

Wayne Township 27W031 North Avenue West Chicago, IL 60185

Randy Ramey Township Supervisor

Brandi Ramundo Township Clerk Supervisor's Office 630-231-7140 M-F 8:30am - 4:30pm

Trustees:
Daniel Brinkman
Jackie Hayden
Mark Hoyert
William Waghorne

Serving Portions
Of: Bartlett
Carol Stream
Hanover
Park St.
Charles
Wayne

# A Message from Randy Ramey, Wayne Township Supervisor

Hello Residents of Wayne Township,

Year 2020 is over but the issues are the same, as Covid-19 remains a major concern. Wayne

Township has prepared itself to slowly reopen to programs and regular government activities for 2021, as the State allows us. The Township has



been able to continue service by appointment in the Assessor's Office and General Assistance. The offices have remained open to answer questions and direct Township residents to various programs offered through the State, the County and the Township.

Our Food Pantry addition took on the demand that was created by Covid-19 and performed admirably. We served thousands of families in need and distributed over 300,000 pounds of food. The Food Pantry staff and volunteers continue to amaze me with their dedication to serving the people of Wayne Township. Throughout this pandemic, we stood together to make sure those who were in need received nutritional food and personal necessities to make it through until their situation improved. We continue to serve over 100 families per week and with CARES Act funding, we will have plenty of food to continue as needed.

We have been able to access grants to get many projects accomplished at the Township. We recently received a \$100,000 grant to finish our park project on the south end of the property. When I first started, this area and the area to the east were overrun. We have been able to clean it up and now with this grant we will be able to put it to use for the residents of the Township. The idea is to have a walking path around the pond, covered areas for outside activities and areas for our kids who attend summer camp with WAYS. We have also been notified a grant will become available to help us finish the parking lot

and path at the Wayne Township Cemetery so it will be easier to access. We hope to get historical designation for the cemetery too.

We have been able to do many things at the Township for the least amount of money. Accessing grants, designated funds and donations have helped Wayne Township remain the lowest burden on your property tax bill. We will continue to strive to be the most efficient government in DuPage County. Your input is always welcome, please stop by and see the improvements that have occurred.

Thank you, Randy Ramey Wayne Township Supervisor











### ELECTRONICS RECYCLING Saturday, May 8 9am – 12pm

The township will host this event rain or shine. We will be collecting computers, monitors, printers, cables/wires/power supplies, mice, all electronics, TVs, stereos, power tools, appliances, cameras, exercise equipment, microwaves, metal, and so much more. All items are recycled free of charge with the exception of:

- TVs \$20/ea
- Tube monitors \$10/ea
- Microwaves \$5/ea
- Exercise equipment \$5/ea

#### Cash or Check ONLY

Check payable to Midwest Computer Recycling

#### FREE RECYCLE AND SHRED EVENT Saturday, August 7 10am – 12pm

Collecting tattered American flags, batteries (car, sump, etc.), pills or liquid medication in a zip bag (personal info removed), and textiles such as shoes, clothes, purses, belts, sheets, towels, rags, etc.

Shredding will run from 10am until noon **OR** until the truck is full. Limit of four plastic "Jewel" bags per car. Shredding is performed offsite by Cutting Edge Document Destruction. This is a drive-thru event; you must remain in your car at all times.

Sponsored by a grant from DuPage County.

## **General Assistance**

Juanita Martinez, Director 630-231-7173 • M, TU, TH, F 9:00am - 2:00pm

The Covid Pandemic brought an unprecedented impact on the needs of our community, especially to our low-income neighbors. Our staff responded immediately by modifying all service programs ensuring that food and financial assistance would be accessible to those in need. We increased the frequency and quantity of our food distribution, switched to contactless "drive-thru" weekly distributions, expanded our service area to include anyone in DuPage County, started a dedicated food distribution for seniors, facilitated online and phone assistance applications, and implemented new CDC protocols to help ensure the safety of our clients, volunteers and staff. Since the pandemic, we have assisted over 15,000 individuals.

We collaborated with various organizations to host a free Flu Immunization Clinic. We also offered information on how to access food stamps, legal aid and unemployment benefits. We passed out hundreds of kits with facemasks and hand sanitizer, distributed thousands of school lunches for households with children, distributed nutritional information, started a "diaper bank" to offer diapers for children and adults, and of course, have helped families and individuals navigate the confusing world of public benefits. We have also been very busy applying for federal and local grants to help us access larger quantities of fresh and frozen food products, personal hygiene products and PPE supplies. We received financial grants and donations to purchase two vehicles needed to participate in "food rescue" donations from local grocers. Thank you to FT Foundation and First Trust Portfolios for their generosity, county board members Sheila Ruttlidge and Jim Zay for their continued support of our programs, the Northern Illinois Food Bank for their relentless efforts to secure the necessary food products, help us stay compliant with federal and state requirements and advocating for our programs and our clients

In Appreciation- Our food pantry and our clients have been the fortunate recipients of amazing generosity and support from everyone who decided to make a difference by helping during this time of crisis; we are very thankful for every donation we received from various religious and political organizations, neighborhood groups and local businesses. We especially appreciate the donations by private individuals who see the need in their neighborhoods and want to contribute to help, not just financially but with in-kind donations of handmade masks, winter care kits, coat donations, etc. Thank you so much!

Clothes Closet- We are currently accepting ONLY winter coats.

**Food Pantry Distribution Hours**- Every Wednesday from 10am to noon.

**General Assistance Office Hours**- Phone, online and by appointment only.

## WAYS (Wayne/Winfield Area Youth/Family Services)

Allison Kowieski, Executive Director 630-231-7166 • 27W031 North Avenue, West Chicago M-TH 10:00am - 9:00pm • F 9:00am - 5:00pm 501(c)3 charity • www.ways4change.org

WAYS has continued to operate during the pandemic by switching to a digital platform. We provide the majority of our services using Zoom video conferencing. We hope to resume in-person services soon, but it will be dependent on the availability of vaccinations for staff and how transmission numbers improve.

**Individual and Family Therapy** is available to all in English and Spanish, addressing a wide variety of issue such as family conflict, depression, anxiety, self-harm, youth behavior, marital concerns, stress management, adjustment to change, work issues, and more. Full fee is \$65 per session, with sliding scale reductions available for eligible clients, based on household income and family size.

Adult Classes: \$13 consult \$25 per session Parenting Classes: An 8-session series

**English:** Wednesdays 8-9pm OR Thursdays 10-11am

**Spanish:** Mondays 7-8 pm

**Anger Management Classes:** A 10-session series **English:** Tuesdays 8-9pm OR Fridays 9-10am

Spanish: Fridays 9-10 am

**Tutoring** is available to elementary and middle school aged youth. Many students have been using 2-3 sessions a week during remote and hybrid learning. Certified teachers tutor elementary and middle school youth, along with a limited number of high school subjects; \$25 per session with sliding scale reductions available for eligible clients.

**Keep Calm & Craft** is a fun new group developed for elementary or middle school children to relax and socialize while creating art and playing games. Join us Mondays 6-7 pm and Wednesdays 4-5pm. Attend one or both. Sessions are only \$5 each with a registration link on our webpage.

**Summer Camp** plans are uncertain at this time. If we are unable to hold it in-person, we plan to hold a virtual program like we did last summer. We will continue to update our website and Facebook page with details as they become available in the next few months.

**Help Wanted!** Now interviewing for Master's level internships for May and December 2020, as well as high school level tutors.

Fundraising: Our first online raffle in November was a success!
Our next online fundraiser is an auction that starts
March 15 and runs through

March 28.

The auction website is <a href="https://event.auctria.com/2af07c88-6162-4369-bf2c-631290a12e82/">https://event.auctria.com/2af07c88-6162-4369-bf2c-631290a12e82/</a>

# **Senior Center**

Erin Simpson, Director 630-231-7155 • M-F 8:00am - 4:00pm

"Where Friends Become Family"... this is the Wayne Township Senior Center motto that we hold proudly, even more so now during this worldwide pandemic. If you live in Wayne Township and are 55<sup>+</sup>, join us to get involved and stay active. We are compliant with the DuPage County Covid-19 guidelines to insure safety including screening, masks, temperature checks, air purifiers, hand sanitizers, and daily disinfecting, all while respecting social distancing.

Our biggest challenge this past year was keeping members informed and engaged as we strived to combat social isolation. We delivered yard signs to all 600<sup>+</sup> members, made phone

calls, and made daily visits singing them "Happy Birthday". Over summer, we established outdoor walking groups three days a week and incorporated outdoor parking lot events such as exercise classes, drive-in bingo, parking lot lunches, book club, Eat Right/Be Healthy classes, Yahtzee and Farkle. To keep members' minds active, informative newsletters are now mailed monthly listing the at-home and in-person activities

along with a puzzle challenge. We began, and will continue to provide, YouTube exercise videos from our instructors.

We collaborated with the DuPage Senior Citizens Council to provide meals to seniors monthly, August through December. We provided a drive-thru flu shot clinic, celebrated our 90<sup>+</sup> members by mailing them a lifetime journal, honored our Veterans with a pinning ceremony and lunch, and had a drive-thru holiday gift pick-up where 300<sup>+</sup> members attended.

We will continue to offer medical equipment lending, books, puzzles, birthday cards, computer lab, and volunteer opportunities along with well-being check phone calls and daily birthday visits. We are currently taking AARP tax appointments and are hosting a Blood Drive in March.

In compliance with county guidelines, we re-opened the Senior Center on February 1. Up-and-running activities include Seated Yoga, Tai Chi, Line Dancing, Fit for Life, Total Body Fitness, Pace Fit, Walking, Book Club, Eat Right/Be Healthy, Bunco, Movie Days, Knitting Group, Crafting, Bingo, Comedy Hours, Documentaries, Canvas Painting, Shredding Newspaper, Cards for Soldiers, Blankets for Homeless & Animals Shelters, and so much more!

Visit the website calendar for details or call for information.

## Senior Center continued

# Senior Center Blood Drive Wednesday, March 10 10:00am – 3:00pm Wayne Township Senior Center

Did you know that somebody needs blood every 3 seconds?

Help save lives by donating blood! The entire process lasts approximately one hour with the actual blood donation lasting 10 minutes.

Call the Senior Center at 630-231-7155 to make your appointment. Everyone who donates will receive a small gift and a raffle ticket entry for a \$10 gift card.

1 PINT
3 Can save
GIVE BLOOD
GIVE BLOOD

#### Assessor

Michael E. Musson, Wayne Township Assessor 630-231-8900 • M-F 8:30am - 4:30pm

## **COVID-19 Response**

My staff and I have continued to serve residents throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. We have streamlined the application process for Homestead Exemptions, and implemented curbside service for applicants.

Legislation that passed in the spring of 2020 allowed the Senior Freeze, Disabled Persons and Disabled Veterans Exemptions to be renewed automatically for those who received the exemptions in 2019. We are hopeful that this legislation will be passed again for 2021 (taxes payable 2022). We will notify all 2020 recipients by mail again if the law passes to allow exemptions to be carried over for 2021.

New applicants will need to apply for the exemptions at our office. Appointments are strongly encouraged. Applications will be available in late April.

I am very pleased to announce that these applications no longer need to be notarized to be approved by the DuPage County Supervisor of Assessments.

#### 2020 Assessment Cycle Completed

My staff and I completed the 2020 Assessments in October, 2020. Wayne Township received a 1.037 Equalization Factor. The Equalization Factor will not cause taxes to increase because it is applied uniformly to all properties in the Township.

The Equalization Notice was published on October 8, 2020 in the Examiner newspapers, and the final date to appeal a 2020 assessment was November 30, 2020. Appeal hearings were held in January, and final Board of Review decisions will be mailed in March.

We are now working on the 2021 assessments, which will be completed in the fall of 2021.

For additional information regarding all exemptions available to homeowners, please visit our website at www.waynetownshipassessor.com



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#### Calendar

03/10 Blood drive

04/06 Consolidated General Election

04/13 Annual Town Meeting

05/08 Electronics Recycling

05/31 Offices Closed

Board meetings are the first Thursday of every month, starting at 7pm.

## Services and Programs at a Glance:

- Transportation for township residents
- Medicare and Medicaid assistance
- Holiday gift and meal programs for eligible residents
- Voter registration
- Recycling of tattered American flags
- Temporary handicap placards
- Free cable-style gun locks
- Maintenance of nuisance weeds, unincorporated
- Financial assistance
- Electronics recycling and document shredding
- Brush collection, unincorporated
  - Week of 4/19, 6/7, 7/19, 9/13, 10/18

# Wayne Township Cemetery 29W242 Smith Road, West Chicago

As one of the oldest cemeteries in DuPage County, the Wayne Township Cemetery has served as a burial ground since before 1840. Fallen fighters of the War of 1812, the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, WWI and WWII, the Vietnam War and the Korean War are buried there.

We invite you to take a tour of the cemetery and see history unfold before your eyes. Veteran ceremonies on Memorial Day and Veteran's Day; ceremonies are open to the public.

Call the Supervisor's Office to purchase a plot.

# CONSOLIDATED GENERAL ELECTION TUESDAY, APRIL 6

• For the election of local/municipal, park district, library district, school district and fire district officials.

Eligible DuPage County registered voters may vote by mail starting February 25. You can obtain a mail ballot application by going to the DuPage County Election Division website at <a href="https://www.dupageco.org/Election">www.dupageco.org/Election</a> or by calling the township at 630-231-7140. Early voting at DuPage County begins February 25; temporary and permanent early voting locations open March 22.

Voter registration for this election is available at the township through March 8.

# ANNUAL TOWN MEETING TUESDAY, APRIL 13

We invite all township residents to attend, connect with your township officials and ask questions. Chairs in the Senior Center will be socially distanced, please wear a mask. The meeting starts at 7:30pm, with check-in starting at 7:00pm.

This meeting may be cancelled if Covid-19 guidelines change. Please call the township to confirm.