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From The Clerk

Consolidated Election

The Consolidated Election is right around the corner. The April 4th Election has many candidates running for various positions such as some Village Mayors and Trustee's, Library Board Members, Fox Waterway Agency Director, School Board Members and Park District Commissioner's. To view the complete list of candidates visit the Lake County Clerk's Office Website at www.lakecountyil.gov under the list of candidates for the Consolidated Election.

If you need to register to vote, or change your voting address, you can do so online at ova.elections.il.gov. You will need to have a current Illinois driver's license or State ID handy. If you need a REAL ID driver's license or identification card (DL/ID) you can review the State's interactive checklist at www.Realid.ilsos.gov which will help prepare you for the application process with the Illinois Secretary of State. You can schedule an appointment online under driver's services for any of the States DMV facilities by visiting www.Ilsos.gov.

The Lake County's Clerk's Office will soon be accepting vote by mail applications for those who would like to vote from the comfort of their homes for the April 4th Consolidated Election. Applications will start being mailed out March 10th. To apply for a Vote by Mail Ballot please visit the Lake County Clerk's Office website www.lakecountyil.gov and search under elections.

I hope you find this information useful and if I can be of further assistance please feel free to call me at 847-740-2233.

Grant Township Center
26725 W. Mollitor Road
Ingleside, IL 60041
(847) 740-2233
fax: (847) 546-8884
granttownship@sbcglobal.net
www.granttownshipcenter.org

Supervisor
Catherine "Kay" Starostovic

Clerk
Judy Martini

Highway Commissioner
Kim Kiesgen
(847) 546-7623

Assessor
Lisa LaMantia
(847) 546-8880

Trustees
Robert Hamm, Robert Selle
Tom Lippert, Karen Fischer

Election News

Do you want to learn more about how elections are conducted/ Are you interested in serving your community? Consider becoming an Election Judge.

Election Judges administer the proper and lawful conduct of all elections by serving at voting sites. To serve, election judges must successfully complete the two-part (online and in-person) training offered by the Lake County Clerk's Office before receiving their Election Day assignment.

Sign up using the County Clerk's Office Secure online application or by calling the office's Election Judge Department at 847-377-2408.



Grant Township

www.granttowshipcenter.org

Grant Township Center

Fish Fry Friday - March 10, 2023

American Legion Hall • 703 N Rt. 12 • Fox Lake, IL



All Proceeds Benefit Park Improvements

Food Served

5:00^{pm} to 8:00^{pm}
Chicken Fingers
Available

Silent Auction

Adults \$10⁰⁰
Children 6-12 \$5⁰⁰
Children 5 & Under Free

For Information Call (847) 740-2233

From The Supervisor

Dear Friends of Grant Township,

We all know the last few years of our lives has been a challenge and yet there are many reasons to be thankful. We at Grant Township are just amazed at the generosity of the community's participation in the Food Pantry and Adopt-A-Family programs.

Countless residents have felt the impact of the pandemic in one way or another. We are grateful for the people in the Grant Township area who were there caring and sharing to help make a brighter Holiday season for families, friends and neighbors in need.

We are grateful for all the support this community has given to our Township and to all the many volunteers who give of their time.

Despite all the changes going on around us we find ourselves continuing to look forward to good things ahead. On behalf of the Grant Township staff and families we appreciate all you do to support the Township. We could not accomplish these goals without you.

May your lives be blessed with the gifts of peace, health, hope, and love of family and friends. Pray for our Armed Forces and for peace around the world. "THANK YOU".

Respectfully,

Kay Starostovic

Personal Wellness Checks

Did you know the Lake County Sheriff's Office provides scheduled personal wellness checks by telephone for Lake County residents living alone? The program is meant to assist those who do not have family or friends that are able to check on them on a regular basis. The program is called R.U.O.K. and the wellness check is made by telephone at a pre-determined time of the day. Contact the Sheriff's Records Section by email at SDRecords@lakecountyil.gov or call 847-377-4200 to receive a registration packet.

AAHAA Network Nurse

With our Network Nurse program you can talk with a health professional at no cost about: health conditions, medical questions, get referrals for doctors, dentists, counselors and in home assistance. They can also help with medical insurance questions and they have a certified application counselor to help you with your Medicaid or Affordable Care/Market Place Insurance as well as applications for SNAP, Medicare Savings and Extra Help. For Info call 847-395-2809 ext. 2.

AARP Tax Help

Fox Lake library is hosting an AARP Tax Coordinator to help low income seniors with tax prep. Appointments are available on Mondays from February 6th through April 10th, and will fill up fast. Stop by in person to make an appointment at the 2nd floor Adult Reference Desk and pick up information to prepare for your Tax Help appointment.

Grant Township Bus Service

Bus service is open to township residents who are seniors, persons with disabilities and low income. The service is available on Monday, Wednesday & Friday from 9:00am to 3:00pm. The fee is \$2.00 each way within 10 miles and \$4.00 each way up to 20 miles. We serve these areas:

North – Wisconsin State Line

South – Route 22

East – Lake Michigan

West – Route 14

24hr. notice is required. For medical runs please call as soon as the appointment is made. For more information call Monday - Friday 8:00-4:00 **(847) 546-7433**.

We are also looking for a part-time back-up driver 1-3 days/week. If you enjoy driving, have a people friendly personality we invite you to join our team. For more information contact the Supervisor's office at 847-740-2233 or e-mail your resume' to granttownship@sbcglobal.net.

Food Pantries

Many area food pantries are being assisted with food from the Northern Illinois Food Bank, which assists over 900 pantries and mobile food markets. Each week they are distributing free to you fresh groceries throughout Northern Illinois. Please keep in mind that the food markets are first come, first served, and while supplies last. No proof of income is needed. To check out the list of Northern IL Food Banks visit www.solvehungertoday.org/get-groceries-resources.

Food banks are always looking for volunteers. To find out more about volunteering contact Northern Illinois Food Bank, www.solvehungertoday.org

Upcoming Trips

Reservations are required for all programs and registration form for trips will be available at Grant Township Center, 26725 W. Molitor Rd, Ingleside, 60041. (847)740-2233, www.granttownshipcenter.org

North Star Mohican Casino Resort

April 24-25, 2023 - Two day trip. Depart from Grant Township 8:00am promptly. Cost \$110.00 Per person double Occupancy \$140.00 single. \$20.00 Bonus Play \$10.00 Food Coupon

Laverne & Shirley Milwaukee Experience

May 17, 2023

Departs Grant Township 8:15am

Cost is \$115 per person

Lake Geneva Cruise Line and Luncheon

July 19, 2023 - Wednesday

Depart from Grant Township 10am. Cost is \$90.00 per person

Four Winds Casino Day Trip

New Buffalo, MI

Monday, August 7th - \$47.00 per person

\$15.00 bonus credit & \$10.00 food credit

Ho Chunk Sampler – Ho Chunk Dells & Ho Chunk Black River Falls

2 Day/1 Night: Monday & Tuesday, October 23rd-24th

\$124.00 per person double occupancy -

\$159.00 per single - \$119.00 Triple

\$25.00 Bonus Credit Ho Chunk Dells 1st Day - \$50.00 Ho Chunk

Black River Falls \$25.00 Dells 2nd day

Scrooge -

The Musical – Fireside Dinner Theatre

Fort Atkinson, WI

Sunday, November 26th, \$149.00 per person

Includes World's most beloved Christmas Story & Breakfast Brunch!

All trips include Deluxe Coach Transportation

Community Events

Village of Fox Lake

April 1st - Egg-citing Egg Hunt & Bunny Breakfast 8am -11am.

\$10.00 per person, \$5.00 ages 4-10. 3 and under free with paying adult. Hosted by Fox Lake Lions Club. Free Egg hunt 10am (ages 1-10) hosted by the Village of Fox Lake.

Village of Lakemoor

April 1st - Easter Egg Hunt, Heritage Park, 10:00am (tentative)

Village of Volo

April 8th - Easter Egg Hunt, Village Hall, 11:00am (tentative)

Super Senior Event - Drivers License Renewal, State ID, License Plate Renewal (This service available to anyone.)

May 5, 2023 - Friday Class 10am -12.

Time: 10am - 2pm

Grant Township - 26725 W Molitor Rd. Ingleside, IL 60041

Rules of the Road Review Course

The Rules of the Road review Course is designed to give drivers, especially senior citizens and persons with disabilities, the knowledge and confidence needed to renew or obtain a driver's license. The review Course combines an explanation of the driving exam with a practice written exam.

March 3, 2023 - class is held in the upper level

July 7, 2023 - lower level

October 6, 2023 - lower level

Call Grant Township to register for the free and informative class. Class Start 10am to Noon. When registering be sure to give the date you want to attend. See our website Events tab for flyers, www.granttownshipcenter.org.

Grant Township and AARP

Grant Township and AARP are proud to offer the AARP Driver Safety Class. April 27-28th 9:00am to 1:00pm. \$20 for AARP member & \$25 for non member.

Shred Event

Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 20th, 8:30am to 11:30am (or until the truck is full). Shredding will take place at the Grant Township Administration Building, in the lower level parking area. Your paper will be safely handled and securely shredded on site.

Valentines 4 Vets

Once again Julia Mazur led our volunteers in hand written Valentine's for our local veterans.



From the Highway Department

Still Some Weather Left: New Spring Forecast Looks Snowy

Although the winter is neither the snowiest on record or even the coldest on record, the combination of snow and cold stills makes a significant impact on all of our life's.

The Winter season started off with 3" inches of snowfall and gave us the white Christmas we were hoping for. The first couple of weeks in January numerous SNOWSQALLS known for moderate snowfall with blowing snow and gusty surface winds often referred to as a whiteout and is similar to a blizzard but snow accumulations may or may not be significant. Then finally mother nature dropped 8" of snowfall that we have been starving for this year.

Meteorological spring starts March 1, but we have experienced spring like weather days in January and February. But, according to Accu-Weather don't trust it. Another shift in the polar vortex could send a blast of bitterly cold air from the Arctic into the U.S. states that could trigger spring snowstorms. They say we could experience a few mild days this month but should resist any temptation to put away the snow shovels and boots.

Think Spring!!  Kim Kiesgen
Highway Commissioner

Do You Know the Difference Between Advisory and Warning?

- Wind Chill Advisory - dangerous wind chills of 15 to 24 below are expected.
- Wind Chill Warning - potentially life-threatening wind chills of 25 below or colder are expected.
- Frost Advisory - damaging frost is expected during the growing season.
- Freeze Warning - below freezing temperatures are expected during the growing season.
- Ice Storm Warning - dangerous ice accumulations will occur and are expected to result in hazardous travel, extended power outages, and tree damage.
- Heavy Snow Warning - snow accumulations of six inches or greater will result in hazardous travel conditions.
- Winter Weather Advisory - cold, ice, and/or snow (two to five inches) are expected.
- Winter Storm Watch - severe winter weather, such as heavy snow or ice, is possible within the next day or two.
- Winter Storm Warning - extreme ice and/or snow (six" or more) have begun or are about to begin.
- Blizzard Warning - heavy snow and strong winds will produce blinding snow, near zero visibility, deep drifts, and life-threatening travel conditions.



Knollwood Drive Construction 2022



From the Highway Department

Snow Tip Reminders

After a 2" or more snowfall, parking is not permitted on Township maintained roads until they have been plowed and cleared of snow. Parked vehicles may be towed with the owner responsible for related costs.

When shoveling your driveway, to minimize the amount of snow that may be left in an already shoveled driveway, shovel in the direction of traffic and make a pocket on the opposite side of your driveway.

Be cautious when piling high mounds of snow at the entrance of your driveway that may cause visibility when backing out as-well as children hiding behind a pile of snow where a snowplow driver may not see them.

To avoid a potential hazard when removing snow from your driveway, do not shovel, push or blow it onto already cleared roadway, as this will create a slippery and hazardous surface when traffic passes over it. Also, don't push snow to the opposite side of the road. Vehicles approaching from the opposite direction may find it difficult to pass safely.

If there is a fire hydrant on your property, shovel a path to and around it from the roadway. Don't forget your mail carrier when it comes to clearing an area in front of your mailbox so they can easily approach.

Oh yea, it just seems to snow on trash day. We ask not to put garbage receptacles on or near the road when plows will be coming by to clear the streets as they may become a victim leaving garbage covering the roads.

To prevent damage to vehicles and snowplows, please remove all decorative rocks, logs, or other objects at least 10" from the paved edge of the road.



Illinois Passes Law Making it Illegal to Place Litter, Lawn Waste and Snow into Roadways

Illinois has passed a law making it illegal to blow or push any litter, lawn waste and snow into the roadways as it is likely to injure drivers and create a traffic hazard. 'Litter' may include, but not be limited to; any garbage, trash, refuse, cigarettes, debris, rubbish grass clipping, or other lawn or garden waste, newspaper, magazines glass, metal, plastic or paper containers or other packaging, construction material, abandoned vehicles, motor vehicle parts, furniture, oil, carcass of a dead animal, any nauseous or offensive matter of any kind, any object likely to injure any person or create a traffic hazard, potentially infectious medical waste. . . or anything else of an unsightly or unsanitary nature, which has been discarded, abandoned or otherwise disposed of improperly. (415ILCS 105/)Litter Control Act



"Cheryl's Law"

Daylight Savings Time

March 12, 2023
Time to Spring ahead!



Grant Township Recycling

The total of electronics recycled in 2022 was 347,008 lbs.



From the Assessor

Fairness - it's what we all want. The primary goal of our office is to distribute the collective tax burden (the levies) created by our local taxing bodies in a fair and equitable manner. We understand that our local services cost money. We know that we must pay for them, but we also want the process to be fair. Fortunately, layers of protection are built into the property tax system to ensure this. While assessments are determined by our office, they are subject to revision and review by the Chief County Assessment Office, the Lake County Board of Review and ultimately the Illinois Department of Revenue. This is a good thing. Assessments perform a distribution function, not a taxing function. For that reason, Assessors must have a policy of absolute fairness – anything less is unacceptable, because ultimately it is unfair. Uniformity should always take precedence, because if one area or even one property within an area is underassessed, everyone else makes up the difference and pays more than they should. *For the first time in 12 years, Grant Township has achieved a Coefficient of Dispersion (COD) less than 15%.* That may sound like gibberish to you, but it means we are doing our job. The coefficient of dispersion (COD) equals the mean difference between a group of numbers and the median. It means more uniformity within Grant Township.

The 2023 Quadrennial: We are required by the Illinois Property Tax Code to physically inspect each property in the township once every four years to verify information used to determine property value. Although 2023 is the quadrennial year, inspections have already started and will continue throughout 2023. There are over 14,000 properties in Grant Township. If you see us on your street photographing your house or taking measurements, it is because we want to make sure the data we have on file is accurate and we are meeting the requirements of the law. Our field inspectors will only be out Monday – Friday between the hours of 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. They will always have identification on them. If a field inspector from our office comes to your door and requests access on your property, please allow them to do their job. Feel free to ask questions about what they are doing and how it affects your assessment. If there is ever a question or concern, please call our office at 847-546-8880.

Our 2023 values will be determined by sales from 2020, 2021, and 2022. The sales ratio studies show whether assessments within a given area actually average 33 1/3 percent of the market value. If the studies result in something other than 33 1/3 percent, a blanket percentage change (increase or decrease), called an “equalization factor” or “multiplier”, is applied to bring the level of assessments to 33 1/3 percent. These sales are entered at the county level, reviewed in our office, and reviewed again by The Illinois Department of Revenue. We comb through these sales to make sure the data is correct. You can view these at www.lakecountyil.gov/411/Sales-Ratio-Studies. The first quarter of 2022 saw home sales at an all-time high. And while we've seen some price drops and the market starting to slow, those 2022 sales are still much higher than the 2019 sales that are dropping out of the ratio studies. According to the Illinois Property Tax Code, we must value real property by what is known using closed sales transactions. To avoid drastic up and down swings in value every year, we must value based on a 3-year period. It does not look like 2023 assessment values will come down. But when we do our job with uniformity, the tax burden will be distributed fairly and equitably.



If you received the Senior Citizen Assessment Freeze Exemption, the Disabled Person's Homestead Exemption, or the Standard Homestead Exemption for Veteran's with Disabilities in 2022, you will receive a reminder letter in early March 2023. **These exemptions need to be applied for annually.** Senior Citizen Assessment Freeze Exemptions will require proof of income to be uploaded to the county. Applications must be submitted online through the Lake County Smartfile E-Filing Portal. If you do not have computer access, we will continue to help you fill out paperwork here in our office and then file online on your behalf. Our office is always available to answer your questions and concerns.



**DATA CLEANSING:
WHAT IS IT AND WHY
IS IT IMPORTANT?**

Spring Cleaning!

Data cleansing is the process of removing incorrect, duplicate, or otherwise erroneous data from a dataset. In this case, our dataset is the information we collect about each property. We have been working diligently at cleaning all of our data. As the saying goes, “What goes in, is what comes out.” The better data we have going in, the more accurate our numbers will be coming out. This means your assessment will be more accurate. All land influence factors are being reviewed and standards are being put in place moving forward.

Taxes and Taxing Bodies

Property taxes in Illinois are the second highest in the nation. Within Illinois, Lake County is the highest. I don't like paying high taxes any more than all of you. But here in the Assessor's office, we do not set the tax rate. We value your property according to the Illinois Property Tax Code. When you get your tax bill in May, you will see columns listing out each taxing body and the increase or decrease from last year. If you have questions about where your money is going, I encourage you to reach out to these taxing bodies for explanation. To be proactive in this, I have asked Grant Community High School to provide some background information to you (below.) I am happy to sit down and talk to anyone that has questions or concerns. But ultimately, the best information will come directly from the source. - Lisa LaMantia, CIAO

Dear Grant Township Residents,

We are very pleased to provide information regarding Grant Community High School District 124. School funding is a very complex matter, but we will attempt to highlight some important aspects here and welcome any questions that residents may have. Above all, please know that the Board of Education and administration of District 124 remain committed to providing a quality education for students while being respectful of the needs of Grant taxpayers.

With the State of Illinois providing one of the lowest levels of financial support to districts across the nation, the majority of costs to educate the children in our community falls to local taxpayers. Things are looking up with Evidence-Based Funding, which has changed the way that school districts receive the bulk of state funds. Since its passage in 2017, more resources have been sent to under-resourced schools, of which Grant is one. The District currently receives 67% of the resources, both local and all other revenue sources, needed to adequately educate students as determined by the State of Illinois. Regardless, we are very proud of the educational, extracurricular and co-curricular programs we provide, with the resources we have, while maintaining one of the lowest tax rates in Lake County.

Lake County High School Comparison Tax Year 2021 (paid in 2022)		
High School District	Tax Rate	-/+ from Grant
Zion-Benton HSD #126	3.853099	1.52
Grayslake HSD #127	3.738228	1.41
Stevenson HSD #125	3.092308	0.76
Antioch/Lakes CHSD #117	3.057432	0.73
Libertyville/Vernon Hills HSD #128	2.673749	0.34
Highland Park/Deerfield #113	2.485954	0.15
Mundelein HSD #120	2.482870	0.15
Warren Township HSD #121	2.356874	0.02
Grant CHSD #124	2.332392	
Lake Forest HSD #115	1.493935	(0.84)

Lake County High School Adequacy Comparison			
High School District	% Adequacy Per State	Adequacy Funding Gap	Resources per student
Highland Park/Deerfield #113	195.10%	\$ (46,193,918)	\$ 27,418
Lake Forest HSD #115	191.10%	\$ (18,759,461)	\$ 25,876
Libertyville/Vernon Hills HSD #128	171.60%	\$ (33,222,307)	\$ 23,681
Stevenson HSD #125	155.40%	\$ (33,770,234)	\$ 21,579
Antioch/Lakes CHSD #117	83.20%	\$ 6,300,921	\$ 12,029
Grayslake HSD #127	77.40%	\$ 9,107,597	\$ 11,355
Mundelein HSD #120	76.90%	\$ 7,897,797	\$ 12,087
Zion-Benton HSD #126	76.10%	\$ 10,038,751	\$ 12,542
Warren Township HSD #121	71.80%	\$ 16,603,537	\$ 10,949
Grant CHSD #124	67.90%	\$ 8,823,902	\$ 10,301

Historical Abatements	
Levy Year	Refund to Taxpayers
2015	\$ 650,000
2014	\$ 650,000
2013	\$ 1,065,000
2011	\$ 142,921
2009	\$ 544,000

Additionally, in an attempt to lighten the tax burden for community members, the Board of Education has returned funds to taxpayers through multiple tax abatements. The administration and Board of Education remain dedicated to abating, or returning money to the taxpayers, as often as is fiscally possible. The District applies each year to the Illinois State Board of Education for a Property Tax Relief Grant, which would allow us to further abate property taxes. The District has applied for the grant each year that it has been available.

Grant Community High School offers a comprehensive curriculum with the goal to prepare students with the skills necessary for success in college and/or a professional career. With more than 200 instructional offerings, including

honors, Advanced Placement, and dual credit courses, combined with internship opportunities, students have many opportunities to explore areas of interest. Students also expand leadership and teamwork skills through the broad extracurricular and co-curricular activities offered, along with an array of student clubs. We thank the community for their support in helping to provide these exceptional opportunities for our students!