



MAINELY NEWS

Serving Our Community Since 1850

KIMBERLY JONES, Supervisor

Winter 2025-26



Catching Up with Kim

It's hard to imagine that we're on the threshold of the new year 2026; but the shorter days and cooler nights are stark reminders that winter and the holiday season is drawing near. It can be sad to say goodbye to another year; however, it gives us an opportunity to recap all of the wonderful things that have happened along the way.

Maine Township for instance, has been a bee hive of activity. We are abuzz with all our programs and services. Over the past year our Food Pantry had 9,813 visits and served 18,233 individuals. Our grocery shopping experience is really appreciated by our visitors.

Our Clerk's office processed 1,558 passport applications, issued 197 license plate stickers and in total, including the many other services the Clerk's office offers, served more than 1,297 residents.

Our Assessor's office served 15,300 residents between calls and in-person visits. They are always happy to assist with property tax appeals or any other related issues.

Our MaineStay department, guided by their award-winning Director Richard Lyon worked with 117 therapy participants, 380 youth program participants, 107 clinical group participants and brought in a whopping 535 community program participants. Luckily the rain abated and our annual garage sale was a hit once again! I'd be remiss if I didn't mention our annual Trunk or Treat event where 600 costumed children walked through our parking lot collecting candy and prizes and were delighted by the decorated trunks.

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Maine Township Foundation Food Pantry

As the holidays grow near, I would like to express my gratitude to the Maine Township Community and Pantry Volunteers. Federal Government impacts are leading to a significant increase in Pantry visits and your in-kind, financial and time donations are greatly appreciated. We are overwhelmed by the generosity of our community – I wish each of you could see our clients' faces when they see our stocked Pantry at a time when those shelves could be bare due to the increased demand – so a heartfelt THANK YOU! While completing your holiday shopping, please continue to consider your food insecure neighbors by either purchasing from the Pantry's Amazon wish list or dropping off some of the items below at the Township. Visit mainetown.com/pantry to visit the Amazon Wish list.

Thank you for bringing hope and joy to those less fortunate this Holiday Season!

Happy Holidays,

Michael Pitzaferro
Maine Township Food Pantry Director

Items Needed:

Canned Goods:

Fruit, Vegetables (not green beans), Meat (tuna, chicken, etc.) Soup, Chili/ Chef Boyardee/Dinty Moore and Garbanzo/Kidney Beans

Condiments:

Salt, Pepper, Mustard, Ketchup, Vinegar, Mayonnaise, Vegetable Oil, Jam/Jelly and Salad Dressing

Dry Goods:

Boxed Cereal, Lentils, Split Peas, Bouillon Cubes, Coffee, Tea (loose leaf or bag), Pancake/Cake/Brownie Mix, Instant Jello/ Pudding, Crackers, Ramen Noodles, Sugar, Flour, Cookies and Crackers

Personal Care Products:

Feminine, Dental, Haircare, Lotion, Soap, Deodorant, Incontinence, Baby Diapers and Baby Wipes



Shown here are Supervisor Kimberly Jones, Food Pantry Director Michael Pitzaferro, Food Pantry Assistant Sally Bowman and Administrator Victoria Rizzo with volunteers from the food pantry. The township hosted a dinner to celebrate and honor our volunteers for all of their hard work.

Catching Up with Kim

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Our General Assistance department has been busy counseling Medicare recipients and helping our residents with energy assistance among other programs.

I can't forget to mention our wonderful MaineStreamers Department. If you are 55 years or older I highly recommend you become a member. Membership is free but it provides an opportunity for a world of fun and a vast variety of travel, concerts and many, many social activities.

Our Emergency Management department has been hard at work recruiting new staff and volunteers supporting our Maine Township programs and enhancing our staff's ability to respond to emergencies.

Last but not least, if you or a family member is struggling with a substance abuse problem you may want to consider attending a Recovery Connection meeting. This program provides a safe space for people in recovery to meet and attend a variety of social events, such as Chicago Dogs games, golf and pizza night just to name a few.

It's been a very good year at Maine Township. Myself and our Maine Township staff would like to extend our wish to you and your families for a safe and healthy holiday season and an even better New Year in 2026! •



TRUSTEE'S CORNER

Trustee, James Maher

The late Fall is the time of year when we look back upon our accomplishments over the past year and plan and prepare for the accomplishments yet to come. I wish to take this opportunity to commend our

food pantry which continues to deliver giant results with limited assets. Utilizing a team approach which includes a very limited staff of only 2-3 township employees along with over 100 volunteers working only 8 hours per week, our food pantry under the leadership of its Director Mike Pitzafferro is now delivering an astounding 50 boxes of food and other essential living supplies per day to the needy persons of our community. I cannot think of a greater tribute to our primary statutory mission of helping the indigent people of our community in these austere times.

I also wish to commend our Recovery Connection team. Also working with a limited staff and under the leadership of Marty Cook, over 75 boxes of Narcan were recently delivered over a short period of time in the continuing battle against opioid addiction and overdose. I continue to be impressed by the inspiring stories of men and women like local musician Terry Byrne who sought the help of others to overcome addiction to successfully change the course of their lives.

I also wish to congratulate our own award winners. Sam "Faris" Dababneh was the recipient of Public Service Award of Excellence from Niles Night of Roses for his work in the Assessor's Office. MaineStay Youth and Family Services Director Richard Lyon received the 2025 AITCOY Director of the Year award at the Township Officials of Illinois Conference. The achievements and awards which our Maine Township employees have received in the past and continue to receive bring acclaim and prestige to all of us.

Community Garage Sale

The 19th annual Maine Township Community Garage Sale fundraiser was held on September 13. A total of \$5,244 in net revenue was raised and has been allocated to support our summer camp for at-risk youth. Thanks to Journal & Topics Newspapers, State Representative Michelle Mussman, State Senator Laura Murphy, Parkway Bank, and Flood Brothers for their generous support of this event.



MaineStay Youth & Family Services - Upcoming Programs

For the past 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.

- ***NEW* Clay Creators: Beginner Pottery** – December 3 | 4:30-6 pm | 2 weeks | ages 10-12 | free
- **Family Fun Nights** – December 4 | 6-7:30 pm | families with children ages 5+ | free
- **Kids Winter Fest** – January 2 | 1-4 pm | ages 6-12 | free
- **Healing Steps: EMDR Therapy Group** – January 7 | 7-7:45 pm | 6 weeks | ages 8-10 | free
- **Family Fun Nights** – January 8 | 6-7:30 pm | families with children ages 5+ | free
- **Art in the Town** – January 12 | 4-4:50 pm (ages 6-8) | 5-6 pm (ages 9-12) | 10 weeks | free
- **Hooked on Crochet** – January 20 | 4-5 pm | 8 weeks | grades 4-9 | free
- **Seeds of Friendship: Fostering Healthy Relationships Among Girls** – January 20 | 4-4:50 pm | 8 weeks | girls in grades 2-5 | free



Thank you to our community partners and families for making this year's Trunk or Treat event a huge success!



above: MaineStay celebrated the 10-year anniversary of our mentoring program partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metropolitan Chicago in August with a fun-filled outdoor event.

- **Game Masters: Board Games and Coping Skills** – January 21 | 5-6 pm | 6 weeks | boys in grades 6-8 | free
- **Clay Creators: Beginner Pottery** – January 22 | 4:30-6 pm | 10 weeks | ages 10-12 | \$20
- **Tutoring** – January 28 | 4:30-6:30 pm (1-hour sessions) | 10 weeks | grades 1-8 | \$50
- ***NEW* EMDR Therapy Group for Parents of Neurodivergent Kids** – February 5 | 4-5:30 pm | 6 weeks | ages 18+
- **Pride** – February 5 | 5-6 pm | 10 weeks | ages 13-17 | free
- **Family Fun Nights** – February 5 | 6-7:30 pm | families with children ages 5+ | free
- **Magical Moments: Play Therapy Group** – February 10 | 4-4:45 pm | 8 weeks | ages 5½ - 8½ | free
- **Magical Moments: Play Therapy Group** – February 10 | 3:15-3:45 pm | 8 weeks | ages 3½ - 5½ | free

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



Little Library and Little Maine Pantry



We are proud to announce the opening of our Little Library and Little Maine Pantry—two new ways to support and connect with our community.

- The Little Library welcomes you to borrow a book or share one with others.
- The Little Maine Pantry is open 24/7 for community food donations and for neighbors in need.

Please consider donating non-perishable, ready-to-eat items.



NEWS FROM THE ASSESSOR

Assessor,
Susan Moylan Krey

It's Finally Official: The Senior Freeze Income Threshold Is Increasing to \$75,000 in Tax Year 2026

We are pleased to share exciting news for Maine Township senior homeowners! Lawmakers have officially approved an increase in the **Senior Freeze** income threshold.

- **Current threshold:** \$65,000 (remains in effect for the 2025 Tax Year)
- **New threshold:** \$75,000 for Tax Year 2026 (reflected on 2027 tax bills)
- **Future increases:** \$77,000 in 2028 and \$79,000 in 2029

This is wonderful news for many of our senior residents who are working hard to stay in their homes amid rising property taxes and living costs. For further information, see SB 0642 35 ILCS 200/15-172.



2025 First Installment Due Date Moved to April 1, 2026

Due to delays in issuing the 2024 second installment property tax bills, new legislation has moved the **2025 first installment due date** to **April 1, 2026**—one month later than usual.

This adjustment will provide taxpayers with additional time between bill payments.

Understanding the Senior Citizen Real Estate Tax Deferral Program

The **Senior Citizen Real Estate Tax Deferral Program** is another valuable form of tax relief available to qualified seniors. This program works like a low-interest loan from the **State of Illinois**, allowing eligible homeowners to defer up to **\$7,500 per tax year** (including both installments) on their primary residence.

The deferred amount, plus interest, is repaid when the property is sold or upon the participant's passing.

Legislative changes have also increased the **income eligibility** for this program—currently set at \$65,000—to align with the new **Senior Freeze** income thresholds in the coming years.

As the holiday season rolls in, it has been my honor to serve as your Township Assessor. I would like to wish you and your family a very happy holiday season and a joyful New Year as we **cheer in 2026 together!**

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

left: Assessor Krey and Board of Review Commissioner Steele hosted a successful Property Tax Appeal Seminar at Maine Township on September 18, 2025. Residents appreciated the opportunity to learn more about the appeal process and speak directly with a Board of Review Analyst.

Agency Partner Spotlight: PEER Services

This year, **PEER Services** marked five decades of serving the public with a steadfast mission: to reduce the harms of substance use, addiction, and stigma by engaging youth and adults with prevention programming and evidence-based treatment. Founded in 1975 by a coalition of community leaders responding to rising substance-use concerns, PEER Services began as a community-based nonprofit focused on prevention and treatment in the Evanston area. Since then, it has grown significantly, expanding services throughout North and Northwest Cook County, including Maine Township.

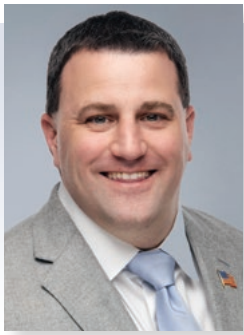
In addition to outpatient treatment for teens and adults, PEER Services collaborates with many local schools, hospitals, justice-system partners, and community organizations to deliver services including community-based prevention education, early-intervention programs, medication-assisted recovery (MAR), counseling, and family support. Last year, the agency reached more than 20,000 young people and families through



its prevention efforts, and directly served approximately 725 clients in treatment programs, 90% of whom came from low-income backgrounds. Importantly, the organization provides services to anyone in need, regardless of ability to pay.

In a time when substance-use disorders—including opioid and alcohol misuse—remain critical public-health issues, agencies like PEER Services play a vital role in prevention, recovery, and community resilience. By combining evidence-based treatment, early intervention, community-based prevention efforts, and equitable access, the work done by PEER Services can be felt across families and communities. As one client put it: *“Not only did PEER Services save my life, they made it a life worth saving.”*

For more information, or to learn how to support PEER Services, please visit their website at **www.peerservices.org**.



HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT NEWS

Ed Beauvais, Highway Commissioner

Greetings Maine Township Residents – Winter is not officially here until December 21, 2025, but cold weather is always

prevalent during this time of the year. According to weather forecasters, the Midwest region is expected to experience a colder and snowier winter season in 2025/2026. Now is the time to make your preparations for winter. If you have a contractor who plows your driveway and shovels your sidewalks, do not forget to have them also shovel a path to your mailbox. If you are elderly, ask your family, friends, or neighbors to assist you in getting your mail if your mailbox is at the curb.

UPDATE – 2025 Maine Township Highway Department Bike and Sidewalk Project:

While many of you have finished up on your outside projects before the winter, the Highway Department also buttoned up on our 2025 Bike Lane and Sidewalk Project on Church Street and Western Avenue. We applied for and obtained monies from Cook County's Invest in Cook County Grant Program to partially fund this project. Utilizing these types of grant funds is a great way to keep taxpayers' costs down while improving our streets, sidewalks, and gutters, as well as adding bike lanes and improving the safety of pedestrians and our roadways.

Once finished, this project will make it easier and safer to travel between the unincorporated area, the Village of Niles to the east, the City of Des Plaines and Cook County Forest Preserve to the west, and the City of Park Ridge in between. In addition to the bike lane, pedestrians will now have a safe path to walk along Church Street and Western Avenue. There will also be a new pedestrian signal installed at the corner of Greenwood and Church for safer passage across Greenwood Avenue.



Maine Township Highway Department's newly installed pedestrian sidewalk on Church Street between Potter Road and Greenwood Avenue in Des Plaines.



Maine Township Highway Department crew members Tyler Woods and Justin MacIntyre man department's table at City of Des Plaines' Harvest Hoot Event.



Highway Commissioner Ed Beauvais was joined by Cook County Commissioner Maggie Trevor, Park Ridge Mayor Marty Maloney, and Des Plaines Mayor Andrew Goczkowski as work began on the Highway Department's "Connecting Communities" sidewalk and bike lane project.

Thank you to our local government partners and Cook County for assisting in getting this project underway.

Community Events:

"Harvest Hoot," a FREE EVENT sponsored by the City of Des Plaines was held on Saturday, October 18, from Noon – 4 p.m., on the grounds of Oakton Community College, 1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines. Maine Township Highway Department was happy to participate in this event on a beautiful fall day, and there was a nice turnout. Live entertainment on two stages included a country rock band and magician. Over twenty-five local vendors came out to share their wares, and fun was had by all including family-oriented activities and photo ops. Food trucks and Touch a Truck were crowd-pleasers, as well as inflatables, balloon animals, and pumpkin decorating activities. Among other events we also participated in Taste of Park Ridge, Park Ridge Market After Dark, Maine Township's Trunk or Treat, the Des Plaines Post 36 Veteran's Day Ceremony, the Des Plaines Chamber's Veterans Back to Work Career Fair and Boot Camp, and Maine Township's Annual Thanksgiving Turkey Giveaway. Thanks to Trustee Aasif Malik for his efforts to make this event possible. If you are looking for something to do on the weekends, please do not forget to check out Maine Township Facebook page for upcoming events. Please also consider donating to our Toys for Tots Marine Corps toy drive. We are a donation site: Call the Highway Department for more information or to donate.

Planning to Fly South for the Winter?

Reminder – Some of our residents prefer to spend the winter in a warmer climate. If you plan on being away during the cold winter months, keep your heat on to avoid pipes freezing. If you see water in the yard of a neighbor who is gone for the winter, you can contact Aqua on their 24-hour emergency line 877-987-2782 or if you live in a neighborhood that is serviced by Village of Glenview Water Department 847-724-3112 (M-F 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 pm) or after hours and weekends call 847-729-5000.

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 a voicemail, please include your name, address & phone number or for quickest response send us an email at highway@mainetown.com. If your vehicle was parked in a restricted area and towed please call Gene's Village Towing at 847-537-9693.



CLERK'S CORNER

Clerk, Peter Gialamas

As November marks the month we honor our veterans, I would like to personally thank all of our veterans and especially those that reside within Maine

Township. Offering our veterans services is something we take great pride in here at Maine Township. Gary Warner, the long serving clerk before me, was a proud Korean War veteran. Under his leadership the township became involved with **Honor Flight Chicago**, which is a tradition I am proud to carry on. Honor Flight Chicago is a non-profit dedicated to transporting veterans to Washington D.C. to visit the memorials of the wars they fought in at no cost. Every year, the Clerk's department on behalf of Maine Township dedicates a portion of the yearly revenue generated from passport processing fees to the organization, ensuring that

no taxpayer money is used for the donation. We are extremely proud of our partnership with Honor Flight Chicago which serves to acknowledge, remember, and celebrate the service and sacrifice of World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War veterans.

Clerk Gialamas presenting a check to Ron Wolflick from Honor Flight Chicago.



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

Veterans Breakfast



On November 7, the MaineStreamers and the Assessor's Office co-hosted a Veterans Breakfast to honor our Maine Township veterans. The American Legion Post 36 Color Guard presented and posted the flags, setting a respectful tone for the event. Our Township Board recognized and thanked all veterans for their service and dedication. Among the honored guests was World War II Veteran Bette Horstman (above right), who joined us for a photo with veteran and former Highway Commissioner, Robert Provenzano.

Recovery Connection



Recovery Connection was also able to welcome Mr. Terry Byrne, a well-known musician, for a special event concert and recovery story. We had one of our biggest meetings yet and as we continue to grow our recovery event roster.

If you or a loved one may be experiencing difficulties with substance use, please reach out to Maine Township Recovery Connection - **224-257-4871** or **mcook@mainetown.com**.

Our Maine Township Recovery Connection Program has had a busy few months in the community! We were honored to be invited to Maine West and Maine East High Schools to present on our Recovery Programs, provide Narcan trainings, and provide educational materials in partnership with the HERO Trailer organization. Recovery Connection through a partnership with the Cook County Department of Health has passed out over 75 boxes of Narcan within the past month to community members - including to parents at Maine East and West. One of our members, Jack G., was also able to share his recovery story at both Maine East and West - reaching a wide audience and sharing his experience, strength, and hope.



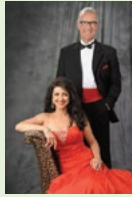
Working with Cook County Health, Marty Cook and Jim Naughton helped bring a Naloxone (Narcan) vending machine to Town Hall—an important step in preventing opioid overdose deaths. In honor of International Overdose Awareness Day, Marty and Jim lead a short demonstration and training.

MaineStreamers, Enhancing Lives After 55+

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

MaineStreamers Holiday Luncheon

There is no better way to ring in the holiday than with the MaineStreamers Holiday Luncheon with Diva Montel & George Holmes performing their classic seasonal favorites.



Driehaus Museum & The National Public Housing Museum

Enjoy a tour of the Driehaus Museum exploring the art, architecture, and design of the Gilded Age. Also, visit and tour Chicago's new National Public Housing Museum, the only museum of its kind in the country.



The Outsiders, Cadillac Palace Theatre

Enjoy lunch and the musical "The Outsiders", winner of four 2024 Tony Awards, adapted from S.E. Hinton's seminal novel and Francis Ford Coppola's iconic film.



Members Enjoying Day Trips and Events

right: Members participated in the "Walk to End Alzheimers" on September 21st



above: Members enjoying Maine Township's Trunk or Treat

right: "Exploring Hannibal and St. Louis, Missouri" MaineStreamers 3-Day Trip



Joining MaineStreamers

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

General Assistance Department

Despite the 2025 shutdown and the ongoing impact inflation, our General Assistance team has remained busy, productive, and committed to serving our residents. We are honored to have provided our Maine Township Community with:

- Financial Help and Rental Assistance for those in Need
- SNAP and Public Aid
- LIHEAP
- Medicare & Prescription Drug Support
- Benefit Access Program
- Referrals
- Transportation

Our staff is here for you! Reach out anytime with questions or for assistance at **847-297-2510 ext. 236**. We're ready to welcome new clients this winter and help our community thrive.

Maine Events

Dec 18
Thursday

MaineStreamers Holiday Luncheon -
December 18 | 12 noon

Jan 2
Friday

Kids Winter Fest
January 2 | 1-4 PM

Jan 8
Thursday

Family Fun Nights - January 8 | 6-7:30 PM

Jan 22
Thursday

Clay Creators: Beginner Pottery -
January 22 | 4:30-6 PM

Feb 4
Wednesday

MaineStreamers Valentine's Luncheon -
February 4 | 12 noon

Feb 5
Thursday

Family Fun Nights - February 5 | 6-7:30 PM
Pride Program - February 5 | 5-6 PM

Feb 11
Wednesday

MaineStreamers "Ocean's Rat Pack" Luncheon & Show - Des Plaines Theatre, February 11 | 12 noon



MAINELY NEWS

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Mon - Fri : 9 AM - 5 PM

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Upcoming Meetings & Building Closures

Board Meetings on Dec. 23, Jan. 27, and Feb. 24 at 7 PM

Office Closes at 1 PM on Dec. 24. Offices closed on Dec. 25 for Christmas. Office Closes at 1 PM on Dec. 31. Offices closed on Jan. 1 for New Years Day, Jan. 19 for MLK Day, and Feb. 16 for President’s Day.

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

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



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