



MAINELY NEWS



KAREN J. DIMOND
Supervisor

Winter 2024

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 1850



Karen's Column

"Let them eat cake."

This phrase, attributed to Marie Antoinette, was not helpful advice for her starving subjects who complained they had no bread. But why do I repeat this statement here? Let me explain.

After two years of effort, we were recently able to create a partnership with the Greater Chicago Food Depository (GCFD). The GCFD receives monetary donations from corporations and individuals, accepts food from restaurants and other sources, and purchases food in bulk through federal government programs. Volunteers at the GCFD warehouse help prepare large quantities of food for distribution by inspecting, sorting, repacking and labeling food before the GCFD's fleet of climate-controlled vehicles distributes food safely to food pantries and programs throughout Cook County. Through our new partnership, our pantry is now one of those that receives a GCFD distribution every week.

Our pantry can order from the GCFD the type of food our residents want, including meat, fish, dairy products and fresh produce. AND there is no charge to Maine Township. This has enabled our pantry to increase the quantity and variety of the food it can provide.

But we cannot get all types of products from the GCFD that our residents require. Non-food items are not provided by the GCFD, but are still very

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MaineStreamers Holiday Luncheon

Maine Township Elected Officials celebrating the MaineStreamers Holiday Luncheon at Chateau Ritz to a sold-out group of 300 members.

General Assistance

Our General Assistance Program is a state mandated program for township residents who don't qualify for other forms of public assistance. Our goal is to help prevent temporary financial difficulty from becoming a devastating or life-shattering event. We simultaneously provide assistance in the form of personal essentials, rent, transportation, utilities, and clothing. In certain cases we provide medical assistance and money for necessities including funerals. Among other criteria, you must meet the following:

- Must be an adult with no minor children
- Must live within the boundaries of Maine Township
- Must not be eligible for other forms of financial assistance including but not limited to; unemployment benefits, Public Aid benefits, disability benefits, early retirement, etc.
- Must have little to no income and depleted assets
- Must be searching for work or pending a disability case

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Karen's Column continued from page 1

much needed by our residents. So, donations from you of toiletries, diapers, baby wipes, Depends, feminine hygiene products, toilet paper, paper towels, and household cleaning products are greatly appreciated.

We also need snack foods for the "Weekend Go Bags" we provide weekly to local students who may be food insecure on weekends when not able to access meals at school. Items needed for these bags include fruit cups, juice boxes, popcorn, pudding cups, granola bars, Vienna sausage tins, and other snacks. Because we deliver these snacks off site to local schools, the GCFD does not provide these snack foods to us.

Finally, the GCFD delivers many types of healthy food every week. But it does not always have products like flour, sugar, and cake mix. And while we hope to provide mostly healthy foods in our pantry, we know that our residents occasionally like a sweet treat or maybe would like to bake a birthday cake. So, donations of those types of food are welcome too. Hence, when thinking about donations you might make, you may occasionally "let them eat cake." Thank you! ●



MAINE TOWNSHIP'S OFFICE OF
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
PRESENTS:

Holiday Lights Recycling Weekend

★ Friday, January 12th 9:00am-5:00pm ★

Saturday, January 13th 9:00am-1:00pm

**Location: Parking lot 1700 W. Ballard RD.
Park Ridge, IL 60068 near garage**

★ CALL 847-297-2510 EXT. 251
FOR MORE INFORMATION ★





Elected Officials attend 2023 Township Officials of Illinois Conference

above: Elected Officials attend 2023 Township Officials of Illinois Conference held in Springfield.

right: Emily Toomey, Youth Program Coordinator, was awarded the 2023 AITCOY Staff Award.





TRUSTEE'S CORNER

Trustee, Asif Malik

Holidays are upon us, and all is bright. It is the festive season.

Everything has a special brilliance and beauty, and this brilliance and beauty of the season is evident and reflected in our actions and words. This is the time when our smiles become brighter and wider and the goodwill to our fellow human beings is front and center.

The wonder and innocence reflected in children's eyes exudes excitement, anticipation, and joy. As they make their lists for Santa for their much-awaited gifts and some of this exuberance spills over to the rest of us.

This is the time for friends, families, and community. Not only do we have the opportunity to celebrate and appreciate our dear ones, but also the acknowledgement and recognition of the fact that we belong to a community and that we must appreciate and celebrate the vibrancy and brilliance of our communities.

We celebrate our common bonds of humanity by sharing our diverse cultural heritage. The lighting of the Menorah candle to celebrate Hanukkah and lighting a Kinara Candle to commemorate the principles of Kwanzaa both are a testament to the struggle and victory of human spirit. The Diyas of Diwali and the lights of Christmas tree both pave the road for the greater good to prevail. No matter how you mark this wondrous and festive season, I like to take the opportunity to wish each and every one of you Happy Holidays and a very happy and healthy new year.

Demystifying AI

Tuesday, January 16, 6-7 p.m.

**Location: Maine Township Town Hall,
1700 W. Ballard Rd Park Ridge IL 60068**

Explore history, concepts, applications,
and ethical considerations of this
fast-moving, news-making field of
technology.

To register, contact Jenny Raffie at 847-297-2510 Ext. 251
Presented by Niles-Maine District Library



General Assistance continued from page 1

Benefit Access Program: No paper applications are available. Please call us to schedule your appointment and obtain a list of documents needed. The benefits available through this program are:

- Seniors Free Transit Ride
- Persons with Disabilities Free Transit Ride
- Secretary of State License Plate Discount

Energy Assistance: Beginning in the fall of each year, our Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) can help low-income persons with a one-time credit toward their winter utility bills. Seniors and disabled individuals apply in October. Seniors, disabled individuals, and families with children under the age of 6 apply in November. Any resident can apply in December.

License Plate Discounts: Special discounts are available for vehicle license plates and renewal stickers.

Prescription Discount Program: Do you have Rx insurance? Stop by Maine Township and pick up your FREE Coast2CoastRx Discount Prescription Card and receive a discount on your prescriptions. Anyone can use the card. It covers drugs not

covered in health plans along with many pet prescriptions! Save money on health expenses that are not covered by insurance.

Public Aid Advocacy For Medicaid And Food Stamps: If you want help filling out forms to apply for Public Aid or Medicaid, one of our experienced staffers will be happy to assist you! Please visit Cash, SNAP (Food Stamps) & Medical Assistance webpage for more information.

Transportation: Maine Township sponsors a subsidized taxicab program entitled MaineLines. It helps low-income people who are disabled pay for transportation in and around Maine Township.

Other Programs and Resources:

- Financial Assistance
- Housing Information
- Medical Assistance
- Medicare Inquiries
- Social Security Inquiries

Please call the General Assistance Department at **847-297-2510 x236** for more information.



CLERK'S CORNER

Clerk, Peter Gialamas

Hello All,

Here are a few updates from the Clerk's office. We finally have printed English versions of "Rules of the Road" from the Secretary of State's Office. We have been waiting a long time and many residents have been asking for them, so I am glad to announce that you can now stop in and pick up a copy.

The passport processing times have improved a bit. A standard application now runs between 6 to 8 weeks and expedited from 2 to 3 weeks plus mailing times.

Also, beginning with January 2024 Renewal RTA Ride Free permits will be valid for 5 years instead of 2 years. For more info call Clerk's office.

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

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

Adult Anger Management Group – January 18 | 6-7 pm | ages 19+ | \$40

This group helps participants better understand and gain control over anger and make positive behavior changes to manage it effectively.

Art in the Town – January 22 | 4-4:50 pm (ages 6-8) | 5-6 pm (ages 9-12) | 12-weeks | free

This program helps participants enhance their artistic abilities while increasing confidence and social skills.

Tutoring – January 24 | 4-7 pm (1-hour sessions) | 10 weeks | grades 1-6 | \$50

Using a small-group format, our experienced tutors, who are also certified teachers, work with students to improve academic skills and self-confidence.

Workshop Improv Theatre – January 24 | 5-6 pm | 8 weeks | ages 8-13 | free

This program focuses on confidence building and expressiveness, as participants step outside their comfort zone and learn skills such as listening, public speaking, problem solving, and teamwork.

Cooking Class – February 1 | 4:30-6 pm | 5 weeks | ages 8-17 | \$12/week

This class, taught by an experienced chef, will teach different cooking techniques, knife safety, and culinary concepts, designed to encourage healthier lifestyle choices.

Anxiety Coping Skills Group – February 5 | 5-5:50 pm | 10 weeks | grades 3-8 | \$40

This group helps participants learn effective ways to deal with stress and anxiety and emphasizes putting these skills into practice in real-life situations.

Cooking class participants learning to make Asian Turkey Lettuce Wraps



Youth Anger Management Group (YAM Squad) –

February 6 | 6-6:50 pm | 10 weeks | grades 3-5 | \$40

This group teaches practical skills on how to deal with anger and frustration in a healthy manner.

***NEW* Shifting Sands: Sandtray Therapy Group for Youth with Behavioral Challenges at School** –

February 26 | 6-6:50 pm | 10 weeks | grades 6-8 | \$20

This group aims to provide a safe, supportive, and engaging environment for youth facing behavioral challenges at school.

Self-Esteem Building Group – February 26 | 4-4:45 pm | 10 weeks | grades 2-5 | free

This group helps students learn more about themselves, discover their strengths, and increase their self-efficacy through art, games, and empowering stories.

Inside Out Explorers: Emotion Regulation Group – February 28 | 5-5:45 pm | 10 weeks | grades K-1 and grades 2-3 | free

This group provides a safe and supportive environment for children to explore their emotions, improve emotional intelligence, and learn healthy coping skills.

For more information on these and other MaineStay programs visit mainetown.com/mainestay, email mainestay@mainetown.com, or call 847-297-2510.



HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT NEWS

Ed Beauvais, Highway Commissioner

We at the Highway Department are hoping everyone had an enjoyable holiday season. Also, Happy New Year to all of Maine Township! For more information and/or to download a new 2024 calendar go to mainetown.com website under the Highway Department tab.

Over the past few months along with our day-to-day duties, I have been able to attend and take part in many local community events worth noting. The Veterans Day ceremony put on by the American Legion Post 36 of Des Plaines is always humbling. It reminds us to be grateful for what we have, and the sacrifices that were made so we can live our lives how we want to. Also, it reminds us that as residents and public servants, we should always strive to give more than we take.



Highway Commissioner Ed Beauvais alongside American Legion Des Plaines Post 36 Commander Tom Strossner and Des Plaines Park Board Commissioner Erin Doerr honoring all those who served for a Veterans Day Ceremony.

Additionally, I had the privilege to attend the 116th Annual Townships of Illinois Educational Conference in Springfield. We learned how to improve and better serve our constituents as elected officials and more about Illinois history in general.

We also had the opportunity to take part in the Crop Hunger Walk in Park Ridge and give out Halloween goody bags at our Trunk & Treat Event at Town Hall. It was great to join with other local officials to give away turkeys to those in need for Thanksgiving, bring in much needed food and supplies to benefit our local food pantries and spearhead the Township Toys for Tots toy drive. Thank you to everyone who participated and donated to make the holidays special

right: Highway Commissioner Ed Beauvais and Maine Township Trustees Asif Malik and Kim Jones join Park Ridge Mayor Marty Maloney to benefit the Messiah Lutheran Church Crop Hunger Walk and Maine Township Food Pantry.



left: Highway Commissioner Ed Beauvais and Cook County Sheriff's Office personnel pass out goodies to local area kids for Halloween.



Highway Commissioner Ed Beauvais and Maine Township Trustee Asif Malik collecting and donating toys during the Annual Toys for Tots Drive.

for children in need. We should try and carry this momentum year-round. It is truly remarkable to help people when you can.

Working from our community survey last summer/fall, we are actively putting together a comprehensive budget that will include projects and infrastructure improvements that are truly guided by the direction of the public and their input. Looking forward to warmer weather and getting those projects under way in the spring/summer of this year. Hope to see you all around town! As always, please reach out and share your thoughts and opinions on our services and how we can improve.

Winter Cautions:

As we move forward in the winter season, I want to remind people to slow down on the roads especially when wet/slippery conditions exist and to be mindful of others.

To our beloved seniors, please take particular care when temperatures go below freezing. According to CDC data, falls are the leading cause of injury for adults ages 65 years and older. Over 14 million, or 1 in 4 older adults report falling every year. If it is below zero and icy, ice may not always be visible. If the temperature is below zero, it might be a good reason to stay at home for the day.

Maine Township Residents, have a plan B ready if you park your car in the street and snow signs have been posted restricting parking if two inches of snow is expected. Our trucks are oversized and for the best results we need cars off the street to properly plow snow and salt the streets in extreme temperatures. Also, it is against Maine Township Ordinance to push snow from your property onto the street, so if you have your driveway/sidewalk plowed advise your contractor that snow must be placed in your yard, or you could be issued a fine.

Water Main Breaks can happen in extreme temperatures, so if you see water with a large icy area, check the phone number on your water bill, as they usually have a 24-hour line to report water main breaks.

Good news, after winter comes the arrival of spring. For residents residing in Unincorporated Maine Township ONLY, please see below:

Tree Branch Pick Up Program – Pick up dates for 2024 are as follows: April 15th, May 20th, June 18th, July 15th, August 19th and last pick up of the year, September 16th. Do not place tree branches at curb after the last pick up in September, as it is against Maine Township Ordinance.

If you are unable to get ahold of us in the office, please leave a VM with your name, address, and phone number. Your call will normally be returned within 24 hours Monday–Thursday, messages left on Friday will be returned on Monday. For quickest response email us at highway@mainetown.com or if you prefer call to request an appointment. To report an emergency, please call 911.

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



NEWS FROM THE ASSESSOR

Assessor,
Susan Moylan Krey

One of the simplest ways to save on your property tax bill is to ensure you have all the exemptions you are entitled to.

Homeowner Exemption

Most homeowners are eligible for this exemption if they own and occupy the property, the first of the year, as their principal place of residence. Once this exemption is applied to your property tax bill, it should auto-renew yearly.

Senior Exemption

Most senior homeowners are eligible for this exemption if they are 65 years of age or older and own and occupy their property as their principal place of residence. Once this exemption is applied to your property tax bill, it should automatically renew for you. For the 2023 property tax year, residents born on or before 1958 will be eligible to apply.

Low-Income Senior Citizens Assessment Freeze Exemption "Senior Freeze"

Most homeowners are eligible for this exemption if they meet the requirements for the Senior Exemption and have a **total household annual income**, total gross, of \$65,000 or less in the calendar year 2022 for the 2023 property tax year. This exemption provides significant savings by "freezing" the equalized assessed value of an eligible property. This exemption needs to be applied for annually.

Veterans with Disabilities Exemption

Provides veterans with a service-connected disability, of at least 30%, as certified by the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs with a reduction in the equalized assessed value (EAV) of their property. The amount of those EAV deductions depends on the level of disability. Veterans who are rated 100% disabled and classified as "permanently and totally disabled" by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs should be automatically renewed for the 2023 property tax year.



2023 Board of Review Property Tax Workshop

The 2023 Exemption Application process will begin in mid-April 2024.

A Special Message...

As the holiday season is upon us, I want to take a moment to extend my warmest wishes to each and every one of you. In the heart of Maine Township, where community spirit thrives, I hope you find comfort and happiness surrounded by the warmth of family and friends. Wishing you and your loved ones a very joyous holiday season.

Warm regards,
Susan Moylan Krey and Staff

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**

vitalant
Blood Donation



**ONE PINT OF
BLOOD SAVES
UP TO 3 LIVES**

BLOOD DRIVE

January 18, 2024 • 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM
1700 W. Ballard Rd., Park Ridge, IL 60068

Must Register:
call 847-297-2510, ext. 251



MaineStreamers, Enhancing Lives After 55+

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



Chicago Magic Lounge

Experience this one-of-a-kind three part Chicago-Style Magic Show; performed at your table, on stage and a special exclusive, private back stage performance at The 654 Club.



MaineStreamers Valentine's Luncheon

Enjoy a wonderful lunch followed by Simply Elton, as Brian Harris brings the music of Sir Elton John to life. Listen to some of the greatest rock & roll music ever created.

Members Enjoying Day Trips and Events



Halloween Spooktacular



Trustee Kimberly Jones along with MaineStreamers members enjoying Octoberfest.



Illinois Railway Museum, Union



Elected Officials along with MaineStreamers members decorating Christmas Trees at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital.



Supervisor Dimond, Trustee Jones, & Trustee Horvath decorating a tree at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital.



Behind the Scenes of Soldier Field

Joining MaineStreamers

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

Recovery Connection

When a loved one struggles with addiction it affects the entire family. While the Maine Township Recovery Connection's core mission is to help those suffering from drug and alcohol addiction we also recognize the need for communal support for family members who sometimes blame themselves for their child's addiction and seek to "fix" the situation. Support groups give parents, spouses and brothers and sisters a place where they fit in. They learn that their feelings are a normal reaction to an abnormal situation. Also, they discover new ways of coping with home life. By joining a support group such as Families Anonymous or Al-anon, they meet other parents who are struggling with their child's addictions. They also hear the stories of parents who have developed more effective ways of interacting with their addicted children and or spouse.



The Maine Township area is host to many free in person and zoom meetings for families:

- Sundays Family Support Group 2 PM at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 100 S School St, Mount Prospect.
- Sundays Families Anonymous meeting 7 PM Des Plaines Unity Church, 259 E Central Rd, Des Plaines
- Monday, a virtual Al-anon meeting is offered at 7 PM. Please join this open meeting with the Zoom code 217746365.
- On Fridays Families Anonymous is offered at 10 AM at CW United Presbyterian Church, 4950 Pratt Ave, Skokie.

For more information or resources and how to connect with other families, contact Marty Cook at 847-297-2510 ext 233.



MAINE NEWS



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Town Hall Hours

Mon - Fri : 9 AM - 5 PM



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Subscribe to receive our email updates

(on our home page): www.maintown.com

*****ECRWSSSEDDM*****

RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER

Upcoming Meetings & Building Closures

Board Meetings on Jan. 30, Feb. 29, and March 26 at 7 PM.

Offices closed on Jan. 15 for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day,
and Feb. 19 for Presidents 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