

THE TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS OF ILLINOIS

Perspective

township

December 2020

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Township Officials of Illinois

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The Township Officials of Illinois, organized in 1907, serves as a resource center for state and federal legislative agencies, as well as its member townships. The organization's attention to and involvement with the legislative process enables it to exert influence on behalf of its member units, as well as to report to them on decisions which affect their functioning.

In addition to offering information and guidance, TOI promotes and supports strong township government in the State of Illinois. To that end, it offers a series of continuing education programs designed to provide a sense of responsibility, assurance, dedication and unity.

TOI recognizes that offering service benefiting the citizens and taxpayers of Illinois requires the representation of diverse constituencies. Its Board of Directors is structured to accommodate that purpose, as are its respective divisions.

The organization provides leadership for the continuation and effectiveness of strong grassroots government in the state. Through education, dedication and unity, TOI has achieved and surpassed the goals of its founders and provides leadership for grassroots government in the 21st Century.

Subscription Rates TOI membership automatically provides a subscription for all elected township officials. Subscription rate is \$25.00 per year. Single issues are \$5.00.

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Article Submission Address all article submissions to Kayla Jeffers. **Deadline:** Copy is due by the tenth day of the month preceding the issue in which the article will appear. Send all article submissions to Township Officials of Illinois, 3217 Northfield Drive, Springfield, IL 62702. Telephone 217-744-2212 Fax 217-744-7419.

Advertising Address all display advertising and Professional Directory inquiries to Kayla Jeffers. **Deadline:** Both display and directory ads are due by the first day of the month preceding the issue in which the ad will appear. Send all ads to Township Officials of Illinois, 3217 Northfield Drive, Springfield, IL 62702. Telephone 217-744-2212.

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THE TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS OF ILLINOIS

township Perspective

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Welcome to Winter!

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Editorial staff

Editor Bryan E. Smith

Associate Editor Kayla Jeffers

Coming Events

2020-2021

Dec. 1	Township Caucus (Must be after 6 p.m.)
Dec. 2	MTAD Caucus (Must be after 6 p.m.)
Dec. 11	Lunch & Learn Webinar – Medical Marijuana: What You Need to Know
Dec. 24	TOI Office Closed – Christmas Eve
Dec. 25	TOI Office Closed – Christmas
Dec. 31	TOI Office Closed – New Year's Eve
Jan. 1	TOI Office Closed – New Year's Day
Jan. 18	TOI Office Closed – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Feb. 12	TOI Office Closed – President Lincoln's Birthday
Feb. 15	TOI Office Closed – Presidents Day

Township Classifieds Work!

Township equipment sells from our website, www.toi.org/Township-Perspective/Township-Classifieds, and from *Township Perspective*. List your surplus equipment now for results! For \$75 (copy w/photo) or \$25 (copy only), your township ad will be on our website and in the next available issue of *Township Perspective*. Email kayla@toi.org to advertise or for more information.



Building and running a Township Website is easy through TOI's Website Program.



Contact Kayla Jeffers at (217) 744-2212 or kayla@toi.org for more information



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from your Executive Director

By Bryan E. Smith

TOI Executive Director

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE that we are nearing the end of another year. This year has seemed like a "blur" to me and I'm looking forward to it being over and a much better year in 2021. It seems like just yesterday 2020 was starting and with everything that has happened it doesn't seem possible that the year is almost over!

I still do get a little excited this time of year when it's time to put up the Christmas decorations and it's nice to see the excitement in the children around the holiday season. Their enthusiasm is contagious and (for some reason) makes every year, even as an adult, seem to be just a bit different and more exciting than others.

As an association of township governments, you (we) stand ready to take the first step on the year-long journey as the year 2021 begins. There will be obstacles to overcome in the coming year, there always are, I just hope it's not another pandemic! But if all the various divisions of our organization do their share, that joint effort will ensure that anything can be accomplished. Set your goals for 2021 now and work together with other officials to reach them. You'll learn how rewarding and gratifying mutual success can feel. It's going to be a busy year and one of change, so it's time to prepare.

As we all pause to enjoy the holiday season, I hope you will take a few minutes to look back over 2020 and think of those things that you are thankful for and blessed with. I'm reminded of the old church hymn "Count Your Blessings" and how it tells us to name them one by one. I think you will be surprised that there are many.

From TOI Land, I wish you all a wonderful holiday season and a very happy new year!



from your Associate Director

By Jerry B. Crabtree

TOI Associate Director / Education Coordinator

AN UNPRECEDENTED FEELING; the feeling of looking forward to the end of a year (2020). Yes, I said it. I, like many of you, are looking forward to seeing 2020 in the rear-view mirror. We have embraced the challenges before us, but the invitation to move past and beyond is well received by everyone.

This has been a historical month for the association (November 16-20, and 23, 2020). I am proud to have been part of the first ever TOI Virtual Educational Conference. What a success. Just under 400 registrations and the participation rate daily was maintained by you — our members. The program content was amazing, and the speakers provided outstanding programs. Thank you to all of our panelists, speakers, board members, staff, and sponsors that contributed to the success of the event. The support of everyone is greatly appreciated.

We continue to evaluate the survey results and appreciate everyone who took the time to complete the virtual program survey.

A special thank you to the TOI staff for meeting the cause and thinking outside of the box to allow a virtual program like this to take place. I know that we have learned quite a few new things when it comes to virtual programming and offering. There is nothing that replaces the face to face interaction of an in-person meeting. I like so many of you look forward to returning to meeting in person soon. However, as we follow direction from federal, state, and local leaders to stay safe from the pandemic, we will continue to work within the parameters of what we can. The 2021 program plan is under review and planning will be completed soon. Watch future editions of *Perspective* for an update on the schedule and what type of programs are available. The January 2021 *Perspective* edition is normally dedicated to the upcoming program year highlighting the education programs, webinars, and conference theme. This may be delayed a bit to calculate our meeting options as we move into the first quarter of 2021.

2021 PROGRAM IDEAS

Again, I am calling on all members for ideas and recommendations to assist in finalizing the 2021 program

agenda. If you have a recommendation or referral for a great program to benefit our members via webinar or virtual zoom event, please forward the information to me. We will be planning our 2021 calendar soon and would welcome assistance.

HOLDING TOWNSHIP MEETINGS NOW

In response to recent news about the impact of the virus it seems that we will not be returning to business as usual for some time. We are encouraging townships to develop a plan to move forward within the guidelines and processes that we have in place and know are acceptable meeting practices to avoid delays and attempt to get done what we can.

In response to my November 2020 article in *Perspective*, I did receive a few phone calls and emails asking for clarification on having the 2020 Annual Town Meeting (ATM) as well as, regular monthly meetings of the Township. We are suggesting that you go ahead and have your 2020 ATM if you have not already so that you may close out the calendar year with no outstanding meetings. The directions to hold such a meeting are outlined on our website under the COVID-19 page. This, of course, is up to each individual township.

Regarding regular meetings, I would refer you to Public Act 101-0640 and you may access the language to this act from our website www.toi.org or from the ILGA website at www.ilga.gov. This Act is known as the Government Emergency Administration Act outlines Sections 2.01 and 7 of the Open Meetings Act are amended to provide procedures to hold meetings, establish quorums, record votes and normalize activities of public boards in times of a declared public health crisis. This process impacts township government holding meetings virtually and telephonically. As long as social distance guidelines are followed, you are permitted to meet in person. If the board wants to meet virtually or by phone you may as well.

Your association is encouraging you to hold regular township board meetings to conduct the normal business of the township to avoid any negative impact on your community. This legislative measure provided the means to accomplish just this.

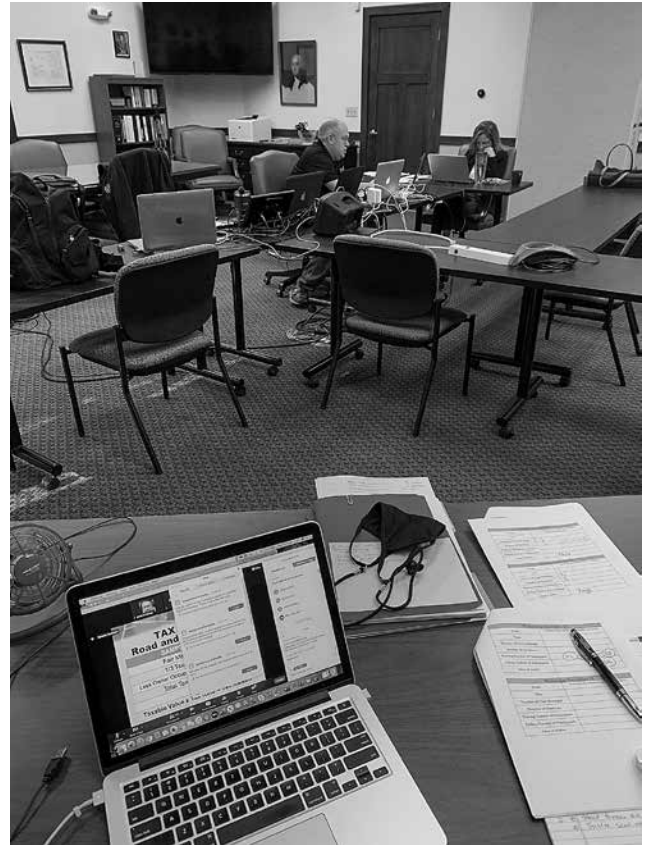
We encourage public health strategies to promote



INSIDE THE CONTROL ROOM for the virtually held 113th Annual Educational Conference.



public safety and maintain health and wellness for all township boards and their residents. If you have any questions, we recommend that you review the literature references provided on our website (www.toi.org) as well as the information provided by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH). IDPH has a page dedicated to COVID-19 and the departments suggested compliance provisions.





THE FIRST 250 registered attendees for the 113th Annual Educational Conference received exclusive TOI Swag Bags, filled with items from vendors, TOI, and TOI divisions.

I wish you continued health and wellness in the remainder of 2020 and the best wishes for success and health in 2021. We are on a new frontier as we start a new year with open eyes and renewed expectations. It is my wish for everyone that we offer pause in our holiday celebrations for the less fortunate and for an open mind toward health and peace for everyone. From my family to yours — Happy Holidays!



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Medical Marijuana: What You Need to Know

Friday, December 11, 2020

12PM

Duration: 60 minutes

\$25 for Members

Join Dr. Aaron Weiner as he discusses the facts and myths of medical marijuana. He will also cover the therapeutic facts of medical marijuana.

Presented by: Aaron Weiner, PhD, ABPP



Dr. Aaron Weiner is a board-certified Psychologist and owner of Bridge Forward Group, a private practice and consulting organization. He earned his doctorate from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and completed his fellowship in Addiction Psychology at the VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System. Prior to forming Bridge Forward in 2020, Dr. Weiner served as the Director of Addiction Services at Linden Oaks Behavioral Health in Naperville, Illinois, and the founder and clinical director of the Spectrum Health Addiction Rehabilitation Program in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Dr. Weiner is a strong advocate for evidence-based care in treating chemical dependency and behavioral addictions, as well as a proponent of integrating behavioral health services into medical settings. Dr. Weiner has been an outspoken advocate for numerous forward-leaning trends, including naloxone co-prescribing in hospital settings, fentanyl test strips, responsible opioid destruction, marijuana education, person-first language for stigma reduction, and vaping awareness for youth. He has spoken nationally on the topics of opioid addiction, marijuana commercialization, and the vaping epidemic, as well as has served as a context expert for both policy-makers and media outlets. In addition to his work in healthcare systems, Dr. Weiner is adjunct faculty in the Counseling Psychology Department at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He has served on the Board of the Society of Addiction Psychology, and won multiple regional awards for his commitment to converting best-practice ideas into real-world change. For more information about Dr. Weiner and his areas of focus, visit his website at weinerphd.com.

Webinars are convenient, affordable, and interactive.

Visit toi.org for more information and to register!

LEGAL DISCLAIMER: The information to be provided at this webinar is provided by the Township Officials of Illinois for informational purposes only and not for the purpose of providing legal advice. It is intended to provide timely general information of interest, but should not be considered a substitution for legal advice. You should contact your attorney to obtain advice with respect to any particular issue or problem. Participation in the webinar does not create an attorney-client relationship with any attorneys participating in the webinar and participants.

2021 Election Calendars at a Glance

Consolidated Primary Election – February 23, 2021

December 1, 2020

Objections: Last day to file objections to nominating petitions for November 16-23 filing period (filed within 5 business days after last day for filing).

December 2, 2020

Lottery: Last day to conduct lottery for November 16-23 filing period (conducted within 9 days following the last day of petition filing).

December 17, 2020

Ballot Certification: Certification of ballot by Local election Official to Election Authority.

December 17, 2020

Write-in Candidates: Last day to file a Declaration of Intent to be a write-in candidate with the appropriate election authority or authorities (Declaration of Intent to be a write-in candidate would have to be filed by December 17 in order to force a primary).

Consolidated Election – April 6, 2021

December 1, 2020

Township Caucus: Date on which the Township Caucus shall be held (in those townships which have not adopted the primary system).

December 2, 2020

Multi-Township Caucus: Date on which the multi-township caucus shall be held.

December 14-21, 2020

Consolidated Election Candidate Filing: Petition filing period for nominating petitions of new political party, nonpartisan, and independent candidates as well as certificates of nomination for established party caucus candidates.

December 29, 2020

Objections: Last day to file objections to nominating petitions of new political party, nonpartisan, and independent candidates as well as certificates of nomination for established party caucus candidates.

January 27, 2021

Ballot Placement Lottery: Last day for the local election official to conduct a lottery for the established party placement on the ballot when said parties nominate by caucus or when no primary is being held.
Ballot Certification: (68 days before consolidated election).

February 4, 2021

Write-in Candidates: Last day to file a Declaration of Intent to be in write-in candidate with the appropriate election authority or authorities (61 days prior to the election).

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Legislative Report

By Taylor Anderson

Anderson Legislative Consulting, Ltd.

IN A SURREAL YEAR, that added new depth to the term “unusual” it should come as no surprise that the election held on November 3, 2020 followed suit. At the time of writing this article, several races in Illinois have yet to be certified, as votes continue to be counted towards the final results. As it stands the House Democrats are predicted to lose two seats bringing their super majority down from 74 to 72 members. However, the Senate Democrats look to gain a seat and increase their super majority from 40 to 41 seats. Its not clear, at this time, if these results will have much of a tangible effect on the spring session in 2021 or actions considered.

What will be different is the Senate minority leadership as Senator Dan McConchie (R-Lake Zurich) made a successful bid to replace former minority leader Senator Bill Brady (R-Bloomington) and become the new Republican Leader in the Senate. House minority leader Representative Jim Durkin (R-Burr Ridge) also received a challenge to his leadership but Representative Tony McCombie (R-Savanna) withdrew her challenge before a vote could be taken and pledged to continue to work with current Leader Durkin. The challenges are not limited to the minority party as long time Speaker Madigan faces challengers to his leadership position within his own caucus for the first time in many years.

In another unusual move, the 2020 veto session has been cancelled. Veto session were originally scheduled for Nov. 17-19 and Dec. 1-3. In a press release President Harmon and Speaker Madigan outlined their thoughts for why cancelling veto session was necessary.

“The front page in today’s Springfield paper warns of a COVID ‘tsunami’ sweeping the region and its health care system. This is not the time to physically bring together hundreds of people from all around the state. Given what’s happening, it was an obvious decision. It’s not safe or responsible to have a legislative session under these circumstances,” Illinois Senate President Don Harmon (D-Oak Park) said in a statement from spokesman John Patterson.

“The health and safety of the people who work for and serve in the Illinois General Assembly, and their respective families, is paramount. We will continue to monitor the situation, consult medical experts and do intend to schedule additional session days so we can

finish our important work,” Illinois House Speaker Michael Madigan (D-Chicago) said in the same statement.

In a previous article, we discussed how, due to the pandemic shortened year, there were no vetoes to take up, so the lack of a veto session will not overtly impact any pending legislative decisions for 2020. However, it is still very unusual even if legislators continue to work via remote zoom committee meetings and working groups. Last month talks of a potential lame duck session were floated but those have cooled since veto session was cancelled. If a lame duck session were to be held it would need to take place before January 13, as that will be the inaugural for the 102nd General Assembly. The discussion of a lame duck session has gained importance since the failure of the Governor’s fair tax initiative. Illinois will be facing a severe budget shortfall without the additional revenue. Some have projected the budget deficit could be as much as \$4 billion. This is of particular importance to local governments as the state tends to look at local government revenues first to make up any short falls in the state budget. The Corporate Personal Property Replacement tax (CPPRT) is a frequent victim of raiding by the state and could see future sweeps in 2021.

Please also be aware that a new law taking effect January 1, 2021 will require those townships that currently have a website to do the following:

IMRF is now required by law to post information on their website regarding public bodies that participate in the fund. This includes links to various resolutions as well as past and projected contributions for those public bodies. Beginning January 1, 2021, any public body that participates in IMRF and has a website, must provide a link on its website to that information. This **does not** mandate that you create a website. This only applies if you have a website currently.

The IMRF URL which must be linked, for those with a website, can be found below:

<https://www.imrf.org/en/about-imrf/transparency/employer-cost-and-participation-information>





TOIRMA Update

By Jim Donelan

TOIRMA Executive Director

Be Safe on Ice

AS OF THE WRITING OF THIS ARTICLE in early November, Illinois has been fortunate to have had no significant snow events so far this fall. If only this could continue through the winter months. However, as Illinoisans we all know that snow will eventually rear its head along with the cold months ahead.

Illinois is a big state, especially north to south. The northern portion of the state tends to receive its first significant snowfall earlier in the year than the southern parts. As is with weather, even as predictable as it is today, it's still unpredictable and Mother Nature tends to do as she wishes. Snow or not, the unfortunate part of living in Illinois is that the temperature drops below freezing and surfaces become more slippery and ice covered.

During a recent TOIRMA claims review, it was clear that a significant portion of workers' compensation claims were relating to injuries sustained during slips, trips or falls. A further review shines the spotlight on slips and falls on ice.

Walk Like a Penguin



TOIRMA has a *Risk Reminder* focusing on this very topic "Be Safe on Ice."

It is important for everyone to be constantly aware of these dangers and to learn to walk safely on ice and slippery surfaces. Keep these important safety tips in mind:

- In cold temperatures, approach with caution and assume that all wet, dark areas on pavements are slippery and icy.
- During bad weather, avoid boots or shoes with smooth soles and heels. Instead, wear shoes or boots that provide traction on snow and ice; boots made of non-slip rubber or neoprene with grooved soles are best.
- Use special care when entering and exiting vehicles; use the vehicle for support.
- Walk in designated walkways as much as possible. Taking shortcuts over snow piles and other frozen areas can be hazardous. Look ahead when you walk; a snow or ice-covered sidewalk or driveway, especially if on a hill, may require travel along its grassy edge for traction.
- Point your feet out slightly like a penguin! Spreading your feet out slightly while walking on ice increases your center of gravity.
- Bend slightly and walk flat-footed with your center of gravity directly over the feet as much as possible.
- Extend your arms out to your sides to maintain balance.
- Keep your hands out of your pockets! Hands in your pockets while walking decreases your center of gravity and balance. You can help break your fall with your hands free if you do start to slip.
- Watch where you are stepping and GO SLOWLY!
- Take short steps or shuffled for stability.
- Wear a heavy, bulky coat that will cushion you if you should fall.
- Try to avoid landing on your knees, wrists, or spine. Try to fall on a fleshy part of your body, such as your side.
- Try to relax your muscles if you fall. You'll injure yourself less if you are relaxed.

By slowing down, taking precautions, hopefully we will be able to enjoy a safer and injury free winter season.

Happy Holidays and thank you for your attention to these matters.

As always, if you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me toll-free at (888) 562-7861 or by email at jdonelan@toirma.org.

Think Safe ... Drive Safe ... Work Safe

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113th Annual Educational Conference

virtual



Opening Program

EVERY DAY of the virtual 113th Annual Educational Conference week from November 16-20 and 23, TOI President Danny Hanning personally addressed all attendees.

Monday November 16 was Supervisor's Day which featured "Cyber Security: How much of Your Personal Information is Online," "Transition of Officials After the Election," and "2020 Township Officials of Illinois Legislative Update." Tuesday November 17 was Township Clerk's Day which featured "Annual Town Meeting Review Summary," "Preparing for the Township Caucus and Election in 2021," "Clerks Duties and Responsibilities," and "Drug Free in 2020: Parenting Approaches During COVID." Wednesday November 18 was Trustees' Day which featured "A Step-by-Step Guide to Township Tax Levies," "Township Government and Media Relations," "Role of Trustee on the Township Board," and "General Assistance and Emergency Assistance in the time of COVID." Thursday Novem-

ber 19 was Highway Commissioner's Day which featured "Joint Purchasing for Road Districts," "Common Issues Impacting Township Highway Commissioners and Road Districts," "Size & Weight Updates for Road Districts," and "Tapping into Your Passion: Becoming the Leader You Want to Be." Friday November 20 was Assessors Day which featured "Township Assessment in Illinois: a Deep Dive Discussion," "IDES Claim Benefits, Procedures, and Additional Services," "Helpful Tips on OMA & FOIA," and "Supporting Older Adults Through Fire and Fall Protection." Monday November 23 was Attorneys' Day which featured "2021 Election: Questions and Answers from the Attorneys Division."

During President Hanning's opening remarks on Monday, he spoke of how different this year's conference was to prior years. "When I became President in 2017, I had no idea that I would be standing here today in front of a camera with all of you connected by the *internet* and opening the first virtual conference for

the association. Some of you still give me a hard time about my *flip phone*.... And no, I am still *not* getting a smart phone.”

This year’s conference ran as smoothly as we could have hoped for TOI’s first ever completely virtual Annual Educational Conference. Recordings of the conference can be found on the TOI website in the Download Center.

President Hanning also had to say on the current restrictions and guidelines in place to protect our members that “Regardless of your thoughts and agreement with the public health requirements we are making the best lemonade Illinois has ever tasted!”



TOI PRESIDENT and Huntsville Township (Schuyler Co.) Highway Commissioner Danny Hanning addresses all attendees of the Virtual Conference.

TOI Conference Committee Chair and TOI Board Member Sherrill Knorr welcomed attendees and gave them helpful reminders and tips on how to ensure smooth sailing for the TOI Virtual Conference.



SHERRILL KNORR, Conference chair, TOI Board Member, Township Supervisors of Illinois President, and Supervisor Reed Township (Will Co.) welcomes attendees.

During the daily Opening program, Susan Curtiss, TOI 2nd Vice President and Esmen Township (Livingston Co.) Supervisor, led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance and held a Moment of Silence.



TOI 2ND VICE PRESIDENT and Esmen Township (Livingston Co.) Supervisor Susan Curtiss.

TOI Executive Director Bryan Smith greeted all attendees every morning of the virtual 113th Annual Educational Conference. “This year has been a new experience for all us, especially with this being the first year in TOI history that an in-person conference was not held, and its place was a virtual conference. Nothing will ever replace an in-person meeting,” but with the success of the virtually held Annual Educational Conference great education sessions were still able to be given and broadcast to our members. Smith reminded attendees that township government does not halt during times like these.

Everyday, Smith left attendees with the following quote. “Township government isn’t just another layer of government; it’s the critical layer, the foundation. It’s the one that represents you and your family, lives within its budget, and provides the services you’ve asked for—nothing more and nothing less.”



TOI EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Bryan Smith addresses Virtual Conference attendees on Monday November 16.

virtual 113th Annual Educational Conference

Preparing for Launch



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Bryan Smith and Associate Director Jerry Crabtree overseeing the launch of the virtual 113th Annual Educational Conference.

DURING THE WEEK of the virtual 113th Annual Educational Conference, the TOI Office prepared for launch. Executive Director Bryan Smith, Associate Director Jerry Crabtree, Meeting Consultant Kristen Ball, and Mike Reid from Premiere Audio Visual gathered together—following social distancing guidelines—to bring the virtually held Annual Educational Conference to all attendees.



MEETING CONSULTANT Kristen Ball and Mike Reid from Premiere Audio Visual monitoring the broadcast feed of the Virtual Conference.



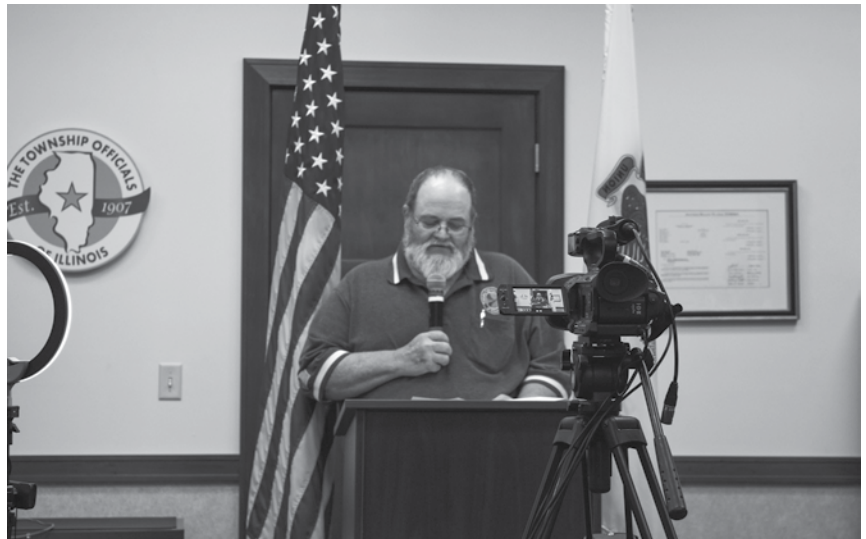
2020 TOI President's Award



TOI PRESIDENT Danny Hanning presents the 2020 President's Award to Simphi Lenover, TOIRMA Account Manager with CCMSI.

SIMPHI LENOVER, TOIRMA Account Manager with CCMSI, was awarded the 2020 President's Award on Thursday November 19 and became the 50th Recipient of the award on Highway Commissioner's Day of the virtual 113th Annual Educational Conference week. Lenover has worked for CCMSI for over 30 years and was honored for her dedication to township government.

Simphi is from the Danville area, and from there she is able to help deliver one of the premier risk management programs, that is largest by number of participants. An estimated 95% of TOI members participate in TOIRMA.



TOI PRESIDENT Danny Hanning goes live on the Virtual Conference broadcast to present the 2020 President's Award.



TOIRMA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Jim Donelan (left) and **TOIRMA Associate Director** Matt Knight (right) congratulate **Simphi Lenover** (center) on receiving the Township Officials of Illinois 2020 President's Award.

In the mid-1980s, Simphi started as an underwriter at CCMSI. CCMSI is the third-party vendor who is contracted with TOIRMA in assisting in the TOIRMA program. In 1986, Lenover was promoted to Assistant Manager of Personnel Lines with CCMSI. Then, soon after, she was promoted to Personnel Lines Manager with the company. In 1994, she began her career with townships, as she became Program Coordinator for TOIRMA, and in 2006 Simphi took over a full managerial position as the Account Manager.

Simphi has been a regular face at our many TOI events over the past thirty-odd years, and we thank her for her outstanding knowledge, support, and unwavering attention she has maintained to the government closest to the people—township government. Soon, Simphi will enter retirement, and we will sorely miss her and her dedication. 📖



SIMPHI LENOVER gives her acceptance speech for the 2020 President's Award.

A Message from your TOI President

COVID-19.

How can something most of us never heard of a year ago disrupt our lives so completely? This past year will be one for the history books. TOI had to cancel all of our district education events, except for the first one held in O'Fallon. Our NATaT Fly-IN and Topics Days were also victims. It disrupted the legislative session, which can be good or bad. The good side is they can't do anything to us. The bad side is I was having some positive discussions with people, and that all came to an end as well.

As I am writing this, the election is over, but we still do not know who won. I am 63, and never remember this happening before.

The TOI Fall conference had to be cancelled, and we are trying a virtual event. Early indications look good. I hope many of you were able to participate and benefit from it! My biggest wish is that we never have to do it again.

We have held various meetings over Zoom this year, and I guess it works. But you simply cannot

replace the eye to eye personal interaction.

It is hard to believe the year is coming to an end, and the holiday season are upon us.

While there is no doubt that the COVID-19 mess will not allow big parties and celebrations to go on, I hope it does not get in the way of family gatherings.

To me that is what life is about. No matter how bad things seem, with friends, family, and—especially—children we are able to cope.

My wish for everyone is that the new year will bring things back to normal, and we can once again meet in person and begin training the new townships officials that we will welcome next spring.

Happy Holidays,
Danny Hanning, President
Township Officials of Illinois



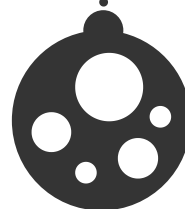
HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM TOI



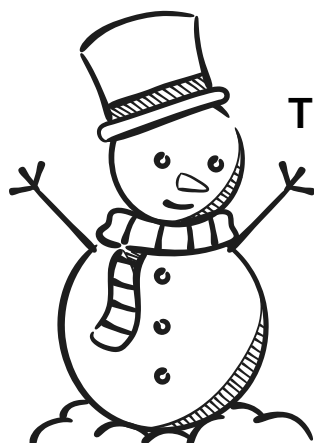
We would like to wish all of our members and their families a happy holiday season filled with many blessings. Thank you for your continued support and involvement with township government.

We look forward to the many opportunities in the New Year!

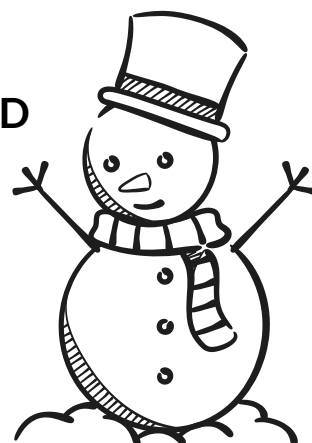
*Bryan, Jerry, Pam,
Kayla, Kim & Taylor*



HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM TOI!



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DECEMBER 31
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Your assistance is needed ...

To make sure that you, or the officials in your township, receive their issue of *Township Perspective*, please make sure that TOI is notified when there is a change of official or address. We are receiving several address changes from the postal service and sometimes is after we have already sent out another mailing.

Please call the TOI Office toll free at 1.866.897.4688 and ask for Pam or Kayla, or email your change to pam@toi.org or kayla@toi.org.

Your assistance is much appreciated!





The Scoop on Supervisors

By Sherrill Knorr

President, Township Supervisors of Illinois

D ECEMBER? WHERE DID THE YEAR GO!! As we all know this will be one for the books.

I hope all who attended the TOI Virtual Conference enjoyed this new format. Thank you, Jerry Crabtree, and the TOI staff for putting this all together. If was a huge undertaking but as we all know, it was in very capable hands! Your dedication to this was very much appreciated. Looking forward to again seeing everyone at the TOI Conference in 2021!

What to do in December?

As a Supervisor this is the time of year to approve your Tax Levy so that your Township Clerk can return it to your county. The last day that you may return these to your county is Tuesday, December 29. Remember if you expect to adopt an aggregate levy more than 105% of the amount extended in the prior year, you must give notice through a newspaper and hold a public hearing regarding that intent. 60 ILCS 1/235-13; 35 ILCS 200/18-70 Please refer to the TOI Laws & Duties Handbook for detailed instructions and information.

As the Presidential Election is over, we geared up for the Township Caucus. By the publication of this issue, this will have already been held. I hope that those who

wanted to continue their service to their township were able to do so. This is always a stressful time for many of us, but we all need to just know that no matter who is in office you always have a voice in your township. Attend meetings and let your voice be heard.

As the new year starts this could be a time to think about your budget for the coming fiscal year or maybe the disposal of records. Make sure you follow all guideline for the disposal of records through the State Archives Office and the TOI website in the download section for you Record Retention Representatives Map.

Make sure that as winter approaches you take extra caution on all roads and be very mindful of the coming snowplows!

I want to wish my fellow Supervisors, especially the TSI Board members, TOI personnel and staff, TOIRMA staff and personnel, and all elected officials a Very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year! We can only hope and pray that 2021 will bring with it peace, stability, and health!

MERRY CHRISTMAS! HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Updated 2020 General Assistance Monthly Payment Levels

DHS payment levels were updated October 1, 2020. The updated monthly payment level for a single person is now \$319.

The Supervisor's Division recommends using DHS Payment Levels for TANF as a standard minimum level.

The following link provides direct access to the DHS update effective 10/02/2020:

https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=21738#a_toc2

Please note: Your Township's change in payment level does not need Board approval. However, it is recom-

mended that the change in payment level be recorded in your township minutes.

The Supervisor has discretion regarding start date of this change. This change is not considered retroactive to the start date of October 1, 2020.

If you have any questions, please contact one of the following:

Susan Curtiss	sfcurtiss@aol.com
Amy Victor	alvictor@sbcglobal.net
Deb Skillrud	dskillrud@cityblm.org



Clerk's Corner

By Jeanette McWhorter

Vice President, TOI Clerks Division

We preserve the history of our Township as it happens

I HOPE THAT MANY OF YOU were able to join me in attending the Virtual Conference on November 16-20, and 23, 2020. There were some very good sessions presented and excellent information given for each one of the offices of the Township Officials. I also hope that you were able to download the materials needed to help the Election Process in your township (be it Primary or Caucus) to go as smoothly as possible in getting ready for the Consolidated Election in April.

As clerks we preserve the history of our township by the records that we keep. Township government was established in Providence, Rhode Island in 1636 and is the oldest existing unit of government continuing to serve on the North American Continent. Township government was in existence for 140 years prior to the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776 and it is said that 38 of the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence had experienced the benefit of township government. One of those benefits being the Annual Town Meeting, and the Annual Town Meeting is still an important function of our nation's townships today.

The town of Astoria, in the township of the same name, is located in Fulton County and was the first home to the Township Officials of Illinois.

This was because Astoria native and longtime TOI Secretary/Treasurer Troy Kost was TOI's first paid employee. In fact, in 1987, Bryan Smith started to spend his work weeks in the town of Astoria as Associate Director of the Township Officials of Illinois. In 1999 looking for ways to improve the magazine, Bryan felt that a name change to *Township Perspective* from *Illinois County and Township Officials* would be more appropriate since the magazine focused solely on townships.

The *Perspective* Magazine has been published by K.K. Stevens Publishing Co. in Astoria since 1971 when TOI bought the magazine. At the time the magazine was bought, it was the *Illinois County and Township Official* and printed by Schnepf & Barnes in Springfield.

If one looks at the front page of the *Township Perspective* today it says that the Township Officials of Illi-

nois was organized in 1907 as a resource center for state and federal legislative agencies as well as its member townships.

According to a 2011 article, the *Township Perspective* is also mailed from Astoria. It is said that it travels to Peoria to the US Post Office Sectional Center, then to Sort Centers in Chicago or St. Louis and distributed to the Post Offices around the state. In 2016, *The Township Officials of Illinois' Township Perspective* celebrated 75 years in publication!

Normally on the last day of the TOI Conference the Awards from each Division are given to those individuals who have met the criteria to be selected for the award. The Clerk's Division gives the William Z. Ahrends Award to a Township Clerk who has attained and personified a high level of professionalism as a Town Clerk, devoted time and energy to the community in which they serve, and has generously assisted other clerks or elected officials in attaining their full potential. This must be a Township Clerk in good standing with the Clerks Division of the Township Officials of Illinois.

I am pleased to announce that the winner of the 2020 William Z. Ahrends Award is Sherry Tite, the Clerk for Wood River Township in Madison County. Congratulations Sherry! I will be presenting the Ahrends Award to Sherry at her next Township Board Meeting.

At this time, I would like to salute all of the Clerks in all of the Townships in Illinois for serving their communities as a Township Clerks. HATS OFF TO YOU! for preserving the history of the Township as it happens.

Don't forget to check the Township and Road District Checklist on the back pages of this magazine to know the deadlines for fulfilling the duties of the Township Clerk.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

TOI Clerks Mission Statement: Unifying Clerks across Illinois with a solid base in knowledge by providing quality education to better serve our constituency



Highway Commissioner's Beat

By Charlie Montgomery

Monticello Township Highway Commissioner

Reflecting in 2020 on Growing up in Monticello in the 1950's-60's

WELL, THE MONTICELLO TOWNSHIP final season mowing is complete, the potholes are filled, the snowplows and salt spreaders are on the trucks and ready to go and the equipment and shop are all cleaned up, so why not do a little "good old days" Monticello reminiscing.

But first, with all of our social distancing rules and regulations from the CDC on the COVID-19 Pandemic, it's going to be a very weird Thanksgiving / Christmas 2020 holiday season for ALL of us and one that I'm sure we ALL will never forget. As of today, as I write this column on November 9, the positive cases in the U.S. have topped 100,000 for a fourth day in a row, bringing our nation's total close to the 10 million mark.

So please, please EVERYONE—Be Smart / Socially Distance / Wear A Mask and Stay Safe!!!

Now for some childhood "Good Ole Monticello Days", Good News stories:

Back in the "good ole days" whether we lived out on the rural township roads on the farm, taking care of the

cattle, horses, sheep, pigs, turkeys, or chickens and helping with the farming or whether we grew up in town (like I did), we all have our childhood "good ole days" memories.

As a kid, I remember hearing my parents talk about their "good ole days" growing up in southern Illinois. And as they were talking, I remember thinking to myself—"well, these days right now are my good ole days."

As I get older, I find myself reflecting back on those childhood days growing up in Monticello, and I was right—those were my "good ole days."

Every year, as we approach the holiday season, I find myself reminiscing growing up working in my parent's hardware store on the Monticello Square—Montgomery's Western Auto. So, if you are ever in Monticello, and in the 3-Ravens Restaurant building on the west side of the Square, imagine yourself back in the 1950's in an "old days" hardware store.

In December as a kid, I found myself personally

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visiting two or three times a week with Santa in his red Santa Claus House up on the Piatt County Court House yard, while waiting for my parents to close our hardware store each evening. Santa's red and white House was such a cool visual under all of the large colored bulb Christmas lights strung from the Court House roof over the Court House Yard and Monticello Square streets to all of the business building roof tops. Oh, how I wish they still did that now-a-days at Christmas.

As a child, Christmas Eve was always a very special day in our lives. After working our tails off for several weeks at the store during the month of December, at 5:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve, we would close the store and "*it was time to be Santa Claus ourselves*". Mom would go home to make a pot of her yummy chili. And my brothers Bob, Dick and I, would help our dad load our red "1953" Chevy pickup truck numerous times that evening, emptying the store's dirt floor basement shelves of local family's "Christmas Lay-A-Way."

And then through the pre-arrangements made by our dad with all of our customers, we would drive around Monticello Christmas Eve evening, hiding bicycles, wagons, tricycles, dolls, toys and gifts in our customer's garages, back porches, basements, or behind backyard bushes. And our parents would be going back up to the store numerous times on Christmas Day meeting many customers for batteries for all their children's toys.

Other childhood memories in Monticello and Montgomery's Western Auto:

- Fall pheasant hunting season, back when there were fence rows along the roads out in the country for pheasants to roost in, when so many locals would come into the store to buy their new shotguns or rifles and their ammunition and purchasing their hunting license to go pheasant hunting.
- Or the continuous assembly throughout the year of bicycles, wagons, tricycles, wheelbarrows, mowers, etc., as they came off the weekly Western Auto Semi-Trucks in their boxes.

And before credit cards:

- The busy spring season when Monticello locals would come in to buy a new lawnmower, tiller and/or their fertilizer.
- I remember a local man telling me a few years ago that when he was 12 years old growing up in Monticello, my dad sold him a new lawnmower on weekly installment payments of \$5.00 per

week, so he could start his own summer lawn mowing business.

- And I have heard this same "Montgomery's Western Auto "weekly payment" story on the purchase of their family's Christmas lay-a-way and/or regular merchandise repeatedly from many older Monticello residents over the past years.

Other "Monticello Square" memories:

- Walking down to Gucker's Drug Store's and visiting with Mable and Margaret at the soda fountain while drinking a coke or shake for a work break.
- Going to the Lyric Theatre for a movie and eating popcorn (or my favorite atomic fireballs) on a Friday night when all the stores were still open until 9:00 p.m. And never getting caught by my occasional throwing of the Atomic Fireballs at the big movie screen.
- Attending our annual "Monticello's Western Days" in August, when every storefront on the Square was converted to a "country western business scene". And everybody up town dressed up in country western attire, walking around the downtown area or sitting on straw bales strewn all around the square, eating their suppers of ham and beans and/or other nightly cookouts on the Square, with local farmer's farm animals in pens around the Square to view, and "acted out" country western shootouts.

So, as we all approach this winter weather and holiday season, even with this COVID-19 Pandemic, please continue to build your own childhood or adult memories, living in your own community.

A very Merry Christmas and have a Happy and Hopefully Better 2021.

Stay Safe

Charlie Montgomery
Monticello Township Road Commissioner



Ready for the Defense

By Jay Judge, Kathy James, Robert Hoban and Steve Judge
Judge, James, Hoban & Judge, L.L.C.

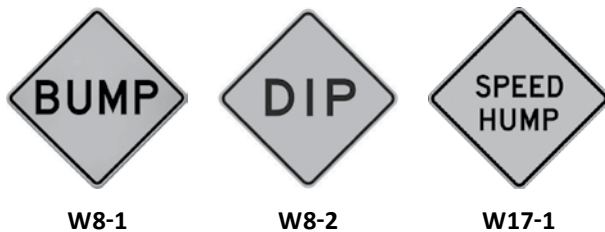
Advice on Using the “Bump” Sign to Warn of a Sharp Rise or Depression on the Road

THIS MONTH’S COLUMN, of special interest to Township Highway Commissioners and County Engineers, will provide some advice, some comments and some law applicable to the use of a “BUMP” sign according to the directions on such advance warning signs as set out in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) (Uniform Manual).

The “BUMP” advance warning sign, as you know, is one of three advance warning signs depicted in the Uniform Manual used to warn motorists in advance of an unexpected sharp rise or sharp depression on the road ahead. All drivers, I believe, are familiar with the “BUMP” sign and most, maybe not all, usually slow down in crossing over it.

The Uniform Manual includes three advance warning signs, warning of rises and depressions in the road ahead. They are the following: (1) BUMP; (2) DIP; and (3) SPEED HUMP signs.

They are shown in the Uniform Manual as follows:



The Uniform Manual shows also which signs are: (1) mandatory: meaning they “shall” or “must” be used; or (2) recommended: meaning they “should” be used, but are not mandatory; or (3) optional: meaning they “may” be used, but are not mandatory or required to be used.

The Uniform Manual uses three terms to show which signs are mandatory or recommended or optional.

The prior Uniform Manual used three terms to provide guidance: (1) Shall; (2) Should; and (3) May. The updated Uniform Manual now uses three terms also, but they are different. The three terms and their meanings are as follows:

- (1) “Standard” – means mandatory or shall be used.
- (2) “Guidance” – means recommended or should be used, but not mandatory.
- (3) “Optional” – means permissive or may or may not be used.

This month’s column will discuss only the “BUMP” sign because that is one most drivers are most familiar with.

The Uniform Manual’s Guidelines For The “BUMP” Sign

The Uniform Manual provides the following guidelines for the use of the “BUMP” sign:

Section 2C.28 BUMP and DIP Signs W8-1, W8-2

Guidance

BUMP (W8-1) and DIP (W8-2) signs should be used to give warning of a sharp rise or depression in the profile of the road.

Option:

These signs may be supplemented with an Advisory Speed plaque.

The Uniform Manual shows the “BUMP” sign is a “Guidance” sign, meaning that it is recommended or should be used, but it is not mandatory. That means that the Highway Commissioner or County Engineer can or cannot use it based upon their best judgment or discretion under the circumstances.

Is The Highway Commissioner Or County Engineer Liable For Damage To An Auto Or An Accident If No “BUMP” Sign Is Posted?

Since the “BUMP” sign is a “Guidance Sign,” it is only recommended and not mandatory or obligatory,

the decision to use or not use it is a judgment call exercising discretion.

There are two immunities under the Tort Immunity Act for any claim for alleged failure to erect or post a “BUMP” sign. They are as follows:

(1) Immunity For Failure To Initially Erect Or Post Any Traffic Sign

§ 3-104, Traffic Control Device Immunity, provides as follows:

10/3-104. Failure to provide traffic signals and signs

§ 3-104. Neither a local public entity nor a public employee is liable under this Act for an injury caused by the failure to initially provide regulatory traffic control devices, stop signs, yield right-of-way signs, speed restriction signs, distinctive roadway markings or any other traffic regulating or warning sign, device or marking, signs, overhead lights, traffic separating or restraining devices or barriers. (745 ILCS 10/3-104.)

The *Robinson* case, as follows, applies § 3-104 absolute immunity for failure to initially erect or post signs:

Robinson v. Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway Co., 257 Ill.App.3d 772 (3rd Dist. 1994) (§ 3-104, traffic control signs or devices immunity, trumped and barred any action against Allen Township for failure to install a “Railroad Advance Warning” sign at a railroad crossing as mandated by the Uniform Manual on Traffic Control Devices).

(2) Discretionary Immunity For Failure To Erect Any Sign Unless A Statute, Code Or Rule States A Sign Must Be Used

The second available immunity is § 2-201 discretionary immunity or judgment-call immunity for making a policy decision and exercising discretion in not erecting a sign where no statute, code or law or rule states the sign must be used.

10/2-201. Determination of policy or exercise of discretion

§ 2-201. Except as otherwise provided by Statute, a public employee serving in a position involving the determination of policy or

the exercise of discretion is not liable for an injury resulting from his act or omission in determining policy when acting in the exercise of such discretion even though abused. (745 ILCS 10/2-201.)

And, a case applying § 2-201 discretionary immunity is the *Elfayer* case, as follows:

In re Estate of Elfayer v. City of Chicago, 325 Ill. App.3d 1076 (1st Dist. 2001) (§ 2-201 discretionary immunity granted the City absolute immunity barring any claim for the City’s failure to install an 8” concrete median barrier on a City street where a drunk driver crossed over the center median colliding into oncoming traffic because no statute, code, rule or regulation mandated the City install an 8” median barrier on its street).

**Reference Sources For
The Township Highway Commissioner**

There are two reference sources for the Township Highway Commissioner to rely upon for deciding what traffic control devices are needed or may be helpful on his or her roads and they are available online from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) in Springfield, Illinois, (217) 782-7820:

- (1) Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) (Uniform Manual); and
- (2) Signing of Road District and Township Highways.

It is published by the Bureau of Local Rules and Streets at IDOT.

It is always advisable when erecting traffic control devices to refer to the Signing of Road District and Township Highways Guide Manual. Doing so avoids claims and lawsuits.





Illinois Township Association of General Assistance Caseworkers

By Mary Jo Imperato

President, ITAGAC

THERE ARE MANY NEW WAYS business and trainings are being held. This year the 2020 Township Officials of Illinois Annual Conference was held virtually and I am pleased to announce that the General Assistance Caseworkers sponsored two sessions. Thank you to Michael Airdo of Kopon Airdo, LLC, Hanover Township's Legal Counsel presenting on understanding the current legal landscape and providing guidance on changes that we as General Assistance providers can implement to better serve our communities during this crisis and Doug Potts, Northern Region Employment Services (ES) Program Manager for the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) presenting on IDES Claim Benefits, Procedures and Additional Services as well as current State and Federal unemployment status, claims processing and timing.

Annually, the General Assistance Caseworkers Association presents awards at the TOI Annual Conference. Nominations are received and a committee chooses the recipients of these awards. This year the General Assistance Caseworkers Association is pleased to announce the 2020 Award Recipients. Julie Villarreal of Wheeling Township was awarded Caseworker of the Year, City of Bloomington Township was awarded Best Innovative Program and Hanover Township was awarded Township of the Year. Thank you to Lupe Somerville of Moraine Township for leading the committee.

With Covid-19 continuing to impact households all over the state, there has been a large increase in food insecurity. According to Feeding America, 1 in 10 residents in Illinois struggles with hunger and 1 in 8 children struggle with hunger. Illinois Department of Human Services has approved extended funding for food insecurity in the form of Pandemic-EBT, or P-EBT. According to DHS, this is a special benefit that can help residents purchase food for their school age children age 3-18 or 18-22 if they are still in high school. This extended benefit is intended to assist in feeding students that would receive National School Lunch Program free or reduced-priced meals when schools are in session.

Fortunately, if a client is already receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits there is no need to apply for these extended benefits.

If a household is receiving benefits this amount will already be added to their case. If you believe a client falls within this category but is not receiving the extended benefit you should urge them to contact their local Illinois Department of Human Services Office.

The added benefit for our residents can be incredibly beneficial as they struggle to make ends meet due to the circumstances of the Covid-19 pandemic. The amount will be calculated based on the daily cost of the meal for the number of school days in that particular month. If your clients are not yet receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Plan benefits you can advise them that the most streamline way to apply is through their website ABE.illinois.gov but faxing in an application or mailing one is still available as an option.

An analysis from the *New York Times* shows that SNAP grew by 17% from February 2020 to May 2020, three times faster than in any previous three month period. However, as the price of food increases we realize the monthly amount residents receive on their EBT card may not be enough to fill their family's needs. Illinois provides an enormous amount of services to prevent food insecurity, many provided by each of our Townships. If Townships in your area do not provide food accessibility to residents there are many resources you can pass along to clients. We recommend checking out the 'Food Connections' portion of the Department of Human Service's website for resources all across the state.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our next Zoom workshop in January. Please watch for more information.

Thank you for all you do to assist residents in need. Please stay healthy and safe.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Jo Imperato

A Message from the President



I hope all of you had a wonderful Thanksgiving Holiday. For those of you who were able to participate on this year's virtual 113th Annual Educational Conference I hope that you found it as enjoyable as I did. As always, it is good to be able to see everyone, even if it was virtual. AITCOY is already gearing up for 2021 and looking forward to another year of accomplishments. We continue to provide opportunities for professional development, networking and resources

for program development and evaluation. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding youth and youth services.

Each year AITCOY is pleased to offer the Sandra Koscielniak Graduate Scholarship award of \$1000.00. AITCOY offers this scholarship to help support those who are pursuing a Master's degree in social work, psychology, sociology or parks and recreation and a desire to work with youth. These scholarships are funded through our membership dues and professional development workshop fees. This year's award winner is Carly Melissa Uebel. Carly is pursuing her Master's of Arts in Social Service Administration degree from the University of Chicago. Her career plan is to pursue education in clinical social work in the fields of gender-based and/or intimate partner violence prevention and recovery.

AITCOY is pleased to be able to continue to support students in their professional pursuits as well as support their efforts in serving youth and their families.



Sandra Koscielniak Graduate
Scholarship Award Winner
Carly Melissa Uebel

Did you know?

Did you know.. the Center for Disease Control and Prevention estimates 1 in 54 children are diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder? Because Autism is a Spectrum disorder, individuals can range from mild impairment to severely challenged. Deficits include social communication or repetitive behaviors.

This creates an added barrier in emergency situations-which may trigger a stress response or overstimulation in our individuals with ASD. There is a way to notify first responders that your loved one may: not respond, be non-verbal, be unaware of danger, resist help, or run away. Your local Police Department may provide stickers for vehicles/front doors to prevent increased crisis-like these provided by Addison Police Department.



Through your local Police Department, you may also register those with special needs for Premise Alert Program. By sharing descriptive characteristics, special identifiers, triggers, strategies, or flight risk warning, you can help the helpers keep your loved one safe.

www.aitcoy.org



News From ITASCSC

Illinois Townships Association
of Senior Citizens Services

Lynndah Easterwood Lahey Director of Senior & Disability Services, Wheeling Township

Recognizing our “Commitment To Senior Services” Award Winners for 2020

ITASCSC would like to recognize and congratulate the following five winners of our annual “Commitment to Senior Services Awards.” The winning nominations were selected by an ITASCSC subcommittee. Ordinarily, the awards are presented during a special breakfast during the TOI Conference, but this year of course, that wasn’t possible. All winners were notified by phone, and officials at their respective Townships were asked to present them with the actual award.

We are grateful for all our nominees and winners! If you would like to nomination someone in your Township next year, consider joining ITASCSC. Membership runs from December 1–November 30 and is \$75. Check out our website at www.itascsc.net for the details. Twenty-nine Townships throughout the state are ITASCSC members—please join us today.



GENEALOGIST CHARLIE THOMAS leading Oak Park and River Forest Township residents through a program on researching their roots last January.

Innovative Senior Program of The Year: Oak Park and River Forest Townships’ “The Gifts of Genealogy and Meaningful Memoirs”

Everyone has their own unique story to tell, and Oak Park and River Forest Townships’ Senior Services have found a great way of helping their community’s older adults share their stories. ITASCSC chose this winner because of their creation of several unique new programs: memoir writing sessions, storytelling, and genealogy. What began as a one-time program rapidly

morphed into an ongoing and growing series of programs dedicated to uniquely uniting genealogy and memoir writing. The program’s creators and speakers focus on workshops and methods which encourages seniors to creatively pass their unique family stories on to future generations using a variety of methods, from ‘memory vignettes’ to storytelling and writing labs. This continuum of programming proves that responding to community interests, continued content enrichment, and collaborating with an array of partners can create

something extraordinary! All of us at ITASCSC, where we celebrate older adults on a daily basis, are delighted that Oak Park and River Forest Townships were chosen as the winners of this year's Innovative Senior Program of the Year Award. Congratulations!

Senior Director of The Year:
Pamela Mahn, Senior Services Director,
Oak Park and River Forest Townships



PAMELA MAHN, Senior Services Director, Oak Park and River Forest Townships

Pam is an empathetic professional with a quick smile and a kind word who manages Senior Services for both Oak Park and River Forest Townships. Under her leadership, she oversees case management, transportation, nutrition services, and so much more. Pam played a key role in helping the two Townships achieve Dementia Friendly status last year, which was a significant accomplishment. This difficult-to-earn accolade acknowledges the Townships' commitment to serving the older adults in that community with dignity and respect. During the height of the shelter-in-place pandemic order this year, Oak Park and River Forest's lunch program kept on rolling, providing 66,549 meals between March and August—more than all the meals they distributed during 2019. You could always find Pam on the front

lines, ensuring that meals got out to those who needed them. For the last two years, Pam has also served as ITASCSC's Treasurer. She is always willing to step up and is very diligent in pulling together reports. She recently transferred our reporting to an electronic system, for which we are all grateful! *We are all so proud of her. Congratulations to Pamela Mahn from Oak Park and River Forest Township for being chosen as this year's Senior Director of the Year.*

Senior Staff Member of the Year:
Chef Lynn Garrett, Ela Township



CHEF LYNN GARRETT, Ela Township, accepting her award

While most senior programs were cancelled during the pandemic, one area absolutely exploded at Ela Township: curbside meal pickup. Chef Lynn has been cooking lunch 5 days/week, *every week*, all without support staff, assistants or even dishwashers! She came in on weekends to get a jumpstart on grocery shopping and food prep for Mondays so that seniors would have lunch ready for them at 11:30. She's taken it all in stride — menu preparation, catering to different dietary restrictions, creating labels with heating instructions, and she even made sure that people who thought they'd signed up for a meal (but hadn't) wouldn't go away hungry. She's foregone weekends and vacations just to make sure Ela's seniors are taken care of. Jim Dalbec, Ela Township's Assistant Director, said of Lynn: "This

has been a difficult year for so many of us, forcing us to adapt and get creative in the face of adversity—we don't know anyone who has displayed more perseverance and creativity than Chef Lynn. Not only does she deserve this award, she also deserves a much-needed vacation!" *ITASCSC is very pleased to honor Chef Lynn Garrett as Senior Staff Member of the Year. Congratulations!*

Senior Volunteer of the Year:
Alberta Lucchesi, Maine Township



ALBERTA LUCCHESI, Maine Township, accepting her award

A more-than-active member of Maine Township's MaineStreamers program for 21 years, Alberta Lucchesi has a contagious smile, a friendly presence, and a great attitude. She is passionate about being involved and serves on the Advisory Counsel, offering suggestions on day trips, new programs, long trips, etc. This challenging year in particular, Alberta has been incredibly helpful to others, especially with technology. Very comfortable with new gadgets, Alberta dedicated herself to helping others who have never owned a smart phone/laptop/computer before so that they could learn how to connect and participate in all sorts of programs. She's spent countless hours teaching people how to set up their electronic devices so they can interact with others via zoom. She's even tutored staff members! Anytime a member gets stuck during a virtual activity, we can

count on Alberta guiding them through with grace and patience. Members as young as 93 are now proficient in using virtual applications, thanks to Alberta. Because of her exceptional dedication, Maine Township's MaineStreamers believe Alberta deserves recognition and thanks. *ITASCSC is very pleased to honor Alberta Lucchesi with the Senior Volunteer of the Year Award. Congratulations!*

Elected Official of the Year:
**Cassandra Ward Holbert-Elston, Assessor,
Thornton Township**



THORNTON TOWNSHIP ASSESSOR, Cassandra Ward Holbert-Elston

helped by the Assessor and her staff. As a public service servant of Thornton Township, Assessor Holbert-Elston acknowledges: "...feeling so blessed, being able to help individuals and whole communities in need." Previously, Ms. Holbert-Elston was awarded the key to the City of Chicago for outstanding leadership and community involvement from the late Mayor Harold Washington. Assessor Holbert-Elston was elected in 2013, and represents 17 distinct municipalities with a population of over 168,000. Her goal is to assist, educate and help taxpayers, new homeowners, and especially senior citizens. *ITASCSC is pleased to recognize the outstanding efforts of Cassandra Ward Holbert-Elston with our Elected Official of the Year Award. Congratulations!*



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Thank you.

TOI offers our most heartfelt gratitude to officials who have served their communities for so many years and now are passing the torch to the next generation of township officials. We hope you enjoy your well-earned retirement.

Todd Stevens' final day as La Harpe Township Road Commissioner

by Dessa Rodeffer, The Quill

LA HARPE — Todd Stevens is looking forward to more traveling after his retirement in October as La Harpe Township's Road Commissioner. He plans on joining his wife on more horseback riding trips, visiting the grandkids, and making trips to Texas to their daughter's and family and to a sister in Fort Myers, Florida. "Retirement allows for winter retreats in warmer places," he said.

He leaves behind a career of taking care of 48 miles of roads in La Harpe Township, a job, he says he has enjoyed, although it and the winter months has given him many challenges.

Donald "Todd" Stevens began working for the Township under his dad, Donald Todd Stevens starting in 1972. After "Don" retired, Todd ran for his Dad's position in 1989 and every 4 years since, finishing 31 years in the position of La Harpe Road Commissioner.

Taking Todd's position will be Dwayne Berlett who is a heavy equipment operator. Berlett's official appointment by the Township Trustees will be made at their meeting on October 8th. "I will be working for him on a part time basis when needed," Todd said.

Every four years Township elections are held in April following the December Caucus where nominees are selected for the positions.



TODD STEVENS, former La Harpe Township (Hancock Co.) Road Commissioner

He said after the election the new officers take their positions the first Monday in May and that is when the work begins for the Road Commissioner.

Township officials will have a training session for all newly elected officials. The Road Commissioner makes an Appropriation Ordinance Budget for funds received from property taxes. Todd always did this until of late when the Township turned the paperwork over to Wood Tax & Accounting. The budget usually is the same every year with few changes. He advises of any large

equipment purchases or bridge work, etc. to adjust the budget.

Todd also filled out vouchers monthly for bills and they are approved and paid by the Supervisor at their monthly meetings.

He also keeps a Ledger of expenses and work to keep everything on track and Wood Tax & Accounting provides him with a monthly Financial statement for meetings.

In March, Todd would have a yearly meeting with the County Engineer to fill out the Motor Fuel Tax Budget for use of money received from the state gas tax. The money goes to the county and is disbursed by the county for paying of bills that Todd turns in. Monthly gravel and oil tickets are paid from it.

The Property Tax money from the county goes into four funds: Road & Bridge, Gravel Fund, Building/Equipment, and Half Aid Bridge Fund. Todd said the state will match that money if the County Engineer approves the need for a bridge.

The challenges, Todd said, mostly came in the winter weather and keeping the roads open. "I would go out in the wee hours of the morning to treat roads. Some times with 4 or 5 inches of snow and a constant wind I would have to go over the roads two or three times due to the drifting but I had



FROM LEFT: La Harpe Township Supervisor John Loudon, on behalf of the La Harpe Township, presented Todd Stevens an Appreciation plaque recognizing his 31 years of dedication as La Harpe Township Highway Commissioner. He also presented his wife Carol Stevens a bouquet of flowers for all those nights Todd was gone clearing roads and she was home alone. At right is Duane Berlett, heavy equipment operator and part time worker for the township who accepted the appointment as La Harpe Twp. Road Commissioner October 1st.

to keep after it or I wasn't going to keep up. It felt like a losing battle at times." The township has two snow plow trucks and a road grader, but Todd always did his own work unless it was a big big snow or extra strong wind and snow.

"It is really tough," he said. "I usually had to run chains and it would be so bad I'd have to back down roads to treat them." Todd uses a salt and sand mix he puts together and has ready. He would get a semi load of salt around October-November and mix with sand and a few chips and put it into a storage building, ready for what ole man winter brings, he said.

Some of his big snow storms he recalls was in 1989 with 12" plus, a terrific snow in 2000 of only 6" but the wind blew for days and drifted, and in 2007 there was a 6"

storm with 30-40 mph winds, and January 5, 2014 an 8" snow and winds. "They all kept me busy and I called in extra help." When I have too much snow on the sides of the road, I bring out the grader to push it back to be ready for the next snow. Sometimes you can't see—a white out! Sometimes it was like a wedge getting through a small strip that piled up with drifting snow. We just had tunnels." Todd said he had farmers that had front wheel assist tractors with loaders that would get a trench started to help him get started with the V-plow. There were places that 200-300 feet of blocked solid snow and it would take 45 minutes to 2 hours to get through it."

Todd has enjoyed other accomplishments. For 27 years he has served as secretary of West Central Illinois Hwy Commissioners

Association covering 17 counties with meetings three times a year at the McDonough County Highway Dept. in Macomb. We put on a two-day seminar for Road Commissioners in June. One day is education and the second day is at Argyle State Park with vendors pertaining to work with displays and demonstrations where over 100-120 attend.

Todd also formed their own road oiling group starting with four townships (La Harpe, Durham, Ft. Green, and Hancock) and now eight townships are in the group (Pilot Grove, Rock Creek, Harmony and Bear Creek). He explained, "Where we use to hire out the work of tarring and chipping roads, we went together and purchased a used distributor and used chipper which allows us to oil and chip our own township roads at a cost savings rather than hire the work out like in the past."

Todd learned to run the distributor and last year he trained the Rock Creek Road Commissioner to run the new distributor they had purchased two years ago who has already taken on the work this year and did a fine job—Eric Martin. "There was a lot of heavy lifting in that job that influenced me to hand the job over to the next generation."

Todd and Eric both have their Hazard Material Endorsement which is needed to operator the oil truck and distributor.

Todd said, "I have loved it and have had excellent township boards and supervisors and part-time help. They have been wonderful people to work for."

Todd said they tried to abolish townships—what a mistake! It is one of the most efficient forms of governments in the U.S. La Harpe Twp. has 48 miles of roads to care for, some have over 60 miles.



Township and Road District Checklist

2020 Township Calendar

All dates re: Public Hearings for BUDGET and APPROPRIATION ORDINANCES are dates often used by many townships and road districts. Many townships and road districts adopt their budgets in February or March before their fiscal year begins. You do, however, have until the end of the first quarter of the fiscal year to hold your hearings and adopt the budget.

Checklist dates are now available on the Events Calendar at www.toi.org

12/01/20	Township Caucus	60 ILCS 1/45-10	Must be after 6:00 p.m.
12/02/20	Multi-Township Assessing District Caucus	60 ILCS 1/45-25	Must be after 6:00 p.m.
12/09/20	Last Day to Determine Tax Levy for Truth in Taxation	35 ILCS 200/18-60 35 ILCS 200/18-70	Last day for board of trustees to determine (estimate) property tax levy to comply with Truth in Taxation law. Highway commissioner determines levy for road district. Must determine levies at least 20 days before adoption. Basis for 5% computation and whether notices and hearings are necessary.
12/22/20	Last Day for Truth in Taxation Notice	35 ILCS 200/18-80	Last day notice of Truth in Taxation hearing can appear in newspaper. Notice must be in newspaper not more than 14 days or less than seven days prior to date of hearings.
12/29/20	Last Day to Hold Truth in Taxation Hearing, Adopt & File Tax Levies	35 ILCS 200/18-90	Last day to hold Truth in Taxation hearing, adopt and file township and road district certificates of levy, tax levies and Certificate of Compliance for Truth in Taxation law with county clerk.

* Assumes fiscal year begins April 1

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FOR SALE



Harmony Township will be accepting bids until Dec. 21, 2020 at 1 p.m. 2015 Volvo with a D13 engine with 67,xxx miles. It's a salt free truck. Contact Mark Harrison at 217-357-1388. Township has the right to refuse any or all bids.

IN SEARCH OF

FRANKLIN GROVE TWP. is in search of a 12 ft. used snow plow. This for a single axle township truck. Please call Paul. 815-535-1688.

Township equipment sells from our website, www.toi.org/Township-Perspective/Township-Classifieds, and from *Township Perspective*. List your surplus equipment now for results! For \$75 (copy w/photo) or \$25 (copy only), your township ad will be on our website and in the next available issue of *Township Perspective*. Email kayla@toi.org to advertise or for more information.

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Please send _____ copies of the 2018-20 Directory of Illinois Township Officials at \$50 each

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Springfield, IL 62702



Township Supervisors of Illinois

The new publication of the GATI manual is now ready! General Assistance is a mandatory program for all Townships and this revised manual is a must for every Township office. This publication will contain all the information and forms you need whether you use the Flat Grant or Needs Allowance process.

We are urging you to purchase the new manual and to dispose of the current manual you have. Much work has gone into making this manual more user-friendly and to cut out information that is redundant.

The cost of the manual is \$150 and will include the manual with a heavy-duty binder, printed tabs and a CD copy of the manual as well. The General Assistance manual is a legitimate expense and can be paid out of the General Assistance funds.

Township Officials of Illinois – Supervisors Division GA Manual Order Form

County: _____ Township: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City / State / Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Township Phone: _____ Township Fax: _____

Work Phone: _____ Work Fax: _____

Email: _____

Number of Manuals Ordered _____ Amount Enclosed _____

Return this form with your \$150.00 check payable to TSI to:

Township Supervisors of Illinois
3217 Northfield Drive
Springfield, Illinois 62702

Has your township joined the Trustees' Division?



For only \$30, your township can enroll all four trustees as members of the Trustees' Division of TOI. The Trustees' Operations Manual was revised in 2013. The manual is a concise source of information prepared to help trustees perform their jobs better. The first time your township pays its annual dues following the publication of the revised manual, you will receive four FREE copies.

Township _____

County _____

Trustees' Names _____

Contact Person _____

Address _____

City, Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

*Make one \$30 check payable to
the TOI Trustees' Division and send to:*

Nancy Lawless, Treasurer
Trustees' Division
501 W. Garfield Ave.
Bartonville, IL 61607-1828

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE HANDBOOK

The revised edition of the Emergency Assistance Handbook (compiled and edited by Township Supervisors of Illinois) is available. If your township provides or is contemplating providing Emergency Assistance, you should have this Handbook. The cost is \$40 (shipping/handling included) and updates will be sent and charged as published. Do your township a favor ... order the Handbook today! Also available on CD for \$35.

Paper CD

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County _____

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For only \$30 your township can own the Township Desk Reference Set. These books are valuable and convenient resources for township officials. This set consists of the Financial Procedures for Illinois Townships publication, the Township and Road District Levy Handbook, and the brand new Freedom of Information Act and Open Meetings Act Resource Book. Available for \$30 as a set or \$10 each.

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Title: _____

Address: _____

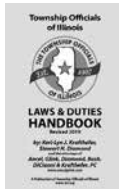
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The Township Officials of Illinois
3217 Northfield Drive • Springfield, IL 62702



TOI Laws & Duties Handbook is revised ... Order your copy today!!!

The **Revised 2019 Edition of the Township Officials of Illinois Laws and Duties Handbook**, a valuable resource tool for township officials, is now available. TOI staff along with the law firm of Ancel, Glink, Diamond, Bush, DiCianni & Krafthefer, P.C., have made the handbook practical and easy to use.

The revised Township Officials of Illinois Laws and Duties Handbook will help officials perform better and smarter. **EVERY** township official should have their own copy of this handbook and keep it close by for referral when questions arise. The handbook may also be purchased on CD, or as a combination of both.

Much consideration was made to design the handbook to be an invaluable tool for **ALL** township officials! Don't delay; order yours today. Postage is included on all orders.

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3217 Northfield Drive, Springfield, IL 62702

Please send _____ copies of "Township Officials of Illinois Laws and Duties Handbook." Single copy \$28 or 2 or more handbooks \$27.50 each to one address.

Please send _____ copies of "Township Officials of Illinois Laws and Duties Handbook" with CD \$38, for book and CD combination.

Please send _____ copies of "Township Officials of Illinois Laws and Duties Handbook" with CD only \$28, for handbook on CD.

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

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Name/Title: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____



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For more information, call Kayla
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or e-mail at kayla@toi.org.

In Memoriam

James Blane, 92, of San Jose died November 1. He was a former Highway Commissioner of Allens Grove Township (Mason Co.).

Bert Coffeey, 85, of Ashmore died October 7. He was currently serving as Trustee of Ashmore Township (Coles Co.).

Mary Margaret Crotty, 72, of Oak Forest died November 5. She was a former State Representative, State Senator, and most recently served as Supervisor of Bremen Township (Cook Co.).

Wayne Denaple, 90, of Fairbury died October 28. He was a former Trustee of Allen Township (LaSalle Co.).

Alan DeWitt, 67, of Martinton died November 2. He was a former Highway Commissioner of Martinton Township (Iroquois Co.).

Richard Ferguson, 80, of Pearl City died October 20. He was currently serving as Trustee of Kent Township (Stephenson Co.).

Milford Habben, 80, of Morrison died October 17. He was a former Trustee of Clyde Township (Whiteside Co.).

Earl Hamilton, 90, of Urbana died October 30. He was a former Supervisor of Garrett Township (Douglas Co.).

Thomas Hughes, 83, of Herscher died October 7. He was a former Trustee of Rogers Township (Ford Co.).

Darwin Jaenicke, 89, of Kankakee died November 7. He was a former Highway Commissioner of Kankakee Township (Kankakee Co.).

Larry Johnson, 72, of Vandalia died October 16. He was currently serving as Assessor of Sharon Town-

ship (Fayette Co.).

Gerhard Klumke, 79, of Bartelso, died October 30. He was a former Supervisor and currently serving as Trustee of Santa Fe Township (Clinton Co.).

Jack Logsdon, 88, of Mt Sterling died October 2. He was a former Highway Commissioner of Mt. Sterling Township (Brown Co.).

George Noud, 90, of Shirley died October 19. He was a former Trustee of Dale Township (McLean Co.).

Dennis Powell, 87, of Heyworth died October 29. He was a former Highway Commissioner of Randolph Township (McLean Co.).

David Schwartz, 77, of Walnut Hill died October 27. He was a former Trustee of Centralia Township (Marion Co.).


Warren Seebach, 85, of Ashton died October 19. He

was a former Supervisor of Lafayette Township (Ogle Co.).

Larry Ulm, 78, of Farmington died November 8. He was currently serving as Trustee of Farmington Township (Fulton Co.).

Eugene Woker, 80, of Stockton died September 14. He was a former Road Commissioner Stockton Township (Jo Daviess Co.).

Dale A. Workman, 78, of Long Creek, died November 5, 2020. He was a former Trustee for Long Creek Township (Macon Co.) from 1985-1992; Township Clerk from 1992-1997; and Trustee from 1997-2020.

Antonette Wrightsman, 92, of Auburn died November 8. She was a former Trustee of Auburn Township (Sangamon Co.). 



On September 25th **WHITE ROCK TOWNSHIP** (Ogle Co.) made a donation to the Rochelle Christian Food Pantry. Pictured: Tom Smith, Supervisor; Jim Milligan, Trustee; Lorraine Hubbard, Trustee; Carol Hayenga, Food Pantry board member; Matt King, food pantry volunteer.

Personal Perspective



Jessica Dudley Madison County Jarvis Township Assessor

Family Information: I grew up in Marine, IL and graduated from our local school district, Triad High School. For the past 18 years, I've been married to my husband Rich and we have two sons Ethan (16) and Kaden (12).

What do you most like about township government? We directly serve the people. If you want to meet with us, just give us a call or simply stop by our office. We are easy to access and always willing to sit down and speak directly to our constituents.

What makes your township unique? Unlike some areas of the state Jarvis Township is continuing to grow. We border Scott Air Force Base in St. Clair County to the South and St. Louis, MO is only a quick 20 minute drive to the West. Our location has a nice balance of rural small-town atmosphere with the convenience of the big city nearby and coupled with a favorable school district and friendly people, our township is a very desirable area to live and raise a family.

How long have you been involved in township government? I started my career with Jarvis Township as an assistant to the Assessor in 2008 by simply responding to a help-wanted ad in the local newspaper. I was later appointed to Deputy Assessor, then Chief Deputy Assessor and was eventually appointed to the position of Assessor in 2014 when the current assessor was appointed to a position on the Madison County Board of Review. I was then elected in 2017 to a four-year term and look forward to running again in 2021 so I may continue to serve the people of Jarvis Township.

How has it changed/or how has your perception of township government changed over this time? There is often a stigma that comes along with being an Assessor. However, I view my position as the Taxpayer's ADVOCATE. Sure, that sometimes comes along with the task of having to raise assessments, but it also means taking the time to be proactive and explaining our piece of the puzzle along with the other variables that make up the tax cycle. I believe the more information we share with the taxpayers about the process, the more knowledgeable and appreciative they become.

What is your favorite place in Illinois? Well? I'm a homebody, so I happen to think that Jarvis Township (Troy, IL) is a pretty great place to hang out, but I love that Illinois has so much diversity if I want a change of scenery. Our family has enjoyed taking the Amtrak from Alton to Chicago for a weekend of deep-dish pizza, people watching, and sightseeing. We also love driving down south to visit the beautiful wineries, walk the trails and camp at Ferne Cliff or Giant City State Park, and checking out the fun and eccentric shops in Makanda.

What has been your greatest challenge in life? My dad passed away when I was 13 and my mom and step-dad moved away to Florida when I was in high school. A few years later, other members of my family also moved to Florida, but I'm a prairie girl at heart and FL just wasn't for me. So, other than a 4-year stint in Virginia while my husband served in the Marine Corps, I've lived in Illinois my whole life, but without much family. Living so far away from them is often challenging. Especially so when my children were younger, but as with most challenges there is growth in the hardships.

What do you consider your greatest accomplishment? My independence. I suppose, overcoming my greatest challenge has also been my greatest accomplishment.

What piece of advice would you give your 20-year-old self? Don't let that chip on your shoulder get too big.

I wish I could talk to: 100% Dolly Parton!!! I just love her and to sit with her just talking on the porch of her Tennessee Mountain Home would be my dream come true!!!

Favorite way to spend free time: The hammock in my backyard is my happy place!

I most enjoy reading: I've been known to read cookbooks like novels, but I also enjoy a good romantic comedy.

Favorite childhood memory: Growing up my parents and big group of their friends would camp and boat in Litchfield at Lake Lou Yaeger during the summers.

If funds were unlimited, what would you like to do for your township?
I would build a community recreation center.

What would you like for people to know about township government? How much we genuinely enjoy serving our community. We are always thinking of how we can better serve each member of our township. Whether it is free flu shots for residents 18 and older or free bike helmets for the children, we are always thinking of new ways to best serve THE PEOPLE of Jarvis Township.

How would you like to be remembered?
Without a doubt, HONESTY and INTEGRITY are what I hope I'm remembered for.

What do you wish you were better at? Oh gosh...giving myself grace in the areas that need improvement.

What did you want to be when you were younger? I always thought a bank teller was such a cool job!!! What other place in town could you go and leave with more money AND a sucker?

If I won \$1 million, I would: Buy acreage and build a modest forever home.

First job and how much I made: Upholstery Shop - \$4.25 per hour.

People would be surprised that I'd really like to try: Being on an episode of Chopped on Food Network.

My advice for state/national government is:
Take a lesson from township government and start working for the people!!!

Who are the people that have had the greatest influence on your life? My kids. As much as I try to be the one who influences them, I'm always amazed at how much I end up learning and end up being influenced by them.

I'm fascinated by: TIME. It teaches. It heals. It lingers. It escapes. One of the first things we learn and the last thing we want more of. Fascinatingly simple, yet complicated because every aspect of our lives literally revolves around it.

Favorite quote: "No one can make you feel inferior without your consent." - Eleanor Roosevelt



MAKE YOUR LIST AND CHECK IT TWICE.

Tis' the season for snow plow safety. Your township/road district should thoroughly inspect all equipment before and after each use. Additionally, make sure drivers are familiar with the physical hazards or conditions of planned snow routes to help eliminate surprises when the roads are covered with snow and ice.

Practicing snow plow safety ahead of time can help reduce accidents and property damage down the road.



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