

FOCUS

NOVEMBER 2015

Follow Thornton Township news on:  [facebook](#)  [twitter](#)

333 E. 162nd Street • South Holland, IL 60473 • 708-596-6040 • www.thorntontownship.com

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



Job Assistance Program
Page 3



Summer Enrichment Program
Page 5



Home Energy Assistance Programs
Pages 6



Hispanic Heritage Month
Page 11



Upcoming Board Meetings

- Tuesday December 8, 2015
- Tuesday December 22, 2015
- Tuesday January 12, 2016

The Township buildings will be closed:

- Thanksgiving Day – Thursday November 26, and Friday November 27, 2015
- Christmas Day – Friday December 25, 2015
- New Year's Day – Friday January 1, 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

SUPPORT EMANUEL AME CHURCH



On a quiet evening last June, in Charleston, South Carolina, the Emanuel AME Church was holding its weekly bible study. A man came in – ostensibly to participate in the teachings of our Christian faith – and instead, shockingly shot nine congregation members to death.

In some other city, an incident of such hatred and racist horror might have triggered an outpouring of anger, violence and divisiveness – drawing crowds into the streets in clashes with police and each other.

But in Charleston, something happened. Something quite remarkable. Contrary to what could have taken place the outpouring was one of unity, forgiveness and peace. In the days that followed, thousands of residents, law enforcement officials, political, business and religious leaders surrounded the families of the victims with support.

No community is immune from such violent acts. They can take place anytime, anywhere, as we have seen from experiences in Baltimore, Ferguson, New York and unfortunately, other communities too numerous to list.

It can happen here too, in any community, school or public place in Thornton Township.

That is why it is so important to highlight and recognize the Emanuel AME Church and thousands of Charleston residents for their response in the wake of that terrible event and, why it is also important that we learn from them.

I recently led a small task force of community, religious and political leaders from Thornton Township, to Charleston, SC in an effort to not only recognize the church and community for their peaceful and faith-based response to this violent act, but also to learn from them – to better understand ways that we might strengthen the empathy, collaboration and trust between law enforcement and the communities in Thornton Township. I wanted to learn how we might begin now, structuring a lasting shared relationship among our citizenry, law enforcement, business, political and religious leaders in an effort to come together should, God forbid, a similar tragic incident, take place in our community.

We learned a great deal from the Emanuel AME Church members and Charleston law enforcement – who should be commended BTW for how they continually reach out to and involve members of their community – regarding how we might initiate programs in Thornton Township that will help us come together in unity, peace and faith in the event a tragic incident happens.

Finally, I ask that each resident of Thornton Township also recognize the faith, dignity and peace efforts of the Emanuel AME Church and the residents of Charleston by signing our petition to award the Nobel Peace Prize for 2016 to this church and community.

For more information on where, how and why to sign, turn to the back page of this newsletter.

Sincerely,

Frank M. Zuccarelli
Thornton Township Supervisor

Nobel Prize Press Conference

On Wednesday, October 14, 2015 Thornton Township Supervisor Frank M. Zuccarelli, City Clerk Susana Mendoza, and Illinois State Senator Donne Trotter held a press conference at Chicago City Hall to announce the nomination of Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, SC for the Nobel Peace Prize.



(Back Row, Left to Right): Alderman Michelle Harris (8th Ward); Al Penn; Reverend Troy O'Quin; Brunu Sheppard; Reverend - Dr. Steven Lewis; Trustee Joyce M. Washington; South Holland Trustee Cynthia Nysten; Dr. J.L. Weems; and Reverend-Dr. Ozzie Smith. (Front Row, Left to Right): Alderman Leslie Hairston (5th Ward); IL Senator Donne Trotter; City Clerk Susana Mendoza; Frank M. Zuccarelli - Supervisor, Thornton Township; and Alderman Howard Brookins Jr. (21st Ward).



People working with people.

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

Frank M. Zuccarelli, Supervisor

Presorted Std
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
South Holland, IL
Permit No. 618

RESIDENTIAL
CUSTOMER



This year Assessor Cassandra Holbert hosted several property tax outreaches throughout the municipalities of Thornton Township in an effort to better educate residents on their property taxes and how to file appeals. The taxpayers who attended were thrilled to learn much more information than they had imagined.

Representatives from the Cook County Assessor's Office and Cook County Board of Review were also invited to the outreaches to conduct short presentations and answer questions from the taxpayers. Also, Keller Williams Real Estate was present at many of the outreaches to answer questions about home buying and selling.

Assessor Holbert is planning to expand future outreaches across each of the seventeen municipalities in Thornton Township. Please check our website and local newspapers for updates regarding dates and locations.

Thornton Township and the Assessor's Office would like to thank the towns who worked diligently with us, provided the space, and took the time to help make our outreach to the public a success!

For more information please call
the Assessor's Office at

708-596-6040 ext. 3175



Assessor Cassandra Holbert with Calumet City Deputy Clerk Roseann Bonato going over the documentation necessary to file an appeal.



Calumet City Clerk Nyota Figgs introduces Assessor Holbert at the outreach held at City Hall in Calumet City.



Assessor Cassandra Holbert gives important information to taxpayers on property taxes and how to file appeals.

Can A Broken Village Raise A Child?



I know that this is a controversial question – Can a village that is broken raise a child to be healthy, educated, and productive? I believe the answer is NO!

This is a challenge to an old African proverb that says "... it takes a whole village to raise a child."

Firstly, the village must be united as a whole to be productive. I guess, for me, the proverb suggests that the village is one

group that shares all of the same values, priorities, and objectives across the entire community. My personal and professional life experiences say this is not true!

Secondly, there are multiple groups in our village. Our village is diverse along certain social, political, and cultural lines. We are different and diverse in our thoughts, feelings, and actions. So, how can the whole village raise a child? The answer to this question is uncertain.

Thirdly, what is meant by the word "whole" in the proverb - Are we talking about numbers? For instance, maybe a quarter or half a village would not be sufficient to raise a child. Or, is the proverb referring to different types of people? For example, parents and other immediate and extended family members, teachers, elected officials, police officers, faith-based leaders, doctors, lawyers, and all other members of society. In order to fully understand the proverb, a definition for the word "whole" must be determined.

Lastly, is the proverb suggesting that the raising of a child is "everyone's" responsibility? I would not want "everyone" to have an influence on raising my child - everyone should not be charged with that responsibility. We all do not share the same morals, values, and ethics.

I'm more interested in hearing from you and the village. Please forward your feedback and/or answers to the questions in this article to jweems@thorntontwp.com. A handful of responses will be published in the next edition of the FOCUS newsletter.

Also, we are considering a sound-off column named "Ask Dr. J" appearing in each FOCUS newsletter. Please forward your questions or situations and we will consider them for future FOCUS editions.

Dr. J L Weems, Psy.D., holds a doctorate in clinical psychology from the Illinois School of Professional Psychology. He is widely considered a client advocate and authority on mental health issues. He is the Director of Youth and Family Services for Thornton Township.

Making the Internet Accessible

INTERNET
ESSENTIALS
from Comcast

Broadband Internet service at home can help students succeed in school and families succeed economically. Internet Essentials, which provides eligible low-income families Internet service at home for about \$10 per month, is the nation's largest and most comprehensive broadband adoption program. In addition to providing Internet service at home, participating families also have the option to purchase an Internet-ready computer through the program for under \$150 and gain access to free digital literacy training in print, online and in-person. To participate in the program, at least one child in the household has to be eligible for the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). In addition, the household has to be in a place where Comcast provides Internet service.

More than 60,000 Illinois families – or 240,000 individuals – benefit from Internet Essentials. Nationally, Internet Essentials has connected more than 450,000 low-income families, or more than 1.8 million people in just three and a half years. To put that in perspective, 1.8 million equals two-thirds of the population of the entire city of Chicago.

Parents looking to enroll in the program can call **1-855-846-8376** or for Spanish **1-855-765-6995**. Information about Internet Essentials is also available at www.InternetEssentials.com and www.InternetBasico.com for Spanish.





Thornton Township Job Assistance Program: “Gives Helping Hand”

Thornton Township in an effort to combat unemployment is spearheading a new Job Assistance Program. The Township has partnered with a local retailer, K&G Fashion Superstore in Lansing, IL. This program provides job interview apparel. The apparel for men consists of dress shoes, slacks, dress shirts, ties and sport coats. The women are fitted with skirts, pant suits, blouses and shoes.

“We have a lot of people that are ready for jobs, but many don’t have the proper clothing to wear to a job interview. I’m really excited about this program. We have a lot of people that are on the Township General Assistance Program. They want the opportunity to get a job and earn a living. They need a helping hand. They are very excited and looking forward to interviewing for a job,” said Frank M. Zuccarelli, Thornton Township Supervisor.

State law requires that Township government is responsible for the administration of General Assistance Programs. General Assistance is a locally administered program providing financial support to persons who are not eligible for state or federal assistance. Participants must not have income or resources to provide for their basic needs. Basic needs may include shelter, food, household supplies, utilities, person essentials, medical, and other expenses.

On Tuesday, May 19, 2015, Thornton Township sponsored its 20th Annual Community Job Fair. Last year there were over 1,000 attendees. This year’s Job Fair had more than 30 employers. The employers include big name companies such as UPS, Chicago Transit Authority (CTA), TCF Bank, and many others.

Supervisor Zuccarelli and his Township Manager of General Assistance and Food Center, Troy O’Quin believe the Job Fair provides a great opportunity to change the direction of the Township General Assistance Program. O’Quin explaining the Program said, “Weekly at our office, clients receive assistance with completing applications and applying online for jobs.”

The Township budget for general assistance is 3.5 million dollars. Thornton Township is the largest General Assistance Program among the 1,434 townships in Illinois. Currently, there are approximately 250 clients in the program. At times during the year, as many as 500 people are in the program.

Thornton Township is the largest township in the State of Illinois. It has approximately 185,000 residents. The Township is made up of 17 communities. According to the United States Department of Labor (March 2015), the unemployment rate for Thornton Township is 6.0% and Illinois 7.1%.

“This program is different from other efforts we have made to reduce unem-

ployment. We have never done anything like this before. Clients normally get \$30 per month. For several months, we did not give a clothing allowance – this has enabled us to group the money together and give clients a clothing allowance up to \$150 to buy job interview apparel,” said Zuccarelli.

The State of Illinois does not play a role at all in this Township initiative.

The Township is providing a one-time payment towards job interview apparel. It is a requirement that all clients that accept payment for job interview clothing agree to attend the Township Job Fair.

While selecting job interview apparel at K&G, several clients talked about their experience in the program.

Michael Townsend said, “I feel like the program is good for people that need help. The program provides workforce skills and motivates people to do their best. We have an opportunity that most don’t have. I hope the program continues.” Yvette Ewing remarked, “This will be my first time attending the Job Fair. I feel the program is beneficial. I’m able to get the proper clothes to interview for a job which is very important. I’m looking for a job in customer service, appearance is very important.”

“I think what the Township is doing is great. It allows people to see what they need to wear in preparation for getting a job. We sized them up and helped them

select the proper apparel for a job interview. I believe that a lot of them will be successful,” said Jay Drummond, K&G Store Manager.

While choosing apparel for their upcoming job interviews two program clients talked about the expectation of being hired by prospective employers.

Bryon Stone said, “This is a great opportunity to better myself. The Township is providing us with clothes and help with resumes. This is something I never had. I can’t wait to attend the Job Fair.”

“I appreciate the program. It has helped me out a lot. It is a great help to be dressed properly when interviewing with an employer. This will increase my chances with getting a job. Sometimes you need a little help and this program definitely has helped me and my family,” said John Rich, a program client.

The Township not only is providing interview apparel, but also resume preparation.

Wendy Lynn Sutton who works with the Township said, “I assisted in preparing at least 200 resumes over the past three months. I advised them to be prepared and take on the challenge.”

When asked what are his expectations for the program, Supervisor Zuccarelli retorted, “I’m anxious to get Thornton Township back to work. We are excited to give a helping hand.”



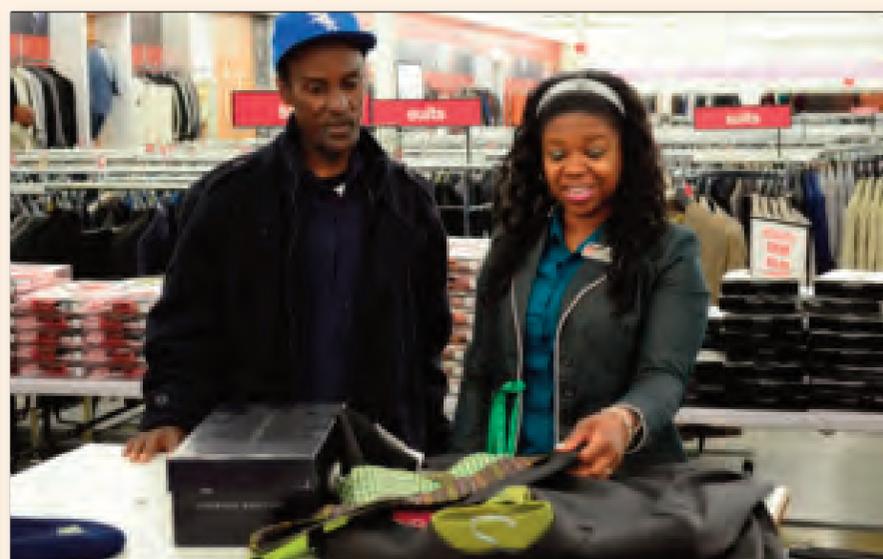
K&G Store Manager Jay Drummond and Thornton Township Supervisor Frank M. Zuccarelli.



K&G Store employee Jamiel Hammond helps James Hollis choose appropriate attire for prospective employment opportunities.



Thornton Township Supervisor Frank Zuccarelli helps client select job interview apparel.



Tracy Lias assists Frederick Grady in picking a new suit for a job interview.

Zuccarelli Seeks Strong Workforce: Township Programs Impact Residents

Thornton Township's Food Safety and Sanitation, Manufacturing Skills, and on-the-job training programs are having an immediate impact on Township residents.

Frank M. Zuccarelli, Thornton Township Supervisor said, "We believe in a simple principle: People Helping People. This principle guides everything we do. We believe in the power of ordinary, everyday people that make our Township strong."

Zuccarelli, in an effort to make Township agencies more efficient combined the General Assistance Program with the Township Food Assistance Center. Also, he hired a new aggressive administrator, Troy O'Quin, the General Assistance and Food Assistance Center Manager.

"We are here to serve the people in the 17 communities of this Township. Food and jobs are essential for all people. The Food Assistance Center and General Assistance Program needed an aggressive manager," said Supervisor Zuccarelli.

O'Quin believed that the Food Assistance Center served as the perfect opportunity to implement the Food Safety and Sanitation Certification Program.

Here are some startling statistics about Thornton Township's Food Assistance Center and the General Assistance Program. The Food Assistance Center is the largest food pantry outside of the Food Depository in Chicago.

The Township delivers food to over 1,400 homebound seniors per month. It serves over 1,200 households that come to the pantry each month. Also, it serves approximately 2,600 households equaling 7,800 people each month.

Moreover, during the Christmas season, the Food Assistance Center will serve an additional 9,000 units of food, over and above its normal distribution.

The General Assistance Program is a huge responsibility of the Township. O'Quin made innovative changes.

O'Quin explained, "The General Assistance Program's Annual Budget is over \$3 million. We have over 230 clients with 160 of them in our WorkFare Program and 70 awaiting disability payments."

Thornton Township is offering several programs to residents to improve their employment opportunities. O'Quin said, "Our programs include Food Safety and

Sanitation, Manufacturing Skills, and on-the-job training."

"Over 20 clients have received their state certified license. Moreover, we offer Fork Lift Certification. In a new partnership with South Suburban College, we have 12 clients that completed the Fork Lift Certification Program. One student received a job less than a week after the completion of the program," said O'Quin.

The Township offers on-the-job training through partnerships with area businesses like Salvation Army, Wingstop, FAABE Cupcakes, and Miniart. Thornton Township has successfully placed over 40 clients into full time positions since May 2015.

O'Quin believes that there is a demand for fork lift and manufacturing skilled jobs based on expansive intermodal areas in the Township.

"Our Manufacturing Skills Program is funded through the Community and Economic Development Association (CEDA)," said O'Quin. He further explains, "We were able to get our clients screened onsite by CEDA staff. The clients that were approved have begun a Manufacturing Skills Class at South Suburban College's Business and Career Institute."

"These innovative programs instituted by Supervisor Zuccarelli have positively impacted on the Township's General Assistance clients. Forty-one percent of the Township's General Assistance clients are enrolled in some phase of a combination of these programs," said O'Quin.

Additionally, the Township's General Equivalency Diploma Program (GED) that is offered through a partnership with South Suburban College has increased its enrollment.

The Township's programs have achieved great success with more than 32 General Assistance clients receiving licenses for Food Safety and Sanitation, or Fork Lift Certifications. More than 35 clients have been successfully placed in jobs and are currently working.

Supervisor Zuccarelli said, "Our General Assistance Office is in place to assist the economic growth of all the municipalities within our borders by providing a strong and vibrant workforce. I believe the changes we have made have impacted the Township's workforce."



2015 RECAP

On Saturday, August 22nd, Thornton Township hosted the annual Taste of Thornton Township. The free community event invited residents to come sample local food and craft vendors, bingo, free back-to-school haircuts, dancing and entertainment, kids' rides, and live music.

Dozens of young kids started their day with the Princess and Superhero Breakfast. Cinderella, Elsa, Jasmin, Tiana, Batman, and Spider-Man visited the children and posed for photos.

Live entertainment included the Thornton Township Youth Mexican Dancers, Tango Street Dance Studio, Free 2 Dance line dancing, the Chicago Boyz Acrobats, Michael Jackson tribute artist Rico, Nostalgia, Past Life, and headliner Harold Melvin's Blue Notes. The Taste MC was radio host Darryll King of WYCA 102.3 FM and WSRB 106.3 FM.

Supervisor Frank M. Zuccarelli spoke to the crowd on the importance of knowing your neighbors and improving the community. Supervisor Zuccarelli introduced all the local elected officials in attendance and encouraged residents to learn about candidates and get involved in local elections.

A special thank you to sponsors, Blueberry Field Pancake House & Restaurant, Burger King, Excel Printing & Mailing, Jimboos' Restaurant and Catering, Ma' Dear Home Services, Inc., MB Financial Bank, Mr. Submarine, Nicor Gas, Sam's Club, School District 205, and Walt's Food Centers for their support.



Summer Enrichment Program Visits the Food Assistance Center

Members of the Thornton Township Youth & Family Services Summer Enrichment Program visited the Food Assistance Center on Thursday, July 30th. General Assistance Manager Troy O'Quin informed the kids on the importance of the Food Assistance program, took them a tour of the facility, and gave them the opportunity to help prepare meal boxes for those in need in our community.

For more information on Youth & Family Services call **708-596-6040 ext 2000**. For more information on General Assistance call **708-596-6040 ext 3134**.



SPECIAL SERVICES

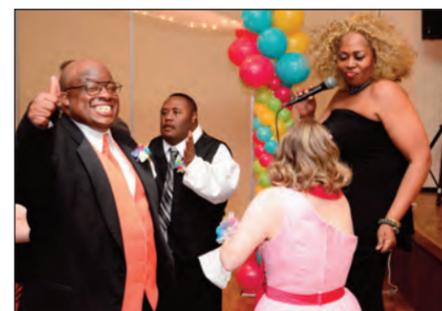
Special Dances

Thornton Township Special Services Department hosts a number of events each year and two recent ones were the Special Services Beach Party and Halloween Dance. Guests at both events enjoyed music, dancing and food.

At the Halloween Dance, a costume contest was judged by Thornton Township elected officials, and live entertainment by Rico Michael Jackson. For more information on Special Services please call **(708) 596-6040 ext 3164**.



The Thornton Township Special Services Department would like to thank everyone who made the Fairy Godmother project a success. Through the generous donations of St Andrew The Apostle Church of Calumet City parishioners, members of The Order Of Eastern Star Annette Moore Chapter #227, employees of Thornton Township, and the residents of Thornton Township, our special services clients received formal clothing for the Special Services Prom held at St. Michael's Serbian Social Center in Lansing.



iCan Dream

Students from the iCan Dream Center, located in Hazel Crest, took a tour of the Thornton Township Food Assistance Center on October 16th to learn how the General Assistance program serves the community. The iCan Dream Center offers teens safe, fun, faith-based and developmentally relevant programming and specializes in working with students with special needs.



GA Employee Service Day

The Thornton Township General Assistance Department participated in a unique opportunity to better serve and connect with residents receiving General Assistance. The entire department staff filled the roles usually assigned to clients in the Workfare program at the Food Assistance Center, located at 15340 Page Ave, Harvey, from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm on Wednesday, August 12th.

Thornton Township General Assistance staff prepared and served food boxes to clients as a way of showing gratitude and solidarity for the Workfare members' help. General Assistance Manager Troy O'Quin said of the event, "By doing this our General Assistance staff can gain a better appreciation for what our clients experience on a weekly basis."

ABC 7's 'Windy City LIVE' co-host Val Warner, along with her children Zoe and Max, stopped by to volunteer and learn more about Thornton Township General Assistance.



Low Income Home Energy Assistance Programs (LIHEAP)

Required Intake Documents:

- Proof of current 30-day gross income from all household members.
- Copy of most recent heat and electric bills if you pay for your home energy directly. (Must provide entire bill.)
- Proof of Social Security Numbers of all household members. (Hard-copy of Social Security cards, print-out from the Social Security Administration or any other form of government-issued identification showing both name and Social Security number.)
- If a member of your household receives TANF, you must bring their Medical Eligibility Card
- Applicants that have their utilities included in the rent must bring proof of rental agreement stating monthly rental amount, that utilities are included, and landlord contact information. (Rent costs must be greater than 30% of current household 30-day gross income.)

Additional Documentation Needed for Furnace Assistance:

- Proof of property ownership (one of the following):
- Current tax bill showing the property address and owner's full first and last name
- Mortgage billing statement or mortgage payment book including the front cover and payment coupon showing the property address and the owner's full name.
- Quit Claim Deed with recorded stamp by the County Court Recorder
- Vehicle title for mobile homeowners
- Building Owner Certification and Work Authorization Form

Regular Application Period

- December 1, 2015

INCOME GUIDELINES

Family Size	Gross Income for 30 days Prior to Application Date		
	LIHEAP	Share The Warmth	ComEd
1	\$1,471	\$1,962	\$2,452
2	\$1,991	\$2,655	\$3,319
3	\$2,511	\$3,348	\$4,185
4	\$3,031	\$4,042	\$5,052
5	\$3,551	\$4,735	\$5,919
6	\$4,071	\$5,248	\$6,785
7	\$4,591	\$6,122	\$7,652
8	\$5,111	\$6,815	\$8,519

Thornton Township Youth and Family Services Department

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

For students in grades 3rd – 8th

Registration is held at:
The Youth and Family Services Center
 14323 S. Halsted in Riverdale

Please bring a valid state ID or driver's license and a utility bill as proof of Township residency

A one-time fee of \$60 for events and incidentals is required at registration

Space is Limited!
 For more information call (708) 596-6040 Ext 2015

Also, if you are a dynamic educator with a minimum of a Bachelor's degree or a high school/college student who is planning to enter the field of education, you may qualify to work with the program.

- ✓ Homework help by qualified staff
- ✓ Physical activities including nutrition and fitness education
- ✓ Culinary arts instruction
- ✓ Hands-on mechanical training
- ✓ Junior Achievement Entrepreneurial Project – start a business, run it, and make money!
- ✓ College tours
- ✓ Career exposure
- ✓ Much more!

LIHEAP Locations

Thornton Township Hall 333 East 162nd St, South Holland
 Monday – Wednesday - 10am–3pm
 Thursday - 10am–6pm
 Friday - 10am–3pm

FOOD ASSISTANCE CENTER 15340 Page Ave, Harvey
 Monday/Tuesday - 10am–3pm
Wednesday – CLOSED for LIHEAP
 Thursday - 10am–6pm
 Friday - 10am–3pm
 1st and 3rd Saturdays only - 9am–1pm

Senior White Sox Game Trip

The Thornton Township Senior Services Department, through the generous ticket donation from the Chicago White Sox, was able to take some seniors out to the ballgame!

It was a chilly day for a game but the seniors enjoyed a 6-0 victory over the Cleveland Indians. For more information on upcoming events please call Senior Services at (708) 596-6040 Ext 3170.



Secretary of State Office Mobile Unit

Representatives from the Secretary of State Office were on-site at the Thornton Township Senior Center to help seniors prepare for driving examinations, administer vision tests, and acquire state ID cards. Check with Senior Services for the next scheduled Mobile Unit Day.



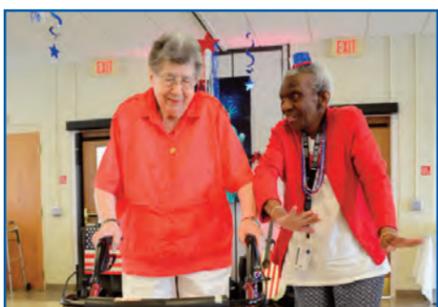
Derby Day

The Thornton Township Senior Services Department hosted a Senior Derby Party on Monday, May 18th. The horse racing themed party included a faux race bet, hat contest, and live music.



Patriotic Party

The Thornton Township Senior Services Department hosted a Senior Patriotic Party on Monday, July 6th. Live entertainment was provided by Johnny Grey.



Senior Volunteer Dinner

The Thornton Township Senior Services Department, Supervisor Frank M. Zuccarelli, and the rest of the Thornton Township family would like to thank all of the volunteers who have helped to make our Senior Services Department more successful.





Senior_{RX}



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_{TRANSPORTATION}

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, January 19, 2016
Wednesday, January 20, 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
\$1 is used to purchase refreshments and \$2 goes towards prizes

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**

NEW YEAR'S SENIOR PARTY

**Monday, December 28, 2015
11:00 am - 3:00 pm**

\$15 per person for Township residents
\$20 for out-of-township guests

Lunch will be served!

Entertainment by Lisa Starr!

**No tickets will be sold after December 21st
or sold at the door**

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

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

Highway Department

With the funding assistance of Cook County Commissioners Stanley Moore and Deborah Sims, Thornton Township roads in Calumet City, Lansing, and Dolton were repaved. Highway Commissioner Geary DePue and his staff were also able to fill a dangerous open drainage ditch.



Cook County Commissioners Stanley Moore - 4th District, Deborah Sims - 5th District, and Supervisor Frank M. Zuccarelli.



Highway Commissioner Geary Depue and Cook County Superintendent of Transportation Highways John Yonan.



Mike Pelaquin, Eddie Cope and Highway Commissioner Geary DePue.

2015 JOB FAIR RECAP

Thornton Township in partnership with South Suburban College held the annual Community Job Fair on Tuesday May 19th at the South Suburban College Fitness Center. Co-sponsors included Congresswoman Robin Kelly, City of Calumet City, Village of Riverdale, Village of Phoenix, and the Village of South Holland.

Over 30 employers were on-site to meet the hundreds of job seekers in attendance.

This year a new program was initiated to help Thornton Township General Assistance clients be better prepared for seeking employment. Over 100 clients were provided 'interview ready' clothing and resume writing assistance in preparation for the Job Fair.



MEMORIAL & LABOR DAY PARADES

Thornton Township participated in the Memorial Day and Labor Day parades in South Holland and Thornton. Elected officials, employees, volunteers, and more marched with the Thornton Township float.





Thornton Township Established 1850

Thornton Township Holiday Dinner

Please Join Us!
Saturday, December 5th, 2015
 12:00pm - 4:00pm
 Doors Open at 11:30am

South Suburban College
Fitness Center
 15800 S. State St.
 South Holland, IL




Thornton Township and Supervisor Frank M. Zuccarelli continue to provide a social service safety net to all seventeen municipalities that encompass Thornton Township. For more information, call 708-596-6040 ext 3168



Spirit of Thornton Township

Join Thornton Township as we welcome Santa and light the Holiday Trees that represent each municipality in Thornton Township

Saturday, November 28th, 2015

333 E. 162nd St.,
 South Holland

Enjoy hot chocolate, cookies, horse and sleigh rides and a special visit and gift from Santa!

Doors Open at 5:30pm
 Tree Lighting at 6pm



Save the Date

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration

Monday, January 18th, 2016
 South Suburban College Kindig Performing Arts Center
 15800 State St, South Holland, IL 60473



THORNTON TOWNSHIP CELEBRATES Hispanic Heritage Month

Thornton Township and the Human Relations Commission celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month on Saturday, September 26th. The event honored community advocate Jose L. Gonzales with the 2nd annual Premio Cuauhtemoc award. The guest speaker was Chair of the Illinois Human Rights Commission Rose Mary Bombela-Tobias

Entertainment was provided by the Thornton Township Mexican Folklore Dance Group, The Holy Cross/IHM Marimba Ensemble, and Magician Christopher George. For more information on the Human Relations Commission please call **708-596-6040 ext 3168**



Thornton Township Mexican Folklore Dance Group.



The Holy Cross - IHM Marimba Ensemble.



Supervisor Frank M. Zuccarelli presents Jose L. Gonzales with the 2nd annual Premio Cuauhtemoc Award.



HRC members Joyce M Washington, Evanne Carvlin, and Sonia Gutierrez.



Guest speaker Chair of the Illinois Human Rights Commission Rose Mary Bombela-Tobias.



Thornton Township Mexican Folklore Dance Group.

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 and signing the petition.

Thank You,

Frank M. Zuccarelli

Frank M. Zuccarelli
Thornton Township Supervisor

