



# New Trier Township Courier

News from Your Township Government

WINTER 2022

New Trier Township | 739 Elm Street, Winnetka, IL | Township Office 847-446-8202 | Assessor Office 847-446-8200



## SUPERVISOR'S MESSAGE

Whether you are an established New Trier resident or new to the Township, welcome to the Winter issue of the *Courier*. The *Courier* is one way we provide information about services available, noteworthy calendar items, partner agencies, and news. Consider spending some time exploring programs and services we provide with and for you. The Township offers broad services, but care is taken to make your experiences personal – from passports or temporary parking placards to a visit to the Assessor or the Food Pantry.

In the *In Memoriam* on page 3, we say goodbye to a true public servant, Township trustee, the late John Thomas. We also take an in-depth look at youth resources, reflect on the Township fire and recovery earlier this year, and offer answers to frequently asked questions about our most utilized Township services. I am aware of the many calls and emails our Social Services Administrator receives on a daily basis. While many residents have moved beyond the worst of the pandemic, you or someone close to you may still be experiencing heightened stress or particular hardship. The Township website provides more information ([www.newtriertownship.com/149/Financial-Assistance](http://www.newtriertownship.com/149/Financial-Assistance)) and Social Services Administrator, Jeanne Winsted Rosser is available to discuss possible resources. Please email her at [jwinstedrosser@newtriertownship.com](mailto:jwinstedrosser@newtriertownship.com). Hardships can occur at any time. While this is a season of thanks and generosity, know that it's okay to not be okay. You are not alone.

As we head into the winter months, we will continue to monitor the COVID-19 state and county recommendations to keep you apprised of any changes to our services through our usual communication channels: the biweekly e-newsletter, the *Dispatch*; social media channels; our website; and local press.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve you as your Township Supervisor. It continues to be a pleasure and privilege. As always, if you have ideas or questions about your township, please email me at [GSEisenberg@newtriertownship.com](mailto:GSEisenberg@newtriertownship.com).

**Gail Schnitzer Eisenberg**  
Township Supervisor

## CALENDAR

### Early 2022 Dates

### TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETINGS

**2nd Tuesday** of the month  
**7:30 PM**

Alan Goldberg Conference and Community Room, 2nd Floor  
New Trier Township

### LEGAL AID CLINICS

**3rd Wednesday** of the month  
**(Virtual) 10 AM - Noon**

Jan 19, Feb 16, Mar 16, Apr 20  
*Appointments strongly recommended*  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f-4dabaf2aa0face9-legal>

### ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

**April 12**  
**7:30 PM**

### PAPER SHRED

**May 7**  
**8:30 AM - 11:30 AM\***

Regina Dominican High School  
701 Locust Road, Wilmette  
*\*or, until the truck is full*

### FOOD PANTRY

**M-F 10 AM - 4 PM** Available for residents and those employed in the Township. Pantry Staples - Produce - Meat - Household Supplies - Personal Hygiene

### Closed on the following dates:

**Jan 17** Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
**Feb 11** Lincoln's Birthday  
**Feb 21** President's Day

**Upcoming Deadline** **January 21, 2022** ✓

Community Support Grants for residents with disabilities

## WHAT'S INSIDE

**Seniors: Explore and Expand Your Interests**

**Recovery & Renovation 2021**

**Township Services: Your Questions, Answered**

**Youth Programs/Resources**

**In Memoriam John T. Thomas, Trustee**

**Event Highlights**

# YOUTH Partners & Services

## Drop-In. Learn a new skill. Connect.

Check-out a wide range of activities, skill development, make new friends, or just hang out.

Glencoe Junior High Project (GJHP) at [gjhp.org](http://gjhp.org)  
Glencoe Youth Services at [glencoeyouthservices.org](http://glencoeyouthservices.org)  
Warming House Youth Center at [warminghouse.org](http://warminghouse.org)  
Winnetka Youth Organization at [winnetkayo.org](http://winnetkayo.org)

## Find Mental Health Support.

Learn to set goals, work on mental resilience, or get help when struggling.

**Counseling Center of the North Shore** helps people through life's challenges and transitions by providing counseling, therapy, and community education. Sliding scale fees apply. [ccns.org](http://ccns.org)

**Erika's Lighthouse** creates middle school and high school teen depression awareness programs, letting students know they are never alone, and there is somewhere to turn. [erikaslighthouse.org](http://erikaslighthouse.org)

**Family Service Center of Wilmette** provides counseling support for students grades 5-12 with stress, depression, substance abuse, relationships, and child behavior. Sliding scale fees apply. [familyservicecenter.com](http://familyservicecenter.com)

**Family Service of Glencoe** provides services to support healthy families. FSC helps to identify, prevent, and resolve social and emotional problems. Sliding scale fees apply. [familyserviceofglencoe.com](http://familyserviceofglencoe.com)

**Youth Services** provides social-emotional support for children and youth including through their popular **PRIDE Youth Program. Text-A-Tip** anonymous text support from licensed mental health counselor: **Text NSHELP912 to 844-823-5323** OR **download 847HELP** from your app store. [www.ysgn.org](http://www.ysgn.org)

## Access Crisis Intervention.

**Haven Youth and Family Services** responds to the physical and emotional needs of youth and their families by providing emergency housing services, individual, group, and family therapy, crisis intervention, daily outreach to area schools, psycho-educational workshops, youth leadership positions, and service-learning opportunities. **Text "HELLO" to 1(844)823-5323** or phone the **Crisis Line (847)251-6630**. [havenforyouth.org](http://havenforyouth.org)

**The Children's Advocacy Center of North and Northwest Cook County** is the leading resource to empower and heal abused children involved in the legal system. [cachelps.org](http://cachelps.org)

**The Harbour** is the only state-licensed emergency shelter providing services to young women experiencing homelessness in the North/Northwest suburbs. [theharbour.org](http://theharbour.org)

**Peer Services's** mission is to eliminate substance use and the problems it causes for teens, families, and communities through collaborative, high-quality prevention and treatment services. [peerservices.org](http://peerservices.org)

For other mental health and counseling resources available to Township residents, please see our online Resource Directory. All Illinois residents are invited to **text "TALK" or "HABLAR" to 552020 to connect with Call4Calm 24/7**. You can also call the **Illinois Warm Line at 866-359-7953** or the **Text "HOME" to 741741** to connect with a Crisis Counselor.

## Empower youth with developmental disabilities.

We partner with non-for-profits to provide services and creative outlets to young people with developmental disabilities.

**Special Gifts Theater** offers individuals with disabilities an opportunity to work on skills and have fun on stage. [specialgiftstheater.org](http://specialgiftstheater.org)

**Our Place** supports teens and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities so that they can live meaningful, productive, socially connected lives in their home community. [ourplaceofnewtrier.org](http://ourplaceofnewtrier.org)

## Green New Trier! Paper Shred Event at Regina Dominican High School



New Trier students from The Volunteer Center

## PLANNING AHEAD: Office Of The Assessor



Last January, we looked forward to a return to normality (and I hope that has happened for most of you). Unfortunately, in Cook County Township Assessorland 2021 has been even more chaotic and uncertain than 2020, and, because expected scheduling went out the window, “planning ahead” for 2022 won’t be as easy as it should be. Will we return to

pre-pandemic routines, or will delays and poor communication continue – unknown. Nonetheless, we do know some things:

- 2022 is a Triennial Reassessment year for NTT. Unfortunately, we cannot predict when these will be available to residents. I can promise that as soon as we receive an email the day Reassessment Notices go into the mail, we will communicate that to you with online notices. We also recommend that you sign up on the township website ([www.newtriertownship.com](http://www.newtriertownship.com) – [Notify Me](#)) to get bulletins.
- First Installment 2021 Tax Bills should be posted on the County Treasurer’s website now; hard copies will be mailed in late January. Due Date is March 1, 2022.
- Second Installment 2021 Tax Bills may be even later than in 2021. Countywide delays in the certification process by the County Assessor’s Office prevented the County Board of Review from starting its appeal process on time. The Board offers pre-filing but cannot analyze any appeals until the County Assessor certifies a jurisdiction; there is literally no data to analyze.

- The “Covid Reduction” remains in effect for the 2021 property tax year.
- Cook County Commissioner Larry Suffredin will not seek reelection in 2022. Fortunately, we will have the benefit of his experience when we open for Appeals to the Assessor’s Office “sometime” next spring.
- Due to County redistricting, NTT will move from District 13 to District 14 where Scott Britton is Cook County Commissioner (exact date unknown). Note: This is NOT the same as congressional redistricting.
- The Cook County Board of Review has also shuffled its three districts. For 10 years Mike Cabonargi has managed Wilmette, and Dan Patlak managed the rest of NTT (Commissioner Tammy Wendt won Dan’s seat in 2021). As of January 1, 2022 all NTT will be under the aegis of Commissioner Cabonargi.
- Our annual “Tax Calendar at a Glance” seminars were not held in 2020 or 2021; we will put the Calendar online for 2022 (and offer in-person seminars again when all pandemic restrictions lift).

Deputy Assessor Leonard Shifflett and I are here to help you with property tax questions and concerns. Our role is to help you get the fairest assessment possible, and we take it seriously.

Happy Holidays and good health to all.

### Jan Churchwell

Assessor

[jchurchwell@newtriertownship.com](mailto:jchurchwell@newtriertownship.com)

### Leonard Shifflett

Deputy Assessor

[lshifflett@newtriertownship.com](mailto:lshifflett@newtriertownship.com)

## RECOVERY AND RENOVATION After The Fire

With gratitude to the Winnetka Fire Department, The Northfield Food Pantry, and all others who lent support during the Township’s building closure earlier this year, the office has been back to full operations since our July 1st reopening.



The building’s sprinkler and alarm system alerted the Winnetka Fire Department to the fire, and the Department’s quick response to 739 Elm Street, meant local firefighters were able to take the necessary steps to safely shut down the electrical system in the pre-dawn hours of March 28th.

According to **Fire Chief Ripka**, “the cause seems to have been a flash of electricity somehow escaping an open wire or outlet.” This dangerous occurrence is called “arcing.” “As a 1922 historical landmark building, it was great that the fire alarm and sprinkler system functioned as designed and held the fire in check until firefighters could safely extinguish the fire.”

As soon as the fire mitigation finished, the empty basement pantry space was quickly renovated with the help of agency partner organization, **Rebuilding Together**, to ready it for the Food Pantry reopening. With a team of volunteers and gallons of paint, the Township gained a clean, refreshed lower level which allowed our staff and dedicated volunteers to get back to work. **Our Place** adults with disabilities work diligently to keep the pantry stocked.

The office is pleased to welcome back residents and has resumed all services.

# Annual Turkey Dinner Distribution

Turkey, fresh fruit, sides, harvest baskets to pantry clients and residential agency partners



Staff and volunteers at Winnetka Presbyterian Church

## Here When You Need Us

Working with residents during challenging and unpredictable times is a key part of our public service mission.

New Trier Township social service programs provide assistance to residents needing support for basic needs during times of hardship.

**Angel Fund, Emergency Assistance and General Assistance** programs can often provide help for basic needs such as housing, utilities, medical services, etc. Each program has specific eligibility requirements, with the most important being residence within the Township. Our Social Services Administrator, Jeanne Winsted Rosser, is available for a confidential discussion with residents regarding their specific situations.

In addition to the **Food Pantry** (available year-round to any Township resident, or, new this year, a person employed by a Township business or organization), the Township offers seasonal programs, such as: **Childcare and Summer Camp Scholarships, Community Support Grants, the School Supplies Program** administered in conjunction with Township schools, as well as a variety of Holiday Programs, such as our **Holiday Dinner Giveaways** for Pantry clients, our **Caring Neighbors Program**, which provides holiday gifts for eligible Township children, and **Holiday Grocery Gift Cards** to Seniors living in subsidized housing.

If you are interested in one of the Township social services programs, or would simply like to make a contribution, please contact Jeanne Winsted Rosser: 847-446-8201 and/or [jwinstedrosser@newtriertownship.com](mailto:jwinstedrosser@newtriertownship.com).

## IN MEMORIAM

# John Thieme Thomas

August 21, 1935 – November 6, 2021

John Thomas, New Trier Township Trustee and 47-year resident of Winnetka, passed away after a short illness on November 6th.



Long before stepping foot into the Township office as an elected official, he had been part of the fabric of New Trier's civic community and beyond. Thomas chaired the 1999 Caucus Parks Committee and then the 2000 Winnetka Caucus Council.

He served on the Zoning Board of Appeals and was twice on the Winnetka Planning Commission. Thomas was a board member of Township agency-partner Winnetka Youth Organization since 1986 and twice chaired that board. He became a Winnetka Parks Commissioner in 2005 and served multiple four-year terms. Thomas had been sworn in for his second term with the Township in May. He believed in the importance of Trustees of different backgrounds having robust discussions about propositions in front of the Township.

Originally from Detroit, Michigan, Trustee Thomas earned both his Business Administration and Engineering degrees from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. He began his professional career at Procter and Gamble. Assuming increasingly senior roles in the companies where he worked, Trustee Thomas ultimately retired from a position as Executive Vice President at Ward Howell.

Alongside dedicated service to Boards of public and private corporations, Thomas devoted time to the Board and Executive Committee of the Northern Illinois Girl Scouts Council and presidential posts at United Way and Rotary Club, both of Winnetka-Northfield. John Thomas moved seamlessly from boardroom to front-line efforts of the organizations with which he worked – from a capital improvement plan site with the Park District to helping with a warm coats drive for those in need, sponsored by local Winnetka-Northfield Rotary Club.

John Thomas is survived by his wife, Ellen, and their two sons, Evan and John.

Donations to the New Trier Township Angel Fund can be made in Thomas's memory on the Township website. The funds are used to help residents facing a life-threatening emergency who do not qualify for General Assistance and/or Emergency Assistance.



## NORTH SHORE SENIOR CENTER

# Seniors: Explore and Expand Your Interests

In its 65th year, Northfield-based Senior Center is a gem on the North Shore.

In town or out of town for the winter, there are many ways to stay active in New Trier.

North Shore Senior Center provides a **hybrid option** – meaning members have the option of participating in-person or online – for an increasing number of their offerings. This is a great way to connect to fun, educational seminars, and health without leaving home on bitter cold days. It is also ideal for residents who want to dial in from an out-of-town destination.

According to **NSSC Executive Director Tish Rudnicki**, winter is a great time to get involved with NSSC. “There are plenty of opportunities for people to engage and connect with others, including luncheon and performance events, fitness and wellness classes, day trips, and outdoor adventure programs like snowshoeing.”

In addition to special events, such as lectures and music, NSSC has curated educational offerings from foreign languages and decluttering to art appreciation and technology tutorials. Day trips and sports and leisure offerings are also available.

To explore interesting options and topics, see NSSC’s **Lifelong Learning** catalog, stop in the lobby or spend some time on the website, [www.nssc.augusoft.net](http://www.nssc.augusoft.net).

“What might surprise someone new to New Trier Township is that we offer an array of caregiver resources and support groups,” according to Executive Director Rudnicki.

“We also have counselors who can assist people who are grieving or experiencing depression, as well as professional money managers who can take the burden of managing mail and bills of older adults and their children.” However you link to this wonderful community resource, there’s bound to be something for you.

### Resources at The North Shore Senior Center

- Health & Wellness
- Community Resources
- Caregiving Support
- Ethics and professionals on a wide range of topics relevant to aging
- Benefits Counseling
- Legal & Financial matters
- Dementia Resources
- Lifelong Learning program
- Lending Closet

To learn more about North Shore Senior Center or to access the Lifelong Learning calendar, see the website at [www.nssc.org](http://www.nssc.org) or call 847-784-6000.

North Shore Senior Center, Arthur C. Nielsen, Jr. Campus  
161 Northfield Road, Northfield, IL 60093

## YOUR QUESTIONS, ANSWERED Township Services

### Are handicap placards available at the township?

Yes. Temporary Handicap Placards are available for a three-month period. We welcome you to bring in your physician-signed application. We are able to assist with one renewal. For longer term placards, you will need to go to the State of Illinois website. [https://www.ilsos.gov/publications/pdf\\_publications/vsd62.pdf](https://www.ilsos.gov/publications/pdf_publications/vsd62.pdf)



### Does the township offer discounted transportation services?

Yes. Dial-A-Ride is available available for seniors and adults with disabilities. Please call 847-446-8202 to sign up. Escorted Transportation services are on hold due to the pandemic.

### Do you offer passport assistance?

Yes. Email Lorrecia Pearson at [lpearson@newtriertownship.com](mailto:lpearson@newtriertownship.com), our Passport Acceptance Agent, or call 847-446-8202 to schedule an appointment. Appointments are available from 10AM - 3 PM on Wednesday/Thursday, and 10AM - 2PM on Fridays, every hour. Print out applications in advance. Be advised that the U.S. Department of State will longer allow any corrections or cross-outs.

### What do I need for my passport appointment?

- Driver's License or identification card - both sides on one page\*
- Birth certificate (Black and White copy only)
- Print out both sides of the DS-11 form if filling it out online.

### How long will it take to get my passport?

Times vary; the latest information is available at <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel>. As soon as you know you will be traveling, make plans to get your passport.

### What do I need to do for a renewal passport?

Mail your renewal application directly to the Department of State. Find the application and mailing information at <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel> You can renew with a DS-82 form if you:

- Currently have your passport book in your possession
- Have an undamaged passport book
- Were issued the passport book when you were age 16 or older
- Have your current name in your current passport book and it has not been changed
- Have a passport that was issued in the last 15 years
- Your passport pages are full. [Check “large book” box on the DS-82 application]



See the website for more details. [www.newtriertownship.com/passports](http://www.newtriertownship.com/passports)

New Trier Township  
739 Elm Street  
Winnetka, IL 60093

NONPROFIT  
ORG  
ECRWSS  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT #21  
WINNETKA IL

POSTAL CUSTOMER, LOCAL  
NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP  
ILLINOIS

## ELECTED TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS

**Gail Schnitzer Eisenberg**, Supervisor  
[GSEisenberg@newtriertownship.com](mailto:GSEisenberg@newtriertownship.com)

**Nicole Capretta**, Clerk  
[ncapretta@newtriertownship.com](mailto:ncapretta@newtriertownship.com)

**Jan Churchwell**, Assessor  
[jchurchwell@newtriertownship.com](mailto:jchurchwell@newtriertownship.com)

**Danielle Ruben**, Trustee  
[druben@newtriertownship.com](mailto:druben@newtriertownship.com)

**Stefan Mozer**, Trustee  
[smozer@newtriertownship.com](mailto:smozer@newtriertownship.com)

**Elliott Robbins**, Trustee  
[erobbins@newtriertownship.com](mailto:erobbins@newtriertownship.com)

New Trier Township's mission is to provide leadership, advocacy, and resources to benefit the physical, mental, and social well-being of residents. Established in 1850, New Trier Township government serves more than 60,000 residents in the villages of Glencoe, Kenilworth, Wilmette, and Winnetka, plus portions of Glenview and Northfield east of Harms Road and Northfield Road.



Gail Schnitzer Eisenberg  
SUPERVISOR



Jan Churchwell  
ASSESSOR



Nicole Capretta  
CLERK



Danielle Ruben  
TRUSTEE



Stefan Mozer  
TRUSTEE



Elliott Robbins  
TRUSTEE

## NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP STAFF

### Administration and Finance Director

Diane S. Tye  
[dtye@newtriertownship.com](mailto:dtye@newtriertownship.com)  
847-446-8253

### Social Services Administrator

Jeanne Winsted Rosser, LCSW  
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847-446-8201

### Community Service Administrator

Brian Leverenz  
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847-446-8203

### Administrative Assistant / Passport Acceptance Agent

Lorrecia Pearson  
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847-446-8202

### Deputy Assessor

Leonard Shifflett  
[lshifflett@newtriertownship.com](mailto:lshifflett@newtriertownship.com)  
847-446-8200

### Communications and Support Services

Julie Koenigsberger  
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847-386-3127