

FOCUS

ON
THORNTON
TOWNSHIP



WINTER 2019/2020

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

708-596-6040 • www.thorntontownship.com

WINTER EDITION

Remember those serving overseas for the holidays



The song, "I'll Be Home For Christmas (if only in my dreams)" probably brings a tear to a lot of people's eyes. It was written and sung from the point of view of a soldier stationed overseas during WW II and what many of you may not know, was rejected by the music industry for being too sad. Then,

Bing Crosby (I know I'm dating myself) recorded it in 1943 and scored a top ten hit and the tune remains a Christmas tradition in its own right to this day – especially for families missing loved ones.

This year, hundreds of Thornton Township families will have an empty chair at their holiday table and presents may remain unwrapped until next year. Hundreds of mothers, fathers and family members waved goodbye as their sons and daughters, husbands and wives shipped out to begin their deployment overseas with the military.

So, during this busy holiday season, please keep in mind the daughters, sons, fathers, mothers and spouses who are part of the United States military serving overseas (and those here at home) but who'll be absent from their own family gatherings.

Say a special prayer for those attempting to bring peace to the World and who protect our nation and our families every day. Pray that someday, very soon, they'll return home; take their place once again at the family holiday table. Pray that one day soon they'll be able to call their loved ones and say, "I'll be home for Christmas."

As we remember those serving in our armed forces and their families, let's not forget the hundreds of our Thornton Township neighbors who are less fortunate than we are. Those who are

alone; who may not have had as fulfilling a Thanksgiving Day meal as many of us did; those whose homes are colder or darker than our own or who may not have a roof over their heads at all.

Unfortunately, while the economy has slowly improved, many of our neighbors have not shared in the growth or remain out of work altogether. For these people, the reality is that the holiday season brings very little joy.

This is one reason why Thornton Township's General Assistance Program works hard every day – helping hundreds of unemployed residents to find new job opportunities through job placement and training and why our Food Pantry provides nutritious meals to more than 3,000 families every month during the regular year.

As we head into the New Year, you can help me make a major difference in a local family's life by making even a small donation to a church food bank or contributing to the Salvation Army or your own favorite charity. Each one of us, individually, can make the holidays and the entire year just a little brighter for many of our neighbors.

Finally, and speaking for our entire Thornton Township family, I want to extend to all township residents our warmest holiday greetings and best wishes for a safe, happy and healthy New Year.

Sincerely,

Frank M. Zuccarelli
Thornton Township Supervisor



Upcoming Board Meetings

- Tuesday December 17, 2019
Until further notice board meetings will be held at the ZAP building 16910 Westview in South Holland

The Township buildings will be closed:

- Christmas Day – Wednesday December 25, 2019
- New Year's Day – Wednesday January 1, 2020
- Martian Luther King Day – Monday January 20, 2020
- Lincoln's Birthday – Wednesday February 12, 2020

Office Locations

- **Thornton Township 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

DON'T BE LEFT OUT IN THE COLD

Now that cold weather is upon us, Thornton Township is reminding residents of its warming shelter location.

Thornton Township Senior/Youth & Family Services Center
14323 South Halsted, Riverdale, IL 60827
708-596-6040 Ext. 2007

Open from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. on days that are below freezing on non holidays.



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

Norbert Cipowski, Trustee
Stafford C. Owens, Trustee

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

Geary DePue, Highway Commissioner

Frank M. Zuccarelli, Supervisor

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RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER



Next Steps to Achieving a World Class STEM/STEAM “Institute of Excellence”

“Our country now has over \$2 trillion worth of dysfunctional architecture that is ill-suited to educate children in the 21st Century” PRAKASH NAIR



Over the past two years, under the strategic and visionary leadership of Supervisor Frank M. Zuccarelli, Thornton Township Youth and Family Services has endeavored to provide a community-based, heart-centered STEM/STEAM educational and social emotional environment within the context of an afterschool and summer enrichment program. Over these years, we have engaged global experts in the field. Chiefly, Dr. Stan Howard and his team, the Law and Civics Reading and Writing Institute (LCRWI) have partnered with us to provide this very necessary STEM programming. Further, they have researched, developed, written, and bounded a STEM/STEAM curriculum customized specifically for Thornton Township. We have been motivated to help support and complement the good and challenging work that our school districts are tasked with on a daily basis. We have not succeeded in this endeavor alone. State Representative Thaddeus Jones has been instrumental in securing dollars from the State to help fund our STEM/STEAM initiative. He has also been an influencer, as he has connected the Township with Dr. Storm Robinson and the prestigious Illinois Math and Science Academy (IMSA). Lastly, Dr. Lynette Stokes and South Suburban College has been a willing partner and has allowed physical space at SSC for programming.

Last year, we worked with over 300 students, 300 parents, and countless community stakeholders, all of which have endorsed the need for continued and expanded programming. In our work to this point, a constant theme centered around contemplating a way to work even closer with our respective school districts not only during afterschool and summer hours/days; but also, during the school day year round. This is when/where the STEM/STEAM Center of Excellence was borne. Conceptually, we are interested in not only helping to support educational initiatives with students; but also, we intend to train teachers, administrators, parent/caregivers, and other stakeholders in “design thinking” and other foundational STEM/STEAM philosophies and core values.

Posited by Dr. Stan Howard, the following are 10 important redesign values we should be ever mindful of as we seek to identify, build, and secure our STEM Center of Excellence. First, two important notes: 1. The list is not exhaustive. There are many other issues we need to address before making final decisions; 2. Although some of these ideas come from well-respected secondary sources (see citations below), most of the information we have compiled derives from our original STEM research that informed the Township’s customized community-STEM curriculum, and especially from the STEM parents listening sessions. Of note, the community STEM curriculum developed empowers parents as major players (and full participants) in all decisions concerning their children’s STEM education. The Township, through LCRWI, has been conducting weekly meetings and workshops with parent groups to support this goal since 2018. Redesigning 21st-century school parent empowerment workshops began last week, and parent leaders are very engaged in the topic. From the research and this dialogue, it is clear that our STEM/STEAM Center of Excellence must be grounded in 21st-century school design/redesign vision that supports:

Strong community-STEM curriculum-building-connection

A “student-centered” learning approach, as opposed to the archaic “teacher-centered” industrial revolution approaches, to educate children and adults in STEM/STEAM.

Community-Support and Buy-In

Demonstrable and meaningful community-involvement in STEM education decision-making, and particularly in the planning and designing of schools for historically underserved children and their families.

Designing a “Learning Building”

A 21st-century building that supports children learning, and “learns” itself by evolving with the needs of children and teachers.

Safe and Secure Learning Environment (in-school and outside the school)

Safe and secure learning environments for children and adults. This means being mindful of all the building’s potential health hazards (i.e. indoor air quality, dangerous cleaning chemicals, carcinogens, etc.) and what is happening outside of the building. Particularly given the toxic industrial environment in many parts of the Township, and the environmental racism that is its existential history, this point cannot be overstated.

Culturally Responsive

Planning and designing that honors, respects, and protects children’s cultural realities, and build a Center that socially connects with their cultural needs.

Schools over Prisons

Intentionally uses an evidence-based socially emotional development curriculum designed to dismantle the entrenched Cradle to Prison Pipeline narrative and practices.

Creativity over Conformity

An alignment with our 21st-century global economy that is rapidly moving away from learning approaches based in conformity and obedience, in favor of those rooted in problem-solving and life-long learning.

Supporting Neural Pathways

Investing in designing the Center with the “brain in mind.” This includes approaches that honor social-emotional growth and development, natural learning spaces to play, and multiple intelligences.

Technology Integration

Planning and designing that honor and respect digital literacy approaches that are essential for success in our global and creative economy.

Connection to Environment

Solid research that demonstrates that students do better in schools with more daylight, fresh air, and views of nature. (i.e. the importance of issues of sustainability).

Intentionally allowing these ten 21st century redesign core values to drive our efforts will result in the Thornton Township STEM/STEAM Center of Excellence project exceeding our expectations; and, prayerfully, will become the model for the state. Moreover, by adhering to these values, we hope to attract significant public and private funders interested in projects such as ours that are designed to support the STEM/STEAM needs of low-income communities of color. This funding will be critical as our initial budget estimates to build the Center are in the \$10MM+ range. The return on this investment will be substantial, as this Center will positively impact the lives of generations to come. Further, the anticipated impact on the communities from a jobs and economic development perspective is immeasurable.

If interested in more information or supporting this initiative, please contact Dr. J.L. Weems, Director of Youth and Family Services. Dr. Weems can be reached via e-mail at jweems@thorntontwp.com.

Important Sources

Thornton Township Customized Community-STEM Heart-Health-Heritage Curriculum, edited by Dr. Stan and Mrs. Anita Howard, September 2019

The Language of School Design: Design Patterns for 21st Century Schools, Prakash Nair, Randall Fielding, Jeffery Lackney. 2005-2013

The third teacher: a collaborative project: Cannon Design + vs Furniture + Bruce Mau Design. 2010

Blueprint for Tomorrow: Redesigning Schools for Student-Centered Learning, Prakash Nair 2014

ASSESSOR’S OFFICE: CASSANDRA W. HOLBERT-ELSTON



As this year is about to end, we would like to thank the Mayors, Village Presidents and other Elected Officials throughout Thornton Township for their involvement during the property tax season. With our combined efforts, we were able to assist thousands of taxpayers who are struggling to pay exorbitant property tax bills and also to educate them on the taxing process. We could not have achieved this without your help.

Also, a special Thank You, to the many taxpayers who supported our 20 workshops which were held this year. We certainly hope that they were beneficial to you.

Again, thank you and I look forward to partnering with the various elected officials and assisting the taxpayers of Thornton Township in the future.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS CASSANDRA W. HOLBERT-ELSTON,
ASSESSOR THORNTON TOWNSHIP & STAFF**

Thornton Township's

3rd Annual Taste Tournament

The Third annual Taste of Thornton Township Basketball Tournament crowned the Riverdale Park District team as champions. This year, the tournament was bigger in several ways. Eight teams participated in the double elimination tournament which was the largest ever. In addition, the crowd filled the South Suburban College bleachers. More than 150 people were in attendance for the tournament that combines police, firefighters, village and town employees and teenagers playing on the same team for the pride of their town. Riverdale Police and Fire Department came in second, while the Harvey Police Department came in third.

"This tournament was one of the best for many reasons. The large crowd watching the early games really elevated the enthusiasm and energy in the building," said Ernst Lamothe Jr., township communication manager.

Typically, communities have police officers and kids playing against each other in a basketball tournament; however, Thornton Township officials, decided the alternative made more sense.

"The way you make a community stronger is working together, loving each other, and knowing each other," said Frank M. Zuccarelli, Thornton Township supervisor. "We shouldn't have kids and police officers on opposite teams. We should have them side by side helping lift each other up. This is something we are going to do every year,

and it is going to be bigger and better."

Riverdale Park District lost the first game of the double-elimination tournament and then ran the table and won five consecutive games to win the championship.

"We are so thankful that the township organizes programs like this," said Kendall Parrott, executive director of the Riverdale Park District. "We were impressed on how coordinated and high-level this tournament was. We plan to be part of it for years to come and hopefully repeat as champions next year."

The five-on-five basketball tournament, which was held at South Suburban College, is an example of many Thornton Township's programs that focus on police officers and teenagers learning more about each other.

"You could immediately see that the basketball tournament really brought the officers and teenagers together. They huddled with each other, and encouraged and supported one another throughout the day," said Lamothe Jr. "We saw police officers, firefighters and village employees putting their arms around teenagers and just sitting down and having good conversations, laughing together and having a great time."

"We pride ourselves on creating new and exciting programs that both entertain and bring together our residents. This basketball tournament is just another example of that," added Jerry Jones, Thornton Township Trustee.



Honoring Our Veterans

Thornton Township honored the area veterans who have fought bravely for our country during our annual Veterans Day event. The township gave each veteran an individual pin to show its appreciation and served each veteran a free buffet dinner. The event was held on Saturday, November 9th at our senior center in Calumet City.

"This is one of my favorite events of the year," said Frank M. Zuccarelli, Thornton Township Supervisor who served in the Air Force. "We remember the sacrifices they made and the courage it takes to defend honor, duty, and country. Thinking of the heroes who join us that day and those who are here only in spirit, we stand here as a family."

The keynote speaker was Teresa Chandler, who has worked for taxpayers at the Cook County Assessor's Office for over 20 years. She serves as a Community Outreach Specialist in the Communications Department and is the Township Assessor Liaison for all 38 townships throughout Cook County.

"There are so many brave men and women who have served," said Chandler. "We want to thank all the veterans for answering the call and serving our country. Because of you we have the freedom of speech and so much more."

Thornton Township appreciates the service members as they possessed courage, pride, determination, selflessness, dedication to duty and integrity. They were called to be part of something bigger than themselves. They were ordinary people who responded in extraordinary ways in extreme times. They rose to the nation's call because they wanted to protect a nation which has given them, us, so much. The Lansing Ceremonial Honor Guard and Neil Venhuizen from Post #845, lead the ceremony playing TAPS. Reverend Jesse Burrage of Burnham lead the crowd in prayer throughout the event.

"We understand that we can do more together than we can ever do apart. This country was built on people working together and finding a common bond," said Zuccarelli. "They lead by example showing what true leadership looks like. We must also acknowledge the family members of the soldiers. We know you have all lived through difficult times and often took on the heavy load to keep everything running smoothly at home."



Pink Out!

Breast cancer is the second common cancer among American women behind skin cancers. About one in eight or (12%) of women in the U.S. will develop invasive breast cancer during their lifetime. This year alone, about 246,660 new cases of invasive breast cancer will be diagnosed in women and about 40,450 women will die from breast cancer, according to the American Cancer Society. In order to bring more awareness to the cause, Thornton Township partnered with both school district #205 and #215 to host its fourth annual Pink Out day. Students held encouraging breast cancer awareness signs and posted it on social media. The township also gave away pink items such as sweatshirts, headbands, T-shirts, key chains and stress balls.

"I had many family members who suffered from breast cancer and it scares me that one day I might get it," said Icesis Jarrett, 16, of Calumet City. "I believe that it is so important to have breast cancer awareness month because we have the power to fight for the people who fought their battles with cancer."

Breast cancer starts when cells in the breast begin to grow out of control.

These cells usually form a tumor that can often be seen on an X-ray or felt as a lump. After increasing for more than 20 years, breast cancer incidence rates in women began decreasing in 2000. But in recent years while incidence rates have been stable in white women, they have increased slightly in African American women. Breast cancer remains the second leading cause of cancer death in women with only lung cancer kills more women each year.

"It's very important to spread awareness and encouragement because it is a disease taking loved ones away and causing people to suffer," said Ernst Lamothe Jr., communication manager at Thornton Township. "I'm glad so many fundraisers and events are being created because I think it helps when people know that we care about them and that they are not standing alone."

The township also partnered with other communities to support their breast cancer campaigns.

"My grandparents died from stomach cancer and although it wasn't breast cancer, it is still important to advocate for all forms of cancer," said Dominic Owens, a senior at TF North from Calumet City.



Thornton Township Awards

Thornton Township once again was a winner at the annual Township Officials of Illinois Conference in Springfield. The township won two awards, which adds up to 10 awards in the past four years.

Thornton Township Supervisor Frank M. Zuccarelli was the recipient of the 2019 Robert Turner Award, presented by Sherrill Knorr, Reed Township supervisor. The Robert Turner award is given by the president of the Township Supervisors of Illinois to the supervisor who displays an extraordinary dedication to township government in their role.

Named after the late Bob Turner (1932-2008), the person who receives the award embodies the characteristic work ethic and attitude that Turner, who received the first award in 2006.

Thornton Township also received the 2019 Best Township Innovative Program, presented by Illinois Township Association of General Assistance Caseworkers President Mary Jo Imperato. Thornton Township was given this award because of its Emergency Financial Assistance program.



2019

Thornton Township

A Year in Review

At Thornton Township, we 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 our entire community. Here are just a few of those moments.

December '18



January



February



March



April



May



June



July



August



September



October



November



Taste of Thornton Township 2019 Recap

Betty Jones watched as her grandchildren and others jumped, danced and hugged some of their favorite superheroes and princesses. She could see the joy in the room full of excited children as they spent a few hours living out the south suburb version of Disney World.

"I heard about this event and I greatly appreciate it because it offers opportunities to meet new people from the neighborhood and it gives the children a chance to meet and make friends with other children their age," said Jones. "The children could not have been happier."

It was just another aspect of the successful 18th annual Taste of Thornton Township event which took place on a beautiful summer day, Saturday, August 24th at South Suburban College, 15800 State Street in South Holland, with more than 1,500 attending. During this event, children participated in coloring activities, photographs, dance parties and ate breakfast with their families and fictional heroes.

Not only was there an incredible turnout, but it was an opportunity for the parents and the children to enjoy a family-friendly event that was free for the community.

"This is an event that has been a staple at Thornton Township for years and it continues to grow. We add more superheroes and princesses and more entertainment for the kids," said Paula Counts, a Thornton Township Human Relations Commissioner who helps coordinate the event. "We heard incredible feedback and we appreciate all the kind words that families have told us about the event. They mentioned how thankful they were that the township puts on this incredible event."

At the end of the breakfast, volunteers handed out backpacks to the children to start the school year off with a fresh start. Then the second leg of the Taste of Thornton Township began filled with local food vendors, crafts, live music and performances, free carnival rides and games, a petting zoo and other activities. amongst the free activities and amenities. Some came for the rides while others arrived later for the live music.

The headliner was Heatwave, which is an international funk and disco band formed in 1975. In addition, there was an antique Classic Car show sponsored by 94 Nissan and Napleton River Oaks Car Dealership.

"We had an incredible number of people participate in our classic car show," said Bert Rivera, who organized the car show. "Our goal was to create a car show with some of the most diverse vehicles from the past nine decades. Those who came to our car show were amazed and the event grew incredibly from our first year."

"We had an incredible turnout once again this year. This event gets bigger and better with each year," said Frank M. Zuccarelli, Thornton Township supervisor. "These kinds of events not only provide a great service but focus on bringing the community together and creating everlasting memories."

We would like to thank all our sponsors Gift of Hope, District #205, 94 Nissan, Burger King, Fifth-Third Bank and Excel Printing and Mailing. Thank you to Car Show sponsors, Napleton River Oaks. Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, RAM and 94 Nissan of South Holland.



Thornton Township Offers Residents A Unique Experience

Thornton Township once again worked with the **Illinois Horse Rescue of Will County** to provide residents with a unique encounter that many don't have an opportunity to experience. The organization specializes in rescuing animals that would either be abandoned or euthanized if not for us saving them. They take in regular and miniature horses, peacocks, ducks, sheep, goats, alpacas, birds and donkeys and remains one of the only animal rescue places that take in these kinds of animals in the south suburbs of Chicago. The Illinois Horse Rescue has worked with the township over the past several years in events such as Days in

the Park, the annual Township picnic, the Taste of Thornton Township and other various community outreach initiatives. The organization has 35 stalls for various animals.

"Having grown up on a horse farm as a child, being around horses was something I had always taken for granted. After starting to take in rescue horses on my own property as an adult, it took one visit from an amazing group of autistic children to open my eyes to the value of a horse's love," said Tony Pecho, founder of the organization. "We take in so many different and wonderful animals and I was amazed at the children's responses. It was

at that point that I realized these rescue animals had a bigger purpose in life."

Pecho started the organization with his own money because he saw the purpose of animal rescue and rehabilitation entwined with emotional healing for outreach programs. The organization strives to represent both animal and human interests by creating a program that promotes personal growth through animal interaction and care. This unique strategy supports an environment of unconditional love and companionship in which rescued animals and people can work together towards healing each other and strengthening their ability to be a positive force in

the lives of others and of themselves.

"That is one of the reasons why we started working with the township and we have been so grateful. The township does so much for the community so it was a natural fit for our two organizations to come together," said Pecho.

Illinois Horse Rescue does not receive any state or government funding at all. The organization is run solely on donations from the people who care about the animals they save. Their staff is made up entirely of volunteers. This allows all donations to directly benefit the rescued animals. For more information, call **(708) 258-3959**.





South Suburban College announces \$1.5 million Workforce Equity Grant with new career programs

South Suburban College recently announced its selection for a Workforce Equity Grant through the Illinois Community College Board which includes funding for several new in-demand programs. The project is designed to create, support and expand short-term workforce training opportunities in high need areas within SSC District #510. Through expanded access, opportunity, and support services, the project is anticipated to yield impactful outcomes for individuals, families, communities, local businesses.

"We are so pleased to receive this grant for the benefits it will provide to our student participants, as well as its establishment of new highly employable career programs," said Frank M. Zuccarelli, Chairman of the SSC Board of Trustees. "I commend the ICCB for recognizing the importance of providing assistance to students who need it the most, while also creating critical opportunities for meaningful employment."

The project provides wrap-around services including financial assistance and academic support to participating students within five program areas providing stackable credentials including Nursing and Patient Care Technician (PCT), Basic Nursing Assistance Training Program (BNATP), Community Healthcare Worker (CHW), Certified Production Technician (CPT), and Barber Technician (BT).

Students who are not selected to participate in the grant will still benefit from the opportunity to enroll in the following new programs, pending final ICCB approval:

Patient Care Technician (PCT)

The PCT program will be offered during the Spring 2020 Semester and will provide

stackable credentials in EKG, Basic Nursing Assistant Training Program (BNATP), and Phlebotomy. The program is a basic certificate which allows completion in one semester. According to Indeed.com, the average national salary of jobs for PCT is \$36,000.00 with a high confidence ranking based on over 250 sources. The U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data shows job outlooks for PCTs and related careers will increase by 23% over the next 10 years.

Barber Technician (BT)

The Barber Technician program will not be in place until the Fall 2020 Semester. Barber Technician is a 12-month program leading to professional certification. According to BLS data, the average salary for a Barber in Illinois is \$42,930, or \$20.64 per hour with an increase in demand of 9% by 2026. In the Southland area, there are currently 286 new job openings for barbers. The Barber Technician program at SSC will be offering programming and support at a fraction of the cost to attend area proprietary institutions.

For more information about these programs, please call **(708) 596-2000, ext. 2413** or email workforceequity@ssc.edu.

Open registration for the Spring 2020 Semester begins Monday, October 21, 2019. For more information, please visit www.ssc.edu or contact the Admissions Office at **(708) 210-5718**. Para Información En Español Llame: (708) 210-5740. SSC is located at 15800 South State Street, South Holland, Illinois. The Oak Forest Center is located at 16333 South Kilbourn Avenue, Oak Forest, Illinois.

Register Now for Spring Classes at South Suburban College

A free class is available to qualified applicants during the spring term.

Spring Registration is in progress at South Suburban College (SSC). The 2020 Spring Semester begins the week of Monday, January 13th for both credit and non-credit classes at the college's Main Campus and Oak Forest Center. The class schedules are available online at www.ssc.edu. Prospective students are encouraged to register soon to secure their preferred schedule.

The spring semester is an excellent opportunity for students to take the next step in their success by customizing a class schedule at a convenient, affordable institution. Prospective SSC students should get started with the Online Application at www.ssc.edu. Once the application process is complete, new students will receive an SSC email account and a Self Service Username & Password via email which will allow access to student information and class registration. Early registration is encouraged and may also be completed in person in the SSC Circle.

SSC also offers a free class to first time credit students residing in District 510 and in Lake County, IN. Residents may take the free class during a fall or spring semester (high school students may also utilize the free class during the summer semester before or after their senior year). The free class applies to tuition only – it does not apply to courses of more than 5 credit hours, and it cannot be used with State or Federal Financial Aid, Other Special Tuition Programs or Employer Subsidy Programs.

For more information, please visit www.ssc.edu or contact the Admissions Office at **(708) 210-5718**. Para Información En Español Llame: (708) 210-5740. SSC is located at 15800 South State Street, South Holland, Illinois. The Oak Forest Center is located at 16333 South Kilbourn Avenue, Oak Forest, Illinois

Take the Next Step.

Register For Spring 2020 Classes Today!

Call **(708) 210-5718** or visit
the **SSC Circle!**

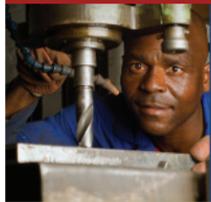




SOUTH
SUBURBAN
COLLEGE

ssc.edu

NEW! WEI GRANT PROGRAMS






The SSC Workforce Equity Initiative (WEI) project is funded to support 300 participants through the completion of short-term educational opportunities in the following areas: Nursing & Patient Care Technician, Community Healthcare Worker, Certified Production Technician, and Barber Technician. WEI Participants will also earn stackable credentials including:

- ✓ CPT-Manufacturing Basics Certificate (CPT)
- CPT-Certified Forklift Operator (National Safety Council)
- CPT-MSSC Safety Certification
- CPT-MSSC Quality and Measurement Certification
- CPT-MSSC Production Certification
- CPT-MSSC Maintenance Certification

- ✓ CHW-Community Health Worker Basic Certification
- ✓ CPCT/A-Patient Care Technician
- BNATP-Certified Nursing Assistant
- PCT-Phlebotomist
- CET-EKG Technician
- ✓ Barber Technician Certification (Coming Soon!)

Eligible participants will receive tuition assistance, access to emergency funds for transportation, childcare, and other emergencies, financial assistance to cover the cost of books and materials, career networking and development opportunities, advisement (personal, academic, and career), tutoring, and other supportive services.

To be eligible for participation individuals must demonstrate financial need and have an interest in and commitment to completing a certificate or program in one of the academic areas listed.

Contact:
South Suburban College Workforce Equity Initiative
workforceequity@ssc.edu
(708) 596-2000 ext. 2413



This is Success.

ssc.edu

SSC is a community college located in South Holland, Illinois serving 21 communities including parts of the Chicago Southland and northwest Indiana. SSC provides a variety of support services and leadership opportunities to its students in addition to a wide range of academic program options. For more information about SSC, please visit www.ssc.edu.



Senior_{RX}



Blood Pressure Screenings

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



Cholesterol and Glucose Testing

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

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



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

This free program is sponsored by the Illinois Department on Aging and provides counseling for 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 with comparisons of supplemental insurance plans and part D prescription drug plans. Now serving you at three (3) locations.



Senior_{TRANSPORTATION}

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

Service is available from 7:00 a.m. to 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 seniors 60 years of age and older with federal and state income tax preparation. **This service is by appointment** and is provided to **Thornton Township residents only** 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.

Line Dance Class

Monday and Friday class is scheduled at the Senior Center in Calumet City 10:45 a.m. to Noon

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 several 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 Municipal Building, 15320 Broadway Avenue
- 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

- Thornton Township Senior Center, 1420 Huntington Drive, Calumet City
- 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
- Thornton Township Senior/Youth & Family Services Center, 14323 Halsted, Riverdale
- 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

4th Wednesday of each month
1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
Calumet City Senior Center

Bid Whist Club

FREE Every Tuesday
11:00 am to 3:00 pm
Riverdale: Thornton Township Senior/Youth & Family Center



Let's Play Bingo Smiling Senior

1st Wednesday of each month
1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
Calumet City Senior Center

Let's Play Bingo AARP Chapter #3886

2nd Wednesday of each month
1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
Calumet City Senior Center



Thornton Township Senior Services

We offer a wide range of services and special events for senior citizens of Thornton Township. These programs and services are designed to assist seniors in enjoying their "Golden Years." For information on any of our programs or services, or to make an appointment, please call the Township Hall at **708-596-6040, Ext. 3170**, the Calumet Senior Center at **Ext. 3190** or the Riverdale Senior Center at **Ext. 2000**.



Benefit Access Application (BAA)

Formerly Circuit Breaker

A program aiding with license plates discount and ride free transit card for qualifying seniors and persons with disabilities.

Call for more information

708-596-6040 Ext. 3170 or 3190.

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 Event

NEW YEAR'S PARTY

**Monday, December 30, 2019
11:00 am - 3:00 pm**

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

Entertainment Edizon

**No tickets will be sold after December 23rd
No Refunds**

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

For more information call
(708) 596-6040, Ext. 3190 or Ext. 3170

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
Awakening To Greatness

JAN 20th

MLK DAY
Celebration

South Suburban College
Kindig Performing Arts Center
15800 South State Street
South Holland, IL

Doors Open at 9:30am
Program Begins at 10:00am
FREE ADMISSION
Everyone is welcome to attend

KEYNOTE Speaker:
Dr. Chandra Gill
Founder/CEO: Blackademically Speaking

Special Performance: McKinley Junior High School Jazz Band

Event Chairperson **Loretta Wells**

THORNTON TOWNSHIP
Human Relations Commission
FRANK M. ZUCCARELLI, SUPERVISOR
South Suburban College

THORNTON TOWNSHIP
School District 205 Superintendent
Dr. Nathaniel Cunningham, Jr.
South Suburban College - President
Dr. Lynette D. Stokes

SANTA
RELIES ON
CENSUS DATA

Make sure
your family's information
is up-to-date!

United States[®]
Census
2020
Plan to
participate
Coming in March

Thornton Township
Wishes You

Thornton Township Established 1850

Blue Island Burnham
Calumet City Dixmoor Dolton
East Hazel Crest Glenwood Harvey Hazel Crest
Homewood Lansing Markham Phoenix Posen
Riverdale South Holland Thornton

**Happy Holidays &
a Prosperous New Year**

PAPÁ NOEL
SE BASA EN LOS
DATOS DE EL CENSO

Asegúrense
que la información de su
familia esté actualizada!

United States[®]
Census
2020
Participa
EN MARZO 2020

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

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THORNTON TOWNSHIP CELEBRATES

Hispanic Heritage Month

Culture is a way to bring families, communities and future generations together. In our society today, we are so pre-occupied with school, work and family that we tend to stray from our cultural customs. The Thornton Township Hispanic Heritage Celebration reminded the community about the importance of culture. The event, which took place in late September as part of Hispanic Heritage Month at the Thornton Township Senior Center in Calumet City, was filled with cultural food, history, music and dance.

"Events like these provides different perspectives of cultures and educates the community on the importance of it in our everyday lives," said Bert Rivera of Lansing, co-chair of the event and member of the township Human Relations Commission. He also mentions the importance of understanding the

history of the Hispanic culture and how it originated.

"The more we know about each other, the more we learn to love each other and that's what's most important," said Rivera. "Learning to respect and accept others for their religious and cultural backgrounds is an important factor.

The event was a wonderful way to bring families and friends together.

"When I first heard about this event, I thought it was a great opportunity because I'm Hispanic and it is important that my daughter understands her cultural background," said Yahira Isidoro from Griffin, Indiana. "There are always new ways to learn about different cultures and even cultures that we originate from, and this event shared the true meaning of culture."

Others mark their calendars every September for the celebration.

"I attend this event every year and

similar events because it gives me the opportunity to explore different cultures and their meaning," said Wyonnie Woffre from South Holland, IL.

The keynote speaker was Marilu Gonzalez. She has been a District #205 teacher for more than 11 years and received bachelor's in education in Physical Education at Chicago State University and masters in Educational Leadership at Concordia University. She was the head women's coach at South Suburban College for eight years and is an alumna of Thornridge High School and Coolidge Middle School.

She spoke out about her life growing up as a Hispanic in Harvey IL, and the challenges she faced throughout her life. She mainly spoke of how important culture is and how it was an influential factor in her life and the life of others. "Culture is viewing the way other people live, and through sharing these stories, you wouldn't believe how

strong the impact of sharing culture is," she added.

The Thornton Township Hispanic Heritage Celebration was a momentous event that taught the true meaning of culture and brought together a diverse community.

"It is important to celebrate other peoples' cultures and history, and to understand how it all originated gives me a different perspective on the Hispanic culture" said Patricia Patterson from Calumet City.

Committee on the U.S. on Civil Rights. "That is why it's important for these kinds of events to happen in the south suburbs and other surrounding municipalities."

Thornton Township is the largest township in Illinois and is made up of all or part of 17 south suburban communities.



REMEMBERING THOSE WHO SERVE.

This Holiday Season, make it a point to remember those township residents serving in our nation's military - protecting our nation and each of our families - every day.

