

Grant Township

WWW.GRANTTOWNSHIPCENTER.ORG



FISH FRAY AND SILENT AUCTION

**All Proceeds Benefit
Grant Township Park Improvements**

Friday March 1, 2024

Fox Lake American Legion Post #703

703 N. Rt 12, Fox Lake, IL

Food served 5-8pm



**Alaskan Pollock, Coleslaw, Potato Salad and Bread
Chicken Fingers Available**

From the Supervisor

WELCOME TO THE NEW YEAR

This community is amazing! Thank you for helping to make a brighter holiday season for our families, friends and neighbors in need now and throughout the year. The support along with the caring and sharing of the Grant Township area is a blessing.

We are so lucky to have those who contributed to the success of our Christmas Food Baskets and the Adopt-A-Family programs. We are grateful for the food, gifts, monetary donations and the many volunteers who give of their time. Plus all the donations we receive throughout the year because hunger is not only during the holidays.

It is you who help make this a great place to live. We could not do these programs without all of you. On behalf of the Grant Township Staff and the families we help "Thank You" for caring and supporting our Township.

Grant Township wishes you the very best for 2024. Our door is always open and we would like to hear your comments, concerns and ideas. So please stop by our office or call me directly at (847)740-2233 or email: kstarostovic@granttownshipcenter.org

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

Sincerely,
Kay Starostovic,
Supervisor



THE TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS OF ILLINOIS (TOI) SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION IS OPEN!

Graduating High School Senior winners will receive \$2,000 (directly to tuition) to continue their education at Illinois colleges/universities. Application deadline: March 1, 2024. Go to <https://www.toi.org/2024-scholarship-application> which contains information, criteria & the application. Any questions call TOI at (217)744-2212 or email kayla@toi.org.

GRANT TOWNSHIP PARK ENHANCEMENTS UPDATE

We are excited to let you know that Hitchcock Design (the consultant team) remains committed to the completion of the park plans by addressing comments received back from Lake County Planning, Building & Development. Next steps are completing the plans & taking bids. The process may be long but this project will be worth the wait! Our park will be a great place in our community for people of all ages with these new enhancements. The project includes: Splash Pad; Fitness & Exercise Stations; Bocce Ball, Pickle Ball, Tennis Courts; Adding Walking/Bike Trails, ADA Fishing Station & a 9 Hole Disc Golf Course.



NEW WALKING BRIDGE TO ACCESS NATURE TRAIL

Thank you to Hayden Lundberg from Scout Troop #85. He chose his project to earn his Eagle Scout rank by coordinating & building a beautiful bridge over a creek that was much needed for the Grant Township Park's Nature Trail. It took a few months of planning & 10 days in August building the bridge with his Troop, Troop family members & Scout Master Jim Miller.



Upcoming Community Events

FEBRUARY 25 Village of Fox Lake Polar Plunge 10:00am-Registration Begins. Noon-Plunge Starts.
Location: Lakefront Park

MARCH 1 Grant Township Fish Fry
5:00-8:00pm Location: Fox Lake
American Legion Post #703,
703 N. Route 12, Fox Lake, IL 60020

MARCH 23 Village of Fox Lake Egg-citing Egg Hunt & Bunny Breakfast
8:00-11:00am- Breakfast 10am-Egg Hunt
Location: Lakefront Park

MARCH 23 Lakemoor Easter Egg Hunt 10:00am Location: Heritage Park
Contact: (815)385-1117

MARCH 30 Village of Volo Easter Egg Hunt 11:00am Location: Volo Village Hall
Contact: (847)-740-2982

MARCH 30 - APRIL 14 Village of Fox Lake Pelican Palooza Various Days/
Times & Locations of many activities in
Fox Lake. For Detailed Information go
online: foxlake.org/436/Pelican-Palooza

MAY 10 Secretary of State Super Senior Event (all ages welcome)
10:00am-2:00pm Location: Grant
Township Center

JUNE - AUGUST Village of Fox Lake
Weekly Tuesday Farmers Market 4-7pm
Weekly Friday Night Concerts 7-9pm
Locations: Contact (224)225-1404

JUNE 1 Fox Lake Police Bike Rodeo
10:00am – Noon Location: Lakefront
Park Building

JUNE 9 Village of Fox Lake Triathlon Keep checking online at
foxlake.org/121/Events for exact times &
information

JUNE 15 Village of Fox Lake Father's Day Fishing Frenzy
9:00-11:00am Location: Lakefront Park

JUNE 29 Celebrate Fox Lake
10:00am Parade Location: Starts at
Grant High School to Downtown
5:00-10:00pm Celebration Location:
Lakefront Park

** Information on Grant Township Events call (847)740-2233 or go to granttownshipcenter.org
(Calendar & Events Page)

***Information on Village of Fox Lake Events call (224)225-1404 or go to foxlake.org/121/Events.
Lakefront Park - 71 Nippersink Blvd, Fox Lake



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS

STAMP OUT HUNGER FOOD DRIVE MAY 11TH

Our local post office gathers food donations for our pantry.
A reminder postcard will be in your mailbox closer to the date.
Please consider those that frequent our pantry in need of food.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Grant Township Food Pantry is available to Grant Township residents Monday-Friday, 8:30am-4:00pm (closed holidays). Residents can receive a supply of non-perishable food items once per calendar month with proof of residency. A photo ID & current utility bill or other official piece of mail to verify address in Grant Township is required.

The food pantry is generously funded through monetary and drop off donations from our neighbors & residents but the need is greater than ever. We experienced a 53% increase from 2022 to 2023 in the # of families using the pantry. 2024 is on pace to see another significant increase. While monetary donations are the best way for us to supply the pantry, your generous food donations are also greatly appreciated. Items we are low on: Spaghetti Sauce; Sloppy Joe Mix; Canned Fruit; Cereal; Mashed Potatoes; Hamburger Helper; Macaroni & Cheese; Ready Made Soups & Stews and Toilet Paper. Please no glass containers.

SENIOR PROGRAMS

AGE 55 & OLDER. For all luncheons, doors open at 10:30am & reservations are required Thursday prior to luncheon date.

LUNCHEONS: FEBRUARY 15, MARCH 21, APRIL 18 & MAY 16
Lakefront Park, 11:30am - \$10.00
Entertainment – TBA Village of Fox
Lake, (224)225-1404 foxlake.org

JUNE 20 - PICNIC
Grant Township Center, 11:30am -
\$10.00 Doors open at 11:00am
Entertainment – TBA
Location: 26725 W. Molidor Rd.,
Ingleside, IL (847)740-2233
Limited seating. Registration Required.
granttownshipcenter.org

AUGUST 15 - BINGO & PIZZA
Grant Township Center, 11:30am -
\$10.00 Doors open at 11:00am
Location: 26725 W. Molidor Rd.,
Ingleside, IL (847)740-2233
Limited Seating. Registration Required.
granttownshipcenter.org

COMMUNITY TRIPS

For information & reservation material, go to granttownshipcenter.org (Calendar & Events Page) or (847)740-2233.

POTAWATOMI CASINO, MILWAUKEE, WI Wednesday, March 6, 2024
\$32.00/Per Person
Departs Grant Township 9:00am. Returns approx. 4:30pm.
Reservation deadline 2/20/24. Waitlist implemented if sold out prior to 2/22.

BALLY'S QUAD CITIES, ROCK ISLAND, IL 2 day Trip
April 22 & 23, 2024 \$120/Per Person
Double Occupancy | 150/per person Single Occupancy. Departs Grant Township 8:00am. Returns approx. 5:00pm.
Reservation deadline 4/3/24. Waitlist implemented if sold out prior to 4/3.
All trips include Deluxe Coach Transportation

From the Highway Department

As Highway Commissioner for Grant Township, the Department maintains and assumes many responsibilities for the right-of-way of many streets in Grant Township. The right of way is from the center of the street to the property line.

AMONG THESE ARE THE FOLLOWING MAINTENANCE RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE:

- Asphalt Patching
- Tree/Trim Removal (right-of-way)
- Improve Infrastructure
- Roadside Mowing
- Road Striping
- Street Sweeping
- Construction Permits
- Asphalt Resurfacing
- Gravel Shouldering
- Street Lights
- Litter Pickup
- Traffic Control Surface
- Wood Chip Program
- Winter Snow & Ice Control
- Drainage Issue
- Culverts & Ditches
- Brush Removal
- J.U.L.I.E locates
- Storm Damage
- Flooding
- Road Signage



BE AWARE OF OUR BRUSH PICK UP PROGRAM (MAY TO OCTOBER) AND OUR STREET SWEEPING PROGRAM (SPRING TO FALL)

Your Highway Department is equipped to handle most of these duties and to contract some with private enterprise. We have excellent intergovernmental cooperation with Lake County Agencies, State Agencies, Townships, and Municipalities in and around Township boundaries. Manpower and equipment are often exchanged to make all of us more efficient.

If you have any further questions, concerns and/or suggestions, please don't hesitate to contact our office. We will explain how these various programs work, what the Highway Department is trying to accomplish and how you, the taxpayer, can assist us and benefit from our services.



THINK SPRING!!

Kim Kiesgen
Highway Commissioner
(847) 546-7623

STILL SOME WEATHER LEFT

Although the winter is neither the snowiest on record or even the coldest on record, the combination of snow and cold still makes a significant impact on all our lives. As residents woke up Sunday morning Thanksgiving Holiday weekend, and one of the busiest travel days of the year with winter weather advisory in place, some might have assumed it's a harbinger of tough winter conditions to come.

With a high of 59 degrees on Christmas Day, the holiday was officially the second warmest Christmas on record. This year beat out 2019's record of 57 degrees but didn't manage to defeat the warmest Christmas on record, which was 64 degrees in 1982, according to the National Weather Service data.

Experts indicate that a strong El Nino may be expected with a greater than 55% chance of it continuing to March, which means a milder and drier winter.

You can still have a very early start to winter, a very late spring freeze even in an overall milder wintertime. Meteorological spring starts March 1, where we have experienced Spring like weather days and a blast of bitterly cold triggering Spring snowstorms. Mother Nature is sometimes unpredictable, but we should resist any temptation to put away the snow shovels and boots.



SNOW REMOVAL HIGH-PROFILE ACTIVITY

Meet our Township Highway employees who are dedicated to keeping roads safe and clear so that business can be conducted, emergency operations can take place, and Township residents and employees are safe. Many residents take snow removal for granted and are unaware of the planning and safety precautions. It is hard work. It requires operators to drive for long hours in the worst kinds of driving conditions.

Even though we cannot control the weather or other drivers, Township Highway employees can abide by the personnel training and requirements which will help accomplish our goals for clearing the roadway of snow and ice without causing accidents that may harm residents or employees. Pictured from left to right: Taylor Hart, Austin Krock, Chris Sammartino, Admin. Asst. Ruth Michniewicz, Hwy. Comm. Kim Kiesgen, Colin Clark, Pete Jakstas Jr., Foreman Jim Smak, Steve Rechteris and Kyle Kunde.



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 or 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 clippings or other lawn or garden waste, newspaper, magazines, glass, metal, plastic, paper containers, 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 any unsightly or unsanitary nature, which has been discarded, abandoned or otherwise disposed of improperly. (415ILCS 105/) Litter control Act "Cheryl's Law"



REMEMBER

Grant Township Highway Department is your Electronics Recycling drop-off.

Please do not disgrace our roads by leaving televisions, computers, or any electronics alongside of roads.

Seasons come & go...but trash is forever. We have experienced more roadside trash than ever. So please, let's keep our roads litter free & work together towards a cleaner, greener environment in Grant Township.



OVERNIGHT PARKING

Residents are reminded that overnight parking on Township Roads is prohibited. All vehicles must be off the street between the hours of 2:00am – 6:00am. This allows the Sheriff's Department to quickly notice suspicious vehicles in your neighborhoods and during the winter months, allows our Road Department to remove snow from the streets in the most efficient manner. On the occasion that you have overnight guests or work being done on your driveway, permission to park on the street can be received by calling the Highway Department at (847)546-7623.

TIME TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE GETTING THE PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS YOU ARE ENTITLED TO

WELCOME NEW HOMEOWNERS!

We have been hearing more often lately that people are being told that the General Homestead Exemption is automatic. It is not. When the county reviews sales transactions, prior exemptions are removed from the property. Once you get a driver's license or State ID with your new address, remember to file for your General Homestead Exemption.

BENEFIT: This exemption lowers the assessed value of the property by \$8,000.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- You owned your home as of January 1st, 2024
- Your home is your principal residence as of January 1st, 2024
- Only one property (primary) can receive this exemption

SENIORS - ARE YOU TURNING 65? - HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

If you're turning 65, make sure you come into the Grant Township Assessor's Office to sign up for your Senior Homestead Exemption. **This benefit is in addition to the General Homestead Exemption.**

BENEFIT: This exemption lowers the assessed value of the property by \$8,000.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- You're 65 or older in the year you're applying for
- You owned your home as of January 1st, 2024
- Your home is your principal residence as of January 1st, 2024
- Only one property (primary) can receive this exemption
- If your property is held in a trust you will need to bring in a copy of the trust as well

2024 LOW-INCOME SENIOR CITIZEN ASSESSMENT FREEZE

If you qualify for the Senior Homestead Exemption (above) and your total household income is \$65,000 or below, you may apply for this exemption. The final filing date for the 2024 Senior Citizen Assessment Freeze (taxes payable 2025) is July 31st, 2024.

BENEFIT: The Low-Income Senior Freeze provides limited-income seniors with protection against real estate tax increases due to rising property values. It is not a tax freeze or a tax reduction and does not protect against increased taxes due to tax rate increases. Because this exemption provides for a base year frozen assessment, it will potentially provide increased savings each year a senior is eligible. The base assessment used in the Low-Income Senior Citizens Assessment Freeze Homestead Exemption initially equals the assessed value from the prior year tax calculation. In subsequent years, if the new assessed value is lower than their original base value, the new lower value becomes the new base amount.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- You're 65 or older in the year you're applying for
- Have owned and occupied the home as their principal residence on Jan. 1 of the past two years
- Have a total household income of \$65,000 or less
- This exemption needs to be applied for each year, based on total household income.

All applications must be submitted online through the Lake County Smartfile E-Filing Portal on www.lakecountyiil.gov. This system allows you to electronically file most applications related to your property's assessment and to change your mailing address. If you need help creating an account or logging in, please contact the Chief County Assessment Office at assessor@lakecountyiil.gov or (847)377-2050.

If you do not have computer access, Grant Township will continue to help you fill out exemption paperwork here in our office and then file online on your behalf. We can also walk you through the online instructions by phone. Please contact our office at 847-546-8880 for assistance.



HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

BENEFIT: This exemption lowers the equalized assessed value of the property by \$2,000 and may be claimed in addition to the General Homestead Exemption and the Senior Homestead Exemption, if applicable. However, this exemption cannot be claimed in addition to the Disabled Veterans' Standard Homestead Exemption or the Disabled Veterans' Exemption of \$100,000; you can only receive one of these exemptions and, if you are a veteran, you should choose to apply for the one most beneficial to you.

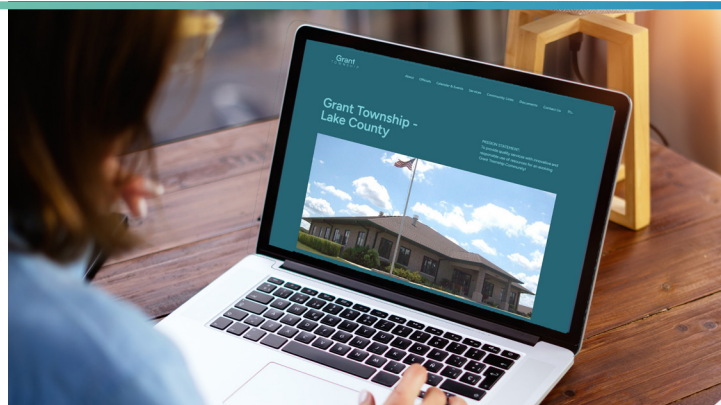
QUALIFICATIONS:

- Own or have a legal or equitable interest in the property
- Have lived on the property on or before January 1st of the tax year.
- Be disabled under the Federal Social Security Act and supply either:
 - ◇ A copy of your Illinois Disabled Person Identification Card (PDF) stating that you are a Class 2 or 2A disability (for each year you qualify); or
 - ◇ Proof of Social Security Administration Social Security Benefits. This proof includes an award letter, verification letter, or annual cost of living adjustment (COLA) - This paperwork must be issued in the tax year for which you are applying. Whichever you supply, it must indicate that the benefits are for disability; or
 - ◇ Proof of Veterans Administration disability benefits which includes an award letter or verification letter indicating you are receiving a pension for a non-service connected disability; or
 - ◇ Proof of Railroad or Civil Service disability benefits which would be an award letter showing a total 100% disability; or
 - ◇ A completed PTAX-343-A Form, Physician's Statement for the Homestead Exemption for Persons with Disabilities



GRANT TOWNSHIP CENTER WEBSITE HAS A NEW LOOK!

Our website remains www.granttowshipcenter.org but we redesigned it to better serve you. Please do a "Refresh" if you normally lookup our website under "History" or have it as a "Favorite. We will be constantly updating & improving the website to enhance our communication to all. Website users' suggestions & feedback are always welcomed as well as content suggestions.



WELCOME TO OUR NEW NETWORK NURSE KIM

Kim Hedger, RN joined our healthcare network partner AAHAA (Antioch Area Healthcare Accessibility Alliance) in 2023 as Grant Township's new network Nurse. You may have seen Kim during her on-site visits to Lakeland, Lilac & Thomas Place apartments. Kim has many years of experience in healthcare. At no cost to you, she can help with finding immunizations and school physicals for your children and referrals to doctors, dentists and counselors in your network. She can also assist with healthcare and prescription questions. She can help you look for solutions for costly medication and connect you with AAHAA's Application Counselor for SNAP, Medicaid and Marketplace insurance. To contact Kim, call AAHAA at (847)395-2809 ext. 2



GRANT TOWNSHIP CENTER

26725 W. Molidor 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

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Sign up for Grant Township's Bi-Monthly ENewsletter for Grant Township news/ events/trips; Lake County updates & Local Community events/services. Sign up options: Online at granttownshipcenter.org (click on About Page then click on the Sign-Up Button); sign up in person or call (847)740-2233.

ENEWS SIGNUP

From the Clerk

THE GENERAL PRIMARY ELECTION IS MARCH 19, 2024!! VOTE

One of my top responsibilities as Clerk is elections occurring in Grant Township. This Primary Election Season is upon us. You have the opportunity to select nominees and pass or decline referendums via your vote at federal, state, county & local levels.

Options how to cast your vote:

•**Vote by Mail** - Requests for ballots to be sent to you now until -March 14th go to www.lakecountyil.gov/4321/Voting-by-Mail or call (847)377-VOTE.

•**Vote Early** - March 4th - March 18th. Early Voting Sites have varied days & hours & are not the same. Each location with dates & times of operation can be found at www.lakecountyil.gov/DocumentCenter/View/13400/Early-Voting-Locations-Dates-and-Times. Most locations are until March 16th but it will show locations with extended hours & those open March 17th & 18th. Lake County Building has it from Feb. 8th -March 1st (M-F 9am-5pm). Grant Township Center (Lower Level) has it March 4th - 16th (M-F; 9am-5 pm & Sat; 9am-2 pm).

•**Vote on Election Day** - March 19th (6am-7pm) at your designated polling place.

REGISTER TO VOTE: Not registered to vote? Please do so! Voting is your right & a privilege. It is important that everyone exercises their right to vote. Options how to register to vote:

Online - State Board of Elections through March 3rd (will reopen March 21st) go to ova.elections.il.gov

In Person - A Deputy Registrar at any government office that have them. Grant Township Center is one of those offices that have Deputy Registrars M-F 8:30am-4:00pm. You may also register at Illinois Driver's Service Facilities. Deadline to register at any of these In Person Locations is February 20th. You must provide 2 forms of current valid identification both showing current name & 1 showing current physical Lake County Street Address.

In order to register: You must be a United States Citizen. You must be at least 17 years old on or before March 19th & turn 18 on or before November 5th (16 year olds may preregister to vote). You must live in your election precinct at least 30 days prior to Election Day. You must not be serving a sentence of confinement in any penal institution as a result of a conviction. You may not claim the right to vote anywhere else.

I hope 2024 has begun in a great way & may you have a terrific spring/summer. Please feel free to contact me at (847)740-2233 or email jmartini@granttownshipcenter.org We at Grant Township Center work for you! *Judy Martini* - Grant Township Clerk