

FOCUS

ON
THORNTON
TOWNSHIP



SPRING 2018

333 E. 162nd Street • South Holland, IL 60473

Follow Thornton Township's social media accounts on:

708-596-6040 • www.thorntontownship.com

SPRING EDITION

Four Area Women You Should Know



In March Thornton Township marked Women's History Month by celebrating the 10th Annual Women of Honor Program at Saint Archangel Michael Serbian Center in Lansing, Illinois.

The honorees selected are women representing diverse cultures, roles and accomplishments, each of whom has demonstrated a passionate commitment to the betterment of all communities within Thornton Township.

More information on the women honored in this year's program is provided on page three, but I specifically wanted to highlight who they are and how grateful all of us should be for their commitment and service.

Dr. Sallie Penman, Joyce Forbes, Rose McGill and Vivian Payne... each with a deep and rich history in our community have worked tirelessly in their own way to improve the quality of life in Thornton Township – making a purposeful difference in the collective lives of thousands of their neighbors.

Women, have increasingly made great strides everywhere and in all things worldwide – education, business, politics, science, and the women we recently honored here are equally deserving of the recognition they received not only for their accomplishments, but for how they have inspired so many who have come in contact with them.

Dr. Penman, Joyce Forbes, Rose McGill and Vivian Payne have made an incredible contribution in moving the conversation from "What if," to "I Can" and this means so much to those younger

women who will come after them, championing world-class education, inspiring involvement in politics and government, the law, theater, social services and so much more.

To each of these outstanding, dedicated woman I want to say on behalf of all Thornton Township residents, we admire you, we thank you for who you are and for what you have done.

Finally, in an effort to better serve the needs of the growing number of residents who rely on Township Government to help improve the quality of their daily lives please note...

Thornton Township has begun critical renovations, building up-dates to enhance service to our neighbors. They involve expanded capabilities for disabled residents, better restroom facilities, more parking to accommodate visitors to township service centers, environmental air quality improvements, consolidated township service programs and more.

For those Township General Assistance clients, there will be two locations for General Assistance: 900 E. 162nd Street in South Holland and 15340 Page Ave in Harvey .

Also note that Senior Services will be moving temporarily to 14323 S. Halsted, Riverdale, IL.

For more information, please call **708 596-6040**.

Sincerely,

Frank M. Zuccarelli



Upcoming Board Meetings

- Tuesday April 10, 2018
- Tuesday April 24, 2018
- Tuesday May 8, 2018
Until further notice board meetings will be held at the ZAP building 16910 Westview in South Holland

The Township buildings will be closed:

- Memorial Day – Monday May 28, 2018
- Independence Day – Wednesday July 4, 2018

Office Locations

- **Thornton Township Town Hall**
900 East 162nd Street
South Holland, IL
708-596-6040
- **Senior/Youth and Family Services Center**
14323 Halsted
Riverdale, IL
708-596-6040 Ext. 3170
- **The Food Assistance Center**
15340 Page Avenue
Harvey, IL
708-596-6040 Ext. 3180
- **ZAP**
16910 Westview
South Holland, IL

Your Thornton Township Staff

Ready to Serve You!



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

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RESIDENTIAL
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Thornton Township Wins Social Media Awards

Thornton Township was awarded two prestigious media awards at the annual Township Officials of Illinois honors. The township won best Illinois Township Website and best Illinois Township Social media.

"Thornton Township underwent a complete Website overall this year. The purpose was to create a more informative, interactive, and visually appealing site that would be useful to all our residents regardless of age," said Ernst Lamothe Jr., community relations manager for Thornton Township. "We consider a Website the front door to the township. When people want to know about your government body, the first thing they do is search your Website. The expectation is that they should be able to find the information quickly and clearly."



Some of the changes included:

- **Department pages:** Created a detailed department site for each of our 11 departments: Assessor, Clerk, Community Relations, Food and General Assistance, Other Services, Senior Services Special Services, Transportation, Youth and Family Services, ZAP. Each page has a blue header that describes in a few short sentences the department's goal along with a photo



of the head of the department and a phone number to reach them. It also has a short video of the director of that department explaining the highlights of their program.

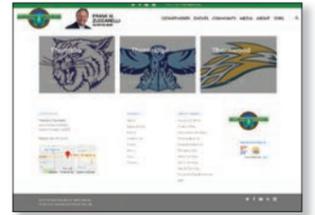


- **Jobs page:** Even with the economy doing better, people are still either looking for work or are underemployed. We believed it was important to also host a job pages on our Website. Any company from within or outside the township can give us a flyer and we will post available jobs for the community. Thornton Township looks to be a resource for our residents who are both in general assistance and those who are not. We want to be a one-stop shop for many of their needs.

- **Social Media:** At the top of the page are all our social media icons that people can click directly to log onto. Also, we made it easier to always get back to the homepage by clicking on the Thornton Township icon.



- **Community Page:** We believe in the importance of local government connected to schools. They are the future leaders and we wanted to highlight their achievements. We have a separate page within our Website that focuses the public high schools within the township and various students doing incredible things.



"We have never won an award for our communications before and I am proud of our department that they are doing such great work to educate the community about our services," said Frank M. Zuccarelli, Thornton Township supervisor.

In addition, Zuccarelli received the Friends of the Youth Award for his diligent work of expanding services and programs for the youth and adult services department.

Building Improvements Underway to Better Serve Thornton Township

At Thornton Township, we always look for new ways to better serve our residents. Because of this philosophy, we will undergo several building improvements at both the Calumet City Senior Center and the main township facility in South Holland.

Enhancements to our senior center include:

- Remove and replace existing windows to avoid cool or hot air escaping from the building
- Needed improvements to the bathrooms
- Road repairs
- Replace some flooring and carpeting
- Improvement to the building's lobby area
- Remove vinyl wall covering and painting throughout the building.
- The project will last until mid-summer.

Enhancements to our main South Holland building.

At Thornton Township, we offer free counseling, food assistance, senior services, youth programs, special needs programs, property tax assistance and more. In order to expand our programs & services, the following improvements are being planned:

- New computer lab for both senior and youth residents

- Classroom and meeting space for counseling, crisis intervention and mentoring services
- Expanded community room to provide nutritional and social programs that support the senior, youth, and disabled population
- Expanded services facilities will comply with ADA accessibility requirements
- Multiple elevators to better assist seniors and those with disabilities
- Expansion of our General Assistance area
- New heating and air Conditioning systems
- Renovated and expanded bathrooms
- Asbestos removal
- Our building will be closed for one year.

All our services will continue to operate as normal.

- For **General Assistance**, we have two buildings where we will help residents: 900 E. 162nd St in South Holland and Thornton Township Food Assistance 15340 Page Ave. in Harvey.
- The **Assessor and Clerk's offices** will also move to 900 E. 162nd St.
- **Senior Services** moves to Thornton Township Youth and Family Services Department 14323 S. Halsted St. in Riverdale.

For more information, call **1-708-596-6040**. Thank you for your patience.



WOMEN OF HONOR

On March 3, 2018, Thornton Township celebrated the 10th annual Women of Honor Celebration at St. Archangel Michael Serbian Center in Lansing.



Pictured above (l. to r.) Joyce M. Washington-Trustee, Honoree Joyce Forbes, Honoree Dr. Sallie Penman, Honoree Vivian Payne, Janet Rodgers - Accepting on behalf of Honoree Rose McGill, Frank M. Zuccarelli-Thornton Township Supervisor.

The Honorees:

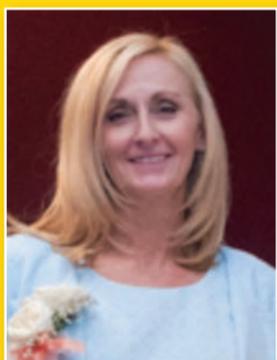


Dr. Sallie Penman

- ☀ From Education to Politics
- ☀ Village Clerk and has been a resident of South Holland for 30 years.
- ☀ Appointed to South Holland Village in October 2004, elected in 2005, and re-elected in 2009, 2013, and 2017.
- ☀ Director of the Administrators' Academy in Chicago, IL where she provides Leadership to 1600 administrators of Chicago Public Schools

☀ Mother is her inspiration and biggest cheerleader

"As an Educator, I'm inspired by our children. We can't just complain about things, you have to be the change that you seek."



Vivian Payne

- ☀ Born and raised in Thornton, 24-year resident of Lansing.
- ☀ Prior to being elected Clerk, she was the Executive Assistant to Lansing Mayor Norm Abbott for 8 years and took on the roles of Deputy Clerk, Freedom of Information Officer, Traffic Compliance Administrator and Zoning Board Secretary.
- ☀ In 2010, Vivian initiated Lansing's first annual Community Clean-Up Day which brings together hundreds of volunteers each spring to pick up trash throughout the Village.
- ☀ In 2016, in conjunction with Community Clean-Up Day, Payne organized Lansing's first electronic recycling event for residents, where the Village collected a record 642 televisions in under 3 hours.
- ☀ Vivian is a member of the Lansing Business Women's Association, an organization that brings together business women. The organization provides professional development opportunities through leadership, education and networking.

"I love helping people that need help."



Joyce Forbes

- ☀ Married for 51 years to Steve Forbes
- ☀ Lifelong resident of Dolton and Riverdale until 2008
- ☀ Public Service began in 1983 starting School District 148 School Board, served 9 years as a member and president.
- ☀ Brought technology into the Village during Y2K
- ☀ Achieved certification as Master Municipal Clerk

"Trustworthiness, honesty, being a good friend and respecting others are the key. We know not everyone is going to agree with your opinion but you can be respectful and accommodating."



Rose McGill

- ☀ Wife to Michael McGill of The Dells
- ☀ Very well loved by the constituents
- ☀ Rose was not able to attend
- ☀ A community activist and leader in the South Suburbs of Chicago since the late 60s.
- ☀ In 1969, she founded Rose's House of Charm to help area youth improve their self-esteem and break into acting and modeling.

☀ She has been instrumental in helping young people from our community featured in radio and television commercials, magazines, TV sitcoms and movies. Her students have gone on to have successful careers in fields as diverse as academia, finance, medicine, law, fashion design, and business.

☀ Janet Rogers, Public Relations Coordinator of South Cook County Mosquito Abatement District, accepted the award on behalf of the family.

Janet had this to say about Rose, *"Rose is a very energetic, outstanding, outgoing person, and community minded person"*



www.thorntontownship.com

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[thorntontwp](https://pinterest.com/thorntontwp)

Thornton Township Mobil App

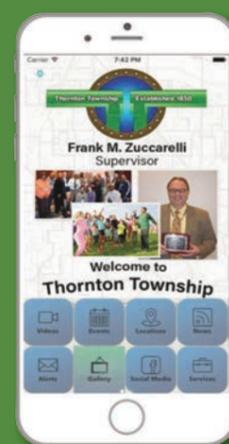
The official Thornton Township App gives residents easy access to information, news, GPS direction to the local facilities and much more. Also, receive alerts for any emergencies, news and updates.

With this app you can:

Get the latest news, View pictures, Get GPS directions to our locations, Watch videos, Receive push notifications and more...

AVAILABLE IN THE APP STORE

AVAILABLE IN GOOGLE PLAY



Thornton Township Hosts A Black History Month Special Event

BLACK PANTHER

meets BLACK PANTHER

With lines wrapping across the outside of Lansing 8 theaters, Thornton Township hosted more than 550 guests for a packed Black History Month Celebration, which included a special guest and the world premiere of a blockbuster movie. The event featured guest speaker, Dr. Jamal Turner, founder of the University of California-Berkley Black Panther student chapter in 1967. He spoke about the far reaching work of the organization that included cooking thousands of meals a week for poor children and setting up free health clinics. He urged those who attended to learn from the past to move forward in the future. He shared words of encouragement from his experience as a Black Panther Party Member and what it means to be dedicated to your community. "We love to serve the people" said Dr. Turner. "We encourage people to stay connected to their sense of community and to get to know their history."

After the speech, the crowd was treated to the premiere of Marvel's Black Panther, one of the first major studio black superhero. The movie has grossed more than \$1 billion nationwide. Those who attended received free popcorn and pop. They also received Black History informational flash cards along with black and red tote bags with the words; "Black History is American History." Officials said the movie became more than simply a comic book movie.

"Though the movie is a work of fiction, we believe there are significant parallels. Further, we believe that people of African descent (for example, African Americans) represent an untold, untapped, and vast amount of resources, financial and otherwise," said Dr. Jerry L. Weems, director of youth and family services for Thornton Township. "The question is how we pool and then leverage the resources in a way that is beneficial to the collective."

Betty Watkins, 60, found a spiritual connection to the movie. "I liked how they acted like they weren't going to help each other but the essential point was they did. God gives us the sense to help your fellow man."

Attendees described the event as well-organized, thought provoking and exceeded their expectations.

"Our biggest hope for the event was that people in the community could not only celebrate the rich history and contributions that black people have

done throughout the world but also help resonate the idea that Black History is not only American history but it should be celebrated every day of the year," said Frank M. Zuccarelli, Thornton Township Supervisor.

Putting together a large scale Black History event is never an easy task.

But after last year being blessed to have the incredible comedian, author and civil rights activist, Dick Gregory grace our event, we had to continue to up the ante. So how did this event come to fruition? Ernst Lamothe, Public and Community Relations Manager provided answers to some follow-up questions about the event.

How did the idea come about to have a Black Panther event? Did you book Dr. Jamal Turner first, or did you think of the movie first and then work to make a connection with the Black Panther movement?

The event was the brainchild of Dr. Jerry Weems, our Youth and Family Services Director. He thought about ways to continue to elevate our Black History Month program. Last year, we were fortunate to have Dick Gregory, especially since he passed away late last year. Then the idea came around connecting the Black Panther movie but finding a way to also educate people about the Black Panther organization. It almost happened simultaneously—the idea of a private screening of the movie as well as connecting with Dr. Turner, who is a good friend of Dr. Weems.

What was one of your hopes for the event?

Our biggest hope for the event was that people in the community not only celebrate the rich history and contributions that black people have performed throughout the world, but also help resonate the idea that Black History is American History. We wanted people in the community to not only celebrate the rich history and contributions that black people have made throughout the world, but also remind people that Black History is American History. This was more than just a private screening of one of the most hyped movies of the year. This was an awareness opportunity. In fact, one of the giveaways we gave





Keynote Speaker



DR. JAMAL TURNER
AUTHOR AND FOUNDER
OF THE UC-BERKELEY
BLACK PANTHER CHAPTER

each attendee was Black History flash cards—we want people to know this history! We want people to know these incredible facts about a lot of incredible people. That is why we invited high school students from both District #205 and #215 to take part in the celebration.

What were you hoping that to achieve by bringing Dr. Turner to the event?

There is a lot of misinformation about the Black Panther organization. This is an organization that cooked thousands of meals a week for poor children, set up free health clinics, set up tuition-free schools, went to schools like Yale University to preach about the importance of being drug-free, and helped various other marginalized groups get the fair treatment they deserve. PBS had an excellent special about some of the incredible work that the organization did. Unfortunately, not everyone gets taught the nuances and



rich history of many people. So often, when history is not taught thoroughly, then people don't always seek out the truth.

Was there a reaction from someone that stuck with you?

A young woman told me something after the show that will really stick with me.

She said there was so much to learn about how much stronger we are when we're together than when we're apart. She said we sometimes only talk about the small number of things that we disagree on, and we don't really spend much time talking about what we agree on—even though that's probably the majority. Her takeaway from the movie was that it showed that divisiveness and isolation never help anyone. Those are strong words that you don't often get from someone who just saw a superhero movie! That's why this movie was so much more than just another superhero movie.

Before opening weekend, the movie was being called "historic," "groundbreaking," "momentous"—which is a lot of pressure! Did it live up to the hype?

The movie definitely lived up to the hype. And that really is an incredible thing to say because there was a lot of hype about this movie not just for weeks but probably the last six months. You do not see a lot of movies that have an all-black cast that open number one at the box office. Even though

recently there have been a lot of that success in that arena there is still a stigma that a movie with an all-black cast perform well in the United States and won't do well overseas. However, when you look at the opening weekend numbers for this movie, it has shattered both those stereotypes. It has grossed more than a \$1 billion nationwide. The movie truly shows another side that people don't get a chance to see in the movies and didn't play up to any stereotypes that too often get seen many times at the movies. People were literally clapping, laughing aloud and joyous throughout both screenings.

Was there something that surprised you about the event?

I got to Cinema 8 early that morning to set up, and I could see people starting to line up outside in the cold already at 8:20am. The doors wouldn't



open until 9:15am, but they wanted to be able to get the perfect seats to see the movie. That meant a lot to me. And then, when the show started, to see and hear people clapping, laughing out loud, and just joyous throughout both screenings—that was wonderful. It was heartwarming

to know that this event truly resonated with people. I'm glad so many people enjoyed it. It really turned out even better than I thought. It was a lot of work, but when you see that many people happy with the experience—it's all worth it.



Coat Drive Warms Body & Soul

Due to the really cold weather, Thornton Township Supervisor Frank M. Zuccarelli and the Board of Trustees arranged a free coats giveaway for kids and adults. The township gave away hundreds of new coats for children and adults at no cost with valid proof of residency.

"We understand the need in the community is great, and we are here to support our residents in any way possible," said Zuccarelli.

It was the first year for such a large-

scale giveaway and the township hopes to make it an annual event.

"We not only targeted veterans and battered women shelters and other social service organizations that might need coats, but on top of that, we put the information out into the community," said Ernst Lamothe Jr., community relations manager for Thornton Township.

The township chose to hold the event in February because he knew that there would be people who were forgotten

during the more common coat giveaways that happen during the Christmas season.

"It's been colder than the expected temperatures and we definitely knew that the need was gonna be great and it could be a very long winter. That's why we wanted to have it in February for the people who might have been forgotten around Christmas time, they are able to get a coat now," said Lamothe.

There were a wide variety of residents who received free coats at the event, and

everyone seemed to be grateful for the community service.

Elmira Calhoun, a resident of Thornton Township spoke highly of Zuccarelli and everything he does for the community.

"Mr. Zuccarelli is always doing something meaningful and is very supportive of this Township. If this community needs help for anything, it's always there. Whether it's food, clothes, shelter, it's always there. Nobody has to be hungry and nobody has to be without a warm coat," said Calhoun.



The cutest baby? All of them!

Thornton Township had its first ever Township Cutest Baby Contest. Residents posted their incredibly charming children wearing township onesies that were offered free to residents. Here are a snapshot of the photos.



Are You A Team Player?

Thornton township is seeking positive, outgoing & creative instructors, assistants and volunteers for our 2018 Summer Enrichment Program

ASSISTANTS

- Main responsibility will be to help facilitate enrichment program
- Must be at least 16 years old (by May 1st) & a CURRENT High School or Accredited College Student
- December 2017 & May 2018 Semester Grades must be at least 3.0 average
- Must live within Thornton Township
- Must **submit HARDCOPY** (no emails or facsimiles) of **December transcripts and resume** to India Blakely, 14323 S. Halsted, Riverdale, IL 60827 by **2:30pm on April 13th**
- Interviews will be scheduled during the week of April 16 (Each candidate will likely have more than one)
- Must be able to provide two professional references
- Pay is ~\$10/hour
- Must be available to begin working May 14th
- ~ 28 hours/week beginning in June

VOLUNTEERS

- Main responsibility will be to help with program as you are trained to become an assistant
- Must be 14 or 15 years old by May 1st

- Must be available to work at least 75% of the time
- Will be required to submit transcripts, Current Illinois State ID, birth certificate, & physical info
- Must live within Thornton Township
- Must **email interest** to iridley@thorntontwp.com by **May 1st** (volunteer must send email/**not parent**)
- ~ 20 hours/week (more may be available)

QUESTIONS:

Send email to iridley@thorntontwp.com or call (708) 596-6040 ext. 2015 (call returned within 48 business hours)

PROGRAM INFORMATION:

- Program participants are ages 9 – 13
- Program is a medley of scholastic, social, cultural, physical and leisure activities
- Staff must have a strong stamina and good physical endurance for daily physical activity with youth
- Staff must be able to work outdoors in varying weather
- Training dates given at interview (inquire before if schedule may conflict)
- Tentative program dates are June 11th – August 2nd

SENIOR SERVICES

Calendar of Events

Thornton, 701 Highland Ave • Riverdale, 14323 South Halsted

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<p>Senior Exercise 9:30-10:30 am (Thornton)</p> <p>Line Dance Class 10:45-12 noon (Thornton)</p>	<p>Bidwhist 11:30-3:00 pm (Riverdale)</p> <p>Pinochle Club 12:00-3:00 pm (Thornton)</p> <p>Senior Exercise 9:30-10:30 am (Riverdale)</p>	<p>Smiling Seniors 1:00-3:00 pm (Thornton) <i>1st. Wednesday of every month</i></p> <p>Senior Exercise 9:30-10:30 am (Riverdale)</p>	<p>Senior Exercise 9:30-10:30 am (Riverdale)</p> <p>Bunco Club 1:00-3:30 pm (Thornton)</p> <p>Movie* 1:00 pm (Riverdale)</p> <p>Sr. Counseling & Support Group 1:00-3:00 pm (Riverdale)</p>	<p>Senior Exercise 9:30-10:30 am (Riverdale)</p> <p>Advanced Line Dancing Class 10:45-12 noon (Riverdale)</p>



For more information call: (708) 596-6040

\$3.00 Pinochle • \$3.00 Bunco • \$1.50 Senior Luncheon

Blood Pressure Done Daily

Senior Luncheon Sites

Senior Citizens, 60 years & older, Must have a Thornton Township I.D. *Indicates Movie Day for Township Residents 60+

TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
<p>Ascension Church 15234 Myrtle Harvey, IL</p> <p>Village of Thornton Recreation Center 701 Highland Avenue Thornton, IL</p> <p>American Legion Hall 17034 Park Avenue Hazel Crest, IL</p> <p>Eisenhower Center 2250 178th Street Lansing, IL</p> <p>Gloria Taylor 15335 Broadway Harvey, IL (2nd Tuesday of each month)</p>	<p>Dolton Park Field House 721 Engle Street Dolton, IL</p> <p>Riverdale Senior Center 14323 Halsted Riverdale, IL</p> <p>Freedom Village 935 Maple Homewood, IL</p> <p>Village of Thornton Recreation Center 701 Highland Avenue Thornton, IL</p>	<p>Village of Thornton Recreation Center 701 Highland Avenue Thornton, IL</p> <p>Downey Park Stewart & Jeffrey Avenue Calumet City, IL</p> <p>Riverdale Senior Center 14323 Halsted * Riverdale, IL</p> <p>Burnham Village Hall 13925 Entre Burnham, IL</p>

LOOKING FOR A Summer PROGRAM

Thornton Township
Youth & Family Services
Presents Our

2018 SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM!

WHO:
9-13 Years Old
Thornton Township Residents

WHAT:
• FINE ARTS
• PHYSICAL ACTIVITY
• ENTREPRENEURSHIP
• FIELD TRIPS AND MORE!!!

WHEN:
MONDAY - THURSDAY
9am - 3pm
JUNE 11 - AUGUST 2

WHERE:
Riverdale
Dolton
Harvey

HOW TO REGISTER:
CALL FOR AN
APPOINTMENT
708-596-6040 EXT. 2015

**WHAT TO BRING
TO REGISTRATION:**
• PARENT
• CHILD
• PAYMENT
• UTILITY BILL
• VALID DRIVERS
LICENSE/ID
• LAST 4 DIGITS OF SS#

**REGISTRATION
LOCATION:**
14323 S. Halsted St.
Riverdale, IL 60827

COST:
\$60
check or money order

2018 Community Job Fair

Tuesday, May 22nd
10:00 am to 2:00 pm

SSC Fitness Center

15800 South State Street
South Holland, IL

Sponsored by



South Suburban College

&



Thornton Township

Frank M. Zuccarelli, Supervisor

For Information Call:
Career Development Center @ (708) 210-5748
email: dwright@ssc.edu

WE'RE ON THE MOVE

In hopes of better serving our residents, Thornton Township will undergo building improvements to our **South Holland Campus, 333 E. 162nd St.** However, all of our services will remain operational.

Assessor, Clerk & Administration
900 E 162nd St. South Holland

General Assistance
900 E 162nd St. South Holland and
Thornton Township Food Assistance 15340 Page, Harvey
*For more information on General Assistance,
Clerk and Assessor Office please call 708-596-6040*

Senior Services
Senior Youth & Family Services 14323 Halsted, Riverdale
and Thornton Recreation Center 701 Highland, Thornton
For more information, call 708-596-6040, 708-269-0747 or 312-636-7290.

