

# FOCUS

JUNE 2015

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

## SPECIAL EDITION

### AWARD CHARLESTON THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE



**O**n a quiet Wednesday evening in June, in a mid-sized southern city, inside a church where bible study was being held, nine people were murdered – shockingly shot to death in a racial hate crime that, even in a country growing accustomed to such frequent occurrences, sent shock waves across America. No one has been unaffected by this tragedy.

In some other city, an incident of such hatred and racist horror might have instantly sparked an outpouring of anger, divisiveness and violence, driving crowds into the streets in clashes with each other and with police. This could have been another Baltimore. Another Ferguson.

Instead, something unexpected – and quite remarkable – happened in Charleston, South Carolina.

Contrary to what could have happened, the outpouring was one of unity. And the predominant emotion expressed by the families of those nine unsuspecting people gunned down in the church was not rage or vengeance, but forgiveness. One loved one, after another, came forward to express the pain and sorrow they were feeling and then each of them expressed not anger or bitterness or hatred, but Christian forgiveness for this confessed murderer.

In the days that followed, the entire community of Charleston – church, community, ordinary citizens and law enforcement surrounded these grieving families with support. And, that support flowed from beyond Charleston, beyond South Carolina and throughout a nation well past weary of tragedies like this.

It may seem a stretch to urge that the Nobel Peace Prize Committee include the city of Charleston on its list of candidates for the prize this year, but then again, why not?

The Nobel Peace Prize is awarded to those individuals or entities that have *“...done the most or best work for peace between nations... and also for the holding and promotion of peace congresses.”*

In my view, it isn’t a stretch at all to characterize what we’ve seen unfold in Charleston as the “holding and promotion of peace congresses.”

It is by no means far-fetched to think that peace among people – not just in Charleston, but across our global community – has been in some small way advanced by the actions and emotions of this community and especially of those who grieve the loss of their nine loved ones.

Who’s to say that their heartfelt expression of loss, forgiveness and hope for a better future won’t move our planet ever so slightly in the direction of the peace we all hope for.

I encourage the Nobel Peace Prize Committee to give the good people of Charleston serious consideration as they move through their selection process this year.

Sincerely,

**Frank M. Zuccarelli**  
Thornton Township Supervisor

### A Tribute to Robert “Stormy” Storman

November 24, 1945 – October 30, 2014



**R**obert “Stormy” Storman worked full-time as the Public Relations person for City of Harvey, IL Mayor Nickolas “Nick” Graves who served as Mayor from April 1995-April 2003.

Also, Stormy worked part-time for Thornton Township as its Public Relations person in 2001. In 2003, Stormy became full-time at Thornton Township and worked until his death in 2014.

Frank M. Zuccarelli, Thornton Township Supervisor and Stormy became friends while he was working for the City of Harvey.

Zuccarelli explains, “We discovered that Lorenzo Martin was a mutual friend. Martin is the owner of the South Suburban Standard Newspaper, one of the oldest African-American owned newspapers in the South Suburbs.”

“One of the memorable things about Stormy is that he did not drive. I’m not sure why he did not drive,” said Zuccarelli.

Zuccarelli continues, “Stormy made a special request when he became a Thornton Township employee. He requested that I provide him with a driver to attend Township events. I informed Stormy that the Township could not afford a driver – but I did not have a problem with driving – as a result I became Stormy’s driver.” Zuccarelli affably says, “We spent a lot of time together as I drove us to the events over the past 14 years. Stormy became one of the most popular employees we had in Thornton Township’s history.”

**“He Was My Brother!”**  
– Frank M. Zuccarelli

Stormy began honing his people skills before entering into politics.

According to Arlo Kallemeyn, a friend, “Stormy spent his life opening doors for others. Stormy greeted visitors for many years at the Congress Hotel in Chicago as their all-time favorite doorman. Stormy greeted weary travelers with his million dollar smile – and an open door.”

In an interview January 2014, Stormy told the Northwest Indiana Times (NWITimes), “[I] take pride in the fact that during the past decade, Thornton Township government has created celebratory events for Black History Month in February and Hispanic Heritage Month in late September/early October, along with a toy giveaway event where lower-income area children get a chance to meet Santa Claus.”

Stormy continues, “I think we have done a good job of filling the needs of the people who live in the township’s communities. I’m proud of what we’ve accomplished.”

Robert Lee Storman was born on November 24, 1945. Stormy’s immediate family members are his wife Leah Theodore-Storman, his only son Robert-Daniel K. Storman, and his adopted daughter Rahchel Leach-Storman. His beloved sisters are Doris Harris, Rev. Arlene Hambrick, and Joan Harris (deceased).

When asked if there was one thing he would say about Stormy, Zuccarelli replied, “He was loyal, committed, and he cared about our community. I loved him. He was my brother!”



People working with people.

**Joyce M. Washington,**  
Trustee  
**Gerald “Jerry” Jones,**  
Trustee

**Frank M. Zuccarelli,** Supervisor

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

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

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# Save the Date

**Sunday, August 2nd**  
**World's Largest Stepper's Family Cook-Out and Bar-B-Que**  
 10:00 a.m. – Dusk  
 Green Lake Forest Preserve  
 159th St & Torrence Ave, Calumet City

**Thursday, August 6th**  
**Far Away Places Senior Party**  
 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
 Thornton Township Senior Center  
 1420 Huntington Drive, Calumet City  
 \$15 for Township residents  
 \$20 for out-of-township guests

**Sunday, August 9th**  
**Thornton Township Picnic**  
 Noon – 6:00 p.m.  
 Green Lake Forest Preserve  
 159th St & Torrence Ave  
 Calumet City

**Saturday, August 22nd**  
**The Taste of Thornton Township**  
 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.  
 333 E. 162nd Street  
 South Holland

**Monday, August 24th**  
**Senior Health & Information Fair**  
 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
 Thornton Township Senior Center  
 1420 Huntington Drive  
 Calumet City

**Senior Flu Shots**  
**Friday, September 4th**  
 Calumet City Senior Center

**Friday, September 11th**  
 Riverdale Senior/Youth and Family Services Building

**Friday, September 18th**  
 South Holland Thornton Township Hall

All times are 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
*Free for Seniors with Medicare cards*

# Steppers' Steppin Out!

## 4th Annual World's Largest Stepper's Family Cookout:

### Special Tribute To Robert "Stormy" Storman

Families, friends and all that can "shake a leg" will meet for the 4th Annual World's Largest Stepper's Family Day Cookout. Frank M. Zuccarelli and the Thornton Township Board of Trustees will serve as co-hosts to the mega-affair. The event will be held on Sunday, August 2, 2015 at the Green Lake Forest Preserve, 159th & Torrence Avenue, Calumet City, IL. The event is from 10:00AM until dusk.

According to SteppersUSA.com, Stepping or Chicago Style Stepping is a form of dance also known in other parts of the United States as Jazz Dance, Cakewalk, Ringshout, Jitterbug, Swing, and Jazz. Chicago Style Stepping Dance is pronounced as Steppin' or Stepping.

Zuccarelli said, "The Stepper's Family Day Cookout is an event that brings the Thornton Township family together for a day of fun. I look forward to it each year. Planning the event is just as much fun as the outing itself."

Also, a special tribute will be made to Robert "Stormy" Storman, a former 14-year close aid to Township Supervisor Zuccarelli. Stormy passed away October 30, 2014.

Ken Bedford, Event Producer and ABC7 Chicago News Photo Journalist told the FOCUS, "The vision for the World's Largest Stepper's Family Day Event was Stormy's idea in 2011." He continues, "Stormy led the way with our first Stepper's event, four years ago. It was held at Kickapoo Woods Forest Preserve in Thornton Township." Adding, "Both Frank and Stormy are the foundation that the event was founded on."

Festivities will include swimming at the new Water Park facility, pony and giant inflatable balloon rides, face painting, petting zoo, live entertainment, volley and softball games, Bid Whist and board games, food and merchandise vendors, and much more.

Bedford told the FOCUS, "The Family Day Cookout is going to be a huge turnout. Last year we attracted 4,000 to 5,000 diverse steppers and their families. The event will serve as an economic engine for the surrounding communities with businesses offering their services including hotels, equipment rentals, and vending companies." He emphasizes, "The event will cover the entire Forest Preserve. Steppin' organizations from around the nation will be in attendance."

Bedford proudly stated, "The great thing about the event is that it is free to the public."



# Senior Health & Information Fair

**Monday, August 24, 2015**  
**10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.**

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

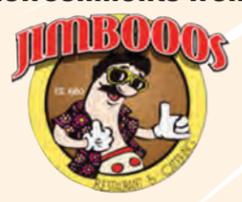
Over 50 vendors will be on-site to share health, safety, residential, financial and legal information for senior citizens and individuals with elderly loved ones.

**STATE OF ILLINOIS PHOTO I.D. CARDS**  
(60 & Older – Bring Required Identification)

Blood Pressure Testing  
Balance Testing  
Benefit Access Applications  
Stroke Prevention  
Glucose Screening (2 hour fast required)

**R.T.A. PASS Applications**  
Thornton Township Senior Services & Senior Transportation

Refreshments from



**For More Information**  
Call 708-596-6040, ext. 3190

**Seniors in need of transportation please call**  
708-339-9980

## SENIOR PICNICS

**JULY 27<sup>TH</sup> OR AUGUST 31<sup>ST</sup> - \$5**  
**SEPTEMBER 28<sup>TH</sup> - FREE\***

**11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**  
Thornton Township Senior Center  
1420 Huntington Drive, Calumet City

**\$5 PER PERSON FOR TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS**  
\*The September picnic is free for seniors who attend either the July **OR** August picnics (cannot attend both).  
The June picnic has been rescheduled.

*Games will be played and lunch will be served!*

Buy your tickets early!  
No tickets will be sold at the door.

For more information or ticket sales  
Call (708) 596-6040  
Ext. 3190 & 3170

## Far Away Places

**Thursday, August 13th**  
**5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**

Thornton Township Senior Center • 1420 Huntington Drive, Calumet City

**\$15 for Township residents • \$20 for out-of-township guests**

Lunch will be served!  
Live entertainment by Rick Webster  
Buy your tickets early!  
*No tickets will be sold at the door.*

**For more information or ticket sales call (708) 596-6040 Ext. 3190 & 3170**



Sponsored by



**MA' DEAR**  
HOME SERVICES, INC.



## Come and Smell the Roses!

the Senior Services Department is offering a trip for seniors to the:



**CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN**

**Monday, August 17th**

9:30am – 2:30pm

\$22 per person (\$27 for out-of-Township residents) includes transportation, light breakfast, boxed lunch, private shuttle, and butterfly exhibit ticket.

Departing from the Thornton Township Senior Center  
1420 Huntington Ave, Calumet City  
At 9:30am SHARP and returning at 2:30pm

**Seniors are encouraged to arrive at the Senior Center at 8:30am for a complimentary light breakfast**



## Computer Training For Seniors

In this five-part training program an instructor will guide seniors through the basics of computer literacy, hardware and software, surfing the internet, email, Word, Social Networking, and sites for seniors.

**Course fees are:**

\$20 per session or  
\$75 for all five sessions  
(\$25 per session or \$100 for all for out-of-Township residents)

Thornton Township Senior/Youth & Family Services  
14323 S. Halsted St., Riverdale, IL 60827

To register call Senior Services at  
**708-596-6040 Ext. 3170**

**Limited Seats  
Paid Reservation Required**

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

All sessions are 9:00am – 11:00am

**Session #1:**

Introduction to Computers  
Wednesday, July 22nd

**Session #2:**

Introduction to the Internet  
Thursday, July 23rd

**Session #3:**

Introduction to Email  
Thursday, July 30th

**Session #4:**

Introduction to Microsoft Word  
Wednesday, August 5th

**Session #5:**

Social Networking and Websites  
Friday, August 7th