

# FOCUS

JANUARY 2016

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333 E. 162nd Street • South Holland, IL 60473 • 708-596-6040 • [www.thorntontownship.com](http://www.thorntontownship.com)

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### Upcoming Board Meetings

- Tuesday February 23, 2016
- Tuesday March 22, 2016

#### The Township buildings will be closed:

- Lincoln's Birthday – Friday February 12, 2016
- Washington's Birthday – Monday February 15, 2016
- Casimir Pulaski Day – Monday March 7, 2016
- Good Friday – Friday March 25, 2016

#### Office Locations

- **Thornton Township Town Hall**  
333 East 162nd Street  
South Holland, IL  
708-596-6040
- **Senior Center**  
1420 Huntington Drive  
Calumet City, IL  
708-596-6040 Ext. 3190
- **Senior/Youth and Family Services Center**  
14323 Halsted  
Riverdale, IL  
708-596-6040 Ext. 2000
- **The Food Assistance Center**  
15340 Page Avenue  
Harvey, IL  
708-596-6040 Ext. 3180
- **ZAP**  
16910 Westview  
South Holland, IL  
708-596-6040 Ext. 4011

## GOVERNMENT IS FAILING US AT ALL LEVELS — BUT ONE.



**C** clueless career bureaucrats. Hidden, self-serving agendas. Red tape. Lopsided priorities. Roadblocks built from mountains of paperwork and regulations. Corruption, waste, political graft. The reasons are too numerous to list why government is so often so uncaring, unresponsive, out of touch and useless—or, worse, actively harmful.

One thing is certain. Government—federal, state and municipal—shares the responsibility, accountability and the blame for being so criminally absent, out of touch and out to lunch.

Just ask a Flint, Michigan resident. Or a Katrina or Sandy victim. Just ask a Chicago cop. Or the family of an innocent victim of a cop's trigger finger. Just ask a veteran waiting for months—or years—for a critical medical procedure. Just ask a child left behind. Especially a special needs child. Or their special ed teacher whose meager salary Governor Rauner is threatening to slash. Just ask a senior or mental patient who's lost their Medicaid benefits. Just ask the residents of Chicago's poorest neighborhoods where heroin and cockroaches flood the pothole-pocked streets and alleys in amounts unmatched by any other American city.

Just beyond the pale of all this governmental failure, a beacon of light glows bright. That light emanates from... township government, where service to the public is not a forgotten concept. Largely unnoticed, township government remains reassuringly in touch, engaged and actively serving its residents, filling gaps created by the dysfunction of other governmental bodies.

There is no better example of this than the largest township in Illinois, Thornton Township. This township devotes itself to addressing the needs of its residents, monitoring their issues and coming through, time and again, with the help and support we have come to expect from our townships.

In the wake of the great recession of '08, Thornton Township supported programs aiding families of the unemployed, delivering 3,000 food baskets monthly, along with assistance paying utilities, rent and mortgage payments. They helped blunt the shock of unemployment by finding 50 full time jobs within the township, as well as funneling many more residents into retraining programs, creating more opportunities for productive full-time work. Thornton Township supports seniors and students alike with a mutually beneficial program paying students to do yard work for seniors in need of this help. And additional help is available for seniors to allay drug costs while providing medical screenings and transportation for doctor appointments and trips to the supermarket. The township even helps build ramps to enhance mobility for handicapped residents.

And all of this tangible real-life support comes at a cost of less than eight cents. For every property tax dollar that comes in, less than eight cents goes to funding township government that provides this wide array of life-enhancing, often life-saving services directly to township residents.

Government, whether it's federal, state or municipal, too often squander precious tax dollars keeping bloated bureaucracies afloat and wasting precious dollars on pointless programs and phantom services. Meanwhile, at ground level, where people live their lives, Thornton Township and countless other unsung township governments quietly go about the business of delivering valuable services—and a healthy return on taxpayers' investment.

Sincerely,

**Frank M. Zuccarelli**  
Thornton Township Supervisor

**M**embers of the Faith, Dignity, and Respect Initiative met with Bishop John Bryant, Senior Bishop and Presiding Prelate of the Fourth Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, to discuss the lessons of love, peace, and forgiveness learned from the delegation's trip to the Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina in September. Bishop Bryant was honored by Supervisor Zuccarelli's decision to have the Emanuel AME church nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize, and promised to help promote the nomination within the AME church nationwide.



Rev. Dr. Albert Tyson III, Director of Thornton Township Youth & Family Services Dr J.L. Weems, Thornton Township Supervisor Frank M. Zuccarelli, Rev. Dr. Steven Lewis, Bishop John Bryant, Director of Thornton Township General Assistance Troy O'Quin, Rev. Dr. Ozzie Smith, Algernon Penn



People working with people.

### Frank M. Zuccarelli, Supervisor

**Joyce M. Washington,**  
Trustee  
**Gerald "Jerry" Jones,**  
Trustee

**Norbert Cipowski,**  
Trustee  
**Stafford C. Owens**  
Trustee

**Jacqueline E. Davis-Rivera,**  
Clerk  
**Cassandra Holbert,**  
Assessor C.I.A.O.

**Geary DePue,**  
Highway Commissioner

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# Thornton Township Faith, Dignity, and Respect Initiative

## Lessons from Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina

In reaction to the shocking amount of gun violence and community unrest sweeping the nation in places like Ferguson, Baltimore, New York, and Chicago, Thornton Township Supervisor Frank M. Zuccarelli created the 'Dignity and Respect Initiative' nearly a year ago. This collection of elected officials, law enforcement, and community leaders were brought together to develop proactive as well as reactive measures to ensure the safety of our community.

After the events of June 17th, 2015 everything changed. A gunman murdered nine innocent people during a Bible study at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina in an act of horrific racial hatred. However, in the face of unimaginable pain and grief the relatives of the victims not only pleaded for a peaceful resolution, but offered their forgiveness to the confessed murderer.

Supervisor Zuccarelli was so moved by their reaction that he formed a delegation to travel to Charleston in order to learn how a community could foster an environment of peace and unity in the aftermath of such senseless violence.

Upon returning home, the word 'Faith' was added, changing the name of our initiative to 'Faith, Dignity, and Respect'.

### This is what we learned.

#### DAWN 'TIL DUSK

Day One: September 16, 2015

The Thornton Township delegation's first day in Charleston was a dawn 'til dusk affair. Immediately after the complimentary hotel breakfast, media coordinator Melvin Caldwell received word that local news outlets were on their way. NBC 2 and ABC 4 conducted interviews with Supervisor Frank M. Zuccarelli and Senator Donne E. Trotter. They also captured Charleston Councilman, and mayoral candidate, William Dudley Gregorie meeting with Zuccarelli and the delegation.

Councilman Gregorie was invited to meet with the delegation to share his experience on the day of the shooting, as well as the city government's reaction. The vivid recollection of the events of June 17th, as well as the personal connection to the victims and survivors, gave the entire tragedy a much more human element. According to Councilman Gregorie, the peaceful response of the city and community was mostly spontaneous. He attributed the generous and close nature of the community for the lack of anger and violence in the aftermath of the massacre. Dr. JL Weems inquired about the use of mental health services in the aftermath, to which Councilman Gregorie recounted that the response was immediate and wonderful. With the delegation being driven by a strong religious influence including Rev. Steven Lewis and Rev. Ozzie Smith, the meeting concluded with a prayer led by Rev. Albert Tyson III.

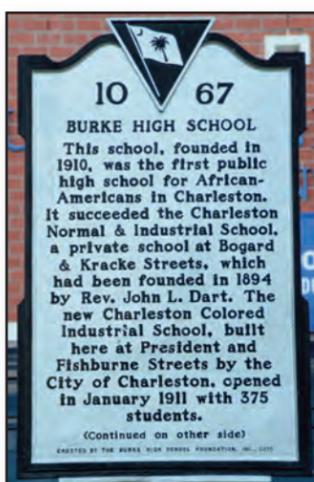


Garcia Williams, Interim Director of YWCA, and one of the sponsors for the upcoming Mayor's Race for Equity forum, spoke on the "voice" of Charleston as compared to other cities. Whereas Baltimore had an aggressive and angry voice, Charleston has an engaging voice, one of spirit and culture. She also emphasized reaching the youth of the community through outreach and social media. A tight control of the YWCA message helped to maintain calm in and around Charleston.



After a quick lunch, the delegation traveled to the historic Burke High School, the first high school for African Americans in Charleston. With the school as a backdrop, local news outlets conducted more interviews with Zuccarelli and Trotter concerning the delegation's efforts to recognize Emanuel AME and the Charleston community, as well as the desire to learn from their experience.

The purpose for the trip to Burke was to attend a community forum comparing the 1963 bombing of the 16th Street Church in Birmingham Alabama to the murders at Emanuel AME in 2015. Survivors and relatives of victims of both tragedies were given the opportunity to meet and share their experiences, as well as take comfort in their mutual heartbreak and healing. Supervisor Zuccarelli presented the Charleston City Council a resolution commending Charleston and Emanuel AME for their spirit of peace, unity, and love. Emotions ran high as Supervisor Zuccarelli spoke about Thornton Township's admiration for their incredible strength and faith, and the impact it had on a community almost a thousand miles away. Chief Leonard Chiaro and Sgt. Al Benney, Jr. also had the opportunity to meet local Charleston law enforce-



ment. Trustee Cindy Doorn-Nylen and Trustee Joyce M. Washington also made genuine connections with the survivors as the night ended with many big hugs and tears.



#### Day One Takeaways

- **Embassy Suites** The hotel was used as a command center where family members, city officials, and media gathered in the aftermath of the tragedy. The meeting room used by the delegation was used by the coroner to help family identify the deceased.
- **Crowd Control** Charleston immediately designated areas for people to gather, creating a boundary around Emanuel for first responders to work.
- **Mindset** The Charleston City Council quickly convened and affirmed that their first priority was to ensure their city did not burn, but stayed intact.
- **Policing** Prior to the tragedy, community police efforts in Charleston included monthly citizens advisory councils with local law enforcement leadership.
- **Mental Health** The survivors of the 1963 Birmingham bombings have yet to receive any state sponsored mental health treatment or victim compensation.

#### THE JOURNEY TO EMANUEL

Day Two: September 17, 2015

On the second day in Charleston the delegation visited with the leadership at Charleston First Assembly of God Church. The church is well known in the community for having a multiracial congregation. Pastor Charles Taylor and Dr. Barbara Dilligard welcomed the delegation to a conversation about the Charleston faith community and how it handles to socioeconomic issues and race relations. According to Dr. Dilligard, Charleston's spiritual richness lends itself



not only to the city's nickname 'The Holy City', but it also brings the community together in times of crisis.



"When tragedy strikes, people forget their boundaries and come together," said Dr. Dilligard.

She also cited the combined efforts of the Emanuel AME leadership, city officials, and a responsible effort by local media for keeping the community calm. The tragedy was a catalyst for

plans already in place, according to Dr. Dilligard. She compared the Emanuel shooting to the Walter Scott shooting death by a police officer in North Charleston. Although she admits the attitudes between Charleston and North Charleston are "like different continents", she believes the quick response by Mayor Summey and Police Chief Driggers prevented violent outbursts by citizens.

One example of religious community involvement is Justice Ministry, a coalition of roughly 27 churches of all denominations and faiths which brings problems in the community to the attention of local authorities. They were able to persuade city officials to prioritize funding for early childhood education above what the state required as well as ensure development opportunities for minority contractors.

Pastor Taylor feels privileged to lead a multi-ethnic congregation and believes open conversations about race relations are necessary. He believes the only way to affect



change is to get out in the community and interact with the people. He advocates for ongoing outreach and dialogue, not just in times of crisis. They are fighting to keep everyone from retreating back to their comfort zones after a tragedy is over, according to Dr. Dilligard.

The meeting with Pastor Taylor and Dr. Dilligard ended with a prayer circle, asking for guidance, peace, and understanding.

The final stop on Wednesday was to Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church. Presiding Elder Reverend Dr. Norvel Goff Sr. invited the Faith, Dignity, and Respect



delegation to the historic church on the night of the first Bible study since the shooting three months prior. With news cameras lining the pews, Rev. Goff took to the podium to thank the delegation for their support and kindness, and offer his humble appreciation for the outpouring of love from across the world. Reverend Dr. Albert Tyson, III, pastor of the St. Stephens AME Church in Chicago, was given the opportunity to speak upon the importance of Emanuel and the power of love over hate.

After the opening prayer, Supervisor Zuccarelli spoke on the delegation's intentions for traveling nearly a thousand miles to Emanuel. In response to the outbreaks of mass violence across the country, the Faith, Dignity, and Respect Initiative was created to help bring the Thornton Township community together. A month after the first official meeting, Supervisor Zuccarelli and members of the initiative were shocked, amazed, and inspired by Emanuel's call for peace and forgiveness in the face of unthinkable tragedy.



Supervisor Zuccarelli presented Rev. Goff a resolution passed by Thornton Township, commending the church, congregation, and community in their response to violence and hatred. Senator Trotter, a friend of the late Rev. Clementa Pinckney, presented Rev. Goff a resolution passed by the Illinois Senate also commending the people of Emanuel and Charleston.



With the entire Faith, Dignity, and Respect delegation at his side, Supervisor Zuccarelli asked Rev. Goff for permission to pursue the Nobel Peace Prize nomination in honor of Emanuel AME. Rev. Goff graciously accepted the gesture and invited everyone to attend the Bible study in the basement.

Upon descending the creaky wood stairs it was hard to imagine that just three months prior nine people were murdered in the same space. The basement was packed. Rows of chairs stretched out to all four walls as all kinds of people gathered together. Traveling from as far away as Chicago, Kansas, and Georgia, individuals from all walks of life participated in the positive messages of self-improvement and love.



### Day Two Takeaways

- **Faith** The church and the church leadership took charge of the message and helped present a message of forgiveness and faith.
- **Justice Ministry** 27 interdenominational churches and ministries that came together to highlight community issues and seek resolutions.
- **Bible Study** The Bible Study being led by Elder Goff was emotionally charged and inspirational as we gathered in the room where devastation struck.

### REACTIONS TO CRISIS

Day Three: September 18, 2015

Day three began before sunrise at WCIV4, a local Charleston ABC affiliate. Supervisor Zuccarelli and Senator Trotter were invited to speak with anchor Tessa Spencer live on the 6am news. They spoke of their delegation's mission and what they had learned so far during their stay in Charleston, as well as the Nobel Prize nomination process. A few members of the delegation watched the sun rise through the windows of a Waffle House, a culinary staple of The South, before heading back to the hotel.



Members of the local chapter of Black Lives Matter, Ife Harvey and Muhiyidin d-Baha, met with delegation members to discuss their views on the current racial and

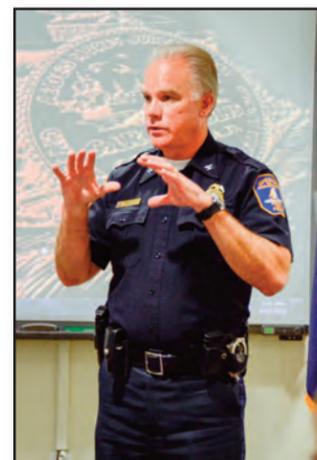
political landscape in Charleston and across the country.

Their mission is to progress the conversations about race and social justice, as well as inspire people to take action, according to Harvey. In order to create that conversation they have helped organize rallies, community events, and social media outreach. One idea presented by d-Baha was a free concert of which the only means of entry is to produce a voter registration card. Black Lives Matter organizers try to engage policy makers as well, to encourage them to look at the legislative process through a "racial lens".



The next stop was to the Charleston Police Department headquarters. Delegation members Chief Leonard Chiaro and Sgt. Al Benny were given the opportunity to learn what makes the Charleston Police department stand out in times of crisis. Police Chief Greg Mullen and Emergency Operations Manager Mark Wilbert shared their philosophy on creating effective, community-driven policing. Upon entering the role of Chief nine years ago, Mullen immediately went about changing the image of the CPD. The large photographs of

police in tactical gear with assault rifles riding armored personnel carriers were replaced with images of officers playing with children in the community. Chief Mullen stressed the importance of these kinds of "artifacts" in the department. Officer training has a heavy emphasis on constitutional law, de-escalation techniques, and community trust building. He often reminds his officers that the role of the CPD is to provide community service, not just an employment opportunity for officers.



Chief Mullen listed a few community outreach programs the CPD has created. Community Action groups (CAGs) bring residents together to discuss issues in their neighborhoods, Camp Hope gives recreational opportunities to children in under-served areas, Friday Night Lights provides save spaces for children to play in the evening. The department's use of social media, including a 'Humans of New York' inspired Facebook page titled 'Humans of CPD', also helps to humanize the officers.

When asked about the possibility of creating a 'citizen review board' which would weigh in on police actions, Chief Mullen answered with an alternative approach. He suggested the creation of a 'citizen advisory council' instead. As opposed to reviewing police action in retrospect, a citizen advisory board would be asked their opinion on policies and tactics before they are implemented.

Charleston City Council member and Mayor Pro-Tem Keith Waring was also in attendance and offered his sentiments about the Nobel Prize nomination process. When Supervisor Zuccarelli asked if the city would be offended if Emanuel received the nomination instead of Charleston, Waring responded, "I would be offended if Emanuel didn't receive the nomination (over Charleston)."

The last stop was to the historic Charleston City Hall to meet with the Director of Media Relations for the city of Charleston Ms. Barbara Vaughn. In the hours, days, and weeks following the shooting at Emanuel, Vaughn helped to coordinate the media presence and messages being broadcast. Knowing how aggressive the media can be, she stressed the importance of having a credible spokesperson the media and community can trust. In Charleston's case it was long-time mayor Joseph Riley. Her advice is to always speak with local media first and let them disseminate the information to the community and 'across the wire'. Since information can spread quickly through social media, Vaughn suggests monitoring what is said but only responding to misinformation via press conferences.



### Day Three Takeaways

- **Black Lives Matter** Activists urge an open and honest conversation with community leaders and legislators.
- **Community First Policing** Chief Mullen stressed the importance of building trust with the community and carefully shaping the image of law enforcement.
- **Message Control** In times of crisis, Barbara Vaughn emphasized having a clear message and a trusted voice to deliver it.



Do Something For Peace

www.nobelpeaceprizeforcharleston.com

# HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

## Tree Lighting



## Toy & Food Drive

Thornton Township and the Human Relations Commission hosted the annual Spirit of Thornton Township tree lighting on Saturday, November 28th. Kids and guests were entertained by magician Christopher George. South Holland Bank and Trust provided popcorn and Jimbooo's Restaurant and Catering supplied hot chocolate. With the help of Miss Collegiate Illinois 2016 Shenell Randall, Supervisor Frank M. Zuccarelli threw the switch to light up the 18 trees in front of Thornton Township Hall in South Holland. Each of the 17 trees representing the 17 municipalities in Thornton Township were decorated by groups and individuals in the community. Reflecting the spirit of the holidays, Supervisor told the large crowd that the best way to improve our communities is through cooperation, togetherness, and love for each other.

Thornton Township would like to thank these generous donors for their contributions to the annual holiday toy and food giveaways.



- 135th Chemical Company Illinois Army National Guard
- A Step Up Career Academy
- American Association of Retired Persons, Inc (South Holland chapter 3886)
- Andrews Printing
- Barack Obama Learning Academy
- Calumet City Plumbing Co, Inc.
- Carl Buddig
- Congresswomen of the 2nd District Robin Kelly
- Cook County Commissioner of the 6th District Joan Patricia Murphy
- Eisenhower Elementary School
- Flowers by Michelle
- Garden Club of South Holland
- Gournie Ferrell
- Harvey 1st Ward Alderman Shirley Drewinski
- IL State Rep Will Davis – 30th District
- International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
- James Hart School
- John Kasperek Co, Inc.
- Kiddy Kulture Child Care
- Lansing Cleaners
- Lansing Mayor Norm Abbott
- Laren Montessori School
- Lowell-Longfellow Elementary School
- Maya Angelou School
- McKinley Elementary School
- Mikes Copy Production Inc
- Phi Theta Kappa – S.S.C.
- Proven Business Systems
- School District 148 Early Childhood Center
- Seton Academy
- South Suburban College
- Stanfa Tire and Auto
- Styles by Marty
- Ted's Feed Store
- Thornton Fractional North High School
- Thornton Fractional South High School
- Thornwood High School
- Tri-State Disposal Inc.
- Ventura Foods LLC
- Village of South Holland
- Walt's Food Center
- Washington Elementary
- Wentworth Tire
- Whittier School

## SPECIAL SERVICES



Celebrating the holidays, Thornton Township's Special Services held a Holiday Dance and a Sports Night Turkey Trot. Food, fun and even gifts were presented to those in attendance. For information on upcoming Special Services events call **708-596-6040, ext. 3163**.



# Holiday Dinner

Thornton Township hosted a free Holiday Dinner at the South Suburban College field-house on Saturday, December 3rd, 2015. Hundreds of hot meals were served to Thornton Township residents. Volunteers from all over the community helped in the serving line. Hundreds of donated frozen turkeys were given away throughout the afternoon. Live music entertainment was provided by Past Life.



## Peace Love Unity The Mission Continues

On January 18th, 2016, Thornton Township, The Thornton Township Human Relations Commission, School District 205, and South Suburban College hosted a Martin Luther King, Jr. day Celebration.

The District 205 Honor Band and Choir performed music selections, Thornridge student Rodney Jackson performed an excerpt from "A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier", and the Thornton H.S. New Generation of Men performed a steppers dance routine.

Keynote speaker Rev. Dr. Derrick Wells, Senior Minister, Christ Universal Temple spoke of the legacy and mission of Dr. King. South Suburban College President Don Manning stressed the importance of education. After Thornton Township Supervisor Frank M. Zuccarelli emphasized the importance of a strong community, the Top Teens of America presented a generous donation of food for the Thornton Township Food Assistance Center.



### SENIOR SERVICES



Thornton Township's senior citizens celebrated the holidays in style with a couple of parties to kick off the new year right.

### Holiday Party



### New Years Eve Party





## Senior<sub>RX</sub>



### Blood Pressure Screenings

Daily 10:00 am - 3:00 pm  
Thornton Township Hall  
Calumet City Senior Center  
and Riverdale Senior Center



### Cholesterol and Glucose Testing

Monday through Friday  
9:00 am - 3:45 pm  
Thornton Township Hall

Two hour fasting is required and results are given within three minutes. There is a nominal fee to help cover the cost of materials.



### Flu Shots

Thornton Township, in cooperation with the Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan Chicago, administers flu shots once a year to senior citizens age 65 and older and also those individuals who are chronically ill. Call for date and form.



### Senior Health Insurance Program (S.H.I.P.)

This free program is sponsored by the Illinois Department of Insurance and provides counseling to seniors. This public service is designed to help answer questions, and organize and assist in the filing of insurance papers to Medicare and supplemental insurance companies. The service also provides assistance in comparisons of supplemental insurance plans and affordable Med D drug plans. Now serving you at three (3) locations.



## Senior<sub>TRANSPORTATION</sub>

The Thornton Township Senior Transportation Program operates a curb-to-curb service for township seniors age 60 and older. Our service complies with all American With Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements.

Service is available from 7:00 a.m. to 6:15 p.m., Monday – Friday to any point within the township and designated medical facilities only.

**Appointments are made on a first call, first serve basis.** Medical appointments are given priority status. Residents are asked to call the township dispatch office with any changes to your appointment.

Suggested donation for each one-way ride is \$1.00. An Exact Fare Only Policy is also in place to avoid the bus drivers from having to handle money on the busses.

To schedule a ride, call  
**708-339-9980**



For further information on the program, call  
**708-596-6040, Ext. 4011**



### Senior Transportation Schedule

The following is a list of the only major medical facilities outside the township that riders may be transported to.

- **DaVita Comprehensive Renal Service**, 222 Douglas, Hammond
- **Governors Highway Clinic**, 17901 Governors Highway, Homewood
- **South Suburban Hospital**, 17800 Kedzie, Hazel Crest
- **MetroSouth Medical Center**, 12935 South Gregory, Blue Island
- **St. Margaret Mercy Healthcare Center**, (North) 5500 Hohman Avenue, Hammond
- **Hammond Clinic**, 7905 Calumet Avenue, Munster
- **Community Hospital**, 901 MacArthur Blvd., Munster

### Shopping is also provided to the following locations on these specified days:

- **Monday:** Halsted Street Shopping Area (Homewood)
- **Tuesday:** Jewel, Walt's & Aldi's (South Holland), Ultra Food & Walmart (Lansing) 2:00 pm Return
- **Wednesday:** River Oaks, East & West (Calumet City) 2:00 pm Return
- **Thursday:** K-Mart (Lansing)
- **Friday:** Food 4 Less (Dolton), Almar Plaza (Dolton), and Pete's Fresh Market (Calumet City)

All township bus drivers have CDL (Commercial Drivers Licenses) and must comply with all IDOT (Illinois Department of Transportation) regulations and guidelines.

"Funds (in whole/part) for this program were provided through an award from the Suburban Area Agency on Aging under Title III of the Older Americans Act, as administered through the Illinois Department on Aging and Federal Administration on Aging. Thornton Township does not discriminate in admission to programs or activities or treatment of employment in programs or activities in compliance with the Illinois Human Rights Act; the Age Discrimination Act; the Age Discrimination in Employment Act; and the U.S. and Illinois Constitutions. If you feel you have been discriminated against, you have the right to file a complaint."



### 55/Alive Mature Driving Course

This is a 2-day instruction course that refines existing safe, defensive driving techniques.

55/Alive teaches preventive measures to use when driving that saves lives. Upon completion, a certificate is provided that will entitle participants to receive a car insurance premium discount.

This course is currently offered at the Senior Center in Calumet City.

#### Upcoming dates

Tuesday, March 15, 2016  
Wednesday, March 16, 2016

8:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

\$15 for AARP members  
\$20 for non-members



### Income Tax Service

Thornton Township, in conjunction with A.A.R.P., assists persons 65 years of age and older with federal and state income tax preparation. This service is provided every Friday beginning on the first Friday of February through the end of the tax season in April.



### Senior Committee on Aging

This committee meets monthly to advise the township of the needs and concerns of their senior community.

They also serve as volunteer coordinators for luncheons and special township events. A list of members is available at either the Township Hall or Senior Center.



### Exercise Class

This class provides light to moderate aerobic workouts to aid seniors in maintaining health and fitness.

A certified instructor currently conducts this class

#### Monday and Friday

Senior Center  
Calumet City

9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

#### Wednesday

Thornton Township Hall  
in the lower level

9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

#### Tuesday and Thursday

class is scheduled at the Senior Center in Riverdale

9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

SENIOR SERVICES



**Senior Luncheon Program**

Thornton Township senior citizens, 60 years of age and older, are entitled to attend one luncheon per week at your designated town luncheon site. There are currently thirteen luncheon facility sites located throughout the township. There is a nominal fee charged per meal. The luncheon program is designed to provide a place to meet new friends in a social setting, eat a nourishing meal and to keep you informed of current information affecting seniors. Proof of residency and age are required when you sign up. For information call **708-596-6040, Ext. 3170 or 3190.**

**Tuesday**

- Harvey: Ascension Church, 15234 Myrtle
- Lansing #1: Eisenhower Center, 2550 178th Street
- Lansing #2: Thornton Township Senior Center, 1420 Huntington Drive
- Hazel Crest, American Legion Hall, 17034 Park Avenue

**Wednesday**

- Dolton: Park Fieldhouse, 721 Engle Street
- Riverdale: Thornton Township Senior / Youth & Family Center, 14323 S. Halsted
- Homewood: Freedom Village, 935 Maple

**Thursday**

- Calumet City #1: Thornton Township Senior Center, 1420 Huntington Drive
- Calumet City #2: Downey Park, Stewart Ave & Jeffery Ave
- South Holland: Thornton Township Hall, 333 E. 162nd
- Burnham: Village Hall, 13925 Entre Ave

Lunch & Movie Days are open to all senior Township residents. Call **(708) 596-6040, ext. 3170** for movie dates and listings.

**Wednesday Lunch & Movie Day Location:**

- Thornton Township Senior Center, 1420 Huntington Drive, Calumet City

**Thursday Lunch & Movie Day Location:**

- Thornton Township Senior/Youth & Family Services Center, 14323 Halsted, Riverdale



**Pinochle Club**

Every Tuesday 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm  
Calumet City Senior Center

**Bunco Club**

Every Thursday 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm  
Calumet City Senior Center  
*Pinochle & Bunco: \$3 per person*

**Bingo**

1st Wednesday Every Month  
1:00 pm to 3:00 pm  
Calumet City Senior Center  
*\$5 per person*

**Bid Whist Club**

FREE Every Tuesday  
9:00 am to 3:00 pm  
Riverdale: Thornton Township Senior/Youth & Family Center



**Senior Trips**

A variety of one day trips are sponsored throughout the year to theaters, dinner shows, professional sporting events, touring and gambling boats.

Due to the popularity of these trips, seniors are requested to reserve tickets in advance.



**Information and Referral Program**

Senior citizens can obtain forms and receive current information regarding Medicare forms, Social Security forms, legal services, housing, Illinois Living Will Act forms, and Illinois Statutory Short forms such as durable power of attorney for health care and property.

Other information affecting local seniors will also be disseminated as the information becomes available. Now serving you at three (3) locations.



**Benefit Access Application (BAA)**

*Formerly Circuit Breaker*

A program providing assistance with license plates and bus fares for qualifying seniors and persons with disabilities. Assistance in preparing your claim is available beginning annually in mid-February. Call for information or to make an appointment.  
**708-596-6040, Ext. 3170, 3190 or 2000.**

Now serving you in three (3) locations.



**State of Illinois Identification Card**

Twice a year, Thornton Township in conjunction with the Secretary of State's Office, offers seniors 65 years of age and older an opportunity to get their I.D. card at the township. Call for information and requirements.  
**(708)-596-6040, Ext. 3170 or 3190.**

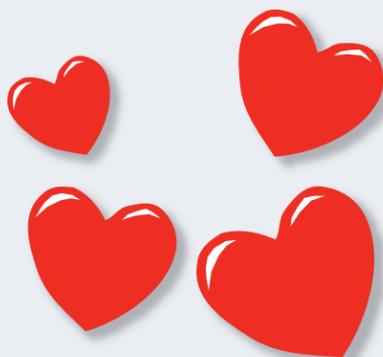


**Upcoming Events**

**Thornton Township Senior Center  
1420 Huntington Drive, Calumet City, IL**

Tickets for events are sold on a first come – first serve basis.

**For more information call  
(708) 596-6040, EXT. 3190 OR 3170**



**Happy Hearts Party**

**Monday, February 8th, 2016  
11:00 am – 3:00 pm**

\$15 per person for Township residents  
\$20 Per person for out of Township residents  
*Includes dinner and live entertainment*



**St. Patrick's Day Party**

**Monday, March 14th, 2016  
11:00 am – 3:00 pm**

\$15 per person for Township residents  
\$20 Per person for out of Township residents  
*Includes dinner and live entertainment*

# Miss Collegiate Illinois 2016



Lansing resident Shenell Randall has recently donated her time to helping the Thornton Township community. Currently crowned Miss Collegiate Illinois 2016 and Miss Collegiate Missouri in 2015, Randall has been active in pageantry for 12 years.

"Community service has always been at the center of pageantry. I love helping people. I love feeding people," Randall said.

A family friend of Troy O'Quin, Food

Assistance Center Manager, Randall read a copy of the Focus newsletter at home and asked O'Quin how she could get involved. Along with her mother Claudia Stevenson, Randall has packed food boxes at the Food Assistance Center, helped throw the power switch that lit up the trees at the Spirit of Thornton Township, served food at the Special Services holiday dance, wrapped gifts for the Children's Tree toy drive, and assisted

Santa Claus during the gift giveaway. Shenell Randall is a graduate of Thornton Fractional South High School in Lansing and currently attends Lindenwood University in St. Charles, Missouri where she is majoring in Musical Theater. Her other community service work includes BRAVE (Building Respect And Values for Everyone), an anti-bullying initiative, and Mini Me, an organization aimed at building confidence in young girls.

## Food Assistance Center

### Meet Gournie Ferrell



On November 19th, Gournie Ferrell, age 11, of Chicago IL donated ten boxes of food to the Thornton Township Food Assistance Center. Gournie was accompanied by her mother Genice, little sister Joy, grandmother Jeanne Bester, and fellow church members David and Ida Conner. With the help of Christ Strengthens Church located in Phoenix, and the Kiwanis Southeast Area Chapter, Gournie has made it her mission to help her community. "I didn't want anyone to go hungry," Gournie said.

For more information on how to help Gournie collect more food contact [aboxjourney@yahoo.com](mailto:aboxjourney@yahoo.com)

### A Special Thank You



Over thirty volunteers from Christ Community Church, located in South Holland, went to the Thornton Township Food Assistance Center on November 21st to help pack food boxes. Pastor Dr. Carl E. King, Sr. was invited by longtime friend, former pastor, and manager of the Food Assistance Center Troy O'Quin. "After talking with Pastor Troy (O'Quin) we knew partnering with Thornton Township was a no-brainer. They can reach more people than we can alone," said Pastor King.

Members of Christ Community Church volunteer throughout the year, but Pastor King emphasizes, "The holidays are not a happy time for everyone. We have a heart for those in need."

In just two hours the volunteers packed 450 family boxes!

# SOMETHING HAPPENED.

On a quiet Wednesday evening last June, inside a church where bible study was being held, nine people were murdered – shockingly shot to death in a racial hate crime that sent shock waves across America.

An incident of such hatred and racial horror might have instantly sparked an outpouring of anger and violence, but instead...



# Something Happened.



The public response was not rage, vengeance or violence, but one of Christian forgiveness, unity and peace.

That's why Thornton Township is sponsoring a petition drive to nominate the Emanuel AME Church of Charleston South Carolina for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Please honor the victims, their families and the Emanuel AME Church by logging onto [www.nobelpeaceprizeforcharleston.com](http://www.nobelpeaceprizeforcharleston.com) and signing the petition.

Thank You,

*Frank M. Zuccarelli*

Frank M. Zuccarelli  
Thornton Township Supervisor

