



THE RICH TOWNSHIP TIMES

Spring/Summer Edition Newsletter



Governor JB Pritzker and Supervisor Calvin Jordan



Supervisor Calvin Jordan and Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle



Willow Dean Trice

THE RICH TOWNSHIP TIMES

For comments, questions or submissions to
The Rich Township Times, please contact:
richtownship.org



22013 Governors Highway
Richton Park, IL 60471
info@richtownship.org
708.748.6722
Monday - Friday | 9am - 4pm

Rich Township is one of thirty (30) townships
in Cook County, IL; and includes all of or part
of ten (10) municipalities: Country Club Hills,
Flossmoor, Hazel Crest, Homewood,
Matteson, Olympia Fields, Park Forest,
Richton Park, Tinley Park, & University Park.

Contents:

- p 2 - 3 A Message from our Supervisor
- p 4 Contacts & Addresses
- p 5 Event with Governor Pritzker
- p 6 Township Clerk's Note
- p 7 Township Assessor's Note &
Township Road District Office
- p 8 Trustee's Corner & Homeland Security
Emergency Management
- p 9 - 10 St Patrick's Day Event
- p 11 Senior Services
- p 12 Pantry Updates
- p 13 Transportation & Jolly Trolley
- p 14 - 18 Recaps of Past Events
- p 19 General Assistance
- p 20 Retirees' Sendoff
- p 21 Rich Township Officials

Visit us online:
www.richtownship.org
Facebook: [RichTownshipIL](https://www.facebook.com/RichTownshipIL)

Message from Our Supervisor



Calvin Jordan
Supervisor

Greetings to all Rich Township,

Rich Township, like all other places of business and units of government, was significantly impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic. The Township opened its doors during the highest phases of COVID-19, and under the most difficult of circumstances, yet continued to operate and make modifications to provide essential services to every community within the Township.

As Supervisor, it is my responsibility to ensure that proper and efficient administration of Township business is maintained. This includes development and oversight of operating and capital budgets, personnel, public information, and the development and management of programs and special projects. My philosophy is that "we operate as a team" with the utmost transparency in all that we do. We have an excellent working Board of Trustees and Constitutional Officers that understand the value of a good interdisciplinary team working relationship. The team works in concert with the Administrator and Department Heads to represent the municipalities (Country Club Hills, Flossmoor, Hazel Crest, Homewood, Matteson, Olympia Fields, Park Forest, Richton Park, Tinley Park, and University Park).

We are engaging our municipalities in every aspect of our services and activities. My objective is to ensure our municipalities know the Township will play its part in supporting the health, safety and general welfare of our residents. The Township brings people together, especially our constituents who lack necessities and means to support themselves. We want to embrace our constituents and make sure we support them in a responsible and transparent manner.

Rich Township is committed to putting people first in all that we do. Every resident of the Township (including the indigenous) is privileged to receive assistance. People want dependable sources of resources and assistance along with safe spaces to patronize and socialize. The Township offers unique services the individual municipalities don't provide. We play a significant role in the daily lives of people that reside with the Township. Our transportation department provides transportation to those needing to get to medical appointments, grocery shopping, and other important errands. We partner with our municipalities to deliver specialized transportation services, picking up residents at their door and delivering them directly to their desired destinations. Our constituents rely on this service and would be greatly impacted should it not exist.

The Township also has a food pantry program. Many of our constituents were adversely affected by the pandemic and have sought resources to fill the gaps between what they have and what they need. Food insecurity transcends ethnicity, gender, and age. The pantry is a food resource for families and individuals who can pick up quality meats, produce, dry products, and incidentals on a weekly basis.

Our transportation and pantry departments are niche services, not provided by the municipalities within the Township. In addition to these services, the Township's General Assistance program is a resource that aides those who have fallen on hard times and need assistance with rent, food, and utility bills.

During the past year, the Township has partnered with our municipalities to provide specialized programs and activities. We began promoting our services by hosting a series of new events for Rich Township.

Some of those events include:

- Rich Township open house to meet the Township Board, Constitutional Officers, and staff; and to provide resources for small businesses and individuals.
- Mass COVID-19 testing and vaccination events.
- Community cleanup and shredding events.
- Free car light repairs in partnership with Sheriff Tom Dart.
- A Black history month celebration to honor our local heroes.
- An MLK food drive.
- A Christmas toy drive in collaboration with the VFW.

During the past year we intentionally kept the tax levy flat as not to burden our taxpayers. We have streamlined staff, reduced hours, identified areas to reduce spending, and are still able to continue to provide our constituents with quality services while being good stewards with taxpayers monies.

The future of Rich Township is growth and inclusion. One of the first actions under my administration was to perform desk audits of existing staff and add a new human resource department to the Township. Human capital (our staff) is our greatest asset. Supporting and addressing staff needs and providing education and training opportunities is a priority.

We have increased the capacity of our Homeland Security-Emergency Services Department to include one (1) retired police chief, one (1) active police chief, and an additional group of diverse volunteers who represent all parts of the Township. Our plan includes a cadet program for young adults. We are prepared should a need arise where our fleet of working vehicles would be needed.

The safety of our staff is of the utmost importance to me. Upon my arrival it was recognized that the Township did not have a working fire alarm system in its facilities. A new state of the art fire alarm system was installed in all the Township buildings to provide a safe and secure environment for staff, residents, and visitors. Plans to build a modern administration center for the Township are in the works.

We are developing and implementing strategies to improve our bottom line and extend our ability to serve. My administration uses a forward-thinking approach to designing programs that meet the needs of our communities. Our programs are tailored in a way that positions the Township as an attractive option for senior services, while simultaneously meeting the needs of our youth. Many of our communities have young people and their families. The Township fosters a safe environment which allows residents of all ages the opportunity to interact with each other. Intergenerational relationships are crucial to the development and ongoing success of the Township. We envision working with our municipalities and communities to identify ways we can help design programs that will be attractive to all and establish a sense of community throughout the Township.

My team and I are available and ready to hear any concerns and feedback. We want to know how we as a community can collectively reach our goals within the Township. We all play a part in the Township's success. You may reach the Rich Township office at 708.748.6722.



Rich Township

CALVIN JORDAN, SUPERVISOR

GENERAL OFFICES

**22013 Governors Highway
Richton Park, IL 60471
708.748.6722**

**Shirley Green Senior Center
297 Liberty Dr.
Park Forest, IL. 60466
708.748.5454**

**Rich Township Transportation
22013 Governors Highway
Richton Park, IL 60471
708.748.6727**

**Park Forest "Jolly Trolley"
708.748.4433**

BOARD MEETINGS

Rich Township Board of Trustees Meetings are held on the first Monday of each month at 5:30pm, and the third Monday of each month at 5:00pm, unless otherwise noted. The public is welcome, and encouraged to attend.

PUBLIC SERVICE NUMBERS

**Rich Township Assessor's Office
708.228.5037**

**Rich Township Clerk's Office
708.228.5045**

**Rich Township Food Pantry
708.228.5032**

**Rich Township General Assistance
(Financial Assistance)
708.228.5008**

**Rich Township Road District &
Highway Commissioner's Office
708.228.5050**

**Rich Township Senior Services
708.748.5454**

**Rich Township Supervisor's
Office
708.228.5022**

**Rich Township Transportation
708.748.6727**

FOR MORE VISIT: www.richtownship.org



Governor Pritzker Shows Love to Our Seniors for Valentine's Day

Mayme Buckley - Leonard (Senior Services)

Rich Township's Valentine's Day Luncheon was held on February 11, 2022, at the Bradford Barn located in Olympia Fields, Illinois. Supervisor Calvin Jordan surprised more than 150 Rich Township seniors with special guest Governor JB Pritzker. Governor Pritzker spoke about his first two years in office, the COVID-19 pandemic, and taxes in the state of Illinois. The Governor enthusiastically spoke about brighter days ahead and welcoming normalcy back to the state. There was much excitement in the room as the Governor updated the seniors on his office's accomplishments. Before leaving, Governor Pritzker shook hands and took pictures with as many seniors as he could. Our seniors are still showing pictures and discussing the great time they had at the luncheon.





A Note from your Township's Clerk

Arlene "Sugar" Al-Amin

The Clerk's office has had a busy start to 2022. Agenda preparation is always done efficiently. Clerk Sugar Al-Amin is very active in activities and programs that are taking place around the township. The Senior's Valentine's Day Luncheon was enjoyed by all as the Clerk loves to help with Bingo.

The Black History Month honoree celebration was a proud accomplishment The Rich Township. The Board of Trustees and constitutional officers were the presenters. Clerk played a pivotal role in bringing a possible tradition of Kente Cloth presentation to those who were honored now and for years to come.

Clerk Sugar Al-Amin's office planned their First Annual Town Hall Meeting, which was held on April 12th. The Town Hall Meeting is the most important meeting of the year for clerks throughout Illinois' townships.

Rich Township's Disabled Parking Placards

- Rich Township Clerk's Office processes temporary placards for up to 3 months use as specified by your physician.
- Will assist customers by faxing permanent ones to Springfield for Secretary of State.

For more information and required documentation please call Clerk Al-Amin at 708.228.5045.





A Note from your Township's Assessor

Sam A. Brown, CIAO

The 1st Installment Tax Bill for the 2021 property tax year was mailed by the Cook County Treasurer's Office on 1/31/22 and was due on 3/1/22. The amount due reflects 55% of the total tax bill that was paid in 2021. Exemptions and any changes due to property tax appeals will be reflected on the 2nd Installment Tax Bill for 2021 that is due to be mailed in the fall of 2022. The Rich Township Assessor's Office assists residents in the following areas: filing property tax appeals, claiming property tax exemptions, and processing refunds when appropriate. We also provide educational outreach to our residents to help better understand how our property tax system works.

The Rich Township Assessor's Office assists residents in the following areas:

- Filing property tax appeals
- Claiming property tax exemptions, (which includes processing refunds when appropriate)
- Providing educational outreach to our residents to help better understand how our property tax system works.

We are also available to speak with homeowner associations and other organizations via zoom or in person for educational outreach regarding filing tax appeals, exemptions, and other questions about our property tax system.

For all inquiries please feel free to contact us via email at assessor@richtownship.org or call us at 708-228-5037.

Township Road District's Office

Dennis A. White, Esq., Highway Commissioner

The Rich Township Road District maintains roads and bridges in the unincorporated residential areas of Rich Township. For assistance, in the following areas please contact us at: highway@richtownship.org.

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Driveway culvert replacement | Pavement maintenance |
| Driveway permits | Storm Sewer maintenance |
| Sign maintenance | Emergency tree removals from roadways |
| Snow removal and ice control | All construction affecting district road right of way |
| Weed mowing | |
| Shoulder maintenance | |



Trustee's Corner

Township of Illinois Lobby Day

Supervisor Calvin Jordan, Rich Township Trustees and Constitutional Officers joined forces in Springfield for the Township Officials of Illinois 40th Annual Lobby Day. Township Lobby Day allows the township officials throughout the state to meet with their legislators and to network with other townships while at the state capital. We discussed matters affecting Township government. Speaker of the House of Representatives, Emanuel Chris Welch gave insights as the keynote speaker during the luncheon.



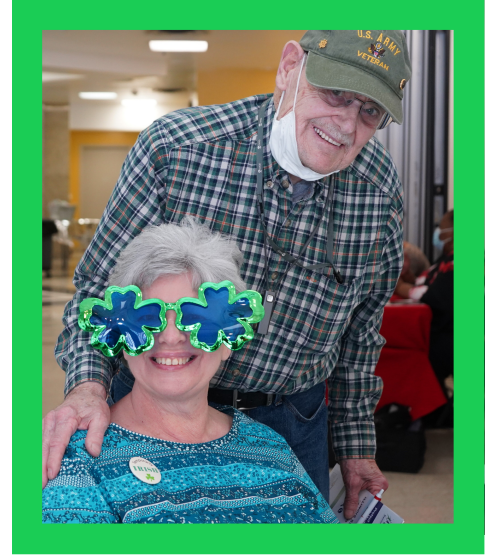
Rich Township Homeland Security **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT** AGENCY

Rich Township's Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency is often called upon to respond to non-emergencies throughout the Township. At times we also assist with emergencies such as major fires and major traffic accidents. We assist with searching for missing children and wandering seniors & disabled residents. We work closely with the ten (10) local municipalities within the Township along with assisting other emergency response agencies when necessary. All of our EMA team members receive training sessions given by local police departments throughout Cook County and State of Illinois.

*Robert Fox,
Director*



St Patrick's Day for our Seniors



The Saint Patrick's Day Luncheon was full of four leaf clovers, green everything, and kiss me I'm Irish shirts and hats. Over 130 seniors gathered in Park Forest to commemorate the Irish culture. Supervisor Calvin Jordan, Rich Township trustees, elected officials and Rich Township staff raffled off over 25 gifts. The seniors received Red Lobster, Starbucks, Dunkin Donuts and Subway gift cards as event bingo prizes of the event.

President Jonathan Vanderbilt of Park Forest attended the festivities with his entire family. State Senator Hasting and State Representative Anthony Deluca sent representation to explain their offices' resources. The vendors who provided prizes were Oak Street Health, Catholic Charities, St James Home Health and Park Forest Library. Oak Street Health raffled off yoga mats and gift cards and the Park Forest Library gave out free books to our seniors.



St Patrick's Day for our Seniors





Senior Services

Rich Township Senior Services provides important services for our aging community. It supports aging adults and persons with disabilities by providing them with access to resources available to help them stay active and independent. The Senior Services team provides Township seniors a fulfilling opportunity to be a part of a meaningful program. The Center serves as a meeting venue for older adults to empower, enrich and engage with their peers and surrounding communities.

Services and Activities includes:

- Flexercise, Line Dancing* and Yoga* are classes designed to keep you in shape physically and mentally.
- Extend-a-Meal are hot meals available to homebound Senior and disabled Rich Township resident. Qualification to participate in the extend-a-meal program is based on a home assessment and minimal fee. *
- In-Home Services have been designed to assist seniors and disabled Rich Township resident.
- These services include light housekeeping, shopping and laundry. Qualification to participate in the In-Home Services program is based on a home assessment and minimal fee. Persons with limited income are encouraged to apply. *
- Crafts, mind activities, which includes our puzzles corner, board games, and books are available to borrow at any time.
- Volunteer retired Nurses perform weekly Blood Pressure monitoring.
- Seniors often have problems navigating the internet or have difficulties with finding information needed. The Senior Services staff help research information and programs that are offered throughout Rich Township.
- Podiatry services are offered biweekly on Fridays from 9am - 3pm these services are routine foot care to help keep your feet in tip top shape. Medicare covers the service. Please call to make an appointment. *
- Barber services are offered biweekly and there is a small fee which supports the barber. Please call to make an appointment. *

Please note asterisk* means that there is a small fee charged for services or activities



Pantry Updates

FOOD INSECURITY IS REAL! The Pantry is here to assist our most vulnerable neighbors. We provide nutritious and plentiful food to individuals and families who are trying to make ends meet. Residents of Rich Township can pick up food, once a month. We provide 2 bags of nonperishable food, one of fresh produce, dairy products, bread, meat, and personal care items. Gluten free and vegan items may be requested. We have baby food, diapers, and inconvenience supplies.

Our pantry distributes food on Tuesday and Thursday from 1 to 3 pm. We do accept the green Greater Chicago Food Depository client card or you will need to complete a registration form on your first visit. Our distribution is contact free. Five cars drive into the garage, we put food in the cars, record your visit and they drive out. Deliveries are available to homebound residents and other special circumstances.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!

1. We could not operate without the kind and generous help of our volunteers. We have volunteering opportunities for anyone 16 or older. Volunteers help sort & stock food, and pack bags Monday – Thursday 10 am - 12 pm and help distribute food and record visits Tuesday and Thursday from 12:45pm to 3:15 pm. We also need help with data input.

2. FRESH FRUITS and VEGETABLES

10:00am - 12:00pm

Bring your Greater Chicago Food Depository card or register that day

May 13, 2022, June 10, 2022, July 8, 2022 & August 12, 2022

FOR MORE INFORMATION about volunteering, resources, services and other programs available to our clients contact Odette Gueringer, the pantry director, at 708-228-5032.

Rich Township Transportation



Rich Township TRANSPORTATION

SENIOR & DISABLED RESIDENTS

708.748.6727

Pat Peters, Director

MONDAY - FRIDAY | 8AM - 4PM

WHERE CAN I GO? (RICH TOWNSHIP)

- GROCERY SHOPPING
 - SHOPPING CENTER
 - MEDICAL APPT
 - NURSING HOMES
 - RESTAURANTS
 - HAIR APPT
 - VISIT FRIENDS
 - VISIT RELATIVES
- FIRST CALL, FIRST SERVED.**

The Township bus provides curb to curb service to Seniors and Disabled residents of Country Club Hills, Hazel Crest, Homewood, Flossmoor, Matteson, Olympia, Fields, Park Forest, Richton Park and Tinley Park.

Transportation hours are Monday through from 8:00 A.M to 4:00 P.M. Locations to visit are medical, grocery shopping, restaurants or just go out to visit friends. The cost to ride the bus is \$3.00 each way. The buses are cleaned and sanitized throughout the day. We look forward to seeing you!

WHAT DOES IT COST?

\$3.00 ONE-WAY

\$6.00 ROUND-TRIP

TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT, PLEASE CALL 708-748-6727 BETWEEN 8AM AND 3PM



Rich Township JOLLY TROLLEY



REASONABLE FARES | TRANSFER @ MINIMAL CHARGE

Adults can ride the Jolly Trolley for just \$3.00! A Transfer is 30cents as long as you board the 2nd bus within two hours of getting off the 1st bus.

\$3.00
EACH WAY

Seniors, disabled persons, and students pay \$1.50 to ride the Jolly Trolley. A Transfer is 15cents as long as you board the 2nd bus within two hours of getting off the 1st bus.

Kids under 7 years ride FREE with a fare-paying adult.

MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY | 9:00AM - 3:30PM


First call for pick-up service starts at 8:30am. Last call for pick-up service is 3:00pm. There is No Saturday, Sunday, Holiday, or Evening service.

The Jolly Trolley picks up passengers on the hour and half-hour at Family Dollar, and at Village Hall in Downtown, Park Forest. Besides regular Park Forest stops, destinations include:

- Richton Park AND Park Forest Metra Stations
- Lincoln Highway (Rt.30) AND Brookwood Drive (Athenia Medical Center)
- Village facilities such as the Library, Health Department, etc.

CALL 708.748.4433 IN ADVANCE TO RESERVE TRIPS

Calvin Jordan, Rich Township Supervisor

richtownship.org  [@RichTownshipIL](https://www.facebook.com/RichTownshipIL)

Rich Township Jolly Trolley

Black History Celebration



Calvin Jordan, Rich Township Supervisor and Democratic Committeemen, were joined by the Rich Township Board of Trustees, business leaders, elected officials, civic and clergy leaders on February 24th for an awards event. The event was held at the La Banque Hotel in Homewood, Illinois to honor five African American giants as part of Black History Month. The honorees included Illinois Supreme Court Justice P. Scott Neville, Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle, Victory Apostolic Senior Pastor Andrew Singleton, Sutton Ford President Karen Sutton-Ford and You Matter 2 Inc. CEO Destiny Watson. Supervisor Calvin Jordan was also surprised with an award from the Board of Trustees and constitutional officers. The awardees were presented with trophies and Kente cloth stoles.

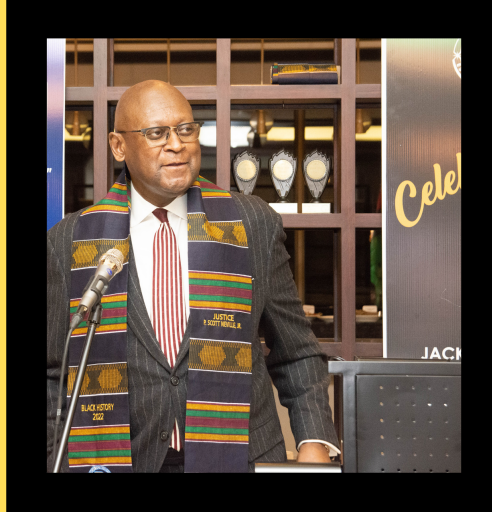
“As a community, we know all too well of the sacrifices and challenges that these five courageous individuals have had to endure. But their efforts were only geared toward enhancing the quality of life and the upward mobility of African Americans throughout the state of Illinois. Rich Township takes significant pride in ensuring that we honor these heroes during this very precious month for people of color.” remarked Jordan.

The evening featured multiple tributes, laughter, reflection, and an appreciation of history. The honorees addressed the mass crowd by showing their gratitude, but also challenging the attendees to remember there is much work to do to fulfill the dream of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Mr. Jordan also challenged those in attendance to focus their efforts on promoting diversity and inclusion in all of their professional and personal endeavors. Jordan remarked, “There is simply no way we could have the most prominent African American leaders in one facility and not encourage them to be the leaders of racial harmony, fairness, and justice. The Southland is now the mecca of opportunity for young aspiring African American businesspersons and government leaders. Diversity has brought us this far, but greater diversity will lead us to the mountain of acceptance and equality.”

Black History Celebration



Supervisor Calvin Jordan and Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle



Illinois Supreme Court Justice P. Scott Neville, Jr.



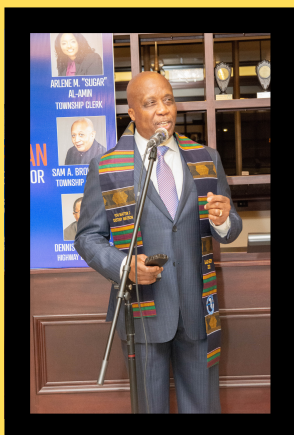
Destiny Watson, You Matter 2 and Rich Township Assessor Sam Brown, CIAO



Rich Township Trustee Therese Goodrich, Rich Township Clerk Arlene Al-Amin, Rich Township Supervisor Calvin Jordan, Rich Township Trustee Jacquelyn Small



Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle, Rich Township Supervisor Calvin Jordan, Pastor Andrew Singleton, Sr., Victory Apostolic Church, Destiny Watson, You Matter 2, Illinois Supreme Court Justice P. Scott Neville, Jr., and Karen Sutton-Ford, Sutton Ford



Pastor Andrew Singleton, Sr., Victory Apostolic Church



Rich Township Trustees Therese Goodrich, Rich Township Supervisor Calvin Jordan, Rich Township Trustee Jacquelyn Small, Rich Township Trustee Steven Burris, Pamela Al-Amin, and Rich Township Assessor Sam Brown



Karen Sutton-Ford, Sutton Ford and Rich Township Trustee Therese Goodrich

Calling All Nature Lovers

OLD PLANK ROAD PRAIRIE

Let's celebrate the arrival of spring at Old Plank Road Prairie! There's so much to be done: finding and flagging teasel rosettes; attacking the just-emerging reed canary grass; removing brambles and woodies.



It is wild how much we can accomplish as a team. Last Saturday we started cutting brambles and woodies west of the reservoir and by late afternoon had cleared a long stretch adjacent to prairie dropseed and other high quality species. We have a lot of follow-up to do, but "hooboy" it was a satisfying afternoon (capped off with s'mores!)



OPRP Spring Workday Schedule:

Sunday, April 24 // 10a - 1p

Saturday, May 7 // 1p - 4p

Saturday, May 14 // 1p - 4p

Sunday, May 22 // 10a - 1p

For More Information:

Contact oprprairies@friendsilnature.org

Easter Egg Hunt



The Easter Egg Hunt was full of fun and excitement as the Easter Bunny made a surprise appearance scavenger hunting. The eggs they searched for were filled with candy and toys. There were raffle giveaways. The kids had the opportunity to fill their baskets with candy, treats and goodies. Kids, their parents and Mr. Bunny had a great time.







Rich Township General ASSISTANCE

Our General Assistance Dept. offers assistance with:

**WATER
ELECTRIC
GAS
FOOD**

*Annette Ellis,
Director*

Rich Township General Assistance (GA) is a locally administered "Flat Grant" financial assistance program which provides a monthly stipend of \$322 assistance to individuals who are, 18yrs or older, U.S. born or naturalized resident of Rich Township, who do not have adequate income or resources to provide for their basic needs.

The stipend provides a combination of food, shelter, and utility (Gas, Electric, or Water) assistance relief for needy individual until they become gainfully employed or start receiving social security disability.

The General Assistance Program is primarily for individuals without minor children, without adequate income, and ineligible for any other monetary form of assistance provided by state or federally funded programs.

Our Emergency Assistance (EA) provides financial assistance to residents in life-threatening situations who have minimal income for the previous 30 days who meet the General Assistance guidelines.

Residents must first call our office to check eligibility. An appointment will be given to eligible residents only.

Applications for General Assistance or Emergency Assistance can be submitted online.

For additional information, contact us

**Monday - Friday
9:00am - 4:00pm**

708.228.5008

Retirees' Sendoff

To our retirees:

Rich Township would like to sincerely thank you for your many years of service. Retirement is a time to look back with total satisfaction. It is a time to look ahead with great anticipation filled with enjoyment and an opportunity to enjoy life in a new way. It allows you to do some of the things you have always wanted to do, so embrace the joy of retirement. Although you may retire from Rich Township, never retire from making contributions in other ways and never retire from being an asset. Your efforts have helped Rich Township achieve various milestones and your contributions to Rich Township will always be remembered.

Stanley King, with great appreciation, we thank you for all your hard work and dedication for the past 15 years.

Candi Kleindorfer, may your retired life be blissful and healthy. We thank you for all your hard work and dedication for the past 30 years.

Jane Majcherek; as a chapter closes in your life, we thank you for all your hard work and dedication for the past 14 years.

Pat Peters, in sincere, gratitude for the compassion, guidance, and outstanding leadership that you have provided to us for 28 ½ years. We thank you for all your hard work and dedication throughout the years.

Supervisor Calvin Jordan, Board of Trustees and constitutional officers celebrated retirees.





22013 Governors Highway
Richton Park, IL 60471
708.748.6722



Calvin Jordan
Supervisor



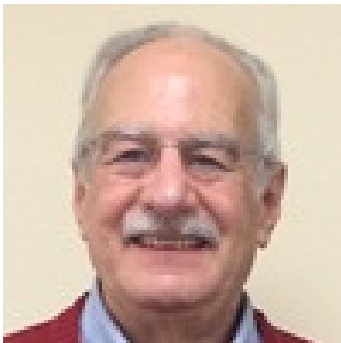
Arlene M. "Sugar"
Al-Amin
Clerk



Sam A. Brown,
CIAO
Assessor



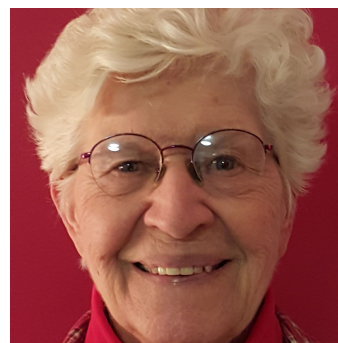
Dennis A.
White, Esq.
Highway
Commissioner



Nicholas P.
Bobis
Trustee



Steven R.
Burris
Trustee



Therese H.
Goodrich
Trustee



Jacquelyn M.
"Jackie" Small
Trustee



richtownship.org
@RichTownshipIL - Facebook