

FOCUS



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SPECIAL EDITION



This "Special Edition" of the Thornton Township Focus is to in part, recognize those newly elected and re-elected Mayors who will be serving the communities and families in Thornton Township for the next four years and, to introduce each of them to you. I want to personally congratulate these officials on their victory last April and commend them for their willingness to serve the public. I also extend to each, my best wishes for their success as they prepare to take up the responsibilities and challenges of their office.

As you embark upon those efforts, I want to assure each of you and your residents, of the continued support and friendship of Thornton Township government. Each of our dedicated township employees stand ready to provide you and your community with any assistance required – offering resources for families, youth, seniors, our Food Pantry and more.

I look forward to working with you not only to develop closer relations between your office and mine, but especially to concert our efforts in the cause of improving the quality of life for every resident of every township community.

As you focus on your work ahead, please contact me if I may ever be of any help and support in our joint mission of enriching lives of families in our community.

I would also like every township taxpayer to know, that Thornton Township won special recognition recently for financial reporting. I refer you all to the back page for the complete story, but I am especially gratified and grateful for this acknowledgement of our collective efforts, in adhering to the cornerstone of my approach to government – doing more with less and always being financially responsible and accountable to those who have to pick up the tab – the taxpayers.

Along with this commitment to being financially accountable and transparent, we have again demonstrated our pledge to return taxpayer dollars that are not apportioned to specific public service needs, by issuing property tax refunds to homeowners whenever possible.

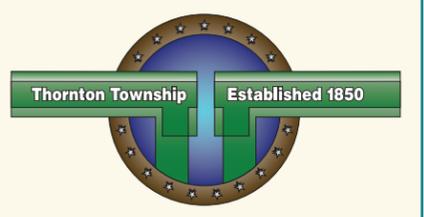
Over the last ten years, **we've refunded nearly \$5 million in property taxes to homeowners.** This year's refund averaged \$55. Thornton Township operates on only seven cents of every property tax dollar you pay and we continue to refund money whenever we can.

We provide food baskets to nearly 5,000 families each month; employ 100 township youth over the summer to complete lawn maintenance service for seniors no longer capable of doing the work; we provide thousands of senior meals each month, transportation services and medical screenings; assistance with paying utility bills and other General Assistance services, help residents avoid eviction; assist hundreds of our neighbors to obtain their GED and long-term job placement and more.

We're very proud of making sure that Thornton Township is doing more with less just like you expect and deserve.

Sincerely,

 Frank M. Zuccarelli
 Thornton Township Supervisor



Upcoming Board Meetings:

- Tuesday July 20, 2021
- Tuesday August 17, 2021

Township buildings will be closed:

- Fourth of July – Monday July 5
- Labor Day – Monday September 6
- **Special Notice** The Riverdale location is closed until September due to construction.

Senior Lunches

- 1420 Huntington Dr., Calumet City
Pick-up/Curb side only
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
11:00 am – 12:30 pm
- 14200 S. Wentworth, Riverdale
Curb-Side Pick-up Only
Wednesday & Thursday
11:00 am – 12:30 pm

Senior Center

- 1420 Huntington Drive, Calumet City
- Senior Exercise
Monday, Friday: 9:30 am – 10:30 am
 - Line Dancing
Thursday: 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm
 - Pinochle
Tuesday: 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Senior Center

- 14323 S. Halsted, Riverdale
- No exercise or dance activities
 - No weekly movie
 - No group senior counseling

Youth and Family Services

- 14323 S. Halsted, Riverdale
- No childhood after school services

Special Services Department

- 333 E. 162nd St., South Holland
- No dances or regularly scheduled events

Important Tax Refund Information

The Thornton Township Property Tax Refund Project
will continue until August 30, 2021
to process any application that has not been turned in yet.
 If you need another application, come into our main building, 333 E. 162nd St. in South Holland.

Newly Elected and Returning Mayors / Village Presidents

Supervisor Frank M. Zuccarelli would like to congratulate the new and returning mayors who won their election this spring. "We can do more working together than working apart," said Zuccarelli. "It is important that the township and all the municipalities communicate and collaborate to serve all the residents in our community."

Thornton Township, the largest township in Illinois, encompasses 17 different towns and villages with more than 183,000 residents. The towns and villages include all or part of Blue Island, Burnham, Calumet City, Dixmoor, Dolton, East Hazel Crest, Glenwood, Harvey, Hazel Crest, Homewood, Lansing, Markham, Phoenix, Posen, Riverdale, South Holland and Thornton.

Map Key

Blue Island: Former second ward alderman Fred Bilotto won his election for Mayor in April 2021. He has been an Alderman since 2014.

Burnham: Robert E. Polk has been Village President since 2005. He has been elected to five consecutive terms.

Calumet City: State Rep. Thaddeus M. Jones won election in April 2021 and previously served as the City's 3rd Ward Alderman.

Dixmoor: Fitzgerald Roberts was elected Mayor in April 2021. He was a Dixmoor Trustee for 10 years.

Dolton: Tiffany Henyard won election in April 2021 as the first woman Mayor in Dolton's history and previously served as Village Trustee for 2 terms.

East Hazel Crest: Thomas Brown has been Village President since 1989. He has been elected to nine consecutive terms.

Glenwood: Ronald J. Gardiner has been Mayor since 2015. He spent 10 years as a Glenwood Trustee before being appointed Mayor.

Harvey: Christopher J. Clark was elected Mayor in 2019, after serving as 3rd Ward Alderman.

Hazel Crest: Vernard L. Alsberry Jr., has been Mayor since 2013. He has been elected to three consecutive terms.

Homewood: Richard Hofeld has been Village President since 1997. His family has lived in Homewood since 1970.

Lansing: Patricia L. Eidam has been Village Mayor since 2017. She previously served as a Lansing Trustee and Village Clerk.

Markham: Roger A. Agpawa, first elected Mayor in 2017, was re-elected in April 2021.

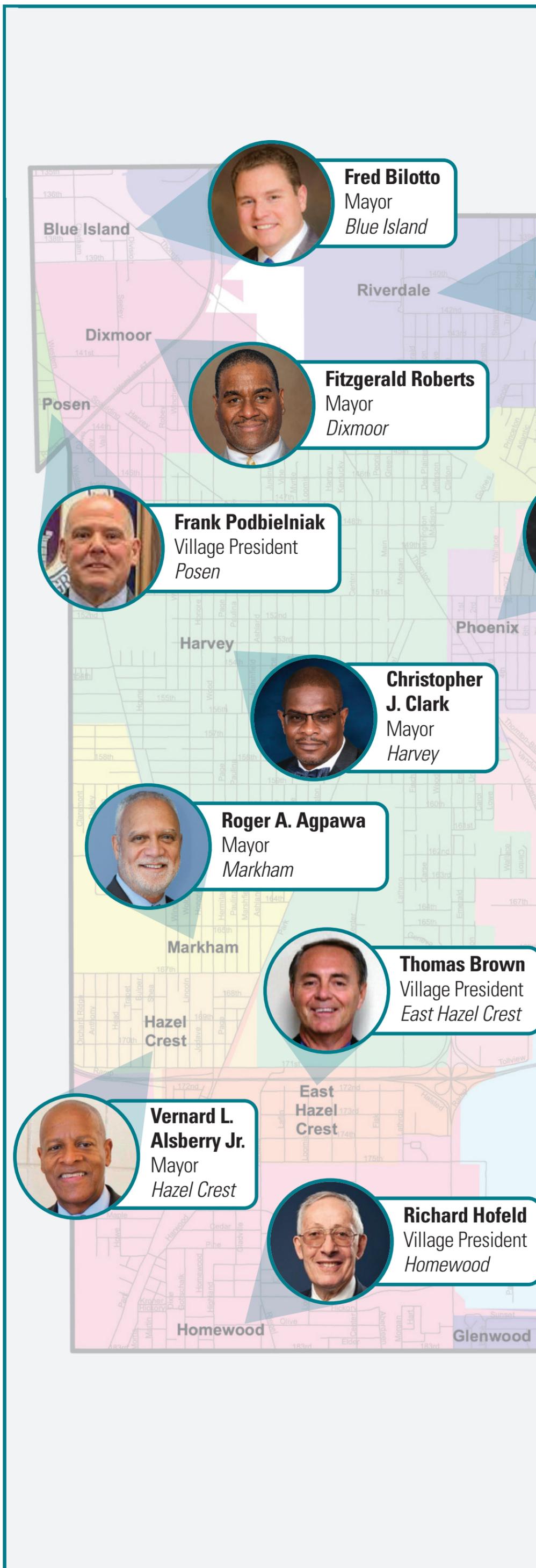
Phoenix: Terry R. Wells has been Village President since 1993 and was re-elected this past April. He served as Village Trustee for 10 years.

Posen: Frank Podbielniak has been Village President since 2017 and previously served as a Village Trustee.

Riverdale: Lawrence Jackson has been Village President since 2013.

South Holland: Don De Graff has been Mayor since 1994. He is a life long South Holland resident.

Thornton: Robert Kolosh has been Village President since 2013 and was re-elected for this 3rd term in April.



THORNTON



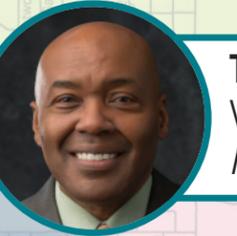
Lawrence Jackson
Village President
Riverdale



Tiffany Henryard
Mayor
Dolton



Robert E. Polk
Village President
Burnham



Terry R. Wells
Village President
Phoenix



Frank M. Zuccarelli
Thornton Township
Supervisor



Thaddeus M. Jones
Mayor
Calumet City



Don De Graff
Mayor
South Holland



Robert Kolosh
Village President
Thornton



Patricia L. Eidam
Mayor
Lansing



Ronald J. Gardiner
Mayor
Glenwood

TOWNSHIP

Excellence in Financial Reporting

Awarded to Thornton Township

Thornton Township Supervisor Frank M. Zuccarelli, is pleased to announce, that Thornton Township has been awarded the Certificate of Achievement Award for Excellence in Financial Reporting.

The GFOA (Government Finance Officers Association of the United States & Canada) bestowed upon Thornton Township this citation for its openness and comprehensive reporting for fiscal year ending in February 2020.

Our report was judged by an impartial panel as meeting the highest standards of the organization, which includes demonstrating a constructive “spirit of full disclosure.”

This achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of government accounting and financial reporting and attaining it represents a most significant accomplishment and acknowledgement of a commitment to quality reporting and transparency.

Thornton Township Officials Sworn In

In a ceremony held on May 17th, new and returning Thornton Township Officials were sworn into office. Illinois Appellate Court Justice Jesse Reyes (1st District/4th Division) administered the oath.

Being sworn in for a four-year term were, Frank M. Zuccarelli, Township Supervisor; Loretta C. Wells, Township Clerk; Cassandra W. Elston, Township Assessor; Geary “Pepe” DePue, Highway Commissioner and Board of Trustees – Joyce M. Washington, Christopher D. Gonzalez, Gerald “Jerry” Jones and Darlene Gray Everett.

Supervisor Zuccarelli addressed the audience of approximately 200 township residents, thanking voters, the Thornton Township team for their hard work and pledging to lead a renewed commitment to improving the quality of life for every township family, and doing more with less.



Pictured here are Cassandra W. Elston, C.I.A.O. - Township Assessor and Thaddeus M. Jones, State Representative, Newly elected Mayor Calumet City.



Over 200 well-wishers heard Frank M. Zuccarelli renew his pledge to fiscal responsibility and doing more with less to make Thornton Township an effective force for helping people.



Newly Installed Township Trustees (L-R): Darlene Gray Everett, Mary Jones-Special Services Manager, Joyce M. Washington, Gerald “Jerry” Jones, Christopher D. Gonzalez.



Geary “Pepe” DePue was sworn in as Township Highway Commissioner.



Pictured here are Jackie Rivera, retiring Township Clerk; Frank M. Zuccarelli, Township Supervisor and in-coming Township Clerk, Loretta C. Wells.



Officiating at the swearing-in of Thornton Township Officials elected in the April 2021 election was Hon. Jesse Reyes, Illinois Appellate Court Justice.

Meet Thornton Township’s New General Assistance Director



Long-time township staff member, Tannika M. Hughes, has been promoted to become the first woman to serve as Director of the General Assistance Department.

Thornton Township’s General Assistance Department provides a critical safety net to help residents meet their basic needs – providing low income home energy assistance, general food assistance and more.

Ms. Hughes has 23 years of social service experience working at Thornton Township, filling what began initially as a temporary position; becoming full-time, then prior to her promotion, serving as Assistant Manager of the Department.

She has been instrumental in organizing and managing the township’s Christmas Food Drive Program and will now take on the additional responsibilities of managing the Thornton Township Food Pantry which provides food to over 4,000 families each month.

“I am truly grateful to the wonderful people I’ve met and worked with over the years,” Ms. Hughes said, “especially Supervisor Zuccarelli for the confidence he has placed in me and for setting a standard of measure that every township staff member can aspire to – doing all we can to enhance the quality of life for every family in our community, while keeping focused on being fiscally accountable.”