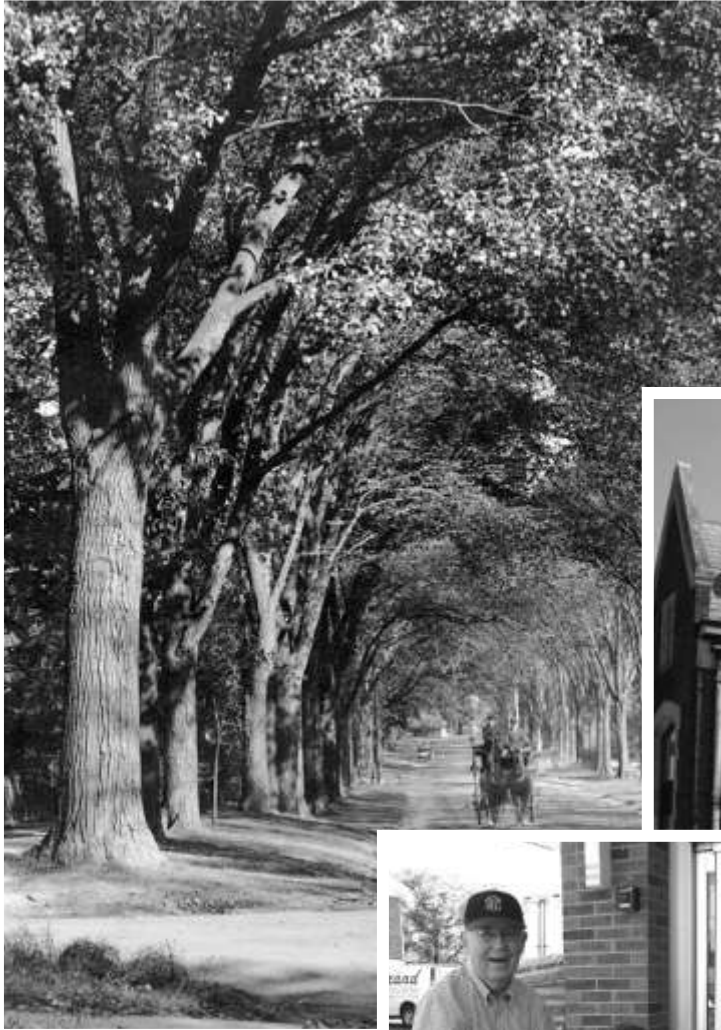




New Trier Township

Honoring
Our Past,
Looking
forward to
our future



1850-2010

On The Cover:

- *Elm Street looking east from Maple Street in Winnetka c.1900. Photo courtesy of the Winnetka Historical Society.*
- *The Township Office located at 739 Elm Street in Winnetka in 2011.*
- *Township Volunteer James Marran (left) accepts a donation from a young shopper at Grand Food Center in Winnetka during the 2010 Summer Food Drive for the Pantry. Thanks to the community's generous support, approximately 250 bags of groceries and several hundred dollars in cash contributions were collected during the drive.*

New Trier Township

A journey in time

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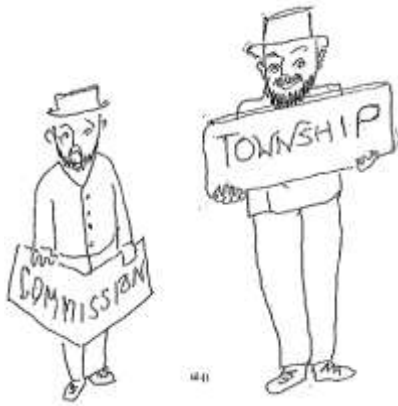
1850



2010

Looking forward to our future

How It all Began



The first county governments mandated by the Illinois Constitution of 1818 consisted of a Board of Commissioners

because the earliest settlers in Illinois came from the South and preferred the commission form of government. As more New Englanders - or “blue-bellied Yankees” - settled in the northern part of the state, they demanded the Township form of government. They were accustomed to getting together, electing their officers, and making policy decisions close to home. In 1848 the Yankees succeeded in amending the State constitution to provide that a county could switch to Township government by popular election.

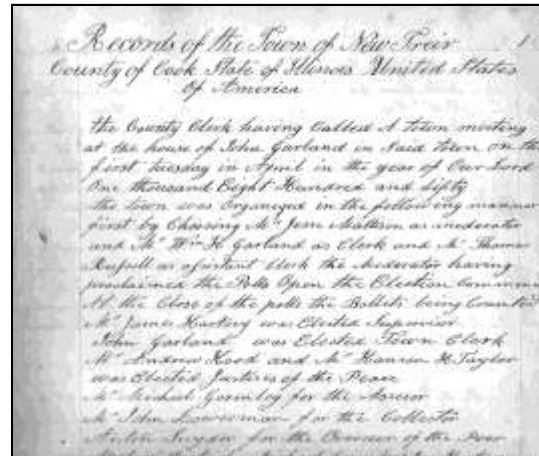
The area soon to be known as New Trier Township had a population of 473 when it chose to organize its government. The residents were a mix of farmers who had emigrated from Germany and entrepreneurial types who saw opportunities to start businesses, build fine homes, and raise their families in this developing part of Illinois. In *Life on the Mississippi*, Mark Twain wrote that Chicago was “... a city where they are always rubbing the

lamp, and fetching up the genii, and contriving and achieving new impossibilities.” His description also fit the area that was just a long buggy ride north of the growing metropolis.

From its beginning, New Trier has been a fractional Township: It deviates from the standard six-mile square because part of the Township is in Lake Michigan. The southern boundary was originally what is now Central Street in Evanston. The northern boundary was the county line (Lake Cook Road). The western boundary followed what we know today as Harms Road and Sunset Ridge Road. Back then it was a swampy peat bog that often burned for weeks at a time, sending clouds of black smoke over the marsh-like Skokie swamp.

Having chosen the Township form of governing, the residents had to elect officers and formalize their duties. On the first Tuesday in April 1850, a group of men (women couldn't vote) assembled in response to a notice circulated throughout the area by the Clerk of Cook County. They met at the Wayside Inn, the home of John Garland. As the first order of business they chose Jesse Mattison as Moderator, John Garland as Clerk, and Thomas Russell as Assistant Clerk. The Minutes of that meeting, written in a beautiful handwriting by the Clerk and still stored in the Township archives, reads:

The Moderator having proclaimed the Polls Open, the election commenced. At the close of the polls, the ballots being counted. Mr. James Hartrey was elected supervisor, John Garland, was elected Town Clerk; Mr. Andrew Hood and Mr. Hanson H. Taylor were elected Justices of the Peace; Mr. Michael Gormley, the Assessor; Mr. John Lowerman, the Collector Anton Snyder the Overseer of the Poor. Michael Dietrich Michael Gormley and Jas. Hartrey Commissioners of Highways. Frederick Uday and Charles Ludwick Constables William H. Garland John Lowerman and George Dietrich Overseers of Highways John Wanger and John Coonrod Poundmasters.



New Trier Township now had officials but no money. The record reads: “April 17, 1850 the Board of Auditors met at the Town Clerk’s office and arranged for the following notice to be posted.”

Whereas a written statement signed by Joseph [sic] Hartrey superintendent, John Garland town clerk, Andrew Hood and Anson H Taylor justices of the peace and the following free holders whose names are these: John Betdhassy, Mathias Booney, John Coonrod, John Veerer, Lawon Hall, Diet Taylor, Peter Harms, Marcus Gormley, C. F. Uthey, Jacob Ludwick, Chas. Ludwick, and Michel Dietrich has been filed in my office showing that it is as they believe necessary for the interest of said Town that a special town meeting be holden you are therefore hereby notified to meet at the house of John Garland in said town on the second day of May next at 9 o’clock in the morning and when convened to act on the following articles to wit:

- First to choose a moderator to preside at the meeting*
 - Second to vote a sufficient tax to purchase book for the town*
 - Third to vote tax sufficient to pay town officers*
 - Fourth to make regulations concerning cattle, horses, hogs etc.*
- Given under hand at New Trier this 20th day of April 1850 John Garland clerk*

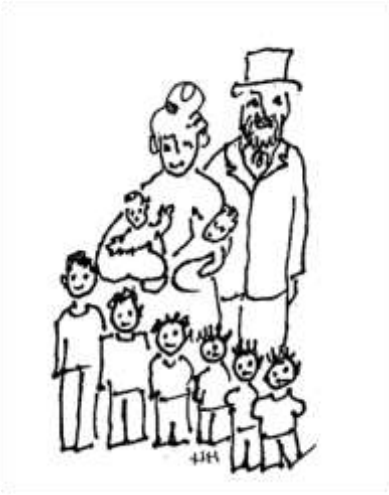
The minutes of Township meetings were handwritten by the Clerk and kept in a bound volume. When one book was filled, money was appropriated for another. To this date, Township Minutes dating from 1850 to the present are kept in books stored in the Township office.

The record of the Town Meeting of May 2, 1850 states:

\$150 be raised to pay town officers and purchase book and stationary [sic] and other things needful for said town. That cattle, horses and hogs shall be allowed to run at large and if they get into a lawful enclosure the owners of said creatures shall pay what damage they shall commit. The fence shall be five feet high staked and ... the three under rails to be four inches apart. Bulls to run at large liable to the above penalty. That a stud horse over 2 years old shall not run at large. All rams and sheep and lambs shall be allowed to run at large liable to the above penalty.

Meetings were called to plan roads, build bridges, appoint new officials and pay bills. Officials were paid one dollar a day for performing their duties. ■

Early Settlers & Early Settlements



The names of the first elected officers reflect some of the Township's history. They were a diverse group. The Patterson's were one of six families from Vermont who

came to the area about 1836. Erastus Patterson built a log cabin on the east side of Sheridan Road that served as a welcoming place for travelers to the area, often on their way to "Milwacky."

Hanson Taylor (or Anson H. Taylor), who was an original Justice of the Peace, built a log cabin on a bluff north of the Hubbard ravine in 1837. He opened La Pier House, a tavern, in what was called Taylor's Landing, the business district of Taylorsport (later called Glencoe). He also built a pier, warehouse and facilities for unloading timber. Taylor did a brisk business handling building materials brought from Chicago and other cities around Lake Michigan for the new settlements in the area. He was appointed by the federal government to be the first postmaster for the area called New Trier.

Michael Gormley, who was elected as Assessor, married one of Taylor's daughters.

Later, he was active in the affairs of the Village of Glencoe. He died of an apoplectic fit at a Glencoe Village Board meeting -- things were much more heated in those days.

John Garland, it was said, came from England and had inherited wealth. In 1847 he bought the Patterson Tavern, located near what is now Lloyd Park in Winnetka and operated it as the Wayside Inn for 10 years. It was also his home where he and his wife reared eight children.



In 1836, Zeruha Patterson came with her husband, Erastus, and five children in an ox-drawn covered wagon to the new North Shore area. They built a log house known as Patterson's Tavern. After the death of her husband, she acquired 57 acres of land and sold the tavern, which passed into the hands of John Garland. Photo courtesy of the Winnetka Historical Society.



Johann and Anna Laueremann were Gross Point pioneers in the days before the Township was chartered. Their descendents built a tavern and a dry goods store. Photo courtesy of Wilmette Historical Society.

John Fredrick Schildgen, who served as Supervisor from 1858 to 1862, Assessor from 1874 to 1875 and, later, in other Township offices, was one of many early settlers who came from Trier, Germany. He was a civic leader and a strong advocate of public education.

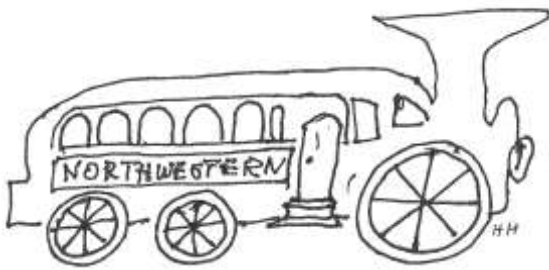
Matthias Happ, a member of an early German family that established a blacksmith shop, was elected Collector in 1853 but refused to serve. Legend says one of the Happs was responsible for naming the Township after the city of Trier.

John Lowerman, “an Anglicized version of Laueremann” who was elected Collector in that first election, may have been a relative of Johann Laueremann, one of the original farmers in the Gross Point area.

John Fiegen, a carpenter and a resident of the Gross Point area, was elected a Constable in April 1853 to fill a vacancy. His oath of office included a solemn vow that he had not “fought a duel or sent to accept a challenge to fight a duel which might have been the Death of either party nor been a second to either party nor in any manner aided or affished [sic] in such a duel nor been knowingly the Bearer of such a challenge or acceptance since the adoption of the Constitution and that I will not be so employed or concerned Directly or indirectly in or about any such Deed during my continuance in Office **So help me God.**”

Fiegen was 44 years old when he mustered into the service as a private in the Twenty-third Infantry Illinois Volunteers during the Civil War. He was taken prisoner on July 24, 1864, at the Battle of Kernstown in Winchester, Virginia, and died in Andersonville Prison. ■

Towns & Villages Emerge



The diversity of the new era is evidenced by the emergence of towns and the businesses that supported them.

Wilmette was chartered in 1872. To the south, Wilmette included the land between Central Street and Isabella Street in what is now Evanston. That bit of land figured prominently in many squabbles over building a high school in New Trier Township. It ultimately became a part of Evanston in order to make the boundaries of the town of Evanston and Evanston Township the same. To the west, along Happ Road was a settlement known as Wau-bun, which became Northfield.

Ridge Road was called Deutschman's Road, probably because most of the residents who had farms and businesses along its route were of German descent. It was the eastern boundary of the town of Gross Point, which was chartered in 1874. In 1896 Gross Point built its village hall, which today is the home of the Wilmette Historical Museum. A brochure published by the Wilmette Historical Museum says there

were no less than 15 taverns within the boundaries of Gross Point. They were a source of town revenue that did not, alas, survive the course of history.

The German farmers and businessmen were rivaled in their enterprise by the real estate investors who were platting and selling lots in Wilmette, Winnetka, Kenilworth and Glencoe. Winnetka was chartered in 1869. That same year Taylorsport became Glencoe and Joseph **Sears' model village, Kenilworth, completed in 1854**, was chartered.

Two events gave impetus to Township growth. One was the beginning of passenger service on the new railroad track from Chicago to Waukegan provided by the Chicago and Milwaukee Railway (later the Chicago and Northwestern Railway) in 1855. Two Wilmette citizens put up the \$700 needed to build a wooden depot to entice the railroad to stop in Wilmette. The other event was the Great Chicago Fire in 1871. Many families decided to move out of the city and into the less-crowded suburbs. They bought lots and built houses on the North Shore and commuted by rail to their jobs in the city. ■

Getting Down to Business: Roads, Weeds & Stray Livestock

In July 1850 the new officers had to grapple with serious business: There were very few roads in the area and most of them were simply muddy tracks. The new administrative unit was obligated to maintain the existing roads, such as they were, and build new ones.

A series of entries in the Board Meeting Record books tell the story: A group of residents would appear with a petition to have a road built along a specific route. The men whose farms or property would be served by the road agreed to provide the labor.

The Township would supervise the road construction and deliver the gravel necessary to surface the road. However, the direction or layout of the new road was often disputed. Another group would petition that the road should take another route. These disputes took considerable time to settle.



To become stuck in the mud along a Glencoe village street was not unusual in the early days. Photo courtesy of the Glencoe Historical Society.

A letter from a constituent read at an
Auditors' Meeting in 1910:

Dear Sir!

Will you kindly notify the proper authority in regard to the big ditch of which the sides are falling in and it is only a question of a few weeks that the road in front of my place will sink into it. The boards are rotten as was the whole job when done. Who ever heard of it to use the lumber that way without being soaked in hot tar, of course it must neccesarily [sic] rot in a comparatively short time. Please see to this at once and oblige very respt.

L. Schlotfeld

The Road Commissioners were instructed **by the Auditors to investigate Mr. Schlotfeld's** problem.

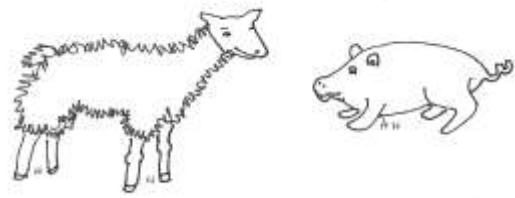
Because some of the Township sat on a flood plain, concerns about roads, sewers, and drainage ditches had a high priority in the Township government. In 1879 a notation indicates that the Township's road expenses amounted to \$2,800.

From the beginning, there was a concern for those in need. Overseer of the Poor was one of the first offices established.

The Township Auditors were also Justices of the Peace (JPs) with jurisdiction over civil cases that did not exceed claims over \$500 and criminal cases that were punishable by fines only. Drunks and disturbers of the peace were either fined locally or, after adjudication, sent to Cook County. Complaints against owners of free-running livestock that damaged gardens were also handled by the JPs. Later they had the responsibility for ticketing autos that exceeded the 12-mile-an-hour speed limit.

The money to carry out all these responsibilities came from assessments on real and personal property, so an Assessor and a Collector were essential Township officials. The office of Collector was fraught with difficulty **from the beginning. Collecting taxes wasn't** easy, and the Collector almost always needed a special account to pay his expenses. The Collector was paid a percentage of the taxes he collected in addition to reimbursement for expenses. These expenses had to be accounted for and often the accounting seems to have been inadequate. An excerpt from the minutes of a meeting in 1880 notes that the sum of \$150 would be allowed to B. Mueller as extra

compensation for the collection of taxes, providing B. Mueller brings a statement and settlement from the County Treasurer for all the money he received and paid out to the proper officers.



Early proceedings reflected a somewhat relaxed attitude toward roaming animals, but an indication of increased urbanization appears in a set of 1871 minutes:

“Resolved that it shall not be lawful to let run at large at any time during the year any horse or horses, colts, mules or asses...”

Apparently it was unnecessary to mention sheep, goats, or hogs.

Public health concerned the Township officials. In 1877 there was an outbreak of smallpox. Fifty printed smallpox cards were ordered to mark houses where someone was sick with the disease. ■

Elected Officials: Now & Then



Since the 1850 election, the positions and the duties of some of the elected officials have changed. The elected officials now serve four-year terms; in the beginning, elections were held every year.

Supervisor

The Township Supervisor is Treasurer of the General Town Fund and Overseer of the Poor (General Assistance). The Supervisor accounts to the Board of Trustees (Auditors) for moneys received and disbursed. In the early days the Overseer of the Poor was a separate elective office. Today, the Supervisor is the chief executive officer of the Township: Treasurer of all Township funds, Supervisor of General Assistance, and Chair of the Township Board.

Assessor

The Township Assessor was responsible for assessing property until 1954, when the Cook County Assessor assumed the task. Today the Township Assessor is still required to hold a Certified Illinois Assessing Officer designation but functions as a local ombudsman for taxpayers. **The Township Assessor's office is** looking forward to our future

linked via computer to the Cook County Assessor's office and is able to access County data on all the parcels in the Township. Today's Township Assessor's office provides a local facility for residents seeking information or assistance filing for exemptions, appealing their assessments, changing their billing information, and looking for sales or permit data, legal descriptions, plat maps, and notary services. The office is also a source of information for attorneys, real estate brokers, surveyors, appraisers, businesses, villages, schools, park districts, and libraries. In fiscal year 2011, the Township Assessor's office served more than 3,000 Township residents.

Clerk

As custodian of official records, the Clerk serves as Township historian. The Clerk keeps Minutes of each township meeting, publishes public notices, files ordinances and administers oaths of office. The Clerk is also responsible for organizing the Annual Town Meeting, a traditional evening celebrating democracy in action that takes place the second Tuesday in April. The Clerk's office provides services including registering voters, answering election questions, distributing election judge materials, responding to Freedom of Information Act

requests, accepting passport applications, providing temporary disability parking placards, acting as a notary public and issuing Cook County vehicle stickers.

Collector

In Cook County, the Township Collector has no duties and serves without pay, but the Township is still required by law to fill this elective position. The duties were taken over by the Cook County Treasurer in 1969. Before that time, the Township Collector collected taxes-real, railroads, and personal property taxes. The Township funded its work by keeping a percentage of the taxes collected.

Trustees

Called Auditors until the 1970s, these four elected officials, plus the Supervisor, examine and audit all claims and charges against the Township; approve the appointments of Township personnel; make specific appointments for services necessary for the welfare of the Township; and approve the annual budget, which includes the allocations of funds to social service agencies. The Supervisor draws up the annual budget and is chair of the Board of Trustees.

Commissioner of Highways (and Roads and Bridges) and Overseer of Highways.

Once considered very important, these positions were completely eliminated in New Trier Township by 1966. Duties were taken over by the State, Federal, County and Village governments. In many Illinois townships the position still exists.

Justice of the Peace

This position has also been eliminated, though in the beginning, the Board of Auditors was made up of Justices of the Peace.

Constable

Duties have been taken over by the Public Safety Departments of the villages within the Township.

Pound Master

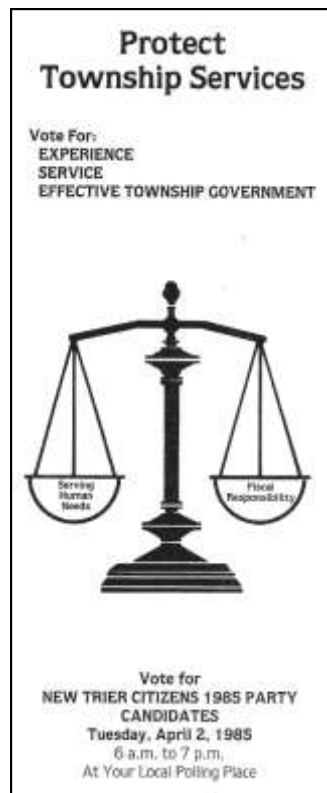
Duties have been assumed by the villages.



Other positions, sometimes elective and sometimes appointive, were responsible for public health and ridding the Township of “noxious weeds.” Township Minutes list vouchers for fumigating a house (\$5) and burying a dead horse (\$5). As the towns and villages were incorporated, new elective bodies, with taxing privileges, were created: park districts, library boards, school boards, sanitary district, forest preserve, mosquito abatement, etc.

Township officials are elected on the first Tuesday in April in the same manner as officials of other government units. These officials serve a four-year term.

There is no indication that the national political parties figured in the elections of candidates for Township offices, although the elections were often contested. Today, the New Trier Citizens League, which is a volunteer organization but is considered a political party



and subject to the same rules, interviews potential candidates and prepares a slate for each Township election. The League’s slate is not necessarily the only one. Anyone who wishes to run for a Township office as an independent candidate may do so if he/she follows correct procedures for filing.

In today’s New Trier Township organization, two appointed and paid administrators assist the Board with its tasks: the Social Services Administrator and the Community Services Administrator. The former is a licensed social worker who assists the Supervisor in the administration of the General Assistance Fund and serves a pivotal role in evaluating residents’ needs and referring them to the many social services available. The Community Services Administrator works with the Township’s agency funding process and the Peer Jury. He also coordinates the volunteer committees that serve as the Board’s liaisons to agencies funded by the Township. A Community Social Worker provides professional counseling and crisis intervention services. In addition, the Township employs a Director of Administration & Finance who maintains financial records and reports to the Board monthly, an Administrative Assistant, and a Deputy Assessor. ■

First Election—April 1850

Supervisor
James Hartrey

*Other offices held:
Clerk, Justice of the Peace, Highway Commissioner*

Town Clerk
John Garland

Justices of the Peace

Andrew Hood
Hanson [sic] Taylor

*Other office held:
Overseer of the Poor*

Assessor
Michael Gormley

*Other offices held:
Overseer of the Poor, Supervisor, Highway Commissioner*

Collector
John Lowerman

*Other office held:
Overseer of Highways*

Overseer of the Poor
Anton Snyder

Commissioners of Highways

Michael Dietrich
Michael Gormley
Jas. Hartrey

Constables
Charles Ludwick
Frederick Uday

Overseers of Highways

George Dietrich
William H. Garland
John Lowerman

Pound Masters
John Coonrod
John Wanger

*Other offices held:
Overseer of the Poor, Commissioner of Highways*



Elected Officials—2010

Supervisor
Patricia B. Cantor
*Other office held:
Trustee*

Clerk
Jerome Hoynes

Assessor
JoAnn Shrier Gordon

Collector
Joe Fell

Trustee
Paddie Brennen

Trustee
Alan Goldberg

Trustee
Gerri Kahnweiler

Trustee
Stefan Mozer



Anson Hartshorne Taylor became the first political office holder in the town of New Trier (pop. 473) as Justice of the Peace. Photo courtesy of Glencoe Historical Society.

Elected Officials—1851-1899

John Ellis.....Collector
 Francis Ellis.....Overseer of Poor
 Joseph Brazel.....Assessor
 John Schildgen.....Supervisor
 Assessor, Justice of the Peace,
 Highway Commissioner, Clerk, Collector
 Christopher F. Uthe.....Overseer of the Poor
 John Feigen.....Constable
 Reinard Nanzig.....Commissioner of Highways, Clerk
 Lambert Blum.....Clerk, Overseer of the Poor
 Overseer of Highways
 George Brazel.....Assessor
 Chris Layman.....Overseer of Highways
 Hubert Harring.....Overseer of Highways
 John Smith.....Supervisor
 John Walter.....Pound Master
 Mathias Schiefgen.....Collector
 Mathias Happ.....Overseer of Highways
 Nicholas Schiefgen.....Commissioner of Highways
 Peter Smith.....Pound Master
 John Panalard.....Overseer of Highways
 Lambert Dunham.....Overseer of Highways
 John Bards.....Overseer of Highways
 John Frazen.....Constable
 Anton Hashcamp.....Supervisor, School Trustee
 Matthias Schram.....Overseer of Highways
 Charles Westerfield.....Commissioner of Highways
 Thomas Moses.....Collector
 Matthias Schaefer.....Collector
 Joseph Pashback.....Pound Master
 Jacob Smit.....Overseer of Highways
 Thomas Thompson.....Supervisor
 George Seiber.....Supervisor
 John Shafer.....Collector
 Mathias Peyo.....Constable
 Thomas Bohen.....Constable
 John Pavillard.....Overseer of Highways
 Mase Dushmae.....Overseer of Highways
 Joseph Blesher.....Overseer of Highways

John N. Smith.....Supervisor
 Baptiste Mueller.....Collector
 D.S. Kloefer.....Commissioner of Highways
 H. Haskamp.....School Trustee
 Fritz Schwall.....Road Supervisor
 Joseph Schneide.....Road Supervisor
 Mose Durham.....Road Supervisor
 Ganglof Sesterhem.....Clerk
 M.F. Ruggle.....School Trustee
 C. McDaniel.....Constable
 Paul Heuter.....Justice of the Peace
 Peter Heuter.....Commissioner of Highways
 John Whitney.....Clerk
 Benedict Vollman.....School Trustee, Collector
 Dennis Kloefer.....Collector
 Phillip McKinney.....Constable

Elected Officials—1900-1949

William Merrill.....Constable
 William J. Oman.....Constable
 Anton Engles.....Constable
 Harry Marshall.....Assessor
 Alonzo Coburn.....Justice of the Peace
 Mason Clarke.....Justice of the Peace
 John A. McKeighan.....Constable
 James C. Corns.....Constable
 Joseph Rengel.....Commissioner of Highways
 G. Schwinger.....Commissioner of Highways
 J. O. Parker.....School Trustee
 Michael Lane.....Supervisor
 Sanborn Hale.....Collector
 C. B. Randall.....Assessor
 Ashbel G. Ligare.....Supervisor
 John Schaefer.....Assessor
 Edwin Drury.....Collector
 Fred Schramm.....Commissioner of Highways
 Carlton Prouty.....Justice of the Peace, Collector
 F. L. Joy.....School Trustee
 Paul Nanzig.....Commissioner of Highways
 William Hector Maclean.....Assessor

Phillip McKinney..... Constable
 Lloyd Llewelin.....School Trustee
 Micheal LaneSupervisor
 John Maloney Commissioner of Highways
 Joseph Long.....Assessor
 Joseph Balmes..... Pound Master
 John Leonard.....School Trustee
 Gertrude Thurston.....Supervisor
 Frank CopelandClerk
 Hoyt King.....Collector
 Perry Broadstreet..... Assessor
 Walter Crozier..... Clerk
 Walter Wallace.....Commissioner of Highways
 George Harbaugh..... Assessor
 Leland V. Pierson.....Clerk
 R. E. Sinsheimer.....Justice of the Peace
 L. C. Ayles..... Commissioner of Highways
 Edmund Burke..... Justice of the Peace
 Daniel Micke..... Justice of the Peace
 Frank Pavlik, Jr. Justice of the Peace
 Margaret Pierson Clerk
 G. Gordon PeglowSupervisor
 Wesley Blom.....Supervisor

Keki R. BhoteSupervisor
 Patricia M. NielsenTrustee
 Ann Diaz Trustee
 Arnold WolffTrustee
 Betsy Fyfe..... Trustee
 John Russell.....Trustee
 Ira Rubel.....Trustee
 Jane Allen Simon.....Trustee
 Katrina S. Pfitzenreuter.....Supervisor, Trustee
 Phillip J. Hoza III.....Clerk, Trustee
 Donna Hill..... Clerk
 Howard Davis Assessor
 Bernard McKee.....Collector
 Mildred Peters..... Trustee
 Arthur West.....Trustee
 Doris Sternberg.....Trustee
 Neil H. AdelmanTrustee
 Deborah Kotz..... Trustee
 Irvina Warren..... Trustee
 Clarine C. Hall.....Supervisor
 Kathleen Almond.....Assessor
 Lindsey Brown.....Trustee
 Allan AshmanCollector
 Sheila K. MitchellClerk
 Harold R. Marsh..... Collector, Trustee
 Patricia B. Cantor Supervisor, Trustee
 Leon A. Carrow Trustee
 Carol A. Davis.....Trustee
 Elizabeth B. Phillips.....Trustee
 James Goulka.....Trustee
 George Noyes.....Collector
 Bob Shen.....Trustee
 Elizabeth Warren.....Trustee
 JoAnn Shrier Gordon..... Assessor
 Diane G. Fisher.....Trustee
 Alan Goldberg..... Trustee
 Stefan MozerTrustee
 Joe FellCollector
 Jerome Hoynes.....Clerk
 Paddie BrennenTrustee
 Gerri Kahnweiler..... Trustee

Elect ed Official s—1950-2010

Gertrude Gardner..... Auditor
 Donald Haider..... Auditor
 Robert Vogel..... Auditor
 Frederick W. Shefte..... Auditor
 Raymond Narjarin.....Justice of the Peace
 Lyle Richmond.....Justice of the Peace
 Fred H. SchmidtCommissioner of Highways
 Ruth Draper Leisner.....Clerk
 E.B. Creger.....Clerk
 Peter Brennen Supervisor
 Robert Miller.....Auditor
 Marian SchaeferAuditor
 Mary CadmanAuditor
 Joseph W. Zick..... Auditor
 Joseph E. WyseAuditor

How Schools Shaped The Township



The New Trier Township office takes several calls every day from people who want to talk

with someone at New Trier Township High School. The similarity in the name is, no doubt, the reason for the confusion. The high school, which serves an area that is almost coterminous with the boundaries of New Trier Township, has its own elected Board of Trustees, as do the other school districts within the Township.

In early days, many children were home schooled. Several early settlers—William Foster, John Garland, Bartholomew Hoffman, the Peck family and others—built one-room log school houses and hired teachers to educate the local children. School attendance was not mandatory until 1883 when state law required 12 weeks of school each year for children between the ages of 8 and 14. The Township was chartered in 1850; the first municipalities were chartered in 1869. By 1861 there were five school districts within the Township boundaries, but none offered a high school education. Evanston Township High School was established in 1883, and some students from

New Trier Township paid tuition to attend Evanston. Building and maintaining a high school was expensive, and the young municipalities were grappling with the expenses of building water and sewer systems. Wilmette, particularly, was deeply in debt and had little chance of expansion. One solution put forth was to annex Wilmette to Evanston so students could attend Evanston High School.

There was also talk at the time (1892) of annexing Rogers Park to Evanston, but the residents there voted to be annexed to Chicago. Many Evanstonians adamantly opposed being part of Chicago because their town was the center of the temperance movement. They feared their power to prohibit saloons would be lost. The famous four-mile boundary drawn by the temperance-minded Methodists around Northwestern University had prevented the sale of all alcoholic beverages for many years. They also looked with disfavor at the saloons in Gross Point.

A 1894 referendum to annex Wilmette to Evanston was defeated by only three votes after a bitter campaign. The Township election in 1897 was hotly contested and included a referendum to form a high school that was defeated by 10 votes. About half the voters did not even bother to vote on the issue. The real

estate operators were in favor of annexation because they thought it would increase land values and home prices. Many people in Evanston supported the idea. Two years later, voters approved the organization of New Trier Township High School District and a high school Board of Education was elected. At that time the Township had a population of about 5,000. Half of those eligible voted on the issue.

Land speculators who saw the advantage of a high school serving the area hopped on the bandwagon. They negotiated land for the building and access roads. The Township provided many loads of gravel. On a snowy February day in 1901 New Trier Township High School welcomed its first class of 76 students. In 12 years, a third addition to the original building was needed to keep up with

the growing student population of 600. At the 1954 Annual Town Meeting, the Township voted to appropriate \$350,000 from the Town Fund for the purpose of erecting a Memorial Library at the high school to honor those who gave their lives serving their country. ■



New Trier Township High School in 1912. Photo Courtesy of Winnetka Historical Society.



In 2009, New Trier had an enrollment of 4,144. Freshmen attend the west campus (left) in Northfield, which was re-opened in 2001, while sophomores through seniors attend the east campus (right) in Winnetka. Photos courtesy of New Trier Township High School.

Wet or Dry?

Allowing the sale or service of alcoholic beverages in the Township or in the villages was a hotly contested issue for 75 years. With the town of Evanston — **home of the Women’s Christian Temperance Union (WCTU)** — at the forefront, residents felt temperance added to the tone and quality of life in the Township villages. There was one outstanding exception: the village of Gross Point, which was incorporated in 1874 west of Wilmette. Along the eastern boundary of Gross Point — now called Ridge Road — a number of saloons thrived. The German farmers liked their lager.

A referendum in 1909 banned the sale of alcoholic beverages under a local option law. Gertrude M. Thurston, who later was elected New Trier Township Supervisor, was quoted as **urging members of the Winnetka Woman’s Club to support the dries** by “using our influence and our tongues in reminding our husbands to vote.” She and the other ladies had no vote at that time.

With large debts accumulated for a sewer project and with ten years of no money coming in from liquor licenses, the Village of Gross Point went bankrupt in 1919, and was annexed to Wilmette in 1924.

In a few more years the issue was more or less settled. In the 1970s, a new hotel in

Evanston was the reason that town finally allowed the sale of alcoholic beverages in restaurants that served food. The village allowed only one package store, which is still operating today. In 1974, Wilmette passed an ordinance that allowed beer and wine to be sold in grocery stores. The voters approved by 5,778 to 3,223 the sale of liquor in restaurants when patrons purchased food. Package stores were approved by a 4 to 2 vote of the village board. The other Township villages passed similar ordinances in the 1980s. ■



Schallick’s Tavern in Gross Point, 1903. From left to right: Frank Meier, William Klinge, Bill Rengel, Mike Loutsch, John Loutsch. Photo courtesy of Wilmette Historical Society.

First Woman Supervisor



Women got the vote in Illinois in 1913, and in 1914 Township residents elected their first woman Supervisor, Gertrude M. Thurston. She held the office for

31 years. One of the founders of the Winnetka **Woman's Club**, she is listed in the club's charter as Mattie G. Thurston. In a 1947 letter to Lora Townsend Dickinson, who was writing a history of the Club, Mrs. Thurston explained that her given name was Martha G. (for Gertrude). When she became Supervisor of New Trier Township, she transposed her first and middle names and became Gertrude M. Thurston. It seemed more dignified, she said.

Mrs. Thurston used her vote as well as her tongue to influence Township affairs. It is noted in the minutes of a Township Meeting that she sold a car that the Township had purchased for official use and proposed to use her own car for official business, billing the Township for expenses. She returned the price of the car to the Township treasury. During her early years in Township office, she took over the duties of the Overseer of the Poor and the stipend that went with it.

Mrs. Thurston also had a second career: She was the first woman police officer in Winnetka. She joined the force in 1917 and served until 1940. She was a juvenile officer responsible for—juvenile delinquency cases. In a report to the Village of Winnetka, she told of her work with—**golf club cases**. **“I prosecuted one golf club for employing caddies during school hours and have had correspondence with most of the others on the North Shore, which have promised their co-operation in the future. I except from criticism the Indian Hill Club, as I believe they are setting a pace in high standards for their caddies, which the other clubs will do well to follow.”** In this report she notes that in four years she had had—official acquaintance with 328 children, 128 from Winnetka.

She was widowed in 1924. Her husband's obituary noted he had been compelled to retire from public life 10 years previously due to poor health. (He was a newspaper and magazine editor, who was also very active in the civic life of Winnetka.) The fact that she had four daughters and an ailing husband may have had something to do with her pursuit of two careers and additional stipend-paying responsibilities at the Township. ■

A New Century Brings Change

According to the 1900 U.S. census, the Township population had grown to 7,299. The villages had electric lights and telephones. Those noisy new gas-powered autos were scaring the horses.

By 1920 the Township population had grown to 20,860, and the days of roving goats, sheep and pigs were over. Social service needs began to play a more important role in Township activities.

Increased population and rising property values meant more money for the Township. There was a surplus in the treasury, and in 1936 the Township found itself with an \$18,000 surplus. A request was sent to the County to reduce the tax levy. At the same time, the Township was facing the need to act as the distribution agency for welfare funds supplied by the State on the theory that the agency of government closest to the taxpayer should distribute the funds.

The Great Depression changed the character of the services the Township offered the community. Mrs. Janet Burgoon was appointed Public Welfare Director. From her office at 561 Lincoln Street, she provided emergency financial aid on a case-by-case basis as well as counseling. She helped clients work through the red tape to get support from state

and federal agencies. A directory of services published by the Township welfare office in 1945 listed 40 agencies concerned with **residents' welfare.**

In 1944 Mr. Thallmann, Commissioner of Noxious Weeds, was asked to deal with poison ivy and ragweed with the help of village managers.

Sanborn Hale, the Township Collector since 1923, was reprimanded for not providing an accounting of his collections and was told he would not be paid until he did.



In 1945 there was a significant change in the way Township officers were elected. Instead of a separate election, Township candidates appeared along with village officials on a ballot and the villages shared the cost of the election with the Township.

A report published to mark the first 100 years stated that from 1941 to 1945 the Township office provided for 219 families: 55 percent in Wilmette; 21 percent in Winnetka; 20 percent in Glencoe; 2 percent in Northfield; and 2 percent in Kenilworth.

The Township was called on to meet emergency needs while residents' eligibility for state funds was being investigated. Still aware of one of its founding principles — to assist neighbors in need — the report stated:

Financial distress may spring from a wide variety of causes. It is no respecter of persons and observes no rules...Those in distress in this township are self-respecting victims of misfortune reluctant to accept aid of their neighbors, eager to become independent as quickly as possible.

Today, the same principles hold true. In 2007 New Trier Township unveiled a strategic plan to guide the Township through Fiscal Year 2012. The plan "*Moving Forward: A Strategic Plan for New Trier Township*" identified emerging needs and included an action plan that employed traditional as well as new funding methods.



New Trier Township's mission is to provide leadership, advocacy and resources to benefit the physical, mental and social well-being of Township residents.

In the Fall 2007 Courier Newsletter, it was written that...

The Township will continue to be at the forefront of what local government can do to best serve the needs of its most vulnerable residents. In determining our residents' unique needs, some emerging needs that will be addressed include:

- *The concept of "aging in place" and "universal design" which will be further explored with a goal of developing and/or supporting community-based programs that help seniors and persons with disabilities remain in their homes.*
- *An assessment of how best to aid residents whose income is low due to long term unemployment or chronic under employment conditions and who are lacking in ability to escape personal and economic contingencies.*
- *How to act as a resource for programs that address social isolation, particularly among young adults in the Township.*

The plan was made available to residents in both paper copies and on the Township's website. ■

New Township Era: Specialization in Human Services



Although the topic discussed at the 1950 Annual Town Meeting was civil defense — a response to concerns about the Cold War — the

Township’s officials and groups of volunteers were also studying social service needs and planning ways to provide for them.

This approach to the usefulness of Township government was articulated by Keki Bhote who served as Supervisor from 1974 to 1985:

“Other units of local government render basic services such as police and fire protection, roads and sanitation. We specialize in human service to this community.”

The Auditors, now called Trustees, began to depend more fully on the recommendations of volunteer committees for allocating funds to agencies that provide social services.

Mrs. Janet Burgoon, who had served as Public Welfare Director of the Township since 1945, had been working with a planning committee created to study the need for a special child care program. The committee consisted of Dr. Raymond Robertson, Institute for Juvenile Research, State Department of

Welfare; Josephine Arthur, Evanston Hospital child psychiatry clinic; Paulette Hartrich, North Shore Mental Health Clinic; Rose Dawson, Glencoe Family Service; Newton Calhoun, Winnetka public school system; Mrs. Stewart McMullen, New Trier Township Citizens League; and Janet Burgoon. The committee asked the Board of Auditors to budget \$25,000 for a child care project. The Auditors agreed, though some felt it was too large a sum (March 12, 1955).

The advisory committee had recommended a set of guidelines for the Welfare Director to follow.

In 1969 a special meeting was called at which Rose Dawson, then Director of the Glencoe Family Service, reported on a pilot project for group therapy for young people. She had been running such a program in Glencoe with good results and wished to expand it to include the other villages in the Township. She said that the young people were eager to participate. The Auditors asked what young people were concerned about. Mrs. Dawson listed the cold war, parental pressure, dating, and drugs among the topics they discussed. She added that some parents also needed counseling.

The Township Committee on Youth was formed in 1972 to comply with a State statute that permitted Townships to levy a tax for the purpose of “preventing juvenile delinquency.” Serving on the Committee were Frank Temmerman, Lt. James Henry representing a village police department, Dr. Robert Gluckman, Robert Gerrie, and the Rev. Gordon Smith.

In 1974, the Township report stated, this committee recommended funding eleven programs including drop-in centers, an outreach program, a youth employment service, a youth health clinic, a counseling service, and the placement of emotionally disturbed youth in residential treatment centers.

Led by the Committee Chair Bob Neumann, the Committee initiated a dialogue between the police, the social service agencies,



The Glencoe Junior High Project has given middle school students a host of opportunities for socializing, community service and theater involvement. Photo courtesy of Glencoe Junior High Project & Glencoe Historical Society.

and the community. The consensus was that Township youth were doing quite well. The group suggested that young people who had problems were not adjusting to pressures to excel. The police pointed out that 90% of the delinquent acts of minors were committed under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs. As a result of this conference, the LINKS Alcohol Program began and a conference on marijuana use was held. The Township brought a national authority, Dr. Robert Gilkerson of Cleveland, to deliver several lectures to students and parents.

The funding of youth programs was not without controversy. At the 1979 Township budget hearing, a group of citizens vociferously objected to funding a program that provided confidential sex counseling. This group also objected to the distribution of a pamphlet concerning young peoples’ rights and responsibilities that had been developed as a pilot project by Dr. Henry Feinberg. The vigorous debate lasted until 11:00 p.m. (this was the only time in Township history that the budget hearing was covered by local television stations). Ultimately the Board voted to give LINKS the funding it requested. The same topic was debated at the Annual Town Meeting in 1980 and again the group that disapproved did not prevail.

In 1999 the Township awarded its first Priority Needs Grant of \$30,000 to PEN (Prevention Education Network), a coalition whose mission is prevention of substance abuse among adolescents. The program involves parents, teen-age mentors and the schools. The programs are designed to offer healthy activities that are satisfying alternatives to drug experimentation and use.

In 2007 the Board awarded a one-year direct grant of \$20,000 and a \$20,000 matching grant to the New Trier Township Alliance for Youth, or TAFY, which is a collaborative effort between LINKS North Shore Youth Services, Peer Services, HAVEN Youth Services and the Wilmette Youth Commission. The objective of the grant was to provide financial support in conducting a needs assessment of youth.

Peer Jury

Another service to youth, staffed by volunteers and administered by the Township's Community Services Administrator, is the Peer Jury Program that began in 1998. With the concurrence of the police departments, the offenders and their parents, volunteer high school students act as jurors in misdemeanor cases. The sentences meted out consist of hours of community service and sometimes written



From left to right: Stephani Becker, Wilmette Youth Commission; Ginny Anderson, Executive Director of LINKS North Shore Youth Service; Patricia B. Cantor, New Trier Township Supervisor; and Joe Feldman, Chair of the Wilmette Youth Commission.

papers about the offense. This Peer Jury Program has gained recognition throughout the area for the quality of its training for jurors. In its first ten years, the jurors have heard more than 300 cases resulting in more than 8,000 hours of community service. The police departments of Wilmette, Kenilworth, Winnetka, Glencoe and Northfield have praised the program's effectiveness, as have parents.



The first group of Peer Jurors in 1998.

Health & Human Services



Harking back to the days when the Township posted smallpox cards on the doors of homes that were infected, helping residents to find health care and stay healthy has been a priority. About 1940 the Township Health Officer appears on the roster. This was an appointed position dedicated to controlling communicable diseases in the unincorporated areas of the Township. A few years later the Cook County Health Department became a Health District, and the villages entered into a voluntary agreement to unify the delivery of health services in the Township. Acting on a suggestion from the League of Women Voters of Wilmette, the Township formed a blue-ribbon study group in 1979 made up of public health professionals and civic leaders to examine the availability of health services throughout the Township. One of the primary outcomes was a Health Resource Directory of preventive programs, support groups, agencies specializing

in specific diseases, referral sources and adjunct or back-up services.

The Township Health and Human Services Committee was formed in the 1980s to evaluate the Township's needs beyond mental health and youth. The committee recommended funding to agencies that provide a variety of services to families and family members. The Committee also looked for unmet needs and made recommendations to the Board.

Mental health

After World War II, the State began to transfer the responsibility for the care and financing of mental health problems to the local communities. It became apparent that the needs of residents and their families required the Township's attention. At the Annual Town Meeting in 1974 the electorate gave power to the Board to levy a tax to help fund agencies involved in serving the mental health needs of the Township. Revenue Sharing funds that became available in 1972 could also be used.

The Mental Health Advisory Board was formed. This group conducted four community surveys. The first enumerated the agencies that provided mental health services; the second surveyed the referrers – school principals, police, social workers and clergy; the third

phase sought information from families in the community about the utilization of available services; and the final part served as a cross-check to see how people rated themselves in the field of mental health.

The survey found that depression, family conflict, marital discord, and drug/alcohol abuse were the most frequent problems. With this information, the committee was able to allocate funding to agencies that serve individuals and families.

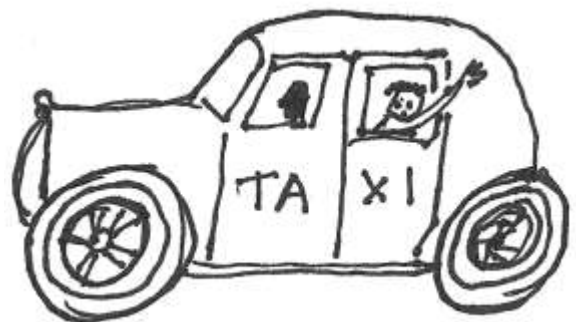
Senior Citizen Programs

The Township has paid particular attention to the needs of its elderly citizens. Both direct and indirect services are offered. The Township Assessor's office helps senior citizens file for tax relief with the Senior Citizen Homestead Exemption, the Homeowners Exemption, and the Senior Citizen Assessment Freeze Exemption.

Another direct service is providing transportation for elderly residents and persons with disabilities. In 1979 the Township acquired a bus that was used for door-to-door service. After a trial period, the Township found it was more effective and efficient to work with the taxi companies on Dial-A-Ride cards. With a Dial-A-Ride card, a resident who is 65 or older or who is a person with a disability received a

subsidy on a taxi fare. When the program was first initiated, the subsidy was \$3. In 2011 it had risen to \$6 per ride. After eliminating the bus and going to Dial-A-Ride, the use of the service increased. In 2010 more than 1,000 residents were enrolled in the program.

Township residents are fortunate to have the excellent programs of the North Shore Senior Center (NSSC) available. NSSC is a recipient of Township funds for counseling, adult day care, community education, recreation and learning programs. Working with NSSC, the Township was instrumental in setting up a Handyman Program for seniors and currently cooperates in an Escorted Transportation Service for seniors who need transportation assistance to and from medical appointments.



Residents with disabilities



With the passage of the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) legislation in 1990, Townships were mandated to have programs to benefit residents with disabilities. New Trier Township responded by forming the Committee on Disabilities, which is concerned with education, advocacy and outreach for **disabled residents**. One of the committee's first programs was designed to acquaint community employers with the needs and abilities of disabled residents. The committee sponsored the appearance of Chris Burke, a popular TV actor who has Down syndrome. In 1998 the committee sponsored an educational program in cooperation with village police departments to publicize the high penalty for illegal parking in handicapped spaces. In 1999 the Committee sponsored a conference on accessibility and inclusion of the disabled in religious services. A follow-up conference was held in 2001 that focused on sharing ways for all faiths to

welcome the disabled. In 2011 the committee launched a public awareness campaign to encourage positive action within the business community, this time focusing on accessibility.

In 2005, when remodeling plans were underway for the Metra station in Winnetka, a long ramp was proposed that would have been unsuitable for persons in wheelchairs and others. Thanks in part to the efforts of the Township, the existing elevators were retained.

Over the years, New Trier Township has worked collaboratively with organizations to provide information to people with disabilities and their families and to increase awareness among the business community and general public. Among the programs provided were:

- *Emergency Preparedness Seminar* (2006), which focused on emergency planning for persons with disabilities and how to work cooperatively with local fire and police departments.
- *Home Sweet Home Conference* (2008), which provided information on support services, financial assistance programs, home modifications and more, that enable residents to live at home.
- *Unlock the Door to Workplace Opportunities* (2008) gathered information on resources for employment programs and services offered through WorkABILITY, a program partnership between New Trier Township, Jewish Vocational Service, disabilityworks, Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce and **New Trier Township High School's Special Education Department**.

- *Volunteer ABILITY* (2009) looked at how volunteers with disabilities can help organizations fulfill their mission.
- *The Business Builder – Disability Awareness Conference* (2010) that provided information on how to interact with and make services accessible to people with disabilities, their families and friends.

In addition to advocacy and education, New Trier Township is fortunate to have several agencies devoted to meeting the needs of persons with disabilities. But in 2006 there began a paradigm shift in the manner in which these services were being funded. *Money Follows the Person* was an initiative identified in the 2007-2012 Strategic Plan that moves funding of needed services from an institutional setting to the community. It provides people with disabilities the freedom to choose where they want to live and get services.

Recognizing that people with disabilities should play a central role in the support they receive, the Township introduced the Community Support Grants program in 2007. Since its inception, this program has provided 114 grants of up to \$1,500 each. The grants were issued to adults and children with disabilities to help with services such as speech and occupational therapy, assistive equipment and specialized activities. While the program has no age or income restrictions, it had been



From left to right: Jake Joehl, JJ's List volunteer; Alan Goldberg, New Trier Township Trustee; and JJ Hanley, Founder of JJ's List, were among the speakers at Volunteer ABILITY. The Township provided start-up funding to launch JJ's List, an online service where people with disabilities review businesses and services.

limited to persons with severe disabilities. In 2010, the eligibility criteria were expanded, and funding was increased from \$50,000 to \$75,000.

In October 2008, WorkABILITY, an initiative to provide employment resources for persons with disabilities, was launched. It is a collaborative program designed to facilitate the employment of persons with disabilities by providing a centralized service within the Township at no charge to residents. Individuals with disabilities, including special needs students, can meet with a specialist at the Township office to create an employment plan.

Financial Assistance



As far back as 1850, Township residents were concerned about their neighbors who could not support

themselves or needed emergency financial assistance. Access to state and federal aid programs is often a long, frustrating process. The Township can step in with emergency aid that may pay for urgently needed rent, utilities, or medical care.

The Township Supervisor serves as treasurer and supervisor of the General Assistance Fund. The Social Services Administrator assists the Supervisor by interviewing clients, administering cases, and referring clients to sources of aid.

The General and Emergency Assistance programs are cooperative efforts between the Township and residents whose economic resources are limited or nonexistent. General Assistance provides basic needs for residents who are unemployed or disabled and have no other forms of income or assets. Emergency Assistance provides help for residents faced with life-threatening circumstances or the inability to pay expenses necessary to obtain or maintain

employment. By 2011, more than 120 residents were receiving some type of assistance from these two funds.

Yet another resource, is the Angel Fund, a discretionary fund used by the Supervisor and the Social Services Administrator to provide financial help to individuals or families that are in serious financial crises but do not qualify for any government aid program.

The Angel Fund is totally funded by voluntary contributions from individuals, religious and service organizations. It is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, so contributions are tax deductible. All the money contributed is used to help residents; there are no administrative costs.

One of the programs provided through the Angel Fund is the Back to School gift card program. Each year, before the opening of the school year in August, the Township distributes gift cards to assist families in need with purchasing school supplies. While in 2008 the Township distributed 144 gift cards, by 2010 that number had increased to 400.

Pantry

The Pantry is among the Township's most visible services. In the beginning it was stocked by one generous person - Phyllis Baekgaard - who used her own funds to fill the pantry shelves in the old bank vault of the Township building. Currently, the shelves are filled by contributions from individuals, businesses, houses of worship, and community groups.

By 2010 the Pantry saw an average of 289 persons receiving some type of assistance with their grocery needs. Each week more than 100 bags of groceries are distributed, including items not covered by food stamps such as diapers, toilet paper, soap, and laundry detergent.

Employment Services

The Employment Counseling Service was created in 1983 to provide help with job research, resume writing, interviewing, and locating open positions. This was a free service. It also served employers by referring screened job applicants.

In 2007, the Township expanded this service to residents with disabilities through its WorkABILITY initiative. Today, New Trier Township continues to provide referrals to service providers who assist residents in seeking employment.



The Pantry is located at the Township Office at 739 Elm Street in Winnetka. In 2006, volunteers such as Louis Justman of Wilmette, a New Trier High School student, kept the shelves stocked.

Child Care

Of course, one of the most difficult hurdles to overcome in obtaining employment and remaining employed is the high cost of child care. In response to this challenge, New Trier Township introduced a Child Care scholarship program in 1993 to provide assistance with payment for child care for income-eligible parents and guardians. In 1999 the program was expanded to include before-and after-school care for school-aged children. In 2000 the program expanded further to cover eligible summer camp programs. The program is designed to help offset the cost for services provided by licensed day care, before-and-after school care, and/or summer day camp programs. ■

Citizen Involvement: twenty-first century style



Pantry volunteers (from left to right) Suzanne Conley, Mary Schram, Jane Gallery and Beth Kurensky were recognized at the 2010 Annual Town Meeting. Not pictured: Lynette Stone and Martha Gallo.

The Township form of government that the residents chose in 1850 guaranteed close-to-home access to officials and the decisions that affected community life.

By 1970, with the advent — and then the end — of Federal revenue-sharing funds, it was necessary for the Township to examine ways to raise money. The Board concluded that the Township could legally raise its tax levy and provide funds from the community. They realized the necessity to ascertain the needs of the community and understood that the residents should make decisions about how their tax dollars were spent.

Over the years, the present system of volunteer committees evolved — committees focusing on youth, mental health, health and human services, and disabilities. Committee membership is voluntary; appointments to serve

are made by a Central Nominating Committee and affirmed by the Board.

In 2007, having been at the forefront of bringing private-sector skills to government with the advisory committee structure, New Trier Township reorganized the advisory committees as follows:

The *Agency Oversight Committee* to provide supervision of funded programs and to ensure that the agencies that receive governmental funding are accountable in meeting the needs of residents.

The *Money-Follows-the-Person Committee* to focus on the needs of people with developmental disabilities and mental illness.

The *Special Projects Committee* to focus on new ideas for programs that address **emerging needs as identified in the Township's Strategic Plan.**

The *Disabilities Advisory Committee* to provide education and advocacy on behalf of persons with disabilities remained unchanged.

Beyond the advisory committees, over the years countless individual volunteers have utilized their skills, abilities and interests to further the mission of the Township by working in the Pantry and keeping the shelves stocked or serving as jurors or adult advocates in the Peer Jury program. ■

Longest standing tradition: Annual Town Meeting



Township Government is one of the oldest forms of government continuing to function today.

In 1787 the Congress of the Confederation of the United States adopted the Northwest Ordinance, in which six-mile-square areas were created in the territories of Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin and Illinois. Illinois was

admitted to the Union in 1818, and a new Constitution in 1848 created townships as we know them today. The Annual Town Meeting is mandated by state statute and over 1,400 Illinois townships meet on the second Tuesday of April. The meeting includes reports from elected officials, recognition of township volunteers and a guest speaker. The 162nd Annual Town Meeting was held April 12, 2011, at the North Shore Senior Center's Arthur C. Nielsen, Jr. Campus in Northfield. ■



A Town Meeting calls for direct citizen participation. Deputy Clerk Sandy Forrester (right) provides registered voters with instructions on voting procedures for the meeting.



North Shore Senior Center's "Senior Stompers" provided musical entertainment.



Northfield Girl Scout Troop 763 presented the Flag, led the Pledge of Allegiance and sang "America the Beautiful."



Clerk Jerome Hoynes (left) and Township volunteer Harriet Hahn received donated items for the Time Capsule which will be sealed and stored in the Township vault until 2050.



The keynote speaker was Geoffrey Baer -WTTW- Channel 11 Chicago, Emmy-Award-Winner, Producer & Writer of the—Chicago's North Shore documentary.



Trustee Gerri Kahnweiler (right) presented Mimi Dray of Wilmette with the 2011 George E. Noyes Community Spirit Award.



Supervisor Patricia B. Cantor; Lauren Miller, recipient of the 2011 Peer Jury Scholarship; and her mother, Karen Miller of Kenilworth.



Trustee Stefan Mozer; Naomi Frisch of Wilmette, the recipient of the 2011 Superior Service to Persons with Disabilities Award; and Avi Lesser of Wilmette.



Trustee Alan Goldberg (right) presented Mimi & Patti Evans, owners of Lad & Lassie Clothing store in Wilmette, with the Friend of the Township Award.

Historic Landmark



Illustration by Nan Greenough

The Township's headquarters has a history of its own. The handsome brick building was originally the home of the First National Bank of Winnetka. When the bank moved to larger quarters, Township officials saw an opportunity to consolidate offices (the Township had been renting space in three locations). At a special

Town Meeting on July 10, 1961, the electorate voted to acquire the building for \$85,000.

The funds came from the two-percent commission the Township was receiving from locally collected taxes. Remodeling removed the brass rails, tellers cages and two large, forbidding vaults. Temporarily, one vault was filled with canned soup and peanut butter from The Pantry. All that is left of the building's life as a bank is one vault in the basement where the time capsule will be stored. ■



Winnetka State Bank c. 1920's. Photo courtesy of the Winnetka Historical Society.

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Looking forward to our future



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Honoring our past

Looking Forward to Our Future