade | free
- **Magical Moments: Play Therapy Group** – July 1 | 6-6:45 pm | 6 weeks | ages 6-8 | free
- **Magical Moments: Play Therapy Group** – July 7 | 3:15-3:45 pm | 6 weeks | ages 3.5-5 | free
- **Circle of Friends: Play Therapy Group** – July 11 | 4-4:40 pm | 7 weeks | kindergarten | free
- **Laugh, Love, Play: Group Family Play Therapy Experience** – July 15 | varies | 7 weeks | families with children ages 3½-8 | free
- **Back-to-School Boost: Group Play Therapy Intensive** – July 30 | 12-3 pm | 3 weeks | 2nd grade | \$45
- **Back-to-School Boost: Group Play Therapy Intensive** – July 31 | 6-8 pm | 3 weeks | 3rd grade | \$45
- **Back-to-School Boost: Group Play Therapy Intensive** – August 1 | 9:30 am - 12:30 pm | 3 weeks | 1st grade | \$45
- **Back-to-School Boost: Group Play Therapy Intensive** – August 4 | 5-5:30 pm | 2 weeks | kindergarten | \$45

For a full list of MaineStay programs and online registration, visit mainetown.com/mainestay or scan the QR code.



MaineStreamers, Enhancing Lives After 55+

Hop on our coach bus as we head out onto one of our exciting upcoming day trips or events.

Teatro ZinZanni

Experience a whirlwind on international cirque, comedy and cabaret served with a multi-course feast.



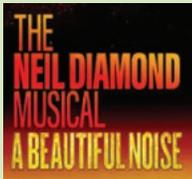
Midway Village "Living History - The Roaring Twenties"

Enjoy learning about the era of 1920's by engaging with costumed History Interpreters in the Victorian Village and explore Midwestern life as it was during the early 1920's.



The Neil Diamond Musical "A Beautiful Noise"

A Beautiful Noise is the uplifting true story of how a kid from Brooklyn became a chart-busting, American rock icon.



Members Enjoying Day Trips and Events



Trustee, Kimberly Jones enjoying the MaineStreamers St. Patrick's Day Luncheon.



Members enjoying dinner at Shannon's Irish Pub



Uncork, Unwind - "Art & Sip", painting glass olive oil bottles.



right: Chicago Wolves game

Joining MaineStreamers

For more information on this FREE membership, contact the MaineStreamers department at 847-297-2510 or visit mainetown.com/mainestreamers.

Protecting Seniors from Scams (Town Hall)

Presenter: Agnieszka Lizak

Tuesday, June 3rd • 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM

Fraud Protection and Advocacy for Seniors

Scam artists often take age as a vulnerability. As a result, seniors are a frequent target of a wide range of consumer fraud scams.

Join the Office of the Illinois Attorney General for a presentation for seniors to prevent consumer fraud and identity theft scams.

- Understand how to recognize potential fraud attempts
- Learn how to be ready to stop the scams
- Reach out to the Attorney General's Senior Help Line

Please call 847-297-2510 ext. 252 to Register

Maine Happenings



MaineStreamers 90th Birthday Celebration - celebrate your birthday with us. Call 847-297-2510 ext. 252 to register.



Shredding Event - Town Hall parking lot, 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM



Protecting Seniors From Scams - Town Hall, 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM



Health & Wellness Fair - Town Hall parking lot, details to follow

Neighborhood Watch - first Wednesday of every month at Town Hall, 7:00 PM

MAINE TOWNSHIP • 1700 Ballard Road, Park Ridge, Illinois 60068-1006
847-297-2510 • www.maintown.com

Town Hall Hours

Mon - Fri : 9 AM - 5 PM

*****ECRWSEDDM*****
RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER



Follow us on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/MTGovt>

Subscribe to receive our email updates
(on our home page): www.maintown.com

Upcoming Meetings & Building Closures

Board Meetings on May 27, June 24, and July 29 at 7 PM.

Offices closed on May 26 for Memorial Day, June 19 for Juneteenth Day, and July 4 Independence Day.

For other meetings, please call 847-297-2510 or visit www.maintown.com

How to Contact Our Departments

Main Phone 847-297-2510

Departments/Extension Numbers

- Assessor's Office ext. 255
- Clerk's Office ext. 222
- Code Enforcement Officer . . ext. 259
- General Assistance. ext. 236
- MaineStreamers ext. 260
- MaineStay Youth & Family Services ext. 261
- Recovery Connection ext. 233
- Office of Emergency Management ext. 232
- Highway Department. . 847-297-5225

You may also e-mail any department by accessing the Township website: www.maintown.com

MAINE TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS



Karen J. Dimond
Supervisor



Peter Gialamas
Clerk



Susan Moylan Krey
Assessor



Ed Beauvais
Highway Commissioner



Kimberly Jones
Trustee



Kelly Horvath
Trustee



James Maher
Trustee



Asif Malik
Trustee