

601 Deerfield Road
Deerfield, Illinois 60015
847-945-0614
info@westdeerfieldtownship.org

WEST DEERFIELD
TOWNSHIP

Your Community Resource for Life



SUPERVISOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Resident:

On behalf of all the hard working West Deerfield Township employees and those who partner with us to deliver on our mission day in and day out, I am very pleased to be able to tell you that after an extremely difficult 18 months when we were all coping with the COVID-19 pandemic, our offices are fully open once again. More importantly, the broad range of services we provide to all residents are up and running.

Responding to the needs of our most vulnerable neighbors effectively and compassionately has been our sole focus during this very challenging time. And while we are collectively and hopefully looking forward to a return to some semblance of "normal," we are also reminded every day that many of our neighbors continue to face economic, physical and mental hardships.

I am very pleased with how our community has come together to support one another throughout this difficult period. As a township, we are uniquely qualified to quickly step up to the plate and deliver the kind of critical services our residents need most during an emergency.

For example, we are proud to serve as a program partner in Lake County's Federal Emergency Rental Assistance Program (FERA). Under the program federal aid funds are available to residents who have suffered economic hardship as a result of the pandemic. In our role as a program partner, we accept and approve applications and check for duplication of benefits prior to disbursing funds on behalf of qualified residents to landlords.

While the goal is to directly assist renters in being able to stay in their homes, it is not lost on us that so many rental units in the township are locally owned. Therefore, landlords who have had to put off investment in their properties because rental checks have slowed are now able to finally proceed with building improvements and repairs. The Township stands ready to work hand in hand with FERA applicants and landlords in order to ensure that this program helps the most people in the most efficient way. For more information about the FERA program, please see page 3.

This is just one example of the work we do on behalf of all of you. One thing we like to remind ourselves at the Township is that our struggles over the last 18 months have been communal, but so too will be our recovery. We've all been witness to remarkable acts of compassion in response to the exacerbated needs of many of our neighbors during these challenging times.

When we are able to fully recover and return to normal, I know I will look back on these struggles and will remember how we all came together with a shared sense of purpose to keep our families and our community healthy and safe.

Sincerely, Alyson Feiger
Township Supervisor



Leadership Changes on the way in 2022

for the West Deerfield Township Assessor's Office

Assessor *Tom Healy*

There will be all new faces and voices at the West Deerfield Township Assessor's office beginning in 2022. The office's three current leaders will all be stepping down at year's end and with their departure will go 80 years of combined assessing experience.

Joe Bordenave who grew up in Deerfield and was a member of the 1975 State Championship football team retired after 35 years of serving our community. Joe will be sorely missed in our township and throughout the Lake County assessment community. Joe was a leader in the county sitting on commercial committees and a mentor to new assessors. Taking after his father, who taught in the Deerfield High School science department, Joe enjoyed educating our residents on the assessment process and taxation. We will miss his level-headed demeanor, vast local knowledge, local folklore, and his laugh.

Mary Wiegold grew up the daughter of a Bears season ticket-holding firefighter in Lake Forest. Mary spent 12 years in the Shields Township Assessor's office and the last 20 years in West Deerfield. We were so lucky to have her. Mary's technical knowledge, curiosity, patience, compassion, and attention to detail will once again be missed in our township and county-wide. Mary sat on all the software committees and was a go-to advisor to other townships on the inner-workings of our CAMA (Computer Assisted Mass Appraisal) software. Mary's patience in helping our residents through the assessment process was a pleasure to see every day.

Both Mary and Joe were Certified Illinois Assessing Officers. While the designation was not a requirement, they both felt strongly about staying abreast of changes in our field and took courses annually to ensure their certification. Even after decades of service, they were always striving to learn and improve. Public officials statewide should take note of how these two public servants carried themselves. We have been so fortunate to have had them in our community.

I too will be leaving the assessor's office at the end of the year. Over the last 12 plus years, there have been challenges that we've met head on: a financial banking crisis, two local property tax referendums, the removal of SALT tax deductions, a change in both the Chief County Assessor and the Chair of the Board of Review, the implementation of a new software system county-wide, the county requiring online filings for exemptions and appeals, a new requirement limiting taxpayers to two options for filing an assessment appeal (with an attorney or as the homeowner) and of course, a pandemic. Through it all, I was grateful to have the stability, professionalism, and friendship of our township assessing team.

The three of us have always been committed to customer service and education as to the complex world of assessing and taxation. If you did call or visit the office, our objective was to leave you with a better understanding and clarity as to the next steps.

I have lived and worked in Deerfield my entire life. Much has changed over the years for sure. Soon, the West Deerfield Township Assessor's office will be undergoing change as well. We wish new leadership the best of luck going forward.

And finally, thank you to all who have supported us over the years. It has been our privilege to have the opportunity to serve on your behalf. We hope we have served you well.

Sincerely, Tom, Mary, and Joe



Federal Emergency Rental Assistance Program



West Deerfield Township is serving as a FERA program partner with Lake County. If you are unable to afford your housing costs in West Deerfield Township because of the COVID-19 pandemic, you can receive help. Landlords, if your tenant may benefit from this program, please let them know they can go to the Township website www.westdeerfieldtownship.org for an application form.

In Order to Qualify for Help:

- You must have a COVID-related financial hardship (job loss, furlough, reduced hours due to school closures, unexpected medical or other expenses).
- You must be at risk of homelessness or housing instability.

There are limits on household income to qualify. You will need to fill out an application and provide evidence of your income and expenses. If you are approved, the money will be sent to your landlord or utility company.

Food Pantry

It's been a challenging but rewarding 18 months for Township staff and food pantry volunteers. As it did for virtually every aspect of society, COVID-19 had an enormous impact on how the Food Pantry operated.

"One of the things I'm most proud of, as we navigated COVID, was that we've kept our commitment to our food pantry clients, from the very first days of the pandemic," said Township Supervisor Alyson Feiger. "No one who needed help was ever turned away."

Indeed, the number of people seeking assistance from the Pantry rose by nearly 100 since the pandemic began.

"So many of our neighbors have been adversely impacted by job loss, furlough, or other challenges brought on by this crisis," she said. "People who never expected to need help found themselves financially vulnerable for the first time. That is precisely the kind of need Township government is designed to meet."

Pre-packed bags, twice-monthly parking lot "shopping" and food delivery to homebound residents were all methods staff used to continue serving those most in need while keeping themselves and clients safe.

What Counts as a COVID-Related Financial Hardship?

- If you or someone in your household was laid-off, furloughed, or had hours cut at work
- If you or someone in your household had to work fewer hours or quit to stay home to care for a child
- If you or someone in your household incurred significant costs due to COVID-19, such as medical bills
- There may be other circumstances that count as well – call Supervisor Feiger at **847-945-0614** if you have questions about your eligibility.

What Counts as being "At Risk of Homelessness or Housing Instability"?

- If you have a past-due rent or utility notice
- If you have an eviction notice
- If your household had to move in with another household temporarily because you couldn't afford rent in your home
- If you are currently homeless, such as staying at a shelter
- There may be other circumstances that count as well – call Supervisor Feiger at **847-945-0614** if you have questions about your eligibility.

Additional Information for Landlords:

You will need to fill out a form online as part of your tenant's application. Once approved, you will receive FERA funds directly from the Township.

None of this would have been possible without the overwhelming support from the community. "Our residents and the business community in and around the Township have really shone during this crisis," notes Feiger. "The generosity we've witnessed is truly inspiring."

Donations of food, household items, and personal care products have continued throughout the pandemic, while monetary contributions have allowed us to boost the amount of grocery store cards given to clients.

Getting help into the hands of neighbors who need it would not have been possible without the support of volunteers, says Feiger.

"This has been a challenging period for everyone. The dedication of our community volunteers, who remained dedicated to the critical roles they play in keeping the Pantry running, cannot be overstated."

Donations are accepted at the Township office Mon – Fri, 8:30 am – 4:00 pm. Monetary contributions may be made at our website, westdeerfieldtownship.org, or sent to our office, **601 Deerfield Rd.**



Please note: The bins cannot accept appliances, toys, board games, shoes, luggage, rugs, or non-fabric linens, such as vinyl table covering or shower curtains. Check out swalco.org for a complete list of acceptable items, and further info on recycling programs in Lake County.



...about one of the unincorporated roads in our Township, please call the Township office at **847-945-0614**.



847-945-0614



Passport services are available M-F, 10 am – 3 pm.





Disability Grants

West Deerfield Township is committed to enhancing the lives of its residents. To that end, the Township has developed a program for its residents aimed at improving their access to the world. Grants up to \$1,000 per household per year may be awarded to residents or their families to help meet the special needs and extraordinary expenses which often impede accessibility at home, at school, the community, or the world at large.

WHAT SERVICES ARE ELIGIBLE?

Services or expenses which may qualify for this program include home remodeling/adaptation, transportation equipment, communication devices, durable medical equipment, specialized therapy tools, or other user-centered products or services which foster accessibility and independence.

Support previously awarded includes:

- **Assistive Visual Devices**
- **iPads for Communication**
- **Bathroom Modifications**
- **Wheelchair Ramp Installation**
- **Swim Therapy**
- **Vehicle Adaptations**
- **Specialized Camp Tuition for Children with Disabilities**

WHO CAN APPLY?

Residents with physical impairment (either permanent or temporary), developmental and cognitive disability or delays, and some forms of mental illness are encouraged to apply. This program is intended to help those in our community with the greatest financial need, and should, therefore, be considered, needs-based. At this time, however, there is not an income ceiling.

IS THIS A CONFIDENTIAL PROGRAM?

All information contained in applications for Accessibility Grants are kept strictly confidential. Identifying information is deleted from applications before they are reviewed by the grant committee.

HOW DO I APPLY?

Applications available in the township office, 601 Deerfield Road, Deerfield, or at the Township website: westdeerfieldtownship.org. Applications are reviewed on a quarterly basis. Yearly deadlines are **March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31**.

Mail or drop off your completed application at the Township Office,

Attn: Alyson Feiger – Confidential.

WHAT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS?

Go to our Website for more information about the program, or feel free to call Township Supervisor Alyson Feiger at 847-945-0614.



Visit Our Web Site

It's a great way to get to know the breadth of services we offer. You'll also find downloadable forms, an event calendar, official documents, a blog and more.

www.westdeerfieldtownship.org



Voter Registration

Registration is available for first-time registrants or those who need to update their record. Two forms of ID are required, one of which shows your current address.

**Registration is available 8:30 am – 4:30 pm,
Monday through Friday at the Township Center,
601 Deerfield Road.**

Remember: You must re-register if you've moved, even if within the same town or County.

**Feel free to call Township Clerk Kristen Scott
with any questions: 847-945-0614.**



TOWNSHIP

a “Dementia Friendly Community”

The National Association of Area Agencies on Aging has recognized West Deerfield Township as a “Dementia Friendly Community.” There are only eighteen such communities in Illinois and three hundred nationally. The goal of a dementia friendly community is to improve the quality of life for people living with dementia and their care partners by decreasing stigma, increasing opportunities for meaningful social interaction, and offering support in addressing the changing needs of people living with dementia.

What is Dementia?

Dementia is not a normal part of aging. It is caused by a number of diseases that affect the brain, the most common being Alzheimer’s. It affects the brain at different rates and in different ways, but the environment in which a person lives influences how someone experiences dementia. While a higher percentage of those over 65 get dementia, younger people can be stricken as well. It can affect one’s memory, thinking, and ability to do everyday tasks. People with dementia can feel sad, frightened, frustrated, or angry about what is happening to them.

However, it is possible for people to enjoy a good quality of life with dementia. This includes being able to do the things they enjoy doing, continuing relationships with people who are important to them, feeling valued and respected by others, keeping physically active, and minimizing loneliness.

What is a Dementia Friendly Community?

People are often happier when living independently in their own homes. In dementia friendly communities, where more people understand dementia, there is less fear and avoidance, and those with dementia are supported to live independently for longer. Such a community creates an informed, safe, and respectful environment. It nurtures supportive options that improve the quality of life for persons with dementia.



According to Township Supervisor Alyson Feiger, “Our vision is to reduce isolation and decrease the stigma surrounding dementia by creating a culture where those diagnosed with the disease, their families, and care partners feel welcomed and included in our community.”

Community Involvement

Although West Deerfield Township leads our dementia friendly initiative, this is truly a community effort. A Stakeholders' Committee of member organizations includes the Village of Deerfield, the Deerfield Police and Fire Departments, the Patty Turner Senior Center, the Deerfield/Bannockburn/Riverwoods Chamber of Commerce, the Deerfield Public Library, Faith in Action, and the Council for Jewish Elderly. The Committee also has received support from the Lake Forest Library and Dickinson Hall (the Lake Forest Senior Center, located within the Township). Interested Individuals have also volunteered to serve on the Committee.

The Committee continues to expand and hopes to include representation from schools, the faith-based community, and civic organizations.



Current Initiatives

The Stakeholders' Committee has undertaken several initiatives to make our community more dementia friendly. They include the following:

Memory Café – Beginning in December, the Deerfield Public Library will host a monthly memory café for persons experiencing memory changes and their care partners to connect and converse while enjoying themed activities. For further information and to register, contact **Judy Hoffman** (jhoffman@deerfieldlibrary.org / 847-580-8954).

Speaker's Forum – On a regular basis, speakers will discuss various aspects of dementia. Each event is open to the public and free of charge. The first forum, to be held via Zoom on November 18, will explain further what a dementia friendly community is and review our Township's current initiatives. Speakers include Susan Frick from the Rush Alzheimer's Disease Center. More information and registration will be available on the Township website (www.westdeerfieldtownship.org).

First Responder Training – Currently all Deerfield police officers have been trained regarding how best to engage persons with dementia. Training will be ongoing and eventually include all first responders.

Business / Employee Training – Training soon will be offered to businesses, so that they and their employees may become more sensitive to their customers with dementia.



What You Can Do

- Become a "Dementia Friend" – Go to www.dementiafriendsusa.org, and follow the brief presentation to become a Dementia Friend.
- Put a "Dementia Friend" sign on your lawn (*check Township website for availability*).
- Utilize programs sponsored by the Township's Dementia Friendly Stakeholders Committee. Publicize these programs to your friends and neighbors.
- Join the Stakeholders Committee. Contact Supervisor Alyson Feiger for more information – (alysonfeiger@westdeerfield.org).



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www.westdeerfieldtownship.org

FALL 2021

West Deerfield Township

601 Deerfield Road
Deerfield, Illinois 60015
847-945-0614

Assessor's Office

847-945-3020

Hours

8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Monday through Friday
Assessors Office
Closed 12:00-1:00 p.m.

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE

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Deerfield, IL 60015

ECRWSS

Postal Customer

West Deerfield Township Holiday Wish Program 2021

For a number of years, the West Deerfield Township Holiday Wish program has been an opportunity for our community to bring special cheer to some of our less fortunate neighbors during the winter holiday season.

Based on the continuing COVID-19 concerns, the Holiday Wish program will follow a similar pattern to that established last year.

In years past, residents have "adopted" singles, couples, or families to provide them with gifts of the season. While we all enjoy the aspect of shopping for gifts, we again ask sponsors to purchase gift cards for the individuals or families they have adopted. We've found this to be the safest way to distribute the gifts to clients, and these cards will be a welcome treat to residents who have suffered financial hardship of the past 18 months.

"Participating in this program makes a powerful, meaningful and immediate impact, both on the giver and recipient."

Alyson Feiger

West Deerfield Township Supervisor



If you are interested in being a donor this year, please plan to purchase only gift cards. Popular stores include Target, Kohls, Walmart, Amazon, TJ Maxx, Marshalls, and even Costco (you don't have to be a member to redeem a gift card) as well as local grocery stores, pharmacies, or nearby restaurants.

To adopt a fellow resident for the holiday season, please download and complete the Sponsorship Form from our website, westdeerfieldtownship.org, or call our office at 847-945-0614 to request a form be mailed to you.

Thank you for helping to brighten the holidays for our community!