

FOCUS

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THORNTON
TOWNSHIP



SPECIAL EDITION 2020

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

708-596-6040 • www.thorntontownship.com

COVID-19 EDITION

An Open Letter To All Essential Service Workers

These Unsung Heroes Deserve Our Thanks Too



During these unprecedented and dangerous times, each one of us owes a debt of gratitude to those nurses, doctors, EMT's, police and firefighters who are on the front lines every day, laying it all on the line every day, battling the Coronavirus on our behalf. We are all aware of what they do – of the sacrifices they make in fighting to keep us healthy and safe.

But I also want to bring attention to another group of essential public service workers, who rarely receive the accolades or tribute they too so richly deserve for their sacrifice and tireless labors.

They are the hundreds of Township employees across this state that man the local food pantries, general assistance offices and senior transportation services – feeding thousands of families and providing weekly, curbside, ride service for hundreds of seniors for essential travel.

During normal times, Thornton Township provides food to over 3,000 families and senior citizens every month and now, with businesses closing – some for good – and thousands being laid-off, these numbers have skyrocketed.

Each week, cars line up for blocks as Township employees carry out scores of boxes of nutritional food. When they are not handing out food boxes, they are picking up donated food; assembling thousands of boxes for the next distribution; delivering boxes to hundreds of senior shut-ins; providing daily lunches for seniors and more. This is a continuous process of twelve to fifteen hour days.

During this pandemic, Thornton Township has also maintained its Monday – Friday, senior transportation services – making sure that hundreds of senior residents who can no longer drive – get to scheduled medical services such as dialysis and doctor appointments or trips to the grocery store, pharmacy or other essential destinations.

Additionally, Thornton Township's essential services departments will remain open throughout the Coronavirus crisis. You may call these critical service offices by dialing our main telephone number, (708) 596-6040, then dialing the following phone extensions:

- Food Pantry: **ext. 3180**
- Senior Transportation: **ext. 4011**
- General Assistance: **ext. 3132**
- Senior Services: **ext. 3170**

As they do their job, our staff exposes themselves and their families to serious health risks. That is what makes their commitment to helping their neighbors all the more inspiring.

As Supervisor I have always tried to make Thornton Township a place where everyone has a neighbor they can count on in difficult times. I am proud to say we are that neighbor and I am so very proud of the township staff that makes that a reality every day.

Sincerely,

Frank M. Zuccarelli
Thornton Township Supervisor



Until Further Notice:

Thornton Township has suspended the following services:

Senior Center

1420 Huntington Drive, Calumet City

- All exercise and dance activities
- All card games
- All income tax services
- No senior lunches available outside of our Calumet City Senior Center or our Riverdale Senior location.
- No weekly movie
- No bingo activities
- No group senior counseling

Senior Center

14323 S. Halsted, Riverdale

- All exercise and dance activities
- All card games
- No senior lunches available outside of our Calumet City Senior Center or our Riverdale Senior location.
- No weekly movie
- No group senior counseling

Youth and Family Services

14323 S. Halsted, Riverdale

- All after school childcare services

Special Services Department

333 162nd St., South Holland

- All dances and regularly scheduled activities

Assessor's Office

COVID-19 TESTING SITES

- Christian Community Health Center • 901 E. Sibley in South Holland
- Illinois Department of Public Health • 3824 W. 159th Place in Markham



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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COVID-19 Pandemic

Living Through Trauma



As defined by a group of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services experts, individual trauma results from an event, series of events, or set of circumstances that is experienced by an individual as overwhelming or life-changing. That situation has a profound effect on the individual's psychological development or well-being, often involving a physiological, social, and/or spiritual impact.

Intergenerational or historical trauma can be defined as "...cumulative emotional and psychological wounding, over the lifespan and across generations, emanating from massive group trauma experiences."

Types of Intergenerational (Historical) traumatic events:

- Genocide
- Slavery
- Pandemics
- Massacres
- Prohibition or destruction of cultural practices
- Discrimination/systemic prejudice
- Forced relocation

This pandemic, COVID-19, is currently having an impact on our way of life and how we navigate the world. It is also causing a great deal of terror, despair, and grief given the enormous and yet rising death toll. It is impacting our sense of control, encroaching on our comfort zones and requiring us to adjust to continually fluid situations. The aforementioned is true whether the individual is quarantined at home under a "shelter in place order" or if the individual and/or family member is on the front-line courageously functioning as an essential worker. As tragic as our current circumstances are, the fear is that the aftermath may be equally as devastating with ramifications reverberating throughout generations.

Clearly, these are unprecedented times and effective mental/behavioral health interventions are necessary. We firmly believe that these issues can be successfully addressed through our counseling/therapy services embedded within the Township's Youth and Family Services Department. Our clinicians are well experienced masters and doctoral level providers. They are competent and compassionate and are eager to provide free, quality, mental health care to all residents of Thornton Township. We can provide services to our clients via traditional outpatient services at either our South Holland or Riverdale office and/or we can provide virtual telehealth services by utilizing a confidential, secured, encrypted telehealth platform. To begin the intake process, please call **708/596-6040 ext. 3155**.

Exposure to and living through traumatic events has the strong potential to shape our beliefs, knock us off our square and rock us to our core at a fundamental level. It impacts our cosmological perspective in such a way that it has the potential to distort

our very identity, spiritual and existential beliefs.

Trauma, and our interpretations of it, triggers our survival mode response (i.e., fight, flight, freeze) and engages our sympathetic/parasympathetic nervous system. When properly discharged and trauma resolved, balance is reset and a sense of homeostasis returns. However, when trauma is not appropriately discharged, problematic behavior can occur and have an impact on optimal functioning. For example, when an overactive nervous system stays "on", individuals may present with hyperactivity, stress/anxiety, panic, rage, hypervigilance, mania. And when a nervous system registers "off", individuals may present with depression, disconnectedness, feelings of despair, fatigue/exhaustion, and grief. Not surprisingly, as a result of trauma, some adults report an uptick in PTSD like symptoms, depression, anxiety, adjustment disorders, relationship issues, increased substance use and other addictive behaviors.

As debilitating as trauma can be for adults, trauma in the form of adverse childhood experiences can also have significant long-term negative ramifications on children and adolescents. In addition to the stress potentially causing issues with brain functioning making it difficult for an individual to focus, respond, learn and process, please see below for other potential life-long physical, mental and behavioral outcomes associated with trauma in children and adolescents:

- Alcohol, tobacco & other addictions
- Auto-immune disease
- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease & ischemic heart disease
- Depression, anxiety & other mental illness
- Diabetes
- Multiple divorces
- Fetal death
- High risk sexual activity, STDs & unintended pregnancy
- Intimate partner violence—perpetration & victimization
- Liver disease
- Lung cancer
- Obesity
- Self-regulation & anger management problems
- Skeletal fractures
- Suicide attempts
- Work problems—including absenteeism, productivity & on-the-job injury

In the meantime, please stay safe and healthy.

Be well,
Dr J.L. Weems, Psy.D.

Since 2003, Dr. Weems has been the Director of Youth and Family Services for Thornton Township. He is an expert in executive leadership and integrative health and wellness services and provides consultation, globally. Licensed as a clinical professional counselor in the State of Illinois, he possesses a doctorate in Clinical Psychology from the Illinois School of Professional Psychology (2000).

COVID
CORONAVIRUS
DISEASE
19

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19

Avoid close contact with people who are sick.



Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.



Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.



Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.



Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.



Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.



Important Phone Numbers

Illinois Department of Public Health:
(800) 889-3931

Cook County Health Department:
Main **(708) 633-4000** / Oak Forest **(708) 633-8030**

Emergency Response:
911

We're Here For You



This has definitely been a unique time in our country. Even though the coronavirus started making news nationwide late last year, it vaulted to the forefront of many Americans' minds in March. Thornton Township assembled each manager from our various departments to decide which essential services would be maintained and which would be suspended with the number of coronavirus confirmed cases growing. We struggled with that because we've always had an open door policy, and we wanted to keep as many programs as possible running.

But we also needed to make sure our residents were safe, especially since we serve many older adults in the community. Once the schools and businesses decided to close, we had to be diligent in making sure that we were not putting any of our residents or our staff at risk, while continuing to provide services for people so they wouldn't fall through the cracks. Township government is so essential, and this crisis has proven that.

Outsiders who don't understand our impact have said that township government is an extra layer of government. We actually see that differently. We see that extra layer as a safety net for the community. We offer services and programs that residents wouldn't be able to utilize without us—free food, counseling, health screenings, and transportation to medical facilities and grocery stores.

Adjusted, but available

One of the most important elements we provide for families is food. Supervisor Frank Zuccarelli insisted that the township must continue its Wednesday food pantry distribution to insure that thousands of township families impacted in so many ways by this pandemic, won't go hungry. We went from serving around 250 families per week to more than 2,100. Thornton Township families can arrive at our food pantry as early as 9:00 am on Wednesdays at 15340 Page Avenue in Harvey. In addition, Supervisor Zuccarelli directed that the township maintain its weekly Senior Lunch program, although because of the Governor's "stay at home" executive order, modifications had to be made to provide lunches via curbside/pick-up service only. Seniors can come from 11:00am to 12:30pm Tuesday through Thursday to our Calumet City site (1420 Huntington Drive) or our Riverdale site (14323 S. Halsted). The price of the meals will remain at \$1.50.

On hold for now

- At our Senior Centers in Calumet City (1420 Huntington Drive) and Riverdale (14323 S. Halsted), we have suspended all exercise and dance activities, card games, income tax services, weekly movie, bingo activities, and group senior counseling.
- Youth and Family Services (14323 S. Halsted, Riverdale) have suspended all after-school childcare services.
- Special Services Department (333 E. 162nd St., South Holland) has suspended our regular dances and regularly scheduled activities.
- The Assessor's Office has suspended taking clients.

These were not easy decisions for us. Our coronavirus task force and Supervisor Zuccarelli wrestled with wanting to keep as many programs as possible open because we always strive to help the community and be a vessel for people in need. However our concerns for the community's health had to be our number one priority.

Still open for business

I want to emphasize one point: **All our township buildings are still open**, and people can stop in whenever necessary. Also, we continue to operate our senior transportation program.

The Township family

One of the most difficult parts of this process is being disconnected from our fellow township employees and communities. Many of us have worked with residents and each other for decades. With the incredible culture we have created, it's difficult to be unable to hug, kiss, and shake hands! We are used to being able to give our clients hugs when we see them in need—we've always been a strong shoulder for them to cry on and a friendly face to deliver news of help.

All we know right now is that we will get through this together. The coronavirus is something that doesn't discriminate. It affects all genders, all political and religious affiliations, the wealthy and underserved, all cultures, East Coast, West Coast, South, or Midwest. We need to work together and stay united.

We are hopeful that this current crisis will help us realize what we already knew all along—we have more similarities than differences. Use this time as an opportunity and a gift whether that is reconnecting with family and friends, taking care of important tasks in your life that you have ignored or just taking time to pause and slow down your life.

Stay safe, stay calm, stay united, and don't lose your sense of love and laughter through this difficult time.

Ernst Lamothe Jr.
Thornton Township Communication Manager

Food Pantry

With a pandemic gripping the nation, Thornton Township knew there would be certain essential services that we would keep open at all cost. One of them was our successful food pantry. Typically, we serve 400 families each week offering them a box of perishable and nonperishable items from canned foods to bread, milk and meat. When COVID-19 hit, our numbers increased to serving more than 2,100 families each week. There would be days where the lines of cars for our drive through food service spanned four blocks long.

"What we are experiencing now is an example of how the Township government is on the front lines every single day, in providing meaningful help to families in need. We have a special responsibility to help people and we're meeting that charge every day," said Frank M. Zuccarelli, Thornton Township supervisor.

We expect the food resource center to be a crucial resource for the community long after the stay-at-home order is lifted and the curve is flattened.

"If we weren't here to help people, a lot of people wouldn't know what to do for meals for their families," said Ernst Lamothe Jr., Thornton Township communication manager.

Many people will emerge from this pandemic without the resources they need and even deeper food insecurity.

"We have many people in line who have never used our services and I think that's a symptom of what we're going to be seeing throughout the spring, summer and fall," said Troy O'Quin, Thornton Township General Assistant Manager.

Before the pandemic hit, those seeking food would come into the center where they would be checked into databases and then go back to their cars and wait for food to be brought to them. Now, for health/safety reasons, families aren't allowed to enter.

"We have totally changed our operation," said O'Quin. "Now nobody has to get out of their cars to come in to register or sign up. We check everybody in their cars, and as cars pull through, we load the cars with the food resources."

For weeks, the Cook County Sheriff's Department has helped pass out food to families at the township food pantry.

"This is the epitome of community policing, of community engagement, and just to let citizens see a different side of people with these interactions," said Lt. Yolanda Collins-Watson, Cook County Sheriff's Department.

Many of our residents have been grateful that the Township has been there for their families in these tough times. Houston Taylor was thankful for the food that can help feed his growing family.

"A lot of people don't have certain basic necessities like running water, food, clothing," he said.

Mary Hairston-Prah is also thankful, but knows the real toll coronavirus can take. Her friend died from COVID-19.

"I had a friend who was at work and doing fine," she said. "Then she started feeling sick and days later she went to the hospital and went just like that."



Thornton Township Employees Answer Quarantine/Shelter Questions



India Blakely, Youth and Family Services Coordinator

What is the first thing you are looking forward to doing after the quarantine/shelter in place is lifted?

I am looking forward to an attempt at a long bike ride near water. Let's see how far I get.

What have you learned about yourself during this time?

I learned that I really like and appreciate hubby.

What TV show or shows did you binge that you would recommend?

I would recommend "The Chosen" series, "The Encounter" series, and "Sons of Thunder" series. All very entertaining and encouraging for this time.



Jessica Jones, Human Resources

What is the first thing you are looking forward to doing after the quarantine/shelter in place is lifted?

Get my hair and nails done.

What have you learned about yourself during this time?

I like being around people and struggle sitting inside for long periods of time. Also I truly miss being able to hug people.

What TV show or shows did you binge that you would recommend?

We have been watching old shows from the 90's.



Ernst Lamothe Jr., Community Relations

What is the first thing you are looking forward to doing after the quarantine/shelter in place is lifted?

Whenever possible go to a Chicago White Sox game but since that won't happen for a while then playing tennis at a park.

What have you learned about yourself during this time?

I miss being able to give someone a hug or even putting a hand on their shoulder. My own parents won't hug me but I do understand why so I will cut them some slack

What TV show or shows did you binge that you would recommend?

Ozark, Living Single, Tiger King, The Office and HBO because some shows were free for the month of April



Rosemary Calvert, Front Desk Reception

What is the first thing you are looking forward to doing after the quarantine/shelter in place is lifted?

I am looking forward to going back to church, walking my daily five miles, visiting family and friends, eating out. Plus, I love my job and I miss my co-workers.

What have you learned about yourself during this time?

I am not a home body. I am a people person. I miss my seniors in my neighborhood. I can't take naps or go back to sleep. Now I go to bed around 1 am.

What TV show or shows did you binge that you would recommend?

I watch all the Chicago shows Fire, Med.and PD. Also Station 19, S.W.A.T, OWN channel shows . Lifetime channel has great movies about murder, kidnapping, and crazy neighbors.



Joyce Washington, Thornton Township Trustee

What is the first thing you are looking forward to doing after the quarantine/shelter in place is lifted?

Going to Orland Mall and having a burger with my friends.

What have you learned about yourself during this time?

I did learn I have to pay more attention to others and myself and not just react on impulse. Also sheltering yourself you not only have time to think about the good and too much time to think about the bad.

What TV show or shows did you binge that you would recommend?

Turner Classic Movies and the Game Show Network



Jacki Rivera, Thornton Township Clerk

What is the first thing you are looking forward to doing after the quarantine/shelter in place is lifted?

Go to some of the Senior homes to visit, pray & serve as I've done in the past.

What have you learned about yourself during this time?

That my faith is strong and that you can do all things through Christ that strengthens us.

What TV show or shows did you binge that you would recommend?

Empire, SWAT and Seal Team



Paula Counts, HRC member and Youth and Family Department

What is the first thing you are looking forward to doing after the quarantine/shelter in place is lifted?

I will continue to practice a form of social distancing. I don't currently feel that the pandemic will fully be over when the quarantine is lifted.

What have you learned about yourself during this time?

I, like many, continued to serve our community and fellow man during the process. I learned that my heart to serve is larger than I knew.

What TV show or shows did you binge that you would recommend?

Chicago PD, Chicago Fire, The Voice, The ESPN documentary The Last Dance, HGTV, Food network



Shirley Bloodworth, HRC member

What is the first thing you are looking forward to doing after the quarantine/shelter in place is lifted?

I look forward to being with my grandchildren, going to restaurants, church and shopping. I want to help others who are less fortunate because I usually feed the homeless in winter months. I also want to go to the casino with my friends.

What have you learned about yourself during this time?

I have learned to be more patient. I Appreciate my home and spouse.

What TV show or shows did you binge that you would recommend?

Tiger King and I like various comedies and dramas.



An Exelon Company

ComEd Files for Delivery Rate Decrease, Announces Further Customer Support

Extends COVID-19 suspension of service disconnects, waiving of new late charges through June 1

ComEd is asking the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) for a decrease in the amount it charges customers and announced it is extending the period it will suspend all service disconnections and new late charges until at least June 1.

ComEd today asked for an \$11.5 million decrease for the delivery of electricity compared to rates in effect in January of this year, its third rate decrease in a row and fifth in nine years. If approved, the average total monthly residential bill would be about \$82 beginning in January of next year, which would be lower than customer bills in 2008. Total bills include energy supply charges, which account for at least half of the monthly bill, and ComEd passes these costs along to customers without profit or markup.

Recognizing the additional financial strain many families and businesses are experiencing during the COVID-19 pandemic, ComEd also is voluntarily extending its suspension of disconnections and new late payment charges through at least June 1, 2020 – one month beyond the original moratorium announced March 13.

“Our rate decrease request for 2021 would extend a long period of rate stability and affordability, and we are committed to doing everything we can to help protect our people and our customers during this unprecedented time, including providing financial assistance and most importantly, ensuring all our customers from residential to hospitals have reliable power,” said Joe Dominguez, CEO, ComEd. “We have improved our reliability more than 70 percent since 2012, which is creating savings that we pass along to customers. We take seriously our role in being good stewards of our customers’ evolving needs and of the environment, and climate change clearly presents challenges. It requires that we remain focused on continuous improvement and on making the investments that deliver superior value. I also want to thank our employees, all of whom are essential workers, for all they do every day to deliver on our promise of clean, safe and reliable power for every customer.”

Dominguez encouraged customers who are experiencing financial challenges to contact ComEd to discuss its variety of payment and assistance options and try to avoid incurring large arrearages that may be difficult to overcome later.

Requests Delivery Rate Decrease

The filing submitted today to the ICC marks the fifth rate decrease requested since the Energy Infrastructure Modernization Act (EIMA) was enacted in 2011. EIMA authorized the \$2.6 billion smart grid program, which has dramatically improved reliability and created a platform to support innovation and the transition to clean energy in northern Illinois.

ComEd’s high priorities include integrating more renewable energy into the grid, supporting the growth of electric vehicles and meeting demands among commercial customers, such as the growing data center sector, for superior reliability, power quality and competitive rates. Key to achieving these goals is the performance-based formula ratemaking model established by EIMA.

“The formula rate enables Illinois utilities to make investments that will meet the long-term needs of customers, as we’re demonstrating through the smart grid deployment,” Dominguez said. “The formula rate model also holds us accountable for meeting a broad range of metrics, and we’re meeting every one of them.”

When EIMA was enacted, Illinois became a pioneer in performance-based ratemaking and today this cost recovery mechanism is under consideration or already in place in 19 states.

Thanks to investments in technology like distribution automation devices that automatically route power around potential problem areas, ComEd customers have avoided 13 million interruptions, resulting in societal savings of \$2.4 billion.

The ICC and other stakeholders review the costs and investments contained in ComEd’s filing over the next eight months to ensure they are prudent and reasonable before being included in customer rates.

Extends suspension of service disconnects, new late charges

As Illinois officials have extended stay-at-home orders to ensure public safety, ComEd recognizes many customers need to work and learn from home, making safe and reliable electricity especially critical. In addition, some are experiencing financial constraints due to the closing of businesses.

In addition to extending the suspension of disconnects and waiving of new late charges, ComEd encourages customers whose electric service was disconnected prior to the suspension of disconnects to call 800-334-7661 to have service safely restored. As part of this process, ComEd customer care representatives work with customers to identify assistance programs that can supplement bill payment and can help ensure service remains on after this pandemic.

Customers who struggle to cover energy expenses have a growing range of assistance options from ComEd. The company offers financial assistance and flexible payment options, which can help eligible customers reduce budget strain and avoid disconnection. Payment options include budget billing, which averages payments out over a 12-month period to help customers manage their monthly energy bill; flexible payment arrangements are also available. Customers who may be experiencing financial hardship should visit ComEd.com/CARE or call 800-334-7661 for program details.

ComEd is a unit of Chicago-based Exelon Corporation (NASDAQ: EXC), a Fortune 100 energy company with approximately 10 million electricity and natural gas customers – the largest number of customers in the U.S. ComEd powers the lives of more than 4 million customers across northern Illinois, or 70 percent of the state’s population. For more information visit ComEd.com and connect with the company on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

COMED EXTENDS NO-DISCONNECTS UNTIL JUNE 1

ComEd is extending the suspension of service disconnects for nonpayment & waiving of new late payment fees through at least 6/1.

Customers who may be experiencing financial hardship should:

1. Visit ComED.com/Care
2. Call (800) 334-7661

#ComEDCARE

SSC Is In The fight!



South Suburban College Establishes COVID-19 Impact Fund

South Suburban College (SSC) is donating supplies and masks to local healthcare providers. The College's Allied Health & Careers and Nursing Departments have gathered a significant range of N95 masks with respirators, surgical masks, filters, gloves, gowns and personal protection kits for area hospitals. Additionally, some shields that were produced in the SouthWorks Maker Lab within the College's Oak Forest Center prior to closing were also distributed locally.

"Our healthcare faculty have taken the initiative to make supplies available and our Maker Lab managers assembled additional face shields to help protect our community," said Dr. Lynette Stokes, SSC President. "All of these items were donated to local agencies and hospitals. I'm so proud that our institution is able to do some small part to help keep our local healthcare workers safe."

The SSC Foundation also announced this week the establishment of a COVID-19 Student Impact Fund with an initial \$10,000 commitment to provide some relief to students. The Foundation hopes to secure additional donations to assist students with hardships as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, as well as initiate an investment in the expansion of College healthcare programs.

"Our Foundation Board has made a commitment to getting resources to students with an immediate need by providing tuition assistance and laptops," said Patrick Rush, Director of PR & Resource Development. "It was also important for us to create a pathway for donors who wish to make a sustained impact through the much needed expansion of our Allied Health and Nursing Programs, which are a critical funnel to our local frontline healthcare workforce."

Tax deductible donations to both funds may be made by check to "SSC Foundation" or online from ssc.edu/foundation. Rush added that the Foundation's spring gala, Showcase 2020-Rx for Success, has been rescheduled for August 14, 2020.

SSC recently announced its facility closure through April along with a move to a Virtual Classroom Model through the Summer 2020 Semester.



Face shields made in the SouthWorks Maker Lab at South Suburban College's Oak Forest Center will be donated locally

New COVID-19 Impact Fund

South Suburban College Foundation Seeks Student Assistance Donations

South Suburban College Foundation (SSCF) is seeking donations to assist students with hardships as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, as well as initiate an investment in the expansion of College healthcare programs. The SSCF announced the establishment of a COVID-19 Student Impact Fund last week with an initial \$10,000 commitment to provide some relief to students in the form of laptops, tuition and related educational expenses.

While donations of all levels are welcomed, the SSCF is seeking gifts of \$600 to fulfill the maximum COVID-19 Student Impact Awards for each student, which is the estimated cost of one class, fees and book or the amount to cover a quality laptop and hotspot card for remote education. The College has moved to a Virtual Classroom Model through the remainder of the Spring 2020 Semester. Tax deductible donations to both new funds as well as the General Scholarship Fund and other may be made from ssc.edu/foundation or by check to "SSC Foundation" at 15800 S. State St., South Holland, IL 60473. The SSCF extended its general scholarship deadline to April 24th and its spring gala, Showcase 2020-Rx for Success, has been rescheduled for August 14, 2020.

CARES Act and New Tax Deduction for all Taxpayers

To help alleviate the economic devastation caused by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, Congress enacted the Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) last week which is distributing relief checks up to \$1,200 per taxpayer. Among its many provisions is a new universal deduction for charitable contributions. Taxpayers who don't itemize may now deduct up to \$300 per year in charitable contributions. Congress has granted this universal non itemized "above the line" charitable deduction so that all taxpayers can deduct at least some of their donations. Taxpayers should itemize only if all their personal deductions, including charitable contributions, exceed the standard deduction. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA), which went into effect in 2018, roughly doubled the standard deduction.

About the SSC Foundation

The mission of the South Suburban College Foundation is to support the educational purposes and objectives of the College by providing assistance in the promotion of its services and facilities. The SSC Foundation seeks funding to strengthen College programs with a primary focus on student scholarships. Established in 1973, the Foundation is solely governed by a Board of Directors composed of the region's business, civic and community leaders. The SSCF is a philanthropic, not-for-profit organization chartered in the State of Illinois and is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization (EIN: 237191738). It works cooperatively with individuals and organizations in developing a plan to fit the needs of the donors. Email foundation@ssc.edu.



SSC Offers Summer Classes Through Virtual Classroom

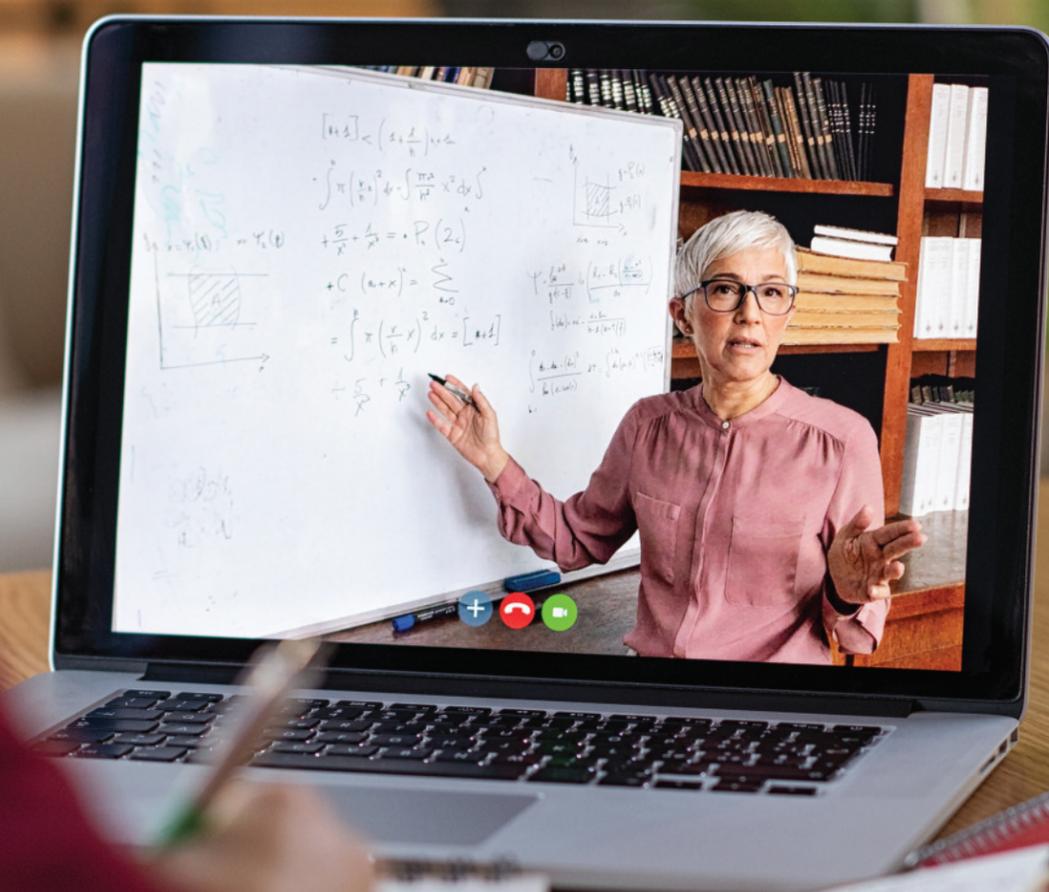
Summer Registration is in progress at South Suburban College (SSC) online from ssc.edu. The 2020 Summer Semester begins the week of Monday, June 1st. Current and prospective students are encouraged to register soon to secure their preferred schedule.

SSC has moved to a Virtual Classroom Model through the summer semester with some exceptions. The summer class schedule is updated weekly online from ssc.edu. The College continues to provide a high level of instruction, support services, and educational resources online and through e-learning technologies.

The summer 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. New SSC students should get started with the Online Application. 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.

Current and prospective students can email registration&records@ssc.edu for additional assistance with registration, or email CounselingCenterQuestions@ssc.edu for questions for the SSC Counseling Office. Laptops are available on a limited basis for students enrolling in 2020 Summer and Fall Semesters. Students in need of a laptop should send an email to StudentLife@ssc.edu to begin the process.

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 affordable academic programs.



The **one** that stayed away,
saved the others.



Each one of us plays an important part in stopping the spread of COVID-19 (the Coronavirus).

Stay at home – except for essential travel to the grocery store, your pharmacy or scheduled doctor visits.

For up-dated information on Thornton Township's activities, event and program changes regarding the C-19 virus, visit the Thornton Township website www.thorntontownship.com.

Frank M. Zuccarelli
Thornton Township Supervisor

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

