

# FOCUS

MAY 2015

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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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### FROM THE SUPERVISOR



Recently, I attended the Gift of Hope Organ & Tissue Donor Network announcement of the Mayors For Hope Conference, a coalition of South Suburban Mayors. The coalition addressed the need to support organ donor programs. Also in attendance was Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White and Congresswoman Robin Kelly.

I was invited to the Conference by Jack Lynch, Director of Community Affairs, Gift of Hope Organ & Tissue Donor Network; and Monica Fox, Advocate For Hope.

During the event, Secretary White observed that African Americans made up nearly 13% of the state population, but represented better than 48% of the patients waiting for a kidney transplant. He also pointed out that adding in Hispanics increases the number to over 60%, yet these two groups make up only 20% of organ or tissue donors.

There are more than 123,000 people waiting for an organ transplant and nearly 3,000 people are added to the list every month. Better than 15% of these are kids under 18 years of age. Approximately 17 people die every day waiting for a transplant.

African Americans are in need of organs more than any other race because they are at increased risk from a number of diseases like diabetes, hypertension and heart disease.

Monica Fox is a 50 year old Thornton Township resident who joined us for the event. She is among the African Americans waiting for a kidney transplant. Thousands of patients are waiting ahead of her and she faces a 5 to 7 year wait which won't be possible.

I personally went through kidney failure, survived on dialysis for several years while waiting for a kidney transplant that finally came in 2013. I never thought I'd be able to get a kidney. But thanks to a young man who was a donor, I received one and have gotten progressively better. I want to give back and do more. That's why I'm asking everyone to become an organ and tissue donor.

After the transplant of a vital organ, the survival rate is over 80%. Only 20% survive without the surgery.

Please, everyone reading this – especially our neighbors in the African American and Hispanic communities – become an organ donor, now, today.

The gift of life is the most amazing gift anyone can give. God gave each of us that gift.

Through organ donation, each of us can pass his blessing of life along to someone.

All that you have to do is contact your doctor or sign up at any of the Secretary of State's DMV centers. Or, you can go to the state's Organ and Tissue Donor Registry at [www.LifeGoesOn.com](http://www.LifeGoesOn.com). It takes only one minute to sign up and every person that does can give the gift of life to 25 others.

Sincerely,

**Frank M. Zuccarelli**  
Thornton Township Supervisor



Pictured left to right: Jack Lynch, Gift of Hope Director of Community Affairs; guest of IL Secretary of State Jesse White; Thornton Township Trustee Gerald "Jerry" Jones; IL Secretary of State Jesse White; Frank M. Zuccarelli, Supervisor Thornton Township; Janet Rogers, President - Board of Education, Harvey School District 152; Tyrone Rogers, Member - Board of Education, Harvey School District 152; and Stafford Owens, Thornton Township Trustee.



Frank M. Zuccarelli, Supervisor Thornton Township and Monica Fox address the audience at Mayors For Hope Conference.



## Upcoming Board Meetings

- Tuesday May 12, 2015
- Tuesday May 26, 2015
- Tuesday June 16, 2015

### The Township buildings will be closed:

- Memorial Day – Monday May 25, 2015
- Independence Day – Friday July 3, 2015

### 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



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.

**Robert "Bob" Piekarski,**  
Highway Commissioner

**Frank M. Zuccarelli,** Supervisor

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## CLERK'S CORNER: JACQUELINE E. DAVIS-RIVERA



As the weather warms up and you begin to plan your outdoor activities, just a friendly reminder that you may purchase Fishing and Hunting Licenses and Fishing and Hunting Stamps in our office. We have pamphlets on summer activities; we have official highway maps and Pace bus schedules in our office.

You may also register to vote, obtain a Handicap Parking Placard Application, and if you live in the unincorporated areas of the Township, you can purchase your Cook County Vehicle Sticker in our office.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support by volunteering, your attendance at our Annual Town Meeting, our Senior Luncheons/Dinners and various Township events. We are happy to provide an opportunity for Seniors and the residents of Thornton Township to come out and have a good time. We are looking forward to seeing you at the Days in the Park Picnics.

If you have any questions, or if we may be of any service to you, please contact my office at **(708) 596-6040 ext 3123 or 3118**.

## ASSESSOR'S OFFICE: CASSANDRA HOLBERT



Last month our office was faced with a scare regarding an **"URGENT LEGISLATIVE ALERT."** Amendment 1 to Senate Bill 1430 was set to "discontinue all offices of the township assessor in the county and the county supervisor of assessments or county assessor shall assume the duties of township assessor." With less than two days' notice our entire department was at risk of being eliminated. How would this impact the residents of Thornton Township?

### Here is a small list of the types of residents affected:

- Daily walk-ins
- Those who are totally perplexed by their real estate tax bills
- Residents are virtually being "taxed out" of their homes or businesses
- Homeowners who are not receiving any exemptions, yet live on their property as their principal residence
- Senior citizens who may be entitled to senior tax exemptions
- Residents with disabilities who may be entitled to tax exemptions
- Returning veterans and veterans with disabilities who may be entitled to tax exemptions

We are also able to assist residents in filling out their property tax appeal forms for the Cook County Assessor Appeals as well as the Cook County Board of Review Appeal process.

### Nearly every category of service has seen increased numbers since this time last year. For example:

- Walk-ins increased 60%
- Exemptions increased 10%
- Certificate of Errors increased 127%
- Owner Occupancy Affidavits increased 123%
- Name and Address Changed increased 30%
- Assistance with Cook County Board of Review appeals increased 32%
- Coordinated Outreach with the Cook County Board of Review reached over 820 residents
- Outreach at Thornton Township senior luncheons reached over 900 seniors

There is much more that we are able to do at a township level, aside from the above mentioned, and the thought of taking any of this away from our taxpayers sickened us all!

Our heartfelt thank you to all the residents who opposed this amendment with calls and letters to Springfield, signed and circulated petitions, and offered to disseminate information in favor of keeping the Township level of the Assessor's Offices open.

Thank you for continuing to believe in me, in us, and in what/who we represent... which is ALL OF YOU!

Our office hours are Monday through Friday, from 9:00 am until 4:00 pm, with exception of legal holidays. Please feel free to stop in during these hours if you wish, an appointment is not required. If you have further questions, the phone number to reach us is **(708) 596-6040, extension 3175**.

## IN MEMORIAM



Jo H. Merlo

The Supervisor, Clerk, Trustees, Elected Officials, and Employees of Thornton Township would like to express our sincere sympathy to the family and friends of Jo H. Merlo.

Jo H. Merlo, age 84, of Lansing, IL formerly of Calumet City, IL, passed away Tuesday, April 14, 2015.

If you've ever visited St. Victor's Catholic Church located in Calumet City, chances are you met Jo Merlo. Jo, was one of three children born to Santo and Elvira who both emigrated from Italy. As a life long resident of the South Suburbs, Jo has been a parishioner of St. Victor's for over 75 years, working as an usher, greeter and recruiter for the Italian Catholic Federation. Jo's parents taught Jo and her two (2) brothers that love and importance of family always came first. Jo graduated from Thornton Fractional North High School and later attended Patricia Vance Modeling School as well as Chicago College of Commerce and Industry.

Jo did not believe that her continual community volunteering and tireless work for St. Victor was anything special. After all hospitality is the first sign of Christianity. Her devotion came easy; Jo was a strong leader with many relationships in the church and in the community. She was instrumental in transforming Branch 195 of the Italian Catholic Federation to include all different ethnicities – to be truly inclusive.

One of the greatest acknowledgments of Jo's participation in the church was when she received the coveted "Christifideles" award in 2006. The Christifideles (Christ's faithful people) award recognizes and honors Lay people in the Catholic Church that have shown a very personal relationship with Jesus Christ that goes beyond what most people exhibit. If you had asked Jo if she deserved the Thornton Township 2015 Women of Honor Award, she would have strongly disagreed. After all she only did what she learned early in life - work hard, help people everyday in any way that you can because that's what makes a life worth living.

# A Safety Advisory

## for Senior Citizens in Thornton Township



Senior residents who are utilizing Thornton Township's ZAP (Zuccarelli Assistance Program) senior lawn care service are advised to watch out for scammers and thieves posing as ZAP members. When someone comes to your door claiming to be with ZAP remember...

- Look for the Thornton Township emblem on the doors of the white pick-up trucks. Trucks will always be parked in the driveway or in front of the residence.
- Be sure the crew is wearing official **forest green** Thornton Township shirts and hats.
- ZAP members will NEVER ask for payment at the door.
- A ZAP crew will provide lawn service even if no one is home. **WHEN IN DOUBT, DO NOT ANSWER THE DOOR.**

For more information, questions, and feedback on the ZAP lawn care program please call **(708) 596-6040 ext. 4016**.





**Thornton Township Food Pantry**

# Serving Up Help & Hope

The green trimmed building sitting next to Ingalls Hospital in Harvey was a flurry of activity, with boxes being loaded into cars pulling up to the drive-through. The building at 15340 Page Ave. houses the offices and warehouse for Thornton Township's Food and General Assistance Center. It is the place where people in need can go to pick up groceries that will help them get through the upcoming month. The township has operated out of the facility for nearly a decade, and has recently built a new addition to improve service to residents. The new addition will help make the food pantry more efficient as well as provide space to counsel and assist the township's general assistance clients.



Troy O'Quin is the new manager of the township's General Assistance Program as well as the Food Pantry. The Food Pantry helps thousands of local residents each month — some who pick up a box of food at the Harvey location, as well as house-bound seniors who receive a food delivery to their home. Troy is a former pastor in the area who now is ministering to people on both a physical and spiritual level. Troy remarked, "Our goal at the Town-



**Troy O'Quin—manager of the township food pantry.**

ship is to provide a helping hand to immediate needs, but also to move our General Assistance clients into full time employment. To that end, the new addition will help us provide the same services in Harvey – just like we do in South Holland." Partners who provide food to the pantry include the Greater Chicago Food Depository, Rosebud Farm, Aunt Millie's Bakery and Panera Bread. Healthy food is provided such as fresh produce, canned goods, pasta—and frozen meat such as chicken and sausage. The recipients of the food boxes all pitch in to help the operation of the food pantry with a program called 'Workfare.' This gives residents an opportunity to build their job skills, as well as gain experience that can be added to their employment resumes.

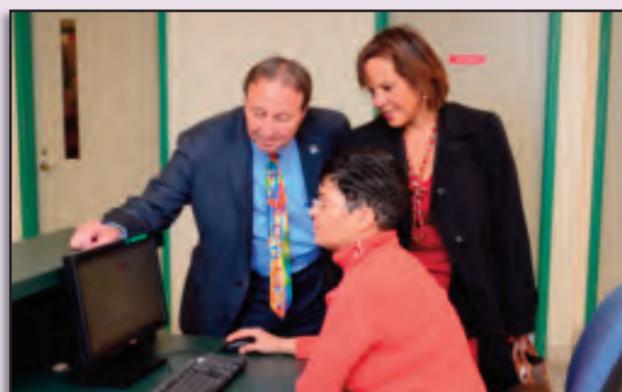
People who are eligible for help from the pantry must be residents of the 17 municipalities that comprise Thornton Township and must qualify for government aid.

Frank Zuccarelli was on hand the day I visited, as was US Congresswoman Robin Kelly. Frank remarked, "We couldn't provide the services we do without the support of our friends like Congresswoman Kelly and State Senator Donne Trotter. They both have the best interest of Thornton Township at heart because they see that we are making a real difference in the lives of those who may be struggling with daily life." Frank went on to say that the Township has recently gone through a strategic planning process which will result in lower administration costs. This 'Lean' process is that same one that successful private businesses are utilizing to continue their competitive advantage in a challenging fiscal environment. Early retirement as well as a new leaner organization chart will help the township be proactive in the event of lower grant dollars and reduced state funding in the future.



**Congresswoman Robin Kelly with Supervisor Zuccarelli and Trustee Jerry Jones observe the food pantry operation at the Harvey facility.**

Lower spending on administration expenses will also allow for more funds to be directed to General Assistance clients – as well as other front-line programs such as job-search assistance. "In the future, we will continue to serve the residents of the 17 communities that make up Thornton Township"



**Supervisor Zuccarelli and Congresswoman Kelly observe as township resident Angela Glass searches for online job openings.**

Frank remarked, "and we will continue to provide the things that make a real difference in people's lives."

*Article reprinted with permission of Arlo Kallemeyn*

## A Special Thank You

When members of St. Christina Catholic Parish of Mt. Greenwood in Chicago discovered the Saint Louis Bread Company, now known as Panera Bread, donated unsold bread to charitable organizations they saw an opportunity to help others in the community. A 'Bread Committee' was formed and for over 20 years volunteers have delivered the unsold bread to shelters and food pantries in Chicago and the suburbs.

Steve Lestinski has been delivering bread weekly to the Thornton Township Food Assistance Center since retiring in 2000. "I meet a lot of nice people," Lestinski said. "We all volunteer and we all love it. It's rewarding."

For more information on the Food Assistance Center please call **708-596-6040, ext 3180**. For more information and how you can help St. Christina's bread delivery call Jim Simon at **773-238-7475**.



**Steve Lestinski delivers two overflowing carts worth of bread to the Thornton Township Food Assistance Center in Harvey.**

**Look for the Thornton Township float in these upcoming parades...**

**South Holland Memorial Day Parade**  
May 25th

**Thornton Memorial Day Parade**  
May 25th

**Harvey Independence Day Parade**  
July 4th

# Save The Date



**Saturday, August 22, 2015**  
**9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.**



Featuring

**HAROLD MELVINS**  
**BLUE NOTES**

Thornton Township  
 333 East 162nd Street  
 South Holland, IL 60473

Please Bring Lawn Chairs

## Thornton Township & South Suburban College Community

# JOB FAIR 2015



**Tuesday, May 19th**  
**10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

South Suburban College Fitness Center  
 15800 South State Street, South Holland, Illinois  
[www.ssc.edu](http://www.ssc.edu)

Co-Sponsored by  
 Congresswoman Robin Kelly and:



Calumet City  
 Mayor Michelle Markiewicz Qualkinbush



Village of Phoenix  
 Mayor Terry R. Wells



Village of Riverdale  
 Village President Lawrence L. Jackson



Village of South Holland  
 Village President Don A. De Graff

For Information Call:

Maryland Eggleston  
 708-596-2000, ext. 2391  
[meggleston@ssc.edu](mailto:meggleston@ssc.edu)

### Employers that will be in attendance:

- Abcor Home Health, Inc.
- Bank Financial
- BMO Harris Bank
- Chicago Transit Authority
- Child Care Careers
- Children's Habilitation Center
- Countryside Nursing & Rehab Center
- Covenant Daycare Center
- Davis Staffing
- Dollar Tree Distribution Center
- Dolton School District 149
- First Merchants Bank
- FP International
- Homewood Police Department
- Illinois Central School Bus
- Illinois Dept. of Employment Security
- Illinois Tollway
- In Home Personal Services, Inc.
- Indiana Tech
- Kickert School Bus Lines
- Manor Care Health Services
- Michaels Distribution Center
- Monterrey Security
- New Hope Center, Inc.
- Primerica
- Providence Palos Heights
- Reliable Health Care Service
- Rimland Services
- Shay Health Care Services
- Smiling Faces Childcare
- TCF Bank
- Two Men and a Truck
- UPS



**Job Fair 2015 is Accessible to Persons With Disabilities**



Job seekers should bring copies of their resume and dress appropriately.



## LOOKING FOR A SUMMER PROGRAM?

Come and participate in Thornton Township's **Summer Enrichment Program**

For Thornton Township Residents Ages 9-13 years old

### TO ENROLL

- You must **MAKE AN APPOINTMENT** by calling (708) 596-6040 ext. 2015
- Appointment will be at 14323 S. Halsted in Riverdale, IL
- \$40 fee due at time of enrollment cash please

(fee includes t-shirt & outings costs)

### PROGRAM SETUP

Monday – Thursday  
 9AM – 3PM Tentative

**Dates:**  
 June 15, 2015 – August 6, 2015

**Component Types:**  
 Scholastic • Social • Leisure • Physical

### WHEN ENROLLING YOU MUST HAVE

- Parent/Legal guardian • Child • Utility bill (proof of residency)
- State ID/Driver's License • Social Security card • \$40 cash

**Space is limited!**  
**First come - first served!**



# Writing An Effective Resume

## ALWAYS

- Always print your resume on standard letter size, white paper.
- Always leave plenty of space between paragraphs adequate margins.
- Always use conventional English. Use one- or two-syllable word for clarity.
- Always use short paragraphs — preferably no longer than five lines.
- Always make sure the resume and the cover letter are error-free. Proofread and have others proof read too.
- Always revise a resume to fit the specific position for which you are applying.
- Always include your significant contributions at each one of your jobs.
- Always allow the most space to the work experience that is most relevant to the position for which you are applying.
- Always list your activities with professional, trade and civic associations — but only if they are appropriate.
- Always keep a permanent file of your achievements, no matter how inconsequential. This is the basis for a good resume, and is essential information to negotiate a raise or promotion.
- Always give each of your references a copy of your resume.
- Always send a brief, customized letter with each resume.
- Always re-read your resume before every interview, chances are the interviewer did just that too.
- Always keep it short (one page).
- Always list any special training you may have had.

## NEVER

- Never give reasons for termination or leaving a job on the resume. You're far better off explaining it in person.
- Never take more than two lines to list hobbies, sports and social activities.
- Never state, "References Available On Request." It's assumed and clutters up the resume. Other things to leave out include your social security number, your spouse's occupation and your personal philosophies.
- Never use exact dates. Months and years are sufficient.
- Never include your company phone number unless your immediate boss is aware of your departure.
- Never include your height, weight or remarks about your physical appearance or health.
- Never list your high school or grammar school if you're a college graduate.
- Never state your objectives on your resume unless the resume is targeted to that position or occupation.
- Never use professional jargon or buzz words.
- Never provide salary information on the resume.
- Never lie.

# Dress for Success

The moment we set eyes on someone, our minds quickly make an evaluation or judgment. The same is true for the potential employers who must assess applicants in a very short period of time. Like it or not, your outward image, your attitude and your confidence level are all affected by the clothes you wear. The proper image at an interview will give you a real edge over the competition.

The safest look for both men and women at an interview is traditional and conservative. Dress for the position you want, not the one you have. Remember, you must feel comfortable in what you wear in order to present a confident image.

## Guidelines for men:

- a two-piece suit is preferable;
- suit colors should be navy through medium blue or charcoal through light gray;
- always wear a long-sleeve shirt that is white, cream or pale-blue;
- the tie should complement your suit;
- shoes should be either black or brown leather.

## Guidelines for women:

- jackets should be well-tailored and stylish;
- skirts should fall at or no more than 2 inches above the knee;
- blouses should be long-sleeve (solid colored);
- the color of your shoes should always be the same or a darker tone than your skirt;
- keep an extra pair of pantihose in your purse;
- an excellent accessory for women is a briefcase as a symbol of authority;
- belts should match or complement the shoes you select;
- as far as jewelry goes... less is more.

## The Successfully Dressed Man



## The Successfully Dressed Woman



# Interviewing Rules of Thumb

Here are some "thumbs up" tips on doing your best when interviewing with company representatives.

- Be honest! You will be in better shape with employers who want you for what you can bring them and who you are.
- Be yourself! Use your own words and style when preparing your interview answers. A good bit of self confidence comes from being yourself.
- Have well-practiced opening and closing statements for the interview. Remember this quote, "People remember best what they hear and see first and last." Your job is to make sure that the interviewer remembers you and only you.
- If asked a complex interview question, break it into smaller parts. By doing this you will be able to answer each of the single parts much easier than you would the entire question. Make your brain and mouth work together.
- Never talk about money until you receive a job offer. Once you get an offer, you know the employer wants you. This will give you the leverage to negotiate for a better salary and benefits.
- Prove you can do the work by giving a few examples of when you have used skills similar to the ones needed in the job. Examples of your skills can eliminate the interviewers hiring risk.
- Stress reliability and flexibility. Tell the interviewer that you are willing to work on any shift, including week ends, holidays and overtime... but be ready to do it!
- Research the company. Never go into an interview without knowing a little about the company, its products and the general demands of the job. Employers appreciate people who have spent some time learning about their company.
- Talk about your successes, results and achievements. An interview isn't the place for false modesty. If you won't talk about your success, the employer will never know about it. If you can prove it, it's not bragging but rather a fact.



# Fairy Godmother Project

The Thornton Township Special Services Department will be having a Prom on Friday, May 22, 2015 for residents with developmental disabilities. This is a full blown formal event with approximately 200 attendees.

The clients are in a wide range of sizes and are between 25-75 years old. They reside in local group homes throughout the Township. If you do not have anything, perhaps you can go to a thrift store and purchase items. Please help the Township get the word out to your friends and family about this worthy project. Any items that you can donate would be greatly appreciated. We will need these items by May 15th.

If you are planning to clean out your closets and have formal wear (purses, dresses, pantsuits, jewelry, shoes, suits, ties and shirts) and would like to put a smile on a person's face, please contact:

Beverly Tomczak  
Thornton Township Special Services Department  
**708-596-6040, ext. 3161**  
bromanek@thorntontwp.com



## 30th Annual Hunger Walk

June 20, 2015

The Thornton Township Food Assistance Program will be participating in the Greater Chicago Food Depository 30th Annual Hunger Walk on June 20, 2015 at Soldier Field in Chicago.

If Thornton Township residents want to walk with us, they can contact us at **708-596-6040 ext. 4003** and leave a message stating that they are interested in participating. We will return their call to register them. We have room for 80

and space is on a first come first serve basis. Registration deadline to participate with Thornton Township is May 21st. Buses will depart at 6:00 am from the main Township building and return by 2:00 pm.



Saturday, June 27, 2015  
Thornton Fractional North High School  
Calumet City

## Fight the Battle Against Cancer

Thornton Township Supervisor Frank M. Zuccarelli actively supports the Relay for Life at Thornton Fractional North in Calumet City.

The Relay for Life is the main fundraising event benefiting the American Cancer Society. What is a Relay For Life? It is an overnight "Relay-type of walk" where teams come out and take turns walking throughout the night to bring awareness that Cancer Never Sleeps.

The Relay for Life is a great event for those of all ages who have gone through the fight, a chance to inspire others, a wonderful support system for families and caregivers, and an outlet to meet others who understand what it is to be touched by cancer. No matter who you are, there's a place for you at Relay. Each dollar raised, helps save lives. We need to find a cure during our lifetime.

For more information about Thornton Township's Relay Team contact Brunu' Sheppard at **708/596-6040 ext 3142**.

## EMPLOYEE



## SPOTLIGHT

### Donna Vinegar: Thornton Township Intern



Donna Vinegar is a Graduate student at Trinity Christian College and a current counseling intern with the Youth & Family Services Department. We sat down with Donna to ask about her experience counseling residents in Thornton Township.

*FOCUS: What led you into counseling?*

**Vinegar:** A friend had mentioned wanting to see a relationship counselor. I became interested in observing how people interact.

*FOCUS: What kinds of counseling do you perform?*

**Vinegar:** Primarily family counseling. I have also studied substance abuse, education, and career counseling.

*FOCUS: Were there any unique challenges to counseling in Thornton Township?*

**Vinegar:** Counseling youth can be challenging. Parents have to bring them to their sessions and it can be tough getting parents involved. Some of the sessions are court mandated. Much of our outreach is by word of mouth, through friends and family. It's been a great experience though.

*FOCUS: What was the biggest take-away from counseling in Thornton Township?*

**Vinegar:** This internship solidified my area of practice. I know I want to work in a community, something bigger than myself, more than just private practice. Being a part of community involvement with things like the Taste of Thornton Township, the Days in the Park, etc.

*FOCUS: What is your advice or recommendation to individuals that may be considering counseling?*

**Vinegar:** Counseling is not about what an individual is lacking or has wrong. It's about helping individuals grow and interact with others and know themselves better.

*FOCUS: What would you say to individuals that believe counseling is only for 'crazy people'?*

**Vinegar:** Again, counseling is for individual growth. It's having an objective, unbiased person to talk to. Someone to help connect the dots of events in their past and how it relates to their lives now. Even counselors sometimes need counseling.

For more information on counseling and other Youth and Family Services programs please call **708-596-6040, ext. 2000**.



## CPR and First Aid Classes

Tom Dukups of American Safety CPR and Safety Training, authorized training partner of the American Heart Association, teaches a CPR class at Thornton Township.

CPR and First Aid classes are held at Thornton Township Hall every 3rd Wednesday of each month from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

The fee for Township residents:  
\$35 for CPR training \$20 for First Aid training.

The fee for out-of-Township residents:  
\$45 for CPR training \$30 for First Aid training.

For more information call **(708) 596-6040 ext 3170**.



# Women's History Month

Thornton Township and the Human Relations Commission hosted a Women's History Month luncheon on March 21st to honor women in the community.

Supervisor Zuccarelli said, "We are honored to host the Women of Honor Brunch. The contributions of women in Thornton Township and throughout Illinois must be acknowledged. The outstanding awardees deserve this and more. Our committee has done an outstanding job."

Thornton Township Trustee Joyce Washington, the Event Chairman said, "The affair highlights the accomplishments and contributions women have made to society and Thornton Township. In the past, we have honored Cook County Circuit Court Clerk Dorothy Brown, Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez, and Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle." Trustee Washington further stated, "In the future, we plan to have men participate more in our program. However, only women will receive awards. The Township has hosted the Women's Month Celebration for at least 10 years."

Thornton Township honored four women for their contributions to history and society. The Women of Honor Awardees are Nina Graham, Retired Educator Harvey/Dixmoor, School District 147; LaDonna Tittle, Radio Personality, Television Host and Producer; Jo H. Merlo, Past President of Branch 195

Italian Catholic Federation; and the Late Honorable Judy Baar Topinka, former Comptroller of Illinois.

"Lots of hours were spent preparing for this event. We had a turnout of more than 200 people. The organizers for this affair worked daily for weeks to ensure that the Township was well represented," stated Trustee Washington.

Also receiving an award was Nina Graham. Ms. Graham has been a Thornton Township resident for 33 years and is a member of Covenant United Church in South Holland. While completing her degree at Governors State University, she worked as a teacher intern at Coolidge Junior High School in Phoenix, District 151. Nina worked as a substitute teacher at Emerson Grammar School located in Harvey School District 152 before becoming a full-time science teacher in West Harvey/Dixmoor School District 147. Nina was employed in School District 147 for 33 years and retired in 2011. In 1999, she was elected to the South Holland School District 150 Board of Education where she continues to serve.

Trustee Washington said, "Women's History Month is very important to me because sometimes women are overlooked. We have women from all walks of life that have made significant contributions in education, politics, and business."

Also, selected as an Awardee was LaDonna Tittle. Radio personality LaDonna Tittle was born in Chicago. She attended Dunbar Vocational High School in Chicago, graduating in 1964. She then attended Chicago State University, graduating in 1971 with a Bachelor of Science in art and drama, with a minor in journalism.

Starting in the late 1960's to the present, LaDonna has made a name for herself not just on the airwaves of Chicago but also as a model and an actress. She has done voiceover work in commercials for fortune 500 companies like Kraft, Ameritech and Crisco Oil. LaDonna has acted in various religious and secular plays in Chicago, including productions for the city's Goodman and Steppenwolf theaters.

Life-long resident of the South Suburbs, Jo H. Merlo also received an award. Jo has been a parishioner of St. Victor's for over 75 years, working as an usher, greeter and recruiter for the Italian Catholic Federation. She graduated from Thornton Fractional North High School and later attended Patricia Vance Modeling School as well as Chicago College of Commerce and Industry.

Lastly, one of the most prominent Awardees was Judy Baar Topinka, former Illinois State Comptroller. Her son, Joseph Topinka represented her. She was originally

a journalist, but entered politics in 1981. Judy was born to Czech and Slovak immigrants and was raised by parents who instilled a strong sense of love for America, their new country. Judy received a Bachelor of Science degree in journalism from Northwestern University. After graduating from Northwestern University, Judy became a reporter for several suburban Chicago newspapers, eventually becoming an editor. Judy started a public relations business, through which she began a career in consulting for various political candidates.

Judy decided to enter into the political arena and officially started her political career in the Illinois House of Representatives, serving from 1981 – 1985. In 1985, she won a seat in the Illinois Senate where she served until 1995. She served as the Illinois State Treasurer for three terms from 1995-2007, and was the first woman to become State Treasurer. Judy was re-elected to a second four-year term in November 2014, but died of a stroke in December 2014.

Trustee Washington has been a member of the Thornton Township Board of Trustees for the past 18 years. Happily, she talked about her granddaughter expecting to have a baby in the upcoming months. The Trustee said, "I am about to become a great grandmother. I am very excited."



This year's honorees are presented by Trustee Joyce M. Washington (left) and Thornton Township Supervisor Frank M. Zuccarelli (right).



The Dolton Girl Scout Troop was on hand to begin proceedings for this year's Women of Honor celebration.



Honoree LaDonna Tittle



Honoree Jo H. Merlo



Honoree Nina Graham



The late Judy Baar Topinka's award was accepted on her behalf by her son Joseph.

## Veterans Assistance Still Available

Thornton Township still has funds available to assist veterans and their families with a wide variety of financial needs including utility bills, rental and mortgage assistance, home repairs and work or job search related expenses.

Veterans who are foster parents or who are caregivers for their grandchildren are also eligible to apply for this assistance. Apply NOW. Funds will be available through June 2015.

Contact Terry Wells Jr. at **708 596 6040 ext 2020**.



## SeniorRX



### 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.



## SeniorTRANSPORTATION

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**  
May 19th and 20th  
June 16th and 17th  
July 21st and 17th  
August 18th and 19th

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**

**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**



**PIÑATA NIGHT**

**Thursday, June 11th, 2015  
5:00 pm – 9:00 pm**

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



**PATRIOTIC PARTY**

**Monday, July 6th, 2015  
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*



**Far Away Places**

**Thursday, August 13, 2015  
5:00 pm – 9:00 pm**

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



There's an old saying, "Youth is wasted on the wrong people." Well take one look around at Thornton Township's senior citizens and you'll realize that you really are as young as you feel. Thornton Township Senior Services has many different activities throughout the year, but they really know how to throw a party! Just take a look at the photos below and you might wish to be young again – *just to get some rest!*

# Holiday Party



# New Year's Eve Party



# Valentine's Day Party



# St. Patrick's Day Party



# Spring Is Sprung



# SPECIAL SERVICES



## HOLIDAY DANCE

Not to be outdone, Thornton Township Special Services threw a few parties of their own.

A Holiday Dance and St. Patrick's Day Shamrock Shuffle are just a couple of examples of the type of activities offered by Thornton Township.



## SHAMROCK SHUFFLE



# HOLIDAY HAPPININGS



## Holiday Dinner

## Tree Lighting



## Toy Drive



Even though we are well into 2015, we wanted to remember all the wonderful things that were done for Thornton Township during the holidays last year. From serving 1,500 hot cooked meals at the South Suburban College Fitness Center, to our Christmas Toy Drive, to our 15th Annual Spirit of Thornton Township Tree Lighting Ceremony — the residents of Thornton Township continue to be a source of inspiration and generosity.



# Working The Dream

## A Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration

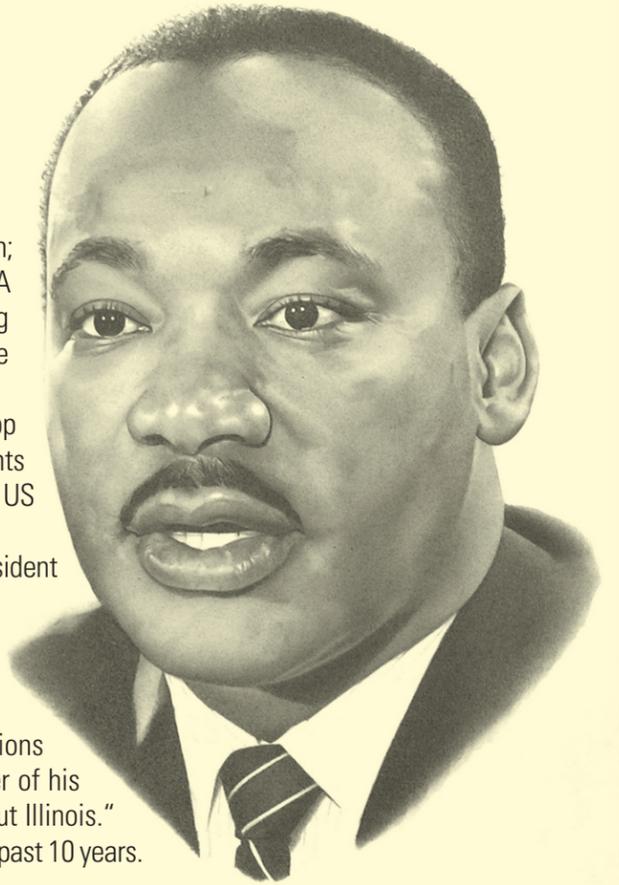
On January 19, 2015, Frank M. Zuccarelli, Supervisor and the Thornton Township Human Relations Commission; South Suburban College and Thornton Township High School District 205 hosted "Working The Dream" – A Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration (MLK). The celebration was held at the South Suburban College – Kindig Performing Arts Center, located at 15800 South State Street, South Holland, IL. Doors opened at 9:00 am, and the program lasted from 10:00 am - 12:00 Noon. Admission and refreshments were free.

Township Supervisor Zuccarelli said, "The planning of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration is a top priority for Thornton Township. Dr. King was a great pastor, activist, humanitarian and leader of the Civil Rights Movement. One of the greatest moments in our country was in 1986 when Martin Luther King Day became a US federal holiday."

Also, representing South Suburban College and serving as a speaker for this affair was Mr. Don Manning, President of South Suburban College.

The Keynote Speaker was Pastor Ferlander N. Lewis. He is the Senior Pastor of New Mount Olive MBC. Pastor Lewis began preaching in 1979 and has been the pastor for the New Mount Olive Baptist Church of Harvey, IL for 25 years. The New Mount Olive MBC has more than 2,500 parishioners.

Ms. Loretta Wells, MLK Event Planning Committee Chairperson and Thornton Township Human Relations Commission Member commented, "Coordinating the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration was a reminder of his legacy and hopefully the event was an inspiration to all of Thornton Township residents and others throughout Illinois." She has been the MLK Event Chairperson for the past 4 years. The MLK Celebration has been held for at least the past 10 years.



## A Celebration of Black History Month

# BEYOND THE VILLAGE

On February 20, 2015, Supervisor Frank M. Zuccarelli, and Thornton Township Board of Trustees hosted "Beyond The Village" – A Celebration of Black History Month. The celebration was held at the Senior/Youth & Family Services Center located in Riverdale.

Supervisor Frank M. Zuccarelli said, "The Celebration of Black History Month for Thornton Township is a tradition and acknowledgement of the contributions made by African Americans to the greatness of America. We had a great program last year and expect nothing less for this year's well-planned event."

The Keynote Speaker was Dr. Stanley Howard. Howard is the founder and president of the Law

and Civics Reading and Writing Institute – an education think tank whose mission is to conduct interdisciplinary research on children development and learning, and especially at-risk children.

Dr. Howard told the audience of at least 300 people, "Black History is significant and must be taught in order to preserve the contributions we have made to society."

Director of Thornton Township Youth & Family Services, Dr. Jerry Weems served as the Program Moderator. Reverend Thadeo E. Mgimba, Ascension-St. Susanna Parish made opening remarks for the program.

Performances were made by the Thornton Township High School Stepping Group Generation

Men, and the Najwa African Dance Corps. The sixth grade class of Harvey School District 152 was in attendance along with Harvey School District 152 Dr. Denean Adams (Superintendent of Schools), and Janet Rogers (President of Board of Education). Elected Officials for Thornton Township Trustee Joyce Washington, Township Clerk Jacqueline E. Davis-Rivera and Township Assessor Cassandra Holbert were also in attendance.

Keynote Speaker Dr. Howard received his B.A. in political science from Northern Illinois University, masters and PhD in political science from the University of Illinois (Chicago).



Thornton Township High School Stepping Group - Generation Men



Najwa African Dance Corps teaching children dances.



Keynote Speaker Dr. Stanley Howard