

# MAINELY NEWS



KAREN J. DIMOND  
Supervisor

Fall 2024

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 1850



## Karen's Column

### A New Service!

Maine Township has obtained a 7-passenger lift van, which we will use to help our senior and disabled residents get to medical appointments, thereby expanding the service which has previously been provided only by volunteers. In addition, seniors who can no longer drive themselves will be able to request van pick-up service to some MaineStreamers events. If you are a MaineStreamers and need a ride to Bingo, Day at the Races, Movies, or the Thanksgiving or Holiday luncheons, please call the Township at least two weeks in advance of the event you wish to attend. Call 847-297-2510 and ask for a van pick-up.

Please realize that the number of passengers we can accommodate will be limited and that there may be unanticipated problems as we roll out this new service, so kindly be patient with us as we work the bugs out of the system.

### Food Pantry News

The number of residents served by our pantry continues to grow, but fortunately, thanks to donations, we have been able to keep the pantry stocked without tapping tax dollars. Individual and corporate donors have helped by donating both food and money, and during the past year, the Greater Chicago Food Depository has provided us with 62,461 pounds of food – equal to about \$89,000 worth of food! But we expect demands on our pantry to grow as the Catholic Charities pantry located on Rand Road recently closed after many years of serving Maine Township residents. Catholic Charities has graciously offered to donate some of their

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## Maine Township's Community Garage Sale



Maine Township's 18th annual Garage Sale had a great turnout and all proceeds went to MaineStay's summer camp for disadvantaged youth.

## Township Turkey Giveaway

Cook County Commissioner Maggie Trevor has arranged to donate 200 turkeys for the Maine Township's Turkey Giveaway. This event will take place at Town Hall on **Saturday, November 16th from 9:00 am to noon** for all township residents. It will be on a first come, first served basis.





freezers and furniture to our pantry, so we hope to be able to increase our ability to store food.

### Our 18th Annual Garage Sale

On a very warm Saturday in September, we hosted our 18th Annual Garage Sale. This year, 80 vendors were able to easily reserve a table on-line, and Maine Township raised \$4860 from the rental of those tables, from generous sponsors, and from food sales. The proceeds will go toward funding a summer camp for disadvantaged youth in Maine Township.

### Keeping you Healthy

As always, we try to help our residents *and* their pets stay healthy. We did that this fall by providing walk-in vaccinations for residents and a mobile clinic for their pets. And this winter, as usual, our office will host a warming center when the weather turns cold. So, keep us in mind if your furnace breaks down! ●



Maine Township's new 7-passenger lift van. Pictured (l to r): Trustees Kelly Horvath and Kimberly Jones, and Supervisor Dimond.

## CROP Hunger Walk



Maine Township participated in the annual Niles/Park Ridge CROP hunger walk. Pictured along with Supervisor Dimond, is OEM Director Jack Wisniewski and Park Ridge Mayor Marty Maloney and his wife Lauren.



## TRUSTEE'S CORNER

Trustee, Kimberly Jones

Now that Thanksgiving is behind us and 2024 is winding down to a close it's a good time to count our blessings and make plans for the New Year!

Maine Township definitely has accomplished a great deal in 2024. We have expanded services in our Clerk's department by adding license plate services and we will be also expanding our hours in the near future to include some evening hours to make the Clerk's office more accessible. Speaking of accessibility, we have added a Pace ride service for seniors and disabled citizens of Maine Township. This service will provide rides to medical appointments.

In the beginning of November, I will have had the privilege of attending the Township Officials of Illinois Annual Educational Conference with some of our board members and employees. The conference provides an opportunity to network with other township officials to discover ways of improving or adding to our services, but also share the things that we are doing well with other communities. It also provides bragging rights to Maine Township as we will be honored to accept several awards recognizing the dedication, hard work, and commitment that we bring to all township services.

Maine Township wishes you a very happy, healthy holiday season and a wonderful New Year!

## National Night Out



Elected Officials and staff took part in National Night Out in Dee Park; an annual event promoting neighborhoods to actively get involved in preventing crime in their community.





## Pakistan and India Cultural Days



Spearheaded by Trustee Asif Malik (pictured left in top right photo) as well as many sponsors, both Pakistan and India Cultural Days attracted large crowds. Attendees immersed themselves in customs and traditions that shape our community and were able to gain a deeper appreciation for the diversity that enriches our society.

## Trunk or Treat

Thank you to all those who helped make our annual Trunk or Treat event a success. All attendees had a great time and the kids enjoyed dressing up in their favorite costumes.



## MaineStay Youth & Family Services

MaineStay offers affordable, strength-based counseling for children, adolescents, adults, and families both in person and via telehealth. We have experience working with many common concerns facing families today.

MaineStay provides a variety of free or affordable programs for youth ages 3-17 that are designed to help maximize each child's full potential in life. Some of our newer programs include:

- Teamwork Trailblazers: Socialization and Problem-Solving Group
- Game Masters: Board Games and Coping Skills Group
- Imagination and Ink: A Creative Writing Journey
- Creative Calm: Art and Coping Skills Group
- Hooked on Crochet
- Family Fun Nights
- Tutoring
- Cooking Class
- Social Wellness Nights
- YAM Squad: Frustration Tolerance Group
- Bluey's Big Feelings Fun: Emotion Regulation Group
- Family Connections: A Play-Based Parenting Program
- Seeds of Friendship: Fostering Healthy Relationships Among Girls



For a full list of MaineStay programs and online registration, visit [mainetown.com/mainestay](https://mainetown.com/mainestay) or scan the QR code.





## CLERK'S CORNER

Clerk, Peter Gialamas

Hello All,

It has been a full and busy fall here at the Clerk's office as we continue to process passports at a record number. That being said, the U.S. Department of State has made it much easier to now renew your passport online at [Travel.State.Gov/renewonline](https://travel.state.gov/renewonline). If you meet the following criteria, you can easily renew your passport online:

1. The passport you are renewing is or was valid for 10 years, and you are age 25 or older.
2. We issued the passport you are renewing between 2009 and 2015. The passport was issued over 9 years but less than 15 years from the date you plan to submit your application.
3. You are not changing your name, gender, date of birth, or place of birth.
4. You are not traveling for at least 6 weeks from the date you will submit your application. We will only offer routine service, and the time it takes to get a passport will be the same as renewing by mail.
5. You are applying for a regular (tourist) passport. You cannot renew a special issuance (diplomatic, official, service) passport online.

6. You live in the United States (either state or territory). You do not qualify to renew online if you live in a foreign country or have an Army Post Office (APO), Fleet Post Office (FPO), or Diplomatic Post Office (DPO) address.
7. You have your passport with you, and it is not damaged or mutilated, and you have not reported it as lost or stolen. Keep your most recent passport and do not mail it to us.
8. You can pay for your passport using a credit or debit card.
9. You can upload a digital passport photo.
10. You are aware that we will cancel the passport you are renewing after you submit your application. You cannot use it for international travel.

If you do not qualify with any of the conditions above, or if you prefer to renew in person, please feel free to call us at 847-297-2510 and the Clerk's office will be happy to assist you.

**Hours: Monday-Friday from 9 AM to 5 PM**  
**For more information, call 847-297-2510, ext. 222,**  
**email [pgialamas@mainetown.com](mailto:pgialamas@mainetown.com)**  
**or visit [www.mainetown.com](http://www.mainetown.com)**



## Health & Wellness Fair

Maine Township co-sponsored a Health & Wellness Fair with the Office of Commissioner Eira Corral Sepulveda and many community sponsors. The residents learned about aspects of healthy living and aging.

I to r: Illinois State Representative Nicolle Grasse, Des Plaines Mayor Andrew Goczkowski, Highway Commissioner Ed Beauvais, Trustees Horvath, Maher, Jones, and Malik, Cook County Commissioner Maggie Trevor, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Commissioner Mariyana T. Spyropoulos, and Supervisor Dimond.







## HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT NEWS

### Ed Beauvais, Highway Commissioner

Here we go again, just blink your eyes spring and summer are gone and fall and winter are right around the corner. Now,

let me get you all updated on highway department news.

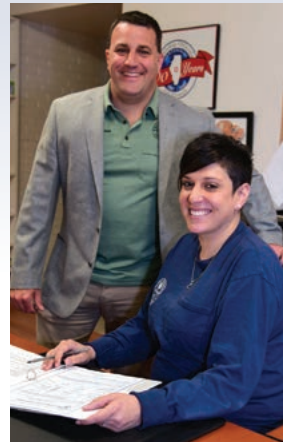
**2024 Annual Projects Completed** – This year's annual project included street resurfacing of Teela Lane (East River Road to end), Church Street (Potter Road to Dee Road), Valerie Court (William Ave to end), Fernwood Drive (North of Victor Avenue), Stacy Court (Victor Avenue to end) and Noel Street (Potter Road to Sumac Road). We are pleased with the finished results and hope improved roadways made the minor inconveniences during construction worth it. One of the priorities on the top of my list was to focus on improving safe school zones for schools located in unincorporated Maine Township (Washington Elementary School, Apollo Elementary School, and on our unincorporated roadways near Mark Twain Elementary School). Improvements included installing signs (new radar speed signs & school safety signs), crosswalk signs where needed, replacing, and updating street signs, as well as repainting school pedestrian crosswalks. Our recent 2024 Resident Survey indicated that approximately 70% of residents surveyed have noticed an improvement in school zone safety.

**2024 Highway Department Resident Survey** – Thank you all for your support and participation in our annual residential survey. This is important because we want to utilize input from our residents when planning our Annual Projects, maintenance issues of our streets, rights-of-way, and services we currently provide in unincorporated Maine Township. We are proud to report that 89% of those surveyed noted responses of being satisfied to extremely satisfied in roadway services. 88% of those surveyed noted that our future projects should prioritize improving Flood Mitigation & Drainage as well as Parkway Tree Restoration. Resident input

right: Washington School Principal Kate Anderson alongside Highway Commissioner Beauvais reviewing recent school safety improvements.



left: State Senator Laura Murphy, Niles' Mayor George Alpogianis and Township officials at Niles' leaning tower lighting ceremony.



left: Administrator Marissa Vigna and Commissioner Beauvais

right: Community partners volunteering at Park Ridge Market After Dark.



is highly valued and if you have the time to complete one of our surveys please email [highway@mainetown.com](mailto:highway@mainetown.com) to request a form.

**2024 Maine Township Road District Levy** – Every year, Highway Departments and Townships are required to submit a Levy Request outlining monies sought via taxes to manage services provided for the community. I will continue to place a freeze on the 2024 Road District Levy, which will be reviewed and passed before the end of this year. We all continue to face financial challenges that are being thrust upon us in the economy. As an elected official, it is my responsibility to operate our entities in a way that is as financially responsible as possible. It has been a priority of mine to seek out and utilize monies from many federal and state grants, as well as minimal highway department reserves to enable our department to offer a full range of services for unincorporated Maine Township. I have increased infrastructure improvements throughout the Township while at the same time not raising the levy at any point in my term. This has been incredibly challenging at times; however, I will continue to operate in a fiscally responsible manner to minimize the burden on the taxpayer.



left: Job site visit with crew.

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

If we are currently on the other line or temporarily away from the phone, please leave VM with your name, address and phone number. Your call will normally be returned within 24 hours. For quickest response email us at [highway@mainetown.com](mailto:highway@mainetown.com) or if you prefer you may call (847) 297-5225 and request an appointment. To report an emergency, call 911.



## NEWS FROM THE ASSESSOR

Assessor,  
Susan Moylan Krey

### Why Did My Escrow Increase So Much?

An escrow account for your mortgage is a separate account where a portion of your monthly mortgage payment is set aside to cover property taxes and homeowners insurance. When these bills come due, your lender uses the funds from the escrow to pay them on your behalf. In Cook County, there are two property tax bills a year.

My office has received endless phone calls from residents stating that their mortgage companies are increasing their escrow because their taxes have risen. This may or may not be true. Many factors impact an escrow increase. It is important to review the 2023 second installment property tax bill. This has the full year's information and the one your lender should look at to determine the annual analysis for the upcoming year. The lender is permitted to collect a monthly sum of a twelfth of the total annual escrow payments that the lender will pay from the account. Additionally, the lender is allowed to have a cushion and even advance deposits. Shortages can include past

due payments, not collecting enough from the prior year's analysis, future projected property taxes, and other fees they may include. These numbers are determined by the lender and you will have to discuss how they arrived at the escrow numbers.

### What Can I Do?

On the 2023 Second Installment Property Tax Bill the Cook County Treasurer does a nice job of showing what you paid in 2022 and 2023. The treasurer will state on the bill the amount of increase or decrease. Based on that difference, you should review your escrow statement. If the numbers do not seem correct, call your mortgage company. Ask them to re-escrow your account based on the full bill.

If you put down less than 20% when you purchased your home with a conventional mortgage but now have at least 20% equity, you can discuss dropping the private mortgage insurance (PMI) with your lender. Additionally, you can ask your lender about paying the property taxes on your own and how that would maybe benefit you.

**Hours: Monday–Friday from 9 AM to 4 PM**

**For more information, call 847-297-2510, ext. 255, email [smkrey@mainetown.com](mailto:smkrey@mainetown.com) or visit [www.mainetown.com](http://www.mainetown.com)**

## Recovery Connection

With August being Overdose Awareness month and September being Recovery Month Maine Township Recovery Connection staff and elected officials were busy. In August Recovery Connection hosted an overdose prevention seminar for 50 participants. September 30 was International Recovery Day where buildings and monuments all over the country were lit purple in support of the millions of people in recovery from drug and alcohol addiction. Recovery Connection staff and Elected Officials joined community members in recovery, along with State Senator Laura Murphy and Niles Mayor George Alpogianis in lighting the Leaning Tower of Niles purple in support of recovery.



## General Assistance

The General Assistance department would like to inform our residents that the Liheap season will start on October 1, 2024 through August 15, 2025 or until funds run out. This program offers a one-time grant to alleviate stress in paying your utility bills. There will be one priority period where households with at least 1 member aged 60 or older, person(s) with a disability, families with children 5 and under, households with a disconnection notice or already disconnected from one or both utilities can apply first. Starting November 1, 2024 all other Cook County households can apply with the rest of the households from Priority group 1. Medicare Open enrollment will be available from October 15 to December 7, 2024 which is taken care of by the Ship Counselor to help you with any questions about Medicare and/or other insurance plans. Please visit our website or give us a call at **847-297-2510 ext. 236** for any questions or to make an appointment.



# MaineStreamers, Enhancing Lives After 55+

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

## Exercise Classes

Start the new year off right, with joining one of our exercise classes. We offer Senior Aerobics, Yoga and Zumba Gold. These classes will increase your strength, mobility and balance.

## MaineStreamer Holiday Luncheon

There is no better way to ring in the holidays than with the MaineStreamers' Holiday Luncheon with Maureen Christine and Michael Bazan performing their Sounds of the Seasons show.

## Harold Washington Library & Palmer House Tour

Enjoy a tour while learning about the history of the 10-story Harold Washington Library Center & the beautiful Palmer House.

## Members Enjoying Day Trips and Events



"Unforgettable Kentucky" - MaineStreamers 3-Day Trip



Members enjoying the Sheboygan County Memorial International Airport, 1st stop of the 2024 Mystery Day trip.

right: Trustee Pete Gialamas along with MaineStreamers on a Wrigley Field Tour.



Supervisor Dimond, Trustee Jones and MaineStreamers members participated in their first "Walk to End Alzheimers".



## Joining MaineStreamers

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

## FREE Hearing & Retinal Screenings Sponsored by The Niles Lions Club



A Free Hearing & Retinal Screening Clinic was held on August 13, sponsored by The Niles Lions Club along with Maine Township, a total of 85 residents completed their screenings.

## Pet Vaccine Event



Cook County Department of Animal Control and Heartland Animal Shelter provided rabies and distemper vaccines along with microchips for both cats and dogs. 180 pets were treated at no charge to the owners.





**MAINE TOWNSHIP** • 1700 Ballard Road, Park Ridge, Illinois 60068-1006  
847-297-2510 • [www.maintown.com](http://www.maintown.com)

### Town Hall Hours

Mon - Fri : 9 AM - 5 PM



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(on our home page): [www.maintown.com](http://www.maintown.com)

\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSSDDM\*\*\*\*\*  
**RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER**

## Upcoming Meetings & Building Closures

**Board Meetings** on Nov. 26, 2024, Dec. 30, 2024 (Mon.), and Jan. 28, 2025 at 7 PM.

Offices closed on Nov. 11 for Veteran's Day, Nov. 27 (office closes at 1 PM), Nov. 28 and 29 for Thanksgiving, Dec. 24 (office closes at 1 PM), Dec. 25 for Christmas, Dec. 31 (office closes at 1 PM), and Jan. 1, 2025 for New Year's Day.

**For other meetings, please call 847-297-2510 or visit [www.maintown.com](http://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](http://www.maintown.com)**

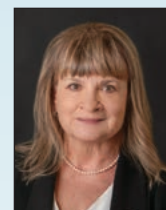
## MAINE TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS



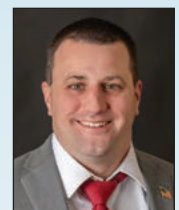
Karen J. Dimond  
Supervisor



Peter Gialamas  
Clerk



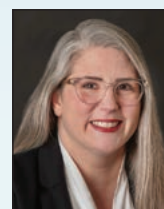
Susan Moylan Krey  
Assessor



Ed Beauvais  
Highway Commissioner



Kimberly Jones  
Trustee



Kelly Horvath  
Trustee



James Maher  
Trustee



Asif Malik  
Trustee

