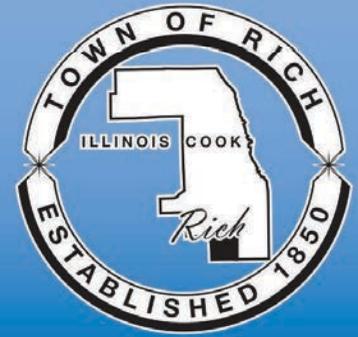


RICH TOWNSHIP REPORT



A PUBLICATION OF THE TOWN OF RICH FOR IT'S CITIZENS • SPRING 2014

A Message From Supervisor Al Riley



Supervisor, Al Riley

Spring is right around the corner, but you would never know from the weather we're having. However, as Chicagoland residents, we're supposed to be used to this weather. Besides, the Township Highway Department is out there in the unincorporated areas doing their stellar job of snow removal. Their removal protocols provide more flexibility when they go out on the job, so they're out there when the need arises.

There is plenty to tell you about in this edition. It's always important to inform you about the myriad exemptions that exist to reduce your tax bill.

Information about the Senior exemptions is discussed in this issue. The Federal Veterans Administration has increased support for veterans tremendously in the last six years. Nonetheless, many communities experience the embarrassment of homeless soldiers who have sacrificed so much for us. Our Senior Companion program is featured regarding their support for vets and their partnership with CEDA, a community organization who has been providing vital social services for a long time in our area.

Per a recent change in Illinois law, the Township Supervisor of a township located in a county with a population of 3,000,000 or more must appoint a volunteer seven-member mental health advisory committee composed of members of the general public. The committee is currently being formed and will be in place in early April. The mental health advisory committee shall identify and assess current mental health services in its respective jurisdiction, monitor any expansion or contraction of such services and, if deemed necessary, provide a report to the Township board with recommendations for additional services. Though the board is advisory, I am confident that it will provide insight on the needs of this very vulnerable population.

Finally, it's election time. Time to exercise the precious franchise that makes us exceptional around the world. The Rich Township Youth Center has been a long time polling place and, like the others in the township, will be open for voting on **Tuesday, March 18th**. The hours to cast your ballots are from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Don't forget about early voting, however. **Early voting starts March 3rd and goes through March 15th**. Early voting locations in Rich Township are: Park Forest Village Hall, 350 Victory Blvd., Monday-Saturday: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., and **All Nations Assembly Church**, 20300 Governors Highway, Olympia Fields, Monday-Saturday: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Be sure to come out and support the candidates of your choice.

Thanks, and I'm glad to be here.

Sincerely,

Al Riley, AICP
Rich Township Supervisor

Calling All Singers!!!



Rich Township is offering a great opportunity for people who love to sing. The Rich Township Singers are volunteers that perform at various local venues throughout the south suburbs and they would LOVE to have you join

them!
Practices are held on the second and fourth Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. Please feel free to visit one of their practices, or contact Sally Fuhrmann at 708-228-5040 for more information.

We Are Rich Township

Rich Township provides services to help citizens to maintain a quality of life that might otherwise be out of reach: meals and transportation for senior citizens; after-school care and job placement for youth; and groceries, counseling and emergency temporary assistance for those in need.

Established in 1850, Rich Township performs vital government functions such as administering property

assessments, maintaining roads and bridges and issuing passports to name a few. Rich Township is the place to go if you're a homeowner, driver or voter.

Our office is located at 22013 Governors Highway in Richton Park. Feel free to contact us at 708-748-6722 or visit us online at www.richtownship.org. If you live in Rich Township, we are here to serve you!

17th Annual Diversity Dinners

You are cordially invited to participate in the 17th Annual Diversity Dinners on Thursday, April 24, 2014. These dinners are coordinated by the Villages of Flossmoor, Park Forest, Homewood and Olympia Fields; Homewood-Flossmoor High School District 233, Rich Township High Schools District 227, Congresswoman Robin Kelly, League of Women Voters Homewood-Flossmoor Area, League of Women Voters Park Forest Area, Center for Multicultural Communities and the National Coalition Building Institute (NCBI).

Since the late 1990s, residents of Chicago's south suburban communities have gathered at homes throughout the region to celebrate its rich diversity.

The Diversity Dinners bring people of different races, ethnicities, religions, lifestyles and ages together to share a meal, discuss their common goals, understand their differences, address misperceptions and offer solutions to strengthen our communities.

These catered dinners will be provided at various locations throughout the south suburbs. Hors d'oeuvres will be served at 7:00 p.m. and dinner is at 7:30 p.m.

You may register online at www.diversitydinners.com. The registration deadline is March 26, 2014. For more information, contact Evelyn Sterling, Village of Park Forest, at 708-283-5621.



Local Postal Customer
*****ECRWSSEDDM*****
Rich Township
22013 Governors Hwy
Richton Park, IL 60471

Clerk's Corner



Rich Township Clerk Bobbie King offers assistance at Township office

Board Of Trustees Meetings

Rich Township Board of Trustee meetings are held on the first Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at the Leonard Robinson Family Center, 22013 Governors Highway in Richton Park. The public is welcome to attend. The scheduled meeting dates for the remainder of 2014 are as follows:

- Monday, March 10, 2014
- Wednesday, April 2, 2014
- Tuesday, April 8, 2014 (Annual Town Meeting at 6:30 p.m.)
- Monday, May 5, 2014
- Monday, June 2, 2014
- Monday, July 7, 2014
- Monday, August 4, 2014
- Monday, September 8, 2014
- Monday, October 6, 2014
- Monday, November 3, 2014
- Monday, December 1, 2014

Notary Public Service

Rich Township provides free Notary Public service to its residents. Please note that you must present valid identification and the notary must witness your signing of the document. Please contact the Clerk's office at 708-748-6722 for more information.

Passports

The Rich Township Clerk's office is a Passport Acceptance Facility and all forms are available at the Township office, 22013 Governors Highway, Richton Park.

Current processing fees are \$110 for individuals 16 years of age or older, and \$80 for children under the age of 16, plus a facility fee of \$25. The fees and requirements are exactly the same at all passport acceptance facilities. Applicants must bring with them proof of citizenship (i.e., certified copy of a birth certificate), two headshot photos against a white background and valid identification (i.e., driver's license or state identification). All applicants, including children, must appear in person. Processing currently takes 4-6 weeks once the application is received by the U.S. Department of State.

Passports are processed Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Please call Debbie Pascarella, Deputy Clerk, at 708-748-6722 for more information.

Holiday Closing

The Rich Township offices will be closed on Monday, March 3, in honor of Casimir Pulaski Day, Friday, April 18 for Good Friday and Monday, May 26 in honor of Memorial Day.

*** REMEMBER TO VOTE *** GUBERNATORIAL PRIMARY ELECTION

Polls Are Open On
TUESDAY, MARCH 18TH
FROM 6:00 A.M. TO 7:00 P.M.

Early Voting

Cook County voters may cast their ballots before Election Day at designated locations throughout the county without having to provide a reason. A registered suburban Cook County resident may vote early at any of the early voting sites. The early voting period is from Monday, March 3rd through Saturday, March 15th. Hours are Monday through Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Early voting sites most convenient for Rich Township residents are Park Forest Village Hall and All Nations Assembly in Olympia Fields (new). More information on Early Voting can be obtained by calling Cook County Elections at 312-603-0900 or at www.cookcountyclerk.com.

Vote By Mail

Perhaps you are a college student, a disabled person or a "snowbird" and are unable to vote at your polling place on March 18, 2014 for the Gubernatorial Primary Election, and Early Voting does not meet your needs. You may obtain a mail ballot application by contacting the Township Clerk's office. Completed applications must be returned to Cook County, who will then mail a ballot to you.

Your Rich Township Officials



SUPERVISOR
Al Riley



CLERK
Bobbie G. King



ASSESSOR
Carol Ranieri, CIAO



HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER
Calvin Jordan



TRUSTEE
Elliott H. Johnson



TRUSTEE
Jacquelyn Small



TRUSTEE
Nick Bobis



TRUSTEE
Therese Goodrich



TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATOR
Tim Bradford

EDITOR'S NOTE

The Rich Township Report is written, edited and photographed by Diane Sykes, Public Information Director for the Township. Layout and Design by Arlo Kallemeyn.

From The Assessor's Office

The Cook County Assessor's office has mailed out the Senior and Senior Freeze Exemption applications for the 2013 property tax bills. These exemptions will appear as deductions on second-installment tax bills which will be mailed this summer.

This mailing is being sent earlier than previous years to make sure all eligible seniors apply in time to receive their savings.

The Senior Exemption application is part of a booklet mailed to eligible seniors. The booklet also contains the income-based Senior Freeze Exemption application.

Seniors need to remember that under Illinois law, they must re-apply annually for both the Senior and Senior Freeze Exemptions in order to continue to receive the reductions on their second-installment property tax bills.

To qualify for the **Senior Citizen Exemption** for the taxable year 2013, the property owner must have:

- Been born prior to or in the year 1948
- Owned the property, or have a lease or contract which makes them responsible for the real estate taxes, and
- Used the property as a principal place of residence

To qualify for the **Senior Freeze Exemption** for the taxable year 2013, taxpayers must have:

- Been born prior to or in the year 1948
- Have a total household income of \$55,000 or less for income tax year 2012
- Owned the property or had a legal, equitable or leasehold interest in the property on January 1, 2012 and January 1, 2013
- Used the property as a principal place of residence as of January 1, 2012 and January 1, 2013, and
- Been liable for the payment of 2012 and 2013 property taxes

Eligible seniors who have never applied for the Senior and/or **Senior Freeze Exemptions** in the past may call the Rich Township Assessor's office for information on what is needed to file.

If you don't qualify for the **Senior Freeze Exemption** because you exceed the income level, this does not mean you will not be eligible for the Senior Exemption. The Senior Exemption has no income restrictions.

Seniors receiving the Senior Exemption automatically qualify for the Homeowner Exemption, and do not have to apply for it separately. However, if they fail to reapply for the Senior Exemption, the Homeowner Exemption will not be applied to the bill.

All exemption savings will appear as deductions on second-installment property tax bills that will be mailed this summer.

Oath of Office Administered to Assessor Carol Ranieri

Rich Township Assessor Carol Ranieri received the oath of office and will serve four more years, making this her third term. The oath was administered by Judge Raymond Funderburke on January 13, 2014 at the monthly Board of Trustees meeting.

Carol began working at Rich Township in 1986 as a receptionist and worked her way up to Deputy Assessor before being elected to her first term as Assessor in 2006. She and her husband John, Director of the Rich Township Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency, have been married for more than 48 years and have three children.

In the true spirit of local government, the staff in the Rich Township Assessor's Office should be the first level of support for questions regarding the Cook County property tax process. The Assessor's Office assists residents with tax exemptions, senior deferrals, assessment complaints and in securing refunds and copies of deeds and tax bills.

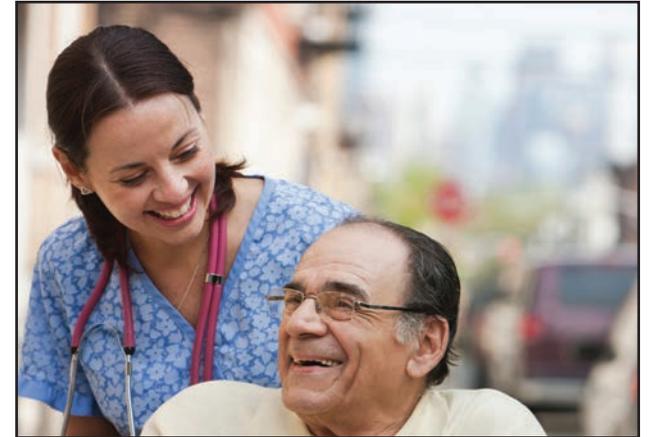
Carol and her staff, Paula Farr, Kelly Hamilton and Teri Littlejohn, can be reached at the Rich Township Assessor's Office, Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at 708-748-6722.



Assessor Carol Ranieri takes oath of office



Nurses Plus Home Health Care



Nurses Plus, of the Park Forest Health Department, serves individuals seeking licensed and professional home healthcare before and after hospitalization. They deliver skilled nursing, home health aide services, physical occupational and speech therapies and other supportive care for their homebound patients at the lowest possible cost. Their aim is to make treatment, recovery and independence easier for their clients and their families.

In addition, they also offer free blood pressure screenings, medical equipment loan closet, bath service, immunization clinic for adults and children, school and sport physical, flu clinics, medication management and wound care.

Located at 350 Victory Drive in Park Forest, Nurses Plus of Park Forest has been serving the south suburbs of Chicago for 60 years. Feel free to contact them at 708-748-1118 or www.villageofparkforest.com for more information.

Free Tax Return Preparation For Military Personnel

The Illinois CPA Society's "CPAs for the Public Interest," in partnership with the Internal Revenue Service, offers the Military Service Tax Preparation Project to provide free personal income tax return filing assistance to members of the U.S. Armed Forces who have recently returned or are still serving on active duty in a combat zone or qualified hazardous duty area.

The organization will match military personnel and/or their family members with CPA volunteers in their area who will provide free personal federal and state income tax preparation assistance. Volunteers will help qualified persons take full advantage of tax benefits, exclusions and filing and payment extensions available to them. This is a year-round service, and a spouse or family member can request assistance for military personnel still overseas.

For more information, or to find out if you qualify, contact Jill Loeser, Manager of Government Relations, at 800-572-9870 (Illinois only) or 217-789-7914, or email her at loeserj@icpas.org.

Senior Center

Free Income Tax Preparation



Soon the 2013 Income Tax Returns will be due, and once again AARP is sponsoring the Senior Tax Aide Program in our community. Free income tax preparation, including electronic filing, will be available for those **60 years of age and older ONLY until Tuesday, April 15, 2014**. The IRS is requesting you bring a photo ID and proof of Social Security number at your appointment.

This service will be held at Rich Township, Leonard Robinson Family Center, 22013 Governors Highway in Richton Park. This service is available each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., with the last scheduled appointment at 2:00 p.m.

For an appointment, please call the Rich Township Senior Center at 708-748-5454. ABSOLUTELY NO WALK-INS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Please bring copies of your 2012 tax return, 2013 W-2's, your property tax bill and all other income forms (except for self-employment and rental income). Transportation is available through Rich Township. Please call 708-748-6727 if you need a ride.

AARP – Rich Township Area Chapter

On Monday, March 17, 2014 at 1:15 p.m., the Rich Township Area Chapter of AARP will host their monthly meeting in the Senior Café in the Rich Township Senior Center, 297 Liberty Drive, Park Forest. Please plan to join them on the third Monday of each month. Refreshments will be served.

Medicare Fraud and Financial Opportunities for Seniors with Low Income

On Friday, March 7, at 10:00 a.m., Barbara McGill, Catholic Charities South Suburban Senior Services Outreach Coordinator, will come to the Rich Township Senior Center to present: "Medicare Fraud and Financial Opportunities for Seniors with Low Income." Barbara will discuss Medicare Fraud and give information and qualifications about specific programs that could help you financially.

Please call the Senior Center at 708-748-5454 to make your reservation. Please join them for a very informative afternoon. Refreshments will be served.

Rules of the Road Review Course



Secretary of State Jesse White, in coordination with Rich Township, is offering a Rules of the Road Review course on Wednesday, March 26, 2014 at 1:30 p.m. at the Rich Township Senior Center. This class is **FREE** to everyone. The purpose of this course is to help applicants pass the written renewal exam. Drivers are informed about the current vision and driving ability parts of the exam and prepare for the general written and road sign exam. Please call the Senior Center at 708-748-5454 to make your reservation.

Movie of the Month

The Butler

PG-13
132 Minutes

On Wednesday, March 12, at 1:00 p.m., the Rich Township Senior Center will feature the current release, "Lee Daniels' **The Butler**," starring Forest Whitaker, Alan Rickman, Cuba Gooding Jr., Jane Fonda and Oprah Winfrey.

This film tells the remarkable story of White House butler Eugene Allen, who served eight U.S. presidents over the course of 30 years, and witnessed sweeping social change during his three decades of service at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

The movie also features Robin Williams as Dwight D. Eisenhower, James Marsden as John F. Kennedy, Liev Schreiber as Lyndon B. Johnson and John Cusack as Richard M. Nixon. This film is rated PG-13 and its running time is 2 hours and 12 minutes.

Please call the Senior Center at 708-748-5454 to make your reservation. Popcorn will be served.

Health News

The Park Forest Health Department, Nurses Plus, will offer a take home test Fecal Occult Blood Test for early detection of colon bleeding on Thursday, March 27, from 10:00 a.m. to noon. The cost for the test is \$2.00.

In addition, podiatry screenings and free blood pressure checks are offered on most Thursdays. Please contact the Senior Center at 708-748-5454 for more information.

Mah Jongg Classes

The Rich Township Senior Center is pleased to offer Mah Jongg classes taught by skilled instructor Ruth Raickett-Roberts. The classes will take place on the first and third Wednesdays of each month from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. The cost is \$3.00 per class, payable directly to the instructor.

Please call the Senior Center at 708-748-5454 to sign up for this class. This 10-week session will run through July 2, and is limited to 16 people.

**WANT TO FIND OUT WHAT'S HAPPENING
AT THE RICH TOWNSHIP SENIOR CENTER?
CALL 708-748-5454 TO HAVE YOUR NAME ADDED TO OUR MAILING LIST!**

Senior Center

Day Trip to See “Les Miserables” at Drury Lane

Come join the Senior Center on a trip to the Drury Lane Theatre in Oakbrook on Wednesday, April 9 to see Les Miserables. Now in its 28th year, this play has been seen by more than 65 million people in 42 countries and in 22 languages around the globe and it is still breaking box office records everywhere!

Les Miserables tells the story of broken dreams and unrequited love, passion, sacrifice and redemption. Set against the backdrop of 19th century France, it is a timeless testament to the survival of the human spirit.

Buses will leave from the Senior Center parking lot promptly at 10:30 a.m. and return at approximately 5:00 p.m. (You are responsible for your own transportation to and from the Senior Center.) The cost of the trip is \$66.00, which includes a luncheon entrée of either roast pork or chicken marsala before the show. Payment must be made within three days to confirm your reservation. Please call the Senior Center at 708-748-5454 to make your reservation or for more information.

Senior Companion Program Partners With CEDA

Rich Township has partnered with the Community and Economic Development Association of Cook County, Inc. (CEDA) Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) to provide services to qualifying residents of Rich Township. This grant is a case management program that provides a range of services which assist low-income people to attain skills, knowledge and the resources necessary to achieve self-sufficiency. The program may also provide direct client assistance to help remove barriers to self-sufficiency. Clients must sign and comply with a service agreement to be eligible for direct client assistance.

Some programs that may be offered include:

- Dental Care Program
- Auto Repair Program
- Vision Care Program
- Scholarship Program
- Housing Financial Counseling and Information & Referral
- Veteran Skills Training and Employment Program
- Elderly Projects
- Family Nutrition

Please contact Lonjohnice Allen (CEDA) at 312-909-6997 for more information.

Senior Companion Program Sponsors Annual Collection For Homeless Veterans

The Rich Township Senior Companion Program is preparing for its upcoming annual collection for homeless veterans during Senior Corps week, to be held in early May.

For three months, beginning in March, they will be collecting toiletries and books for homeless veterans. They ask that any donation items be in good condition. Toiletries, paperback books, toothpaste, toothbrushes, mouthwash, socks, body lotion, shampoo, etc. for both men and women will be accepted. **Please no food items.** For Senior Corps week in the spring, the items will be donated to a Veteran's Homeless Shelter. There will be a box for any donations located at the Rich Township office, 22013 Governors Highway, Richton Park and at the Shirley J. Green Senior Center, 297 Liberty Drive in Park Forest. For more information about how you can donate, please contact Toni Brucker, Senior Program

Coordinator at 708-228-5046.

The Senior Companion Program of Rich Township has proudly been a sponsoring agency for Suburban Cook County since 2005. Senior companions are healthy, older adults who help other seniors live independently by providing assistance with daily errands, socializing with seniors and transporting them to doctor's appointments. The all-volunteer Senior Companion program is part of the federal Senior Corps, which is sponsored by the Corporation for National and Community Service. They are the largest program in Rich Township, providing more than 65 companions. If you are in need of companion services, or for more information on becoming a companion, please contact Commodore Edmond, Project Director at 708-228-5038 or Toni Brucker, Senior Program Coordinator at 708-228-5046.

SENIOR COMPANION PROGRAM ATTENTION SENIORS!!!



- Are you looking for help getting to the store or medical appointments?
- Would you appreciate meeting a new friend?
- Do you need respite care for your loved one?

MAYBE THE SENIOR COMPANION PROGRAM CAN HELP!

The Senior Companion Program is:
Regular, scheduled weekly visits
Free of charge, federally funded
Open to all qualifying seniors or disabled

ALL SENIOR COMPANION VOLUNTEERS ARE SCREENED.
State and FBI background check • Monitoring of driver's license and auto insurance
DMV report done on all companions • ON-going training and monitoring

Call 708-228-5046 or 708-228-5038

Rich Township Senior Cafe

Invites you to join us for food, fun, games and friendship

Lunch is served at 12:00 noon
Monday – Friday for \$2.50

Our only requirement is that you are 60 years of age or older.

Call for reservations: (708) 747-2700 | Call for reduced fare transportation for Rich Township seniors: 708-748-6727

Rich Township Shirley J. Green Senior Center | 297 Liberty Drive, Park Forest, IL, 60466

Café Manager: Sandy O'Neill | Café Assistant: Amanda Ruiz | Assistant: Megan Pascarella

Complimentary lunch for first time participant with this coupon

Signature _____

Administrator's Message



Tim Bradford, Township Administrator

Greetings! I hope you are enjoying reading this spring, 2014 issue of The Rich Township Report. Yes, this is the spring issue, even though our weather says otherwise!

We have been very busy at the township providing services to our residents throughout this challenging winter season. Our Road District has worked hard to keep the roads and bridges free of snow and ice in the unincorporated areas of the township. And, as indicated in our statistics from the last quarter (October, 2013 through December, 2013), our Transportation Department nearly doubled the number of riders they transported from 7,524 to over 15,000!

Our Food Pantry provided food to more than 8,000 people and the Assessor's office was busy taking over 500 phone calls from citizens. A new addition to our Senior Services statistics shows that there were nearly 15,000 volunteer service hours provided through our Senior Companion Program.

As you can see, we are dedicated in our commitment to meet the needs of the citizens of Rich Township by offering much needed services to our residents.

As I write this message, I am reminded that the month of February was Black History Month. For many years, African Americans were denied the right to vote. Even with the passage of the Voting Rights Act, which was meant to ensure that the right to vote was not denied because of race or color, decades passed before that promise became a reality.

It is with this in mind that I would like to remind you how important it is to exercise your right to vote for the candidate of your choice in the upcoming election on March 18. On page 2 of this issue you can find more information on early voting, voting by mail and voting sites. Voting matters to the health of the American political system and to the people who participate in it. It is the cornerstone of a democracy, but sadly far too few people vote. We all know voting does not guarantee that one's preferences will prevail, but choosing not to vote denies a person one of the key tools of having a say in a democracy. Democracy is something that we cannot take for granted...it needs our help.

I still remain your public servant.

Tim Bradford
Township Administrator

Rich Township Provides Services To Its Residents

The following statistics report how many citizens have used Rich Township Services from October, 2013 to December, 2013:

Township Busses transported 15,034 riders.

The Food Pantry provided food for 2,754 families or 8,657 people.

The Rich Township Assessor's office provided tax assistance to about 650 people and had over 442 phone calls from October, 2013 to December, 2013.

The Rich Township Clerk's Office provided the following services:

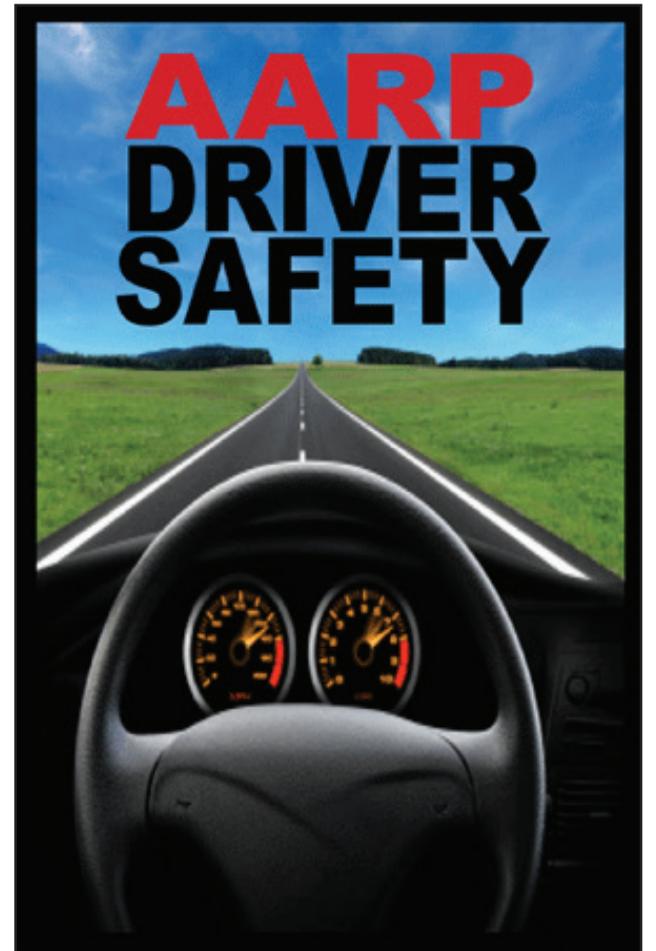
- Registered 9 individuals to vote
- Processed 17 passport applications
- Assisted 53 people in obtaining permanent disabled parking placards
- Issued 11 temporary disabled parking placards
- Issued 28 Cook County vehicle stickers to residents of Unincorporated Cook County
- Provided FREE Notary Public Service



Rich Township Senior Center Statistics

A total of 9,655 participated in senior services and activities from October, 2013 to December, 2013:

- In home-service clients: 131 served
- Case Management Contacts: 477 contacts
- Home delivered meals: 1,608 meals delivered



Participation in the following senior activities was as follows:

- Movie: 62
- Newsletter Committee: 99
- Needlework Group: 102
- Senior Chorus: 41
- Health Screenings: 26
- Yoga: 58
- Blood Pressure: 149
- Cards: 87
- Line Dancing Class: 298
- Jewelry Class: 11
- AARP Meeting: 135
- Bunco: 80
- Flexercise Class: 1,001
- Bowling Group: 154
- Art Class: 36
- Haircuts: 73
- Monthly Trip: 101 (2 months)
- Podiatrist: 182
- AARP Safe Driving class: 30 (1 month)

Special Programs:

- Volunteer Luncheon (10/4): 114
- Medicare Presentation (10/11): 16
- Benefits Access Assistance: 35
- Life Line Screening (10/19): 48
- EMB Medical Supplies: 14
- Holiday Bazaar and Bake Sale (11/15): 188

Senior Companion Program

- Number of companions: 65
- Number of clients: 136
- Volunteer Service Hours: 14,678.5

Free Computer Classes

Free basic computer skills classes for Rich Township adult residents are offered every Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Leonard Robinson Family Services Center, located at 22013 Governors Highway in Richton Park.

Participants will learn Microsoft Word 2007, Excel, PowerPoint, internet skills, resume building skills and more. Basic lesson objectives include:

- What are Computers?
- Computer Technology
- Parts of the Computer
- How to Use the Computer
- World Wide Web
- What a Browser Does

Please contact the Township office at 708-748-6722 for more information.



Transportation Offered For Seniors And The Disabled

Senior citizens 55 years of age or older and disabled citizens who reside in Rich Township are eligible to take advantage of the Rich Township Transportation program. Lift equipped busses are available for residents who use a wheelchair, walker or who otherwise have limited mobility.

Transportation is available for shopping in Rich Township, trips to nursing homes, medical appointments and visits to friends or relatives. The cost per ride is \$2.25 one way or \$4.50 round trip. Rides outside of the Township are also offered for \$4.50 one

way or \$9.00 round trip, however, some restrictions may apply. Medicaid fare reimbursement is accepted with prior approval.

The department also provides transportation to the Rich Township Shirley J. Green Senior Center in downtown Park Forest for lunch at the Senior Café. The cost is \$0.50 one way.

For more information about these services, or to make a reservation, please contact Pat Peters, Transportation Director, at 708-748-6722 or 708-748-6727.

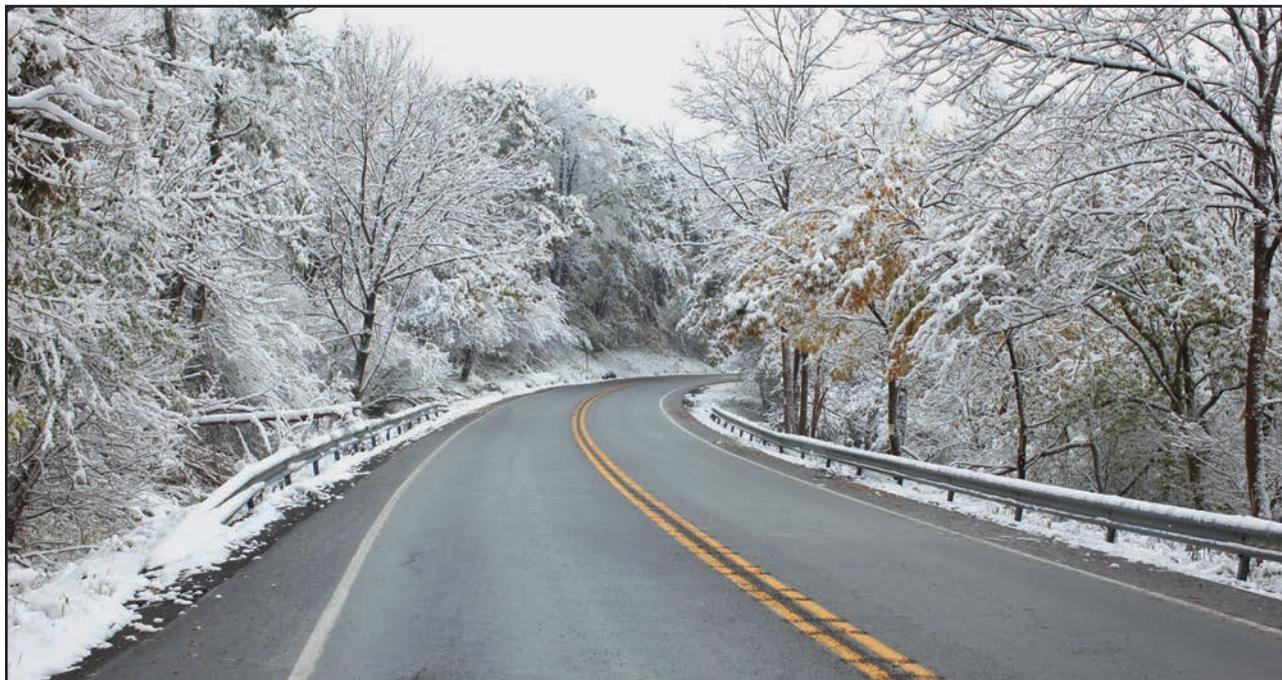
Rich Township's Snowiest Winter

This is the snowiest winter in 35 years. It is also noted to be the worst winter since the blizzard of 1979 and the fourth snowiest in history. Regardless of future snowfalls, the streets will remain plowed and passable throughout the winter.

Highway Commissioner Calvin Jordan would like to recognize highway foreman Horace Smith for the leadership skills and abilities he has demonstrated over the past eight winters by making sure residents of the unincorporated areas are able to travel back and forth

to various destinations. Dan Zetler, who serves as the assistant foreman/mechanic has also performed an outstanding job, making sure streets are plowed and trucks are running at optimal level. Recognition is also extended to Lynette Elmore for making certain that all resident inquiries are handled in a swift manner.

The Highway Department thanks all of its residents for their patience and understanding during this 2013-2014 record setting winter.



General Assistance And Family Services



The Rich Township General Assistance and Family Services departments continue to act as a local source of information for Township residents in need of general assistance and guidance. Services provided include assistance in finding housing, assistance with utilities payments and non-licensed counseling. Referral to other social service agencies for special issues is also offered. Please contact Melissa Parker at 708-748-6722 for more information.

Department Of Homeland Security And Emergency Management Agency

The Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency is often called upon to respond to non-emergency situations, assisting with major fires, accident injuries and looking for lost children and Alzheimer patients. They also coordinate with and support other local emergency service disaster agency units, such as the Suburban Mutual Aid Response Team (SMART). Their team members attend extensive training sessions given by the State of Illinois and Cook County Police Department.

For more information, contact Director John Ranieri at 708-748-6722.

Shredding Day

At Richton Park Library on Saturday, May 17th – 11:00 A.m. – 1:00 P.m. Patrons are invited to join the Richton Park Library for their Shredding Day event. There is no limit to the number of boxes you can shred FREE OF CHARGE! The Richton Park Public Library is located at 4045 Sauk Trail in Richton Park (708-481-5333). No Limit! No Charge! No Sign-Up!

Senior Café Celebrates Valentine's Day

Rich Township Senior Café's Valentine's Day party was a blast! They had Joe Vega to entertain them with dancing and singing. The biggest hit of the day was the photo

booth, as the pictures will show. The vegetarian "love-sagna," "love potion" punch, "holiday heart" salad and "cupidcakes" were delicious. A good time was had by

all. They are looking forward to their next celebration.



Rich Township Food Pantry

The Rich Township Food Pantry, established in 1984, provides food at no cost to low-income residents of Rich Township who meet the Department of Human Services guidelines. They also offer utility assistance on a limited basis, to those who qualify for the pantry. They are a designated site for access to care.

The Pantry hours for food pick-up are Monday thru Friday, from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Residents who meet the qualifications are eligible to receive food only once every 30 days.

For more information, please contact Pantry Director Vicki Sline at 708-748-6722.

Fresh Produce For Low Income Families

The Greater Chicago Food Depository offers a Fresh Produce Day for low-income residents on the first Wednesday of every month, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., in the transportation garage of Rich Township, 22013 Governors Highway in Richton Park. Please note that doors do not open until 9:30 a.m. All south suburban residents in need are eligible to pick up a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables. For more information, please call Pantry Director Vicki Sline at 708-748-6722.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!! DONATIONS ACCEPTED!!!

The Rich Township Food Pantry is looking for volunteers to assist in providing services to its residents. They are also ALWAYS accepting donations of food, diapers (all sizes) and baby formula (in code). Please call the Pantry at 708-748-6722 for more information.