



WEST DEERFIELD TOWNSHIP

Your Community Resource for Life

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

info@westdeerfieldtownship.org

SUPERVISOR'S MESSAGE



Dear Resident:

During the past year, the Township provided numerous services, addressing the needs of its 32,000 diverse constituents while adhering to our budgetary constraints. As I reflect on the fiscal year, I am inspired by the stories of

resilience and community strength that have unfolded within our township. Each narrative speaks volumes about the unwavering spirit of compassion and dedication that drives our collective success.

With empathy as our guiding light, we recognize that residents rely on the township for a range of day-to-day services, from passport assistance, voting services, to other various administrative needs. We provide a wide range of programs and services including financial assistance, senior and health services, assessor services, a food pantry, and transportation. We prioritize communication and transparency, ensuring that detailed information about these vital resources is readily accessible to all via multiple modalities including our website, newsletter, direct mail, email, and text messaging. Additionally, for a comprehensive overview of our achievements and endeavors, I invite you to explore the full West Deerfield Township Supervisor's Annual Report 2023-2024, available on our website. Our ongoing fiscal health is supported by careful fund management, a secure investment plan, a Deerfield Park District grant, and revenue from our tenant, placing us in an excellent financial position.

One story stands out, illustrating how our township stands by families facing diverse challenges. A family grappling with divorce, mental health struggles, and domestic issues sought our support. Through our comprehensive approach, we

provided a range of assistance and connected them with quality care and resources. We facilitated specialized care for a child with a serious health condition, and supported two children in pursuing their extracurricular passions, including providing financial assistance for one child for football camp. We also offered ongoing mentorship as he embarked on his journey to success in college football.

At the heart of our endeavors, is a team of dedicated professionals, including our skilled staff, which includes an Affordable Care Act navigator and a part-time psychologist. Trained to be customer-facing, they tirelessly strive to uplift and empower individuals who seek assistance. I extend my heartfelt gratitude for their unwavering dedication. Additionally, I'm honored to acknowledge the invaluable contributions of our volunteers, whose selfless efforts greatly enhance the impact of our work. Whether lending a listening ear, serving on an advisory committee, or offering other practical assistance, their generosity, time, and kindness are deeply appreciated. It is this collaborative commitment to service that makes Deerfield Township not only a desirable place to live but also a vibrant environment where residents can thrive, work, and play.

We recognize the importance of partnerships with leading area organizations that share our commitment to the health, vibrancy and well-being of West Deerfield residents and businesses. That's why we work with these organizations on events and initiatives that align with our mission and help us further our goals.

Whether seeking routine support or navigating challenging times, we always stand ready to help, and our hearts are ready to embrace you. You are never alone – we are here to walk alongside you, every step of the way. Thank you for your trust, support, and partnership.

Sincerely, Alyson Feiger
Township Supervisor



WEST DEERFIELD TOWNSHIP

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

We are proud to offer our senior and mobility challenged residents timely, reasonable and clean transportation to medical appointments. When the van schedule permits, we can also offer quality of life rides to the grocery store, bank, pharmacy, shopping, hair salon or barber shop, social events, etc. Our rides are door-to-door, our drivers are trained professionals, and our van is clean and comfortable – all this for \$6.00 round trip and \$4.00 one way!

The service operates **Monday – Friday** (except holidays) from **8:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**, and registering is easy! Please call our Transportation department at **847-945-0614 x 310** or print an application from our website at: westdeerfieldtownship.org.



Why Use Going Places?

- Eliminate the stress of driving, navigating your way & parking.
- Avoid driving in bad weather.
- Make your life easier and maintain your independence.

Testimonial

This year without a car would have been a disaster if not for the van. The drivers are the best – always on time, helpful, and ensuring your safety. The cost is minimal and the office provides excellent service.

– Marilyn N.



Kristen Scott
Township Clerk

General Election November 5, 2024

The 2024 General Election will be here before we know it, so take time now to make sure you're ready to participate next fall.

Whether you are a seasoned voter or first-time participant, take steps to ensure your vote is counted.

Check your Voter Registration status at LakeVoterPower.info. to make sure your registration is up to date. Remember: you must re-register if you are new to

Lake County, or have simply moved within your community.

You must be at least 18 years old on or before Election Day, November 5, 2024.

Voting by Mail is available to all registered voters. You may request a vote by mail ballot from the Lake County Clerk beginning **August 7, 2024** at lakecountyil.gov or by calling

847-377-VOTE (8683). Ballots will be mailed beginning September 26.

Early Voting will begin at the County Clerk's office in Waukegan on **September 26**, and will be available county-wide on **October 21**. Early voting locations will be confirmed closer to Election Day.

On **Election Day, November 5, 2024**, you must vote at your assigned polling place, **6 am to 7 pm**. Find your polling place at LakeVoterPower.info.

Please call Township Clerk Kristen Scott with any questions: **847-945-0614**.





Assessor's Update

from the West Deerfield Township Assessor's Office

Assessor *Andrew Richter*

After an exciting reassessment year in 2023, we have turned our attention to 2024. I'd like to begin with a recap of what we have accomplished so far. My term began in January of 2022 and since then we have been busy updating our property records, implementing policies to ensure accurate property records, and reconfigured several neighborhoods.

Each of these projects serves to make our assessments more accurate. By re-evaluating the way homes are divided into assessment neighborhoods, we are seeking to make sure that the properties in each neighborhood are similar enough to produce accurate valuations. Similarly, we have combed through sale records to ensure we have the correct property characteristics for as many homes in the township as possible.



In 2023, our office fielded over 1,800 assessment appeals. My staff and I put in extra hours to be sure that we prepared evidence to support our assessments for each case, and our staff attended each scheduled hearing.

Tax bills will be mailed out the first week of May this year. The first installment is due June 5 and the second installment will be due September 5. Please note, Lake County residents receive a single tax bill for both installments. **Property owners who DO NOT receive a bill, or those looking for payment options, contact the Treasurer's Office at 847-377-2323.**

With the current rate of inflation, taxing bodies are allowed to increase their spending. Illinois Property Tax Extension and Limitation Law (PTELL) allows for an increase in spending at the current inflation rate or 5% whichever is less. For this tax year the increase will be 5%. While it was hoped that spending would not increase at

that rate, it is not the case. Of the 22 jurisdictions monitored for West Deerfield Township, four showed taxing decreases, but the average increase was 3.4%.



The Tax Pie

When I'm asked to explain how the assessor's office fits into the property tax structure in Illinois, I like to use an analogy. I explain to think of taxes as a pie. The size of this pie is determined by the different taxing bodies (ie. village, school district, fire department, Lake County, etc.) and how much they budget to spend. Once these bodies submit their budgets, we know how big the pie is. Your assessment can be thought of as your "slice" of the pie.

The size of your slice (as in what percentage of the whole pie) is determined by the value of your property. This is where the assessor fits in. The assessor's job is to determine the value of each property so that we can fairly slice the pie and divide it amongst all property owners. Our office does not determine the size of the pie, our task is to split the pie fairly, based upon property value.

Check Your Exemptions

Exemptions reduce taxes. An exemption reduces the taxable value of your home. The most common exemptions are: General Homestead, Senior Homestead, Senior Assessment Freeze and Home Improvement Exemption. On the bottom right side of the tax bill is the computation ladder. Look for the deductions applied in this area. Please contact my office if you believe you are missing an exemption.

As always, our office is here to assist you between 8:30am and 4:30pm Monday through Friday. Our address is 601 Deerfield Road, Deerfield.

TOWNSHIP Quick Takes



Passport Services

We're a great choice when you need a new passport. Our Certified Agents are ready to serve you.

Passport hours are from 10:00am - 3:00pm, Monday through Friday, **APPOINTMENTS REQUIRED**. Call us at 847-945-0614 to set up a time. Application forms and information on the documents you'll need may be found at the U.S. State Department website travel.state.gov or call our office at 847-945-0614.

We do not provide photo services; Walgreens and CVS offer passport photo service.

Adults may usually renew their passports on their own through the mail without coming into our office.

Check travel.state.gov to see if you qualify for this easy option.



Memory Café

The memory Café is a place for persons experiencing memory changes and their care partners to gather for connection and conversation while enjoying themed activities.

The meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month @ Deerfield Public Library. This is a program sponsored by the West Deerfield Township in conjunction with CJE Senior Life and the Deerfield Library, 920 Waukegan Road, 10:30 – 11:45 a.m.

West Deerfield Township, in partnership with Faith in Action Volunteers, is becoming more dementia friendly with the addition of new programs and services such as a Dementia Friendly Resource Guide, Escorted Volunteer Transportation and Friendly Visitors that can speak with you over the phone or visit you in your home to share more of the benefits that can improve accessibility, manage stress and offer solutions for family members supporting loved ones with Alzheimers and related dementia.



Clothing & Textile Recycling Resource

West Deerfield Township partners with the **Solid Waste Agency of Lake County (SWALCO)** on an initiative to collect and re-purpose unwanted clothing and textiles. We encourage residents to use the SWALCO drop boxes located in the Township parking lot to dispose of their unwanted clothing and other textile items.

The program accepts new, gently used, used, or unwanted/worn, women's, men's and children's clothing and textiles. All fabrics will be accepted. Even clothes or textiles with stains or holes will be accepted.

Nearly 95% of the materials collected are repurposed, reused or recycled.

SWALCO makes donations to our food pantry based on the number of items collected, so by dropping off your unwanted items you are supporting the environment as well as our neighbors who rely on the food pantry.

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.



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, Mon – Fri 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.



Counseling Services

Township counseling services are available from Jerry Zachar, our Director of Counseling, including one-on-one counseling and support groups. All the counseling services are provided free of charge to West Deerfield Township residents.



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:

- *iPads for Communication*
- *Vehicle Adaptations*
- *Bathroom Modifications*
- *Assistive Visual Devices*
- *Wheelchair Ramp Installation*
- *Swim Therapy*
- *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.



LIHEAP

(Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program)

Application assistance is available at the Township office by appointment.

This program offers limited financial assistance, based on income, for heating and electric bills.

Please call **Lupe Somerville** at the Township office.
847-945-0614



Unincorporated Roads

For road repair and maintenance, the West Deerfield Township contracts with the Vernon Township Highway Department to ensure safe driving conditions for all motorists.

SERVICES INCLUDE:

The Highway Department provides such services as snow plowing, shoulder grading, pavement repair and rehabilitation, re-painting of traffic control markings on the pavement and signage.

IF YOU HAVE A CONCERN...

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





West Deerfield Township Food Pantry

From providing essential toiletries, holiday gifts, and back-to-school supplies to organizing engaging social activities, our make our neighbors feel valued and respected.

One of our unique and proudest initiatives is our college basket program, designed to empower young adults transitioning to university life. These baskets, thoughtfully curated with dorm essentials and personal touches, offer a sense of confidence and inclusion to recipients – many who are the first in their family to attend college. As with all our efforts, we consult with our partners to find out what is



A Vital Resource for the Community

The Deerfield Food Pantry, operating solely on donations, stands as a vital resource nestled in the heart of West Deerfield Township. It serves as a beacon of hope and support for our neighbors in need in Deerfield, Riverwoods, Bannockburn, and portions of Highland Park and Lake Forest. Its impact is profound, touching the lives of more than 400 residents. As the cost of living continues to rise, the demand for our services grows, highlighting the importance of our work.

At the pantry, we prioritize the dignity and respect of every client who walks through our doors. Our efforts extend beyond providing essential food items. We are proud and thankful to collaborate with schools, churches, synagogues, corporate groups, and not-for-profits as we creatively fulfil our mission. It truly does take a village to stock shelves, host food drives, raise awareness, and more.

We are proud to cater to individuals of all ages, from infants to seniors, ensuring that each person's unique needs are met comprehensively. We prioritize addressing immediate hunger needs by providing essential food items but it's not just about filling bellies. We take a holistic approach as we work to foster a sense of belonging and community.

needed. In the case of students, we work closely with the school district to determine what that one special item that every student wants or has; for example, this year we provided high schoolers with stylish water bottles. We strive to level the playing field for younger students too by providing support for extracurricular activities. We believe that every student can pursue their passions, feel confident, and included, regardless of financial constraints.

Every success story we witness reaffirms the importance of our work. Whether it is providing a child with access to educational opportunities, supporting a family through challenging times, or offering volunteer opportunities for individuals and groups to help lift a neighbor - we are committed to making a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve.

As we look to the future, we invite all community members to join us by donating, volunteering, or simply spreading the word. Together, we can ensure that the Deerfield Food Pantry is stocked with hope and compassion for years to come.





West Deerfield Township... *We are Dementia Friendly*

In the spirit of supporting residents in need, West Deerfield Township proudly stands as a Dementia Friendly Community. We are only one of 33 such communities recognized in Illinois, and we are committed to supporting, empowering, and understanding our fellow community members who are challenged by dementia.

Dementia impacts millions of individuals by causing severe loss of memory, language, problem-solving, and other cognitive abilities, which interfere significantly with daily life. Alzheimer's disease, the most prevalent form of dementia, primarily affects memory and other brain functions. While there's no cure, treatment and support can help manage symptoms.

Three years ago, Dementia Friendly America recognized our township's dedication to this cause, affirming our commitment to enhancing the quality of life for those affected by dementia and their caregivers. Since then, we've embarked on a journey of education, outreach, and collaboration to ensure that everyone feels valued and supported. Through these efforts we also aim to reduce stigma and provide social opportunities for individuals with dementia and their caregivers, fostering a more inclusive community where everyone can thrive.

West Deerfield Township leads the initiative and is pleased that our efforts have been truly collaborative, involving various community stakeholders. We are grateful for our Stakeholders Committee of member organizations that includes the Village of Deerfield, the Deerfield Police and Fire Departments, the Patty Turner Senior Center, the Deerfield Public Library, the Deerfield/Bannockburn/Riverwoods Chamber of Commerce, Faith in Action, and CJE Senior Life. We also appreciate the support of the Lake Forest Library and Dickinson Hall (Lake Forest Senior Center).

In a short time, we have successfully implemented initiatives like dementia-friendly training for our staff and board members, community-wide awareness campaigns, and events like our annual Dementia Friendly event. The Deerfield Library hosts a monthly Memory Café for individuals with dementia and their caregivers, providing a supportive and social environment. A Memory Café is a safe and comfortable space where caregivers and their loved ones can socialize, listen to music, play games, and engage in other appropriate activities while offering mutual support and exchanging information. Similarly, plans are underway at the Lake Forest Library and senior center to establish their own Memory Café, extending this valuable resource to more members of the community.

We are proud to have hosted over sixty residents at last year's Dementia Friendly event and are excited to welcome even more this year. This year's event, themed "Caring for the Care Partner," is a testament to our unwavering dedication to providing support and resources to caregivers who play a vital role in the lives of those with dementia. With presentations by Alzheimer's Illinois, panel discussions, and expert advice, we aim to provide valuable insights and guidance to those navigating this challenging journey.

Together, we continue to make strides in our mission, and we invite you to join us. For more information on our dementia-friendly initiatives and how you can get involved, please visit www.westdeerfieldtownship.org.



2024 Walk to End Alzheimers

West Deerfield is proud to participate in the Walk to End Alzheimer's on Saturday, September 28, 2024 at 10:00 am (registration starts at 8:30 am) at Independence Grove Forest Preserve, 16400 W Buckley Rd., Libertyville, IL. As a community that values the well-being of its residents and a dementia-friendly community since 2021, we are deeply dedicated to addressing the challenges faced by people with dementia, level the playing field as much as possible, and create supportive environments for them to live and thrive in the community they chose.

Held annually in more than 600 communities nationwide, Walk to End Alzheimer's is the world's largest event to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care, support, and research. It is an opportunity for families and friends to honor someone who has died from the disease, while also supporting a cause that will help others battling it. By participating we can help raise awareness about the challenges faced by those affected by the disease, reduce stigma, and foster a greater sense of understanding and empathy within our community and beyond.

We encourage people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds to help us take strides towards a brighter future, where Alzheimer's is better understood, prevented, and ultimately cured. Whether you choose to participate as a walker, or a donor, your involvement will make a significant impact.

*For more information and a sign up form,
go to www.westdeerfieldtownship.org
and click on the
2024 Walk to End Alzheimers graphic.*



Your Community Resource for Life

www.westdeerfieldtownship.org

SPRING 2024

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

PAID

Permit No. #271
Deerfield, IL 60015

ECRWSS

Postal Customer

JOIN US FOR A COMMUNITY SIT-DOWN ABOUT DEMENTIA

CARING FOR THE CARE PARTNER



Manage Stress
and Offer Solutions
for Family Members
Supporting Loved Ones
with Dementia

DEMENTIA TOPICS INCLUDE:

- DEMENTIA FRIENDS OVERVIEW
- DEMENTIA EARLY SIGNS
- DEMENTIA PANEL DISCUSSION:
CARING FOR THE CARE PARTNER
- INFORMATION REGARDING
LOCAL ASSISTANCE FOR THOSE
WITH DEMENTIA
- REFRESHMENT RECEPTION

THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2024 • 1 - 3 PM

DEERFIELD VILLAGE HALL
850 WAUKEGAN ROAD

Parking in the Rear of Building

RSVPs Encouraged, Contact:

West Deerfield Township Supervisor
Alyson Feiger, 847-945-0614
alysonfeiger@westdeerfield.org

PRESENTED BY: **WEST DEERFIELD
TOWNSHIP**

