

# FOCUS

ON  
THORNTON  
TOWNSHIP



MARCH 2019

Follow Thornton Township's social media accounts on:

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

708-596-6040 • www.thorntontownship.com

## SPRING EDITION

### Oh, The Price You Can Pay for Baloney



A law has been introduced in Springfield (supported mainly by North Suburban Republican legislators and the Chicago Tribune) that calls for the elimination of township government, with the services it currently provides, to be taken over by local municipalities or county governments.

Purveyors of this legislation claim that township government is antiquated and duplicative and that rolling-over its responsibilities and services to a city or county would save property tax payers hundreds of thousands of dollars every year.

#### Well, that's a lot of "baloney."

Hidden in that proposed bill is a single sentence that addresses how those services that would be taken on by a city or county, will pay for their new responsibilities.

It essentially says that, the local or county government taking on the duties of the local township to be dissolved, shall levy up to 90% of the tax currently being levied by the township...

If a local or county government is permitted to tax 90% to pay for the services they take on from the townships, where's the tax saving?

Not only will there be no tax savings, but the local municipality or county simply can't provide the additional services or programs townships now do efficiently or effectively – just look at their track record.

I don't know what services are provided by other townships, but I can share what Thornton Township has done...

Just since last year, we have retrained and helped move more than 300 township residents from General Assistance to full-

time work and we provide 3500 nutritious meals to families in need every month. Working collaboratively with South Suburban College, we have helped many go back to school to obtain their G.E.D. – advancing their education to find a quality job. The Township hires 80 to 100 students every summer to provide weekly lawn care for 800 senior residents who are no longer physically able to do the work themselves. We provide health care screenings for seniors and give 40,000 rides each year to doctors offices, grocery shops, visits to family and friends and more. We've aided hundreds of Thornton township families to keep their utilities turned on, payed their rent to avoid eviction, and provided air conditioners for 'shut-ins' at no cost to taxpayers.

And, we do all this and more for just 7 cents. That's' right, just 7 cents of every tax dollar you pay, makes it possible for us to do all this and more.

More importantly, we've also refunded more than \$4 million in property taxes to homeowners by keeping a close eye on finances and no deficit spending.

So don't be taken in by politicians who hope to advance their careers by making empty promises about eliminating Township government and saving you thousands of dollars every year in taxes. It's all a lot of baloney and sometimes, you can pay a heavy price for it.

Sincerely,

Frank M. Zuccarelli  
Thornton Township Supervisor



### Upcoming Board Meetings

- Tuesday March 26, 2019
  - Tuesday April 9, 2019
  - Tuesday April 23, 2019
- Until further notice board meetings will be held at the ZAP building 16910 Westview in South Holland**

#### The Township buildings will be closed:

- Good Friday/Passover – Friday April 19, 2019
- Memorial Day – Monday May 27, 2019

#### 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  
708-596-6040

### Empowerment Through Self Defense for Thornton Township Women

#### You will learn:

- Simple and Proven Techniques
- Practical Self Defense
- Increased Awareness
- Effective Escape Techniques
- Crime Prevention
- To use your body as a weapon

**Saturday, March 16, 2019**  
**8:30 am – 12 pm**  
14323 S. Halsted Riverdale, IL

**Cost is FREE**  
*donations accepted for victims of sex trafficking*

**SPACE LIMITED**  
to 40 participants

Pre-registration required by calling  
**708-596-6040 ext. 2015**  
or email [iblakely@thorntontwp.com](mailto:iblakely@thorntontwp.com)



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

Norbert Cipowski,  
Trustee  
Stafford C. Owens,  
Trustee

Jacqueline E. Davis-Rivera,  
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Frank M. Zuccarelli, Supervisor

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# Race and Bias Seminar

Featuring Jane Elliott

In a room filled with community members, students and legislators, two acclaimed speakers talked to a crowd of more than 320 about unconscious and conscious bias on Friday, October 19. Presented by the Thornton Township Human Relations Commission, the "Race and Bias" event held at South Suburban College featured Dr. Lawrence James Jr. and Jane Elliott.

Dr. James, a Chicago-based clinical psychologist, spoke first. "When we do unconscious bias training, we talk about this awareness piece—it's one step," he said. "And that's typically where corporations stop. They'll tell you, 'Hey, we did some training and we made all of our people aware that they are, well, kind of biased and, well, kind of racist.' And we expect that to be enough and that they're going to do something differently. Awareness training without skill building and without behavioral intervention to continue to grow one's capabilities to be less racist and less biased is the only way that you can create change. Period."

"We decided to bring Jane Elliott to Thornton Township because she is a dynamic woman who brings an interesting perspective that people need to hear," said Dr. Jerry Weems, Director of Youth and Family Services at Thornton Township. "The community has responded well to us bringing global speakers like Jane."

A former third-grade teacher, Elliott has spent most of her life as an anti-racism activist and educator.

"If you want to be a racist, you go ahead and be a racist. But if you bring it to me, you will learn very, very shortly that your problem is ignorance," said Elliott. "It is not skin color but your ignorance about skin color, and I will not tolerate it."



Elliott is known for the "Blue eyes–Brown eyes" exercise she conducted with her third-grade class in Riceville, Iowa, the day after Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated in 1968. She divided the class based on eye color and told them the blue-eyed children were superior. She gave the blue-eyed children extra privileges and had them sit in the front of the classroom, while the brown-eyed children were relegated to the back rows. Elliott segregated the children further by telling the blue-eyed children to play only with other blue-eyed children and by not allowing blue-eyed children and brown-eyed children to drink from the same water fountain. The brown-eyed students were scolded when they made mistakes or did not follow the rules. The following week, Elliott told the class she had made a mistake, and the brown-eyed children were actually superior.

After the experiment ended, the students wrote compositions about their experience. These compositions were reprinted in the local newspaper with the headline, "How Discrimination Feels." When the Associated Press picked up the story, the news went national.

Before Elliott spoke, Dr. James, a Chicago-based clinical psychologist, also talked about conscious and unconscious bias.

"When we do unconscious bias corporate training, we talk about this awareness piece and that is one step," said James. But then we expect that after one day they are going to change their lives and do something new and that is not the case. This has to be more than simply a one-day conversation."



## Thornton Township

# Wins 4 Prestigious State Awards

Thornton Township walked away with four prestigious awards at the annual Township Officials of Illinois Conference in Springfield, including the top communication award. The township received best General Assistance Caseworker of the Year awarded to Lakeela Jennings, most innovative General Assistance program, best township social media and best township Communication Messenger of the Year awarded to Communication Manager Ernst Lamothe Jr.

It is the second straight year the township has received best social media, and in total, the communication department has received four awards in the past two years.

"It is an incredible honor to be recognized for a statewide award for the way we communicate with our residents," said Lamothe Jr, of Lansing. "Supervisor Frank Zuccarelli continues to push for new and groundbreaking programs and services for our community. We appreciate that all our hard work is being viewed by others outside the township."

The township's community relations department was recognized for its social media, township brochures, Website and overall ways that it effectively educates and disseminates information to its residents.



It was also the third straight year, Thornton Township took home hardware, including last year's win for Zuccarelli as Youth Department Champion of the Year and a 2016 award for Township of the Year.

"We are very proud of the hard work our staff does to provide the highest quality of

service to our community," said Frank M. Zuccarelli, Thornton Township supervisor. "Our motto is people working with people and we truly believe that township government is at the ground floor of providing the necessary programs that communities need. We are honored and humbled by this award and that the Township of Illinois recognizes the hard work we have put in this year to help our local residents."

The township provides general assistance program offering financial relief for qualified residents. In addition, the township registers voters, helps with homeowners and senior citizen homestead exemption and helps with food, gas and energy bill relief.

"I work with a lot of incredible people that helped me get to where I am. I am just so thankful to work for a great township," said Jennings.

"What we do at Thornton Township is very special. Our goal is always to serve as many people as possible and get the word out about all our great programs," said Lamothe Jr. "We will continue to work hard in the new year to bring our township to another level."

Thornton Township is made up of all or part of 17 south suburban communities. They are a three-time winner of Township of the Year in 2004, 2008 and 2016. The township also has a robust youth and adult program that features free family counseling and after school tutoring and programs in Dolton, Harvey and Riverdale.

"We understand the importance of working together for a common goal," added Zuccarelli. "We are here to serve the people and make sure that we build each other up and we build our communities up. We are able to accomplish this because we have a strong board of trustees who care about the community and a strong management team in all areas working to make sure we provide the best services possible."





## Thornton Township Social Work Counselor Appears on

# America's got Talent



**W**hat an incredible year it has been for Kathryn Granberry, a social work counselor for Thornton Township and whose stage name is Ms. Trysh Granberry. She appeared on two live segments of *America's Got Talent* this year and even got the eye of a certain famous British judge as she sang to him. Now as the worldwind had died down, Ms. Trysh had a moment to reflect on everything and tell the full story for those who didn't know about her appearance and talk about her next steps for 2019.

**FOCUS:** Tell us how you became one of the few people to audition on America's Got Talent

**Kathryn:** My best friend Countess Williams sent my video to America's Got Talent as if she was me without even telling me. Then they replied to her and I was on a phone call with her. She took a screenshot the email and texted it to me and told me to read the screenshot and then call her back. I opened it up and it said thank you for submitting your video and we are inviting you to come and audition. I just started screaming because I couldn't believe it. I was in shock. I called her and asked her what did she do and she told me everybody needs to know who you are. I would have never thought in a million years that I would get on that show because the competition is so big and nationwide and I am just a local girl. I have auditioned for the Voice and X Factor before but never was seen by the official judges on live TV.



**FOCUS:** So give us some behind-the-scenes information on the America's Got Talent taping.

**Kathryn:** There is so much people don't know that is both wonderful and frustrating. First the good parts. They fly you down to Pasadena, California and pay for your flight and hotel. The studio auditorium is attached right to the hotel so it is very convenient when they call you to audition live. But with me the whole ordeal lasted three days. First, you send them three photos of you wearing different outfits and then they pick which one they like. Then they called me to come to the auditorium but they wanted to get background of me talking to other contestants because they must have liked my bubbly personality and the fact that I talked a lot. There is all this footage of me

talking to everyone. I didn't audition the first day. Then I had to put the same dress on the second day because they wanted to make sure it looks like everything is all taped on the same day and I had to do the same thing getting footage of me talking to contestants and doing one-on-one interviews. And they still never put me in front of the judges. I was getting frustrated and angry. It wasn't until the third day of having to put on that same damn blue dress that I finally got in front of Simon Cowell and the rest of the judges. It was all getting on my nerves but I was ready when I got on that stage.

**FOCUS:** How did you pick your song and how was it being on stage?

**Kathryn:** You give them three songs and they pick. I gave them *Until You Come Back To Me* by Aretha Franklin, *This is a Man's World* by James Brown and *If I Was Your Woman* by Gladys Knight & The Pips. They liked the last song best and that is what I did. I sang the song like I was singing to Simon and everything went great. The clip has been seen by more than 6 million people on YouTube.



**FOCUS:** What happened after your first audition?

**Kathryn:** Well that's definitely a story. I came back in two weeks and it was once again where they picked the songs they want you to sing. I was going to sing 'Until You Come Back To Me,' but at the last minute they changed by song to 'If You Don't Know Me By Now' by Harold Melvin & The Bluenotes. We had to whittle it down to 90 seconds and I messed up a little bit and forgot the lyrics. After that performance I was devastated at first and just crying. But they were all encouraging and Simon told me I could sing and he is someone who is brutally honest. As hard as it was that day I laugh about it now.

**FOCUS:** What else do people not know about the auditioning for America's Got Talent?

**Kathryn:** They really go for the people they view as making the best stories. One thing they told me is that Simon Cowell hates boring. There were a few people that I kept in contact with who were incredible singers who you never saw them audition. They kept waiting to be shown on air and I was expecting to see them too and it just never happened.

## Illinois Community College Trustees Association Honors Thornton Township's

# Frank M. Zuccarelli



**T**he Executive Director of the Illinois Community College Trustees Association Mike Monaghan made a special trip to honor Frank M. Zuccarelli with its service award.

The ICCTA would like to recognize Frank Zuccarelli for 40 years of dedicated service to the Board of South Suburban College, Community College District 510, and the Illinois Community College System," said Monaghan at the open meeting. "Of the more than 2,000 trustees to serve since 1965, Frank is one of only four still serving with 40 or more years of service. So this wasn't by accident, this is all about his leadership."

Zuccarelli, a South Holland resident and SSC alumnus, enrolled at SSC—then Thornton Community College—in 1974 after he completed his enlistment in the United States Air Force where he served as a medic. Zuccarelli earned his Associate of Science Degree in 1976 and his Associate of Arts Degree in 1978. He was elected to the unpaid post on the Board of Trustees in 1978, and was chosen by his peers to be the Chairman of the Board in 1987. He has served in this capacity for the college ever since.

"I would like to thank Mr. Monaghan and the ICCTA for this honor and especially all of the faculty, staff and administrators here now and through the years that I have had the privilege of serving with," said Zuccarelli. "Our talented faculty are our best asset and they are what have kept me going here—all of us working together—that's what makes it work and makes SSC so special."

Established in 1927, South Suburban College is a fully accredited, comprehensive community college.



# Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration

## Unleashing the Power of Peace



**M**ore than 450 people attended Thornton Township's annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration with the theme Unleashing the Power of Peace, the program took place at South Suburban College.

"To me Dr. Martin Luther King will always be this courageous icon who fought against inequality and led the nonviolent struggle that transformed this nation," said Loretta Wells, MLK event chairperson. We must remember to keep Dr. King's Legacy alive by continuing to bring awareness of his contributions to our young people and remind our adults that the struggle is not over. Dr. King Day should not be a day off but a day of service and acknowledgment of his significant contributions."

The event featured Gwendolyn Brooks Middle School Jazz Band (Harvey SD 152); District #205 Honor Band and Honor Choir and keynote speaker Reverend Dr. Ozzie E. Smith, Jr.

Frank M. Zuccarelli, Thornton Township supervisor, believes it is important as ever before to celebrate the great works, wisdom and diligence of King.

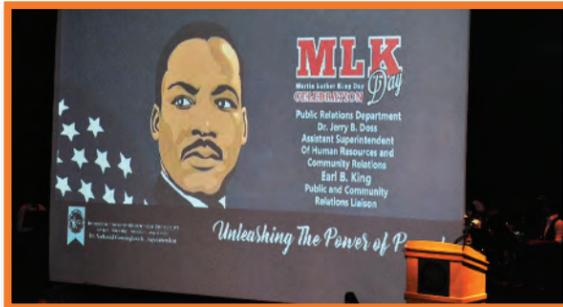
"Martin Luther King Jr. was a shining example to all of us on how we should act in the face of adversity. We plan to not only celebrate the man, but celebrate his message," said Zuccarelli.

Joyce M. Washington, Thornton Township Trustee and Chairperson of Thornton Township Human Relations Commission said, "Martin Luther King was a courageous man and leader, he will live in our hearts forever

Annette Whittington, District #205 board of education, gave a stirring rendition of Maya Angelo's 'I Rise,' accompanied by a praise dancer.

"MLK had a great spirit and a great soul for humanity," she said. "He was a sparkle to our land, bringing wisdom and hope in a gentle giant way. Even through there was danger all around him, he dared to dream, he faced death courageously."

Alderman Joseph Whittington Jr, 2nd Ward, City of Harvey, agreed. "Many a day I think about MLK sacrifice for my freedom as an African American. He is my true hero in many ways," he added. "When he writes he expresses my feelings and when he speaks, he shares my thoughts. He understood the importance of voting and the power of the vote. As an elected official, I feel it is my sworn duty to uphold the constitution that he fought for. A belief in political, social, and economic equality for all mankind was his dream."



## Science, Technology, Engineering and Math

# Thornton Township's STEM Program

Human history and world civilizations bear witness that innovative discoveries in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) often begin with an incredible spark that shines light on something truly amazing. Recently, Thornton Township citizens and its visionary education leaders sparked their own bright light of STEM/STEAM, which includes art. Thornton Township citizens and leaders agreed to invest in a high-quality and world-class after-school STEM education for children and adults in the Southland. This civic decision not only connects the Township with exciting STEM energies being generated around the state, nation and world, but it also has the potential to unleash an educational renaissance in the Southland that can last for many generations. Recent scientific findings tell us that after-school STEM programs can play a critical role in helping us achieve this vision. Studies show that children spend less than 20 percent of their waking hours in school, and after-school programs that include STEM can improve a child's critical thinking and problem-solving skills. We know that when students build real STEM skills it can improve their lives and communities.

It is a pleasure and honor for our organization, Law and Civics Reading and Writing Institute to join hands with Thornton Township's after-school program. We are delighted that the Township supports our unique heart-centered community STEM approach, which seeks first to "educate the heart" of adults in the lives of children, and especially a child's "first teacher," parent/caregiver.

We are pleased to report the Township's after-school STEM journey has begun and is moving well. Our researchers have collected and are analyzing information gathered from conversations with the after-school program staff and parents. We are working closely with the staff on how to integrate STEM/STEAM best practices in their existing

dynamic and heart-centered programs. Our research team is also using the data to develop science-supported solutions on how to more successfully expose and inspire all the children and youth in the Township to STEM learning, careers, and entrepreneurship.

During our engagement with the after-school program parents and caregivers, we've been able to better understand their STEM/STEAM needs, ideas, and opinions regarding their child's education. Our parent-based STEM/STEAM classes begin each session with the following question: "How are the Children?" This heart and child-centered question is designed to guide the meetings and encourage parents and caregivers to stay ever mindful of the needs of all children in the Township. And to especially appreciate two important scientific findings on children's learning: 1) adults' social and emotional status impacts children's social emotional development, and ultimately their academic achievement; 2) adults' beliefs and attitudes about STEM affect children's beliefs and attitudes about STEM.

Although we are early in our community after-school STEM/STEAM work, we are very excited about the current level of progress. However, as is the case with any community-based education initiative, our ultimate success will be measured by how well we build mutually-supporting and affirming alliances with individuals, groups, and institutions in the Township STEM ecosystem. We strongly believe the educational future of our children, their parents, families and communities depend on our identifying, securing, and growing these STEM/STEAM alliances in the Township. We eagerly look forward to working with all individuals and groups in the Township.

Dr. Stan Howard

President and CEO, Law and Civics Reading and Writing Institute



## A Busy Year for the Special Services Department

This has been a very busy year for Thornton Township's Special Services department. Every year our Special Service Department sponsors nine themed dances at Thornwood High School in South Holland, for people with developmental disabilities. About 400 guests attend each event. During the summer month's they host summer theme events at different locations. This year, we featured our annual Fishing Derby picnic at Effert Park in Lansing which entailed a delicious barbecue, fishing, bingo, arts and crafts and some dancing. Then they teamed up with Bloom Township and hosted a pool party at Bloom Township's Skyline Pool. The clients enjoyed a lunch, swimming, bingo and best of all... ice cream.

For Mother's Day and Father's Day, Thornton Township Special Service Department visited some nursing homes in Burnham, Dolton, Harvey and South Holland area. The Special Service staff members and a finance member were able to spend some time with some of the residents in these areas and hand delivered a gift bag with some nice useful treats. They also reached out to a Veteran's homes and gave them a gift as a Thank You from Thornton Township on behalf of Supervisor Frank Zuccarelli, and Special Services.

Special Olympics is another highlight. Every Monday, their client's practice bowling at Lan Oak's Lanes in Lansing, to compete in Special Olympics Bowling competition on a Regional, Sectional and State Tournament. In 2018, one athlete Joey Glowacki was selected to participate in the U.S.A. Special Olympics in Seattle Washington. Joey then won 2 gold medals at the Olympics. Supervisor Zuccarelli, Thornton Township board members and Special Service staff were all ecstatic and proud of this young man who was representing Thornton Township.

Another proud moment happened in December where a client named Wesley Simmons made it to the State Tournament. With some tough competitors, Wesley was tied for 4th place, and was happy with his results and we were as well, as we watched and saw how hard he tried.

We are looking forward to our Special Service department prom theme will be called, "Hollywood Stars" which will be presented with a nice dinner and dance. More information to come.



# SSC Nursing Graduates Achieve 100% Pass Rate!

As the South Suburban College Nursing Class of 2020 began their journey in this year full of excitement and anticipation, the most recent graduates proudly achieved a 100% pass rate on the daunting National Council Licensure Examination for registered nurses. NCLEX is a standardized exam that each state board of nursing uses to determine whether or not a candidate is prepared for entry-level nursing practice. SSC's recent graduate success is the culmination of four consecutive years above the annual national average pass rates for an average of 94% since the program reopened in 2013.

South Holland resident Catherine Newport, 31, was one of the 2018 graduates. She is a wife and mom of two boys, and worked a full-time night shift while earning her Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) at SSC. "I had a few personal struggles during my nursing education, but every single instructor I had was very supportive and willing to work with me," said Newport. "Passing the NCLEX was surreal – immediately after finishing I remember thinking it was two years of the toughest program for a 35-minute test, but when I got my pass I was elated!"

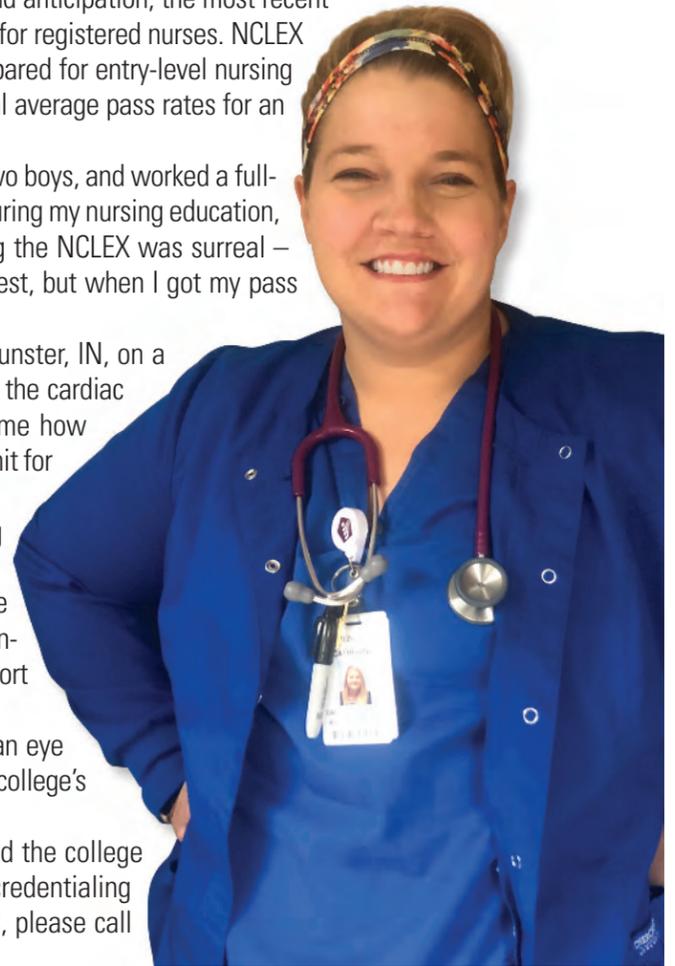
Just two weeks after graduation Newport embarked on her nursing career at Community Hospital in Munster, IN, on a cardiovascular outpatient floor. "My clinical experience through SSC along with working as a PCT at Rush in the cardiac intensive care unit prepared me well for the workforce," added Newport. "SSC's program also showed me how independent and self-motivated I can be. But honestly, nothing fully prepares you for stepping on that nursing unit for the first time with people's lives in your hands!"

The SSC Nursing Program has undergone a major transformation over the past five years, from revitalizing curriculum to providing innovative new student support systems and cutting-edge technology.

"New students are realizing the benefits of small class sizes and a student-centered approach," said Dr. Lynette D. Stokes, SSC President. "While the smaller numbers are beneficial to student development and more one-on-one student-teacher instruction, we are really looking forward to growing the program and continuing to support our Nursing students in every way possible in the years to come."

Long-term, the college is working to increase awareness to expand the Nursing student population with an eye toward a state-of-the-art Allied Health & Nursing Center, which is in the planning and development stage for the college's Main Campus in South Holland.

The SSC Nursing Program is approved by the Illinois Department of Professional Regulations (IDFPR) and the college is accredited by the North Central Higher Learning Commission (HLC), both critical components to proper credentialing and certification upon graduation. For more information about enrolling in the SSC Nursing Program at SSC, please call (708) 596-2000, ext. 2260. For information about the SSC Nursing job postings, please visit [www.ssc.edu](http://www.ssc.edu).



## Breast Cancer Awareness

# Get Your Pink On



While breast cancer rates have stabilized overall in recent years, it still remains an issue. Among United States women last year, there was an estimated 252,710 new cases of invasive breast cancer, according to the American Cancer Society. In order to get the message out about early detection, Thornton Township collaborated with District #215 to co-sponsor two "Get Your Pink On" Breast Cancer awareness football events during Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The two separate programs took place during football games at TF North and TF South. Thornton Township featured two tables with pink giveaways for the crowd. There was also an opportunity for those who attended to take photos with uplifting breast cancer awareness signs to post on their social media accounts.

"We understand how important of an issue this is not only in October but all year around," said Frank M. Zuccarelli, Thornton Township supervisor.



Breast cancer is the most common cancer among American women, except for skin cancers. About one in 8 or (12%) of women in the U.S. will develop invasive breast cancer during their lifetime.

"We want people to get these regular screenings and make sure they are healthy overall. We don't want you to just wait for something to happen before you check your health," said Ernst Lamothe Jr., who is coordinating both programs. It's very important to educate people about breast cancer awareness because it is a disease taking loved ones away and causing people to suffer."

Zuccarelli believes the key to sustaining good health is preventative programs because early detection saves lives. In an effort to keep the community healthy over-all, Thornton Township offers blood pressure, cholesterol and glucose screenings as well as light to moderate aerobic workouts by a certified instructor every weekday for its seniors.

# Thornton Township Youth & Family Services Summer Employment

- Apply for an **INSTRUCTOR, ASSISTANT, or VOLUNTEER** position with our Enrichment Program
- Staff will engage youth and families in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math, Fitness, Nutrition, Social Skills, Heritage, and Field Trips
- **Instructors** must possess a Bachelors Degree (related field preferred) & 2 years teaching experience (*Official Transcripts will be required*)
- **To apply**, submit resume (no facsimiles or emails) to India Blakely at 14323 S. Halsted in Riverdale, IL 60827
- Must pass a background check, drug/alcohol tests, physical, and tuberculosis test
- Must provide 2 professional & 1 personal reference
- Work hours are approximately 8:30a—3:30p Monday thru Thursday (excluding meetings)
- Volunteers must be at least 14 years old and submit a statement of interest to **iblakely@thorntontwp.com**
- First preferences given to Thornton Township Residents
- Instructor pay is \$20/hour; Assistant pay is \$10/hour, Volunteer is non paid
- Interviews scheduled to begin April 10th (*mandatory group interview tentatively scheduled for April 18th*)
- Must be available to work May 6th thru August 9th
- Questions can be sent to [iblakely@thorntontwp.com](mailto:iblakely@thorntontwp.com)
- **Deadline to apply is Friday April 5th @ 3pm**

Get to Know Your Community College



## SOUTH SUBURBAN COLLEGE

### 6<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE



Get Ready For The Summer & Fall Semesters!

# SAVE THE DATE!

MAIN CAMPUS, SOUTH HOLLAND

APRIL 9, 4:30 PM – 7 PM

CREDIT, NON-CREDIT & ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS

TOURS STUDENT SERVICES DEMONSTRATIONS

REFRESHMENTS & MORE

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL (708) 210-5718 OR VISIT [SSC.EDU](http://SSC.EDU)



## Senior<sub>RX</sub>



### Blood Pressure Screenings

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



### Cholesterol and Glucose Testing

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

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



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

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



## Senior<sub>TRANSPORTATION</sub>

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

Service is available from 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 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:** Super Walmart & The Landings (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



### 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.

For upcoming dates call:  
**708-596-6040, 3190**

\$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

class is scheduled at the Senior Center in Calumet City

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

#### Tuesday, Wednesday 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
- Burnham: Village Hall, 13925 Entre Ave

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

**Wednesday Lunch & Movie Day Location:**

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

**Thursday Lunch & Movie Day Location:**

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

**Pinochle Club**

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

**Bunco Club**

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

**Bingo**

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

**Bid Whist Club**

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

**Senior Trips**

A variety of one day trips are sponsored each month from February through November to theaters, professional sporting events, Museums, or Casinos. 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.**



# A Reminder to All Thornton Township Seniors About Upcoming Events

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

## is now open!

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

We at Thornton Township enjoy creating programs and activities for our communities. With multiple programs happening every week, we give our residents of all ages an opportunity to experience a good time. Here are just a few of those moments.

# Looking Back: A Year in Review

## A Tradition of Tasting

Moving to South Suburban College for the first time, the Taste of Thornton Township saw larger crowds who filled the expansive campus to enjoy games, rides, and live entertainment. Thornton Township Supervisor Frank M. Zuccarelli looked over the crowd and shouted: "We're having a great time today at the Taste!"

Zuccarelli added, "The Taste is one of our largest events and brings people throughout Thornton Township in one place to enjoy great live music, food, and family entertainment."

The almost 90-degree day did not temper excitement for the 17th annual event. This year's Taste featured free activities for the kids—face painting, carnival rides, and games—as well as practical fun such as back-to-school haircuts and book bags with school supplies. Attendees also enjoyed a petting zoo, a large assortment of food and craft vendors, live music from several bands, and a classic car show.

"This year's Taste was better than last year. More people came out this year than last year," said Tui M. Muse, Taste Chairman and Human Relations Commissioner. "The car show was excellent. It was amazing. The food was great and lots of variety. Entertainment was fantastic."

Several live bands entertained the crowd, and Trysh Granberry made a cameo appearance. Cranberry is an "America's Got Talent" contestant, a Dolton resident, and a Thornton Township General Assistance employee.

"Michael Jackson, James Brown, and Tina Turner impersonators dazzled the crowd," said Joyce Washington, Thornton Township Trustee. "The Seniors enjoyed themselves at the bingo tables. This event is for the community to come together and enjoy food, entertainment, family, and friends. We appreciate our great community."

Having South Suburban College as the new venue this year gave event organizers more room to expand the offerings. People from all over Thornton Township and areas as far as Chicago and Indiana were there. Mayors and other elected officials throughout the area were in attendance.

The packed weekend also featured the second annual Taste of Thornton Township Basketball Tournament. The five-on-five basketball tournament, which will once again take place at South Suburban College, is an extension of the Faith, Dignity and Respect Initiative. The program's goal is helping communities along with police officers and teenagers working together. The tournament involved teens and police playing on the same team for the pride of their town. This year, Markham defeated Dolton to take the championship trophy.

"When teenagers are able to see police officers out of the uniform and have meaningful interactions with them that carry a lot of weight when they eventually see them in uniform," said Ernst Lamothe Jr. Thornton Township communication manager, who oversees the basketball tournament. "Every police officer we talked with last year saw the tournament as an important way to interact and reach teenagers and that gave us the feedback we needed to have the tournament again. They really saw it as a unifying event."

The taste was sponsored by Excel Printing and Mailing, Nicor Gas, MB Financial, Gift of Hope, District #205, Burger King and Ma'Dear.



## A TRADITION OF GIVING

Thornton Township, gave away more than 3,500 toys to community residents as well as thousands of holiday food baskets during its annual Christmas Care program. It's a tradition that has become a staple of the Township's December programs for the past two decades, in an effort to make the holidays more enjoyable for families. Each child receives at least three individually wrapped gifts.

"The Christmas program is one of my favorite programs of the year," said Frank M.

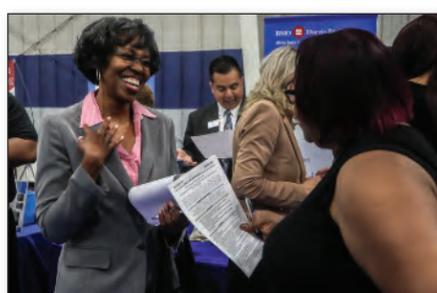
Zuccarelli, Thornton Township supervisor. "We enjoy helping our families in any way we can. Every little bit of help makes their life so much better."

The township brought joy to more than 600 families. "The township enjoys helping families. That is what local government is supposed to do," said Joyce Washington, Thornton Township Trustee. "The community really comes out for this program, and we are going to continue having this event for our residents."



# Thornton Township 2018

## A Tradition of Community



# Oh, The Price We Pay For **Baloney.**



**A** new law in Springfield, would allow the elimination of township government through local referendum and that's "baloney," any way you slice it.

The law proposes that services provided by a township would simply be taken over by the local county – saving taxpayers thousands each year.

### **Here's your first helping of baloney...**

County governments haven't won any awards for efficiency or being accountable with taxpayer dollars – especially Cook County.

### **Here's your second helping...**

Hidden in the law is a sentence that essentially says, *the county government shall levy up to 90% of the taxes currently being collected by the township.*

**90%!** So where's the tax savings?

In Thornton Township, we're doing more with less – dealing directly with residents, operating at the street level, delivering much needed services efficiently and effectively every day – and, refunding over \$4 million in property taxes to homeowners in the process.

Yup. You can pay an awful high price for baloney.

For more information on all the services Thornton Township provides, log onto our web site: [www.thorntontownship.com](http://www.thorntontownship.com)

