



Mainely News

SUMMER 2026

Township residents vote to approve new food pantry location

Read the story on page 2



Annual Community Garage Sale date and details

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Elected Officials' updates | Upcoming events | Property tax info

We hope you find that our new design makes the Mainely News quicker and easier to read. We welcome your feedback.



The food pantry currently operates out of a small space in the Town Hall basement.

New food pantry location will help meet increased demand

At the Annual Town Meeting, an overwhelming majority of residents in attendance voted in favor of the Township purchasing a new location for the food pantry. The Township can now enter into an agreement to purchase property at 9850 Milwaukee Ave in Glenview for the purposes of moving the food pantry.

In an average month, the pantry can collect upwards of 40,000 pounds of food and other donations.

“The Food Pantry has grown in leaps and bounds throughout the last five years thanks to the dedicated work of staff, volunteers and the public,” said Supervisor Jones. “The pantry has simply outgrown its current location in the Town Hall basement, and now requires a building that can sustain the many donations and space needed to serve the community.”



Catching up with Kim

Supervisor Kimberly Jones

I’d like to thank all of the residents who took time out of their busy schedules to attend the Annual Town Meeting and vote to approve the new food pantry location. This will truly make a huge difference in the lives of so many.

I’d especially like to thank our Pantry Director Michael Pitzafferro for his incredible work. He motivates a small but relentless staff and inspires hundreds of volunteers. This expansion would not be possible without him.



Clerk's Corner

Clerk Peter Gialamas

One of the most rewarding functions I perform every year is the presentation of the Sgt. Karen Lader Good Citizen Award at the Annual Town Meeting.

This year, the award was given to Des Plaines Self-Help Closet and Pantry Director Debbie Walusiak in honor of her 20+ years of service to the Maine Township community. Debbie is an exceptional community leader and volunteer. Her work with the Des Plaines community, particularly her leadership navigating the Self-Help Closet and Pantry's 2020 move to a larger location in the midst of the pandemic, shows the depth and resolve of that leadership and dedication to service.

In 2011, the Maine Township Clerk's office proudly instituted the award in honor of Lader, a resident of Des Plaines and a 15-year veteran of the Cook County Sheriff's Police who lost her courageous battle with cancer in 2010. Deeply involved with Maine Township residents, this award continues to honor her legacy.



Maine Township resident and former Director of the Des Plaines Self-Help Closet and Pantry Debbie Walusiak accepts the Sgt. Karen Lader Memorial Good Citizen Award.

Pictured from Left: Maine Township Clerk Peter Gialamas, Debbie Walusiak and Cook County Sheriff's Office officials



Assessor's News

Assessor Susan Moylan-Krey

Many Maine Township residents still awaiting Certificate of Error refunds

Over the past year, Maine Township has assisted hundreds of residents in filing Certificates of Error with the Cook County Assessor's Office to correct missing property tax exemptions and secure refunds for taxes that were overpaid. Unfortunately, many of these refunds have not yet been issued.

The delay stems from a major computer system conversion implemented by Cook County last year. While the new system was intended to improve operations, ongoing technical issues have significantly slowed the processing and issuance of Certificate of Error refunds. Countywide, thousands of property owners are currently waiting for nearly \$200 million in approved refund payments.

We understand that this situation is frustrating for residents who have been patiently waiting to receive money that is owed to them. Maine Township continues to monitor the issue closely and remains in communication with the Cook County Treasurer's Office regarding the status of these refunds.

The Assessor's Office is open Monday-Friday from 9 am to 4 pm.



Highway Department Update

Commissioner Ed Beauvais

The Township Highway Department has completed a project that connects the Township's drainage infrastructure with and through a Village of Niles right-of-way.

The focus of this inter-governmental agreement has been on upgrading existing sewer lines, adding newer and larger pipes, and improving overall water flow. The contractor will soon begin the next phase, which will help alleviate flooding and water retention issues in the area.

In addition to caring for our infrastructure needs, we also stay active in the community. One of our favorite summer events is Park Ridge Market After Dark. As an event sponsor, we invite you to take in the live music while exploring a variety of items from local artisans, savor the fare offered by our food vendors and meet new neighbors and friends. The next market dates are scheduled for July 25 and August 22.



Trustee's Corner

Trustee Kelly Horvath

As I look back at June, it stands out as a deeply meaningful time for me, as I reflect on both Pride Month and Juneteenth.

These two observances remind me of the strength, resilience and promise of our nation. Pride Month honors the courage of the LGBTQ+ community and the ongoing fight to live openly and authentically. Juneteenth marks a pivotal moment in our history, celebrating freedom while reminding us of the work that still lies ahead to achieve true equality.

This year, I was especially proud to have our Township participate in Morton Grove's Pride in the Park. Seeing neighbors, families and community partners together was a powerful reminder of how far we've come, and how much stronger we are when we lift each other up.

Recovery Connection

One Page a Day: How Recovery Connection Is Using 'The Daily Stoic'

The first principle of Stoic philosophy is also the first principle of recovery: you don't control what happened to you, and you don't control what other people do. You control what you do next. It's been around for centuries, and now Maine Township Recovery Connection is making stoicism a facet of their approach to make healthy and positive decisions in their daily lives.



*Read the full story
at maintown.com.*

MaineStreamers

Enhancing lives for residents 55 years of age and older

MaineStreamers recently celebrated some very special residents at our annual 90+ Birthday Party! It was a wonderful afternoon filled with smiles, laughter, good food and great company.

Supervisor Kimberly Jones, Assessor Susan Moylan-Krey, Clerk Peter Gialamas, Highway Commissioner Ed Beauvais, and Trustees James Maher and Asif Malik all helped make the event extra special for those in attendance.



Select upcoming programs

Mind Readers Informational Program

From Washington Irving Bishop to The Amazing Kreskin, mind readers have amazed audiences with feats that challenged science and baffled even skilled magicians. Presenter William Pack explores the fascinating lives of these "psychic" performers while demonstrating some of their most mysterious and entertaining feats.

Tall Ship Windy & Museum of Broadcast Communications, Day Trip

Enjoy free time at Navy Pier before boarding the Tall Ship Windy for a scenic Lake Michigan cruise featuring entertaining tales of local pirates and stunning skyline views. Then visit the Museum of Broadcast Communications to explore the history and impact of radio and television through engaging exhibits.

Visit maintown.com to see all programs, registration details, fees and membership information.

MaineStay Youth & Family Services

For over 50 years, MaineStay has faithfully served the Maine Township community with the mission of building healthier families by providing affordable, strength-based counseling, prevention initiatives, and comprehensive youth and educational programs that support growth, resilience, and well-being.

Recent highlights included the 43rd Annual Maine Township Agency Day, which welcomed more than 100 attendees for a discussion on authentic leadership and communication in nonprofit spaces.



Students in the Future Leaders Peer Mentoring program at Emerson Middle School also participated in a meaningful service-learning trip to Feed My Starving Children, where they packed hundreds of meals for children facing food insecurity worldwide while developing teamwork and leadership skills. MaineStay's counseling and enrichment programs continue to make a lasting impact locally. An example is one counseling client who overcame anxiety to participate in the Clay Creators pottery program and found the experience both engaging and therapeutic.

Staff also remained active in the community through mental health outreach events and school kindergarten orientations, helping connect more families with MaineStay resources and support.

Select upcoming programs

Social Wellness Nights – July 29 | 5–6:30 pm

Kids Summer Fest – August 5 | 1–3 pm

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



Upcoming Events

Some of our biggest events of the year are happening soon.



National Night Out

Tuesday, August 4 from 6:30 to 9 pm

Dee Park – 9229 W Emerson St., Des Plaines.

National Night Out is an annual event that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, better places to live.

As part of the event, we give awards to local students who create posters depicting a theme. This year's theme is "together we shine brighter than crime." To submit an entry, visit mainetown.com and the Maine Township Facebook page. Entries are due by July 17.

Trustee Asif Malik's Pakistan Independence Day

Sunday, August 16 from 1 pm to 10 pm

Dee Park – 9229 W Emerson St., Des Plaines.

Trustee Asif Malik welcomes all members of the community to celebrate the rich cultural traditions of Pakistan. Immerse yourself with great food, clothing vendors, music performances and more.



Community Garage Sale

Saturday, September 19 from 9 am to 3 pm
Maine Township Town Hall - 1700 Ballard Rd., Park Ridge.

MaineStay Youth & Family Services will start accepting applications on August 3 for vendors to sell at our annual Community Garage Sale. The proceeds from this event benefit MaineStay's summer camp for at-risk youth. Please visit maintown.com/garagesale and the Maine Township Facebook page for updates.

Please contact Emily Toomey with questions at etoomey@maintown.com or by calling 224-257-4853.

Neighborhood Watch

Wednesdays July 1, August 5, September 2 at 7 pm
Maine Township Town Hall - 1700 Ballard Rd., Park Ridge.

Neighborhood Watch brings residents together from around the Township with local government and law enforcement to help build community awareness, boost safety, and resolve issues.

Dates and times of all events are subject to change. Please visit maintown.com and the Maine Township Facebook page to stay updated on changes.



Maine Township participates in the annual Niles and Des Plaines Fourth of July parades. We'll see you again this year!

It's always an honor to be part of the Memorial Day ceremonies. Maine Township is proud to participate in the annual Park Ridge Memorial Day parade and Des Plaines wreath laying ceremony in honor of those who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our freedom.

We honored our Veterans last year at our first-ever Veterans Breakfast. It was great to recognize those who have served our country. Thank you Veterans!

Maine Township

1700 Ballard Road,
Park Ridge, IL 60068

Upcoming board meetings

Meetings held at 7 pm at Town Hall, 1700 Ballard Rd. in Park Ridge. Dates and times subject to change. Visit mainetown.com and our Facebook page for updates.

June 30 | July 28 | August 25

Upcoming holidays

Township offices will be closed the following days.

July 3: Independence Day (observed)

September 7: Labor Day

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Maine Township Elected Officials



Kimberly Jones
Supervisor



Peter Gialamas
Clerk



Susan Moylan-Krey
Assessor



Ed Beauvais
Highway
Commissioner



Kelly Horvath
Trustee



James Maher
Trustee



Asif Malik
Trustee



Elizabeth Lynch
Trustee