

# TOWNSHIP

*News for all Residents*

241 CANTERBURY LANE • BOLINGBROOK, IL 60440-2834 • OPEN 8:30AM - 4:30PM • WINTER VOL 11



**GARY MARSCHKE**  
*Supervisor*

## BOLINGBROOK SAYS NO, MAYBE, I DON'T KNOW TO THE FOOD PANTRY!

In a vote on Jan. 23rd, 2024, the Bolingbrook Village Board denied DuPage Township a zoning permit to build a food pantry at the corner of Canterbury and Lily Cache which is ½ block from the Township center and Levy Center. The board, led by Deputy Mayor Lawler delayed the construction of the new facility by remanding it back to the Planning and Zoning Committee. The Township vigorously opposed remanding it back. Food insecurity is now and needs to be addressed now. The Township owns the land and it is currently zoned B1. One of the uses allowed for B1 is a grocery store. Nevertheless the village requires a Special Use Permit. After going through a litany of objections, their final problem is the food pantry will be too busy and they object to showers for the homeless and washer/dryer units the homeless can use. They imply the homeless are criminals.

The vote last night was not a surprise since the village development department under its director **Matt Eastman** has been putting up roadblocks for over a year. Since applying for the permit, they have put up an endless list of questions and concerns. Every time we answered their questions and concerns, another list of questions and concerns emerged. They were constantly questioning what services the township was providing and why. Services townships provide are dictated by state statutes. In other words, the legislature tells us what we can and cannot do, not the village of Bolingbrook. The whole process was unbelievably frustrating and irritating.

In my opinion if you want something from the village you need to take one of two avenues.

**One:** Have a project that will provide large amounts of tax revenue for the village. The village needs more and more money to meet its growing debt service, pensions and overcome the decreasing brick and mortar sales tax revenue.

**Second:** Be a large First Party campaign contributor. If you check the D- 2 (Campaign Disclosure Document) of the elected Village Officers, you will find large campaign contributions from the major developers who work in Bolingbrook. In the years of the former mayor (**Roger Claar**) these contributions amounted to millions and millions of dollars. Is this the definition of "Pay to Play"? A very small amount was ever donated by residents of Bolingbrook. Bad habits like these are hard to break.

By the way, Roger is a vocal opponent of the food pantry. He indicated he opposes food pantries in general and opposes the Government grants that are financing the project. He indicated grants have too many strings attached to them. He is definitely the "800 pound gorilla" in the room.

At the October Zoning Board meeting which recommended a Denial, **Matt Eastman** and **Mir Ali**, chair of the Zoning Committee, displayed their animosity and discrimination towards the homeless and those needing food assistance. The Denial motion was already typed up and copied on the Chair's desk before the hearing was even opened!!! The subsequent hearing was a total farce!!!

**Mir Ali** ended the meeting with a tirade against our State Senator **Rachel Ventura** whose only crime was that she spoke on behalf of the food pantry. He acted like Vladimir Putin.

The village board vote on the zoning permit to remand back to the Planning & Zoning Committee was as follows:

Michael Lawler	Yes	Michael Carpanzano	Yes
Troy Doris	Yes	Jean Kelly	Abstain
Jose Quintero	Yes	Maria Zarate	Yes

They took this vote prior to any comment by the Township as the applicant. During public comments many of the reasons for the new Pantry and Resource Center were given, explaining that we already serve the community, 75% of the Township residents that use our existing facility live in Bolingbrook. We simply want a modern efficient and safe facility to deliver these services and more. We have the funds and are ready to go. This is yet another roadblock to the Township bringing services to the residents that use the pantry.

Gary Marschke  
*DuPage Township Supervisor*

# SENIOR NEWS

## Senior Olympics Champions

In the fall the DuPage Township Levy Center Senior's Team participated in the Senior Olympics in Springfield, Illinois. The athletes competed in several events, including basketball, bowling, mini golf, table tennis, shuffleboard, bag toss and pickleball.



There were 30 senior athletes, ages 55 to 95, representing the Township in the 2023 Senior Olympics this year. The DuPage Township representatives brought home 37 gold, 22 silver and 14 bronze medals.



## Lunch & Learn with Midwest Cardiology

Dr. Moeen Saleem of the Midwest Cardiovascular Institute and his team visited the DuPage Township Levy Senior Center to give a presentation on heart health. All seniors gained information on heart function and the range of cardiology tests while enjoying a heart-healthy lunch after a Q&A session.



# FRIENDS OF THE LEVY CENTER



## **BINGO NIGHT FUNDRAISER**

**Thursday, April 18, 2024**

**Levy Center  
251 Canterbury Lane  
Bolingbrook, IL**

**Doors Open: 5:00 PM – Gametime: 6:30 PM  
\$30.00 per book**

**NO OUTSIDE FOOD ALLOWED**

**Food and Beverage available for purchase**

**Must be 18 to attend and participate**

**For Information call (630) 759-3411**

**Come out and support The Friends of the Levy Center**

**10 \$100 Regular Games each**

**2 Special Games at \$250 each**

**1 \$500 Jackpot Game**

**NO REGISTRATION**

**MUST BE 18 TO ATTEND AND PARTICIPATE**

**Proceeds go to support  
the Joseph and Sarah Levy Senior Center**

FROM THE

# CLERK'S CORNER

Do you sit on the sidelines wondering what you can do or change in your community? Why not start with voting? Not registered? **You can go to <https://www.willcountyclerk.gov/elections/voter-services/#reg>** and register online, or you can visit the township office. Please call first at 630-759-1317 to make sure someone will be there to register you.

In March this year we head into primary season.

It takes courage to step up and put your name on a ballot, but not all candidates are the same. Research all the candidates running for office and vote for someone who believes in the same principles and values as you. Don't be afraid to ask questions, read their campaign material, and attend a meeting they will be attending.

If you cannot get out and vote in person, have a ballot mailed to your home. The vote-by-mail process is very easy. There is a lot of information about voting available at the website shown above.

**REMEMBER, EVERY VOTE COUNTS, INCLUDING YOUR VOTE, SO PLEASE EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT!**

You can also become an election judge. Judges are a very important part of the election process. Contact the Will County Clerk's office or use the website above.

Click on elections and scroll down to election judges.

*Barbara Ann Parker*  
DuPage Township Clerk



## WOMEN OF THE DUPAGE TOWNSHIP RED HATS



The Red Hat Society is sponsored by DuPage Township and has 45 active members with Carla Williams as President. We are a group of women who get together once a month dressed in red and purple and have formed a special friendship as well as a sisterhood. We give back to the community by assisting at the food bank and helping at the township's children and youth events such as Tools for School. We also help when the township needs us to fill baskets for our seniors in nursing homes and sort items for giveaways.

We select a school every December to help people in need. This year we adopted an elementary school in Bolingbrook and with the assistance of DuPage Township we were able to help some less fortunate families. This school has families that have home and food insecurities. It broke our hearts to hear of this school having such a huge need. We will continue to help this school throughout the remaining year. The photo below is some of the Red Hat Ladies distributing hats, gloves, and scarves to first graders and kindergarteners. All the children appreciated the gifts, and we all loved the hugs!

We also go out dressed up to celebrate us! We would love to have you join our group. We meet the second Monday of each month at 1:00 pm at the Levy Center. Stop by and see what we are all about!





# FOOD PANTRY PALS NEEDED



Let us all pitch in to assist those who are struggling financially.

## BENEFITS:

- ✔ Volunteer T-Shirts!
- ✔ Snacks!
- ✔ Feel Great!



## JOIN US



For More Info  
815-886-7986



[foodpantry@dupagetownship.com](mailto:foodpantry@dupagetownship.com)



Join us for a  
community



# Easter EGG HUNT



SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2024  
(RAIN OR SHINE)

241 CANTERBURY LANE, BOLINGBROOK, IL  
FOR MORE INFO  
CALL 630-759-1317



HUNT STARTS AT 11 A.M. SHARP!

EGG HUNT FOR AGES 1-12  
TREAT BAGS FOR AGES 13-17

REGISTER WITH QR CODE ABOVE  
OR USE LINK BELOW:  
[bit.ly/2024townshipegg hunt](https://bit.ly/2024townshipegg hunt)

(SEPARATE HUNT FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS)



## 2023 Thanksgiving Meal Drive-Thru at DuPage Township Food Pantry

### Thanksgiving is for Everyone

The week before Thanksgiving is when families gather food for the big meal. For families without the means to provide that meal, the DuPage Township Food Pantry offered its annual Thanksgiving food distribution on November 18th. Nearly 400 families signed up and received turkey, potatoes, vegetables, fruit packages, pies, and more at the drive-through event.

Volunteers included the Romeoville Fire Department, the Abri Credit Union, the Hall Family, local American Legion posts, Nequa Valley High School students, and DuPage Township. Everyone staffed drive-up stations at the Romeoville food pantry to load food into the families' cars.

With help from West Liberty Foods and support from local businesses, an additional 425 meal kits were delivered to senior centers at McKenzie Falls, Greenleaf, and Romeoville Gardens.

Thanks to all the dedicated volunteers, and we'll see you next year!



# Thank You!

## Food Pantry Volunteers!

A celebration dinner was held in November at White Fence Farm in Romeoville to thank the DuPage Township Food Pantry volunteers. The volunteers work year-round at the food pantry alongside Food Pantry Manager Dave Locke, Assistant Manager Ruth Moreno, and the staff, organizing food donations and packing food for distribution to DuPage Township residents in need.

Trustees Reem Townsend, Terri Ransom, Tom Braxton, Clerk Barbara Parker, and Administrator Jackie Traynere thanked the volunteers for their work, without whom the pantry would not be able to serve the hundreds of families receiving help each month. Jackie spoke of the hours the volunteers spent at the pantry amid the growing need.

The pantry is located at 719 Parkwood Avenue in Romeoville and is open 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and 9:00 – 11:00 AM on Saturdays.

**For information, contact Dave Locke at 815-886-7986.**



**Staff and Volunteers**



**Jackie Traynere and Tom Braxton**



**Reem Townsend, Ruth Moreno, Terri Ransom, Barbara Parker, and Tom Braxton**

# Senior Holiday Party, 2023

DuPage Township in Review



## A Season of Holiday Fun

The holidays are a time of friends and family gatherings. DuPage Township organized a fun-filled holiday event for the Levy Senior Center members. The delicious meal was catered by Tailgaters.





# Youth Holiday Event



DuPage Township in Review

# 2023



## A Season of Holiday Fun

The holidays are a magical time and DuPage Township Youth Committee organized a fun-filled holiday event. Families with teenagers and little ones attended the party enjoying painting holiday cookies, pictures with Santa, crafts and other activities.

Everyone also enjoyed pizza for lunch, and ice cream from Andy's Frozen Custard in Bolingbrook.

If you missed out in 2023, join us for some holiday cheer in 2024!

See you there!



## GENERAL AND EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS AT DUPAGE TOWNSHIP: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



### What types of financial assistance does DuPage Township offer?

There are two types of assistance from the township, General and Emergency Assistance. General Assistance is a locally administered welfare program for those with little to no income or assets and provides a monthly benefit to help with basic needs such as housing, utilities and other basic necessities. Emergency Assistance is for those who are facing a "life-threatening" circumstance such as having a 5-day notice, eviction notice or a utility shut-off notice. The township can also help with car repairs IF you are employed or seeking employment.

### How much does the township give in Emergency assistance?

For Emergency Assistance, the township pays whatever the need is, up to \$1,000. If the need is more than the maximum amount, the applicant is responsible for making up the difference, either by going through other agencies or organizations or if they have the money themselves. General Assistance is dependent on a number of factors such as income and assets but each case is different.

### How do I apply for General or Emergency Assistance?

To start the application process, you can call the General Assistance Office at 630-759-1317, e-mail GA@dupagetownship.com or stop by the office to pick up an application packet. The packet includes all of the forms that need to be filled out along with a list of documents you will need to provide as part of the application process. You then need to set up an appointment to complete the application process.

### Does the township help with 1st month's rent and/or security deposit?

Unfortunately, 1st month's rent and/or security deposit does not fall under what is allowed under Emergency Assistance.

### I have a disconnection notice for today, can I apply today and get help today?

Applying the same day you are expected to be disconnected or are already disconnected will not guarantee you will have your services restored the same day. It is best to seek out assistance the moment you receive the notice in the mail. Also know, all utility companies are required to mail shut-off/disconnection notices, even if you have paperless billing.

### Is there anything that would disqualify me from receiving any assistance?

There are several factors that may disqualify an applicant. For example, there are income limits for Emergency Assistance and anyone receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) are ineligible for assistance.

### I was given a 5-Day notice from my landlord, do I have to leave my place by the end of the 5 days?

No, a 5-day notice gives the tenant 5 days to come up with what is still owed in back rent. After the 5 days, the landlord has a right to break the lease and file for an eviction. The downside? You now may be responsible for legal fees and you still have to stand before a judge. This goes the same with a 10-day or 30-day notice.

### Does the township assist with funeral and burial expenses?

The township can only assist with funeral and burial expenses for those already receiving General Assistance (not Emergency Assistance) and only after all other benefits (i.e., life insurance) and resources have been exhausted.

### How long does it take to get the help?

State regulations state that the township General Assistance Office has 30 days to make a determination on any application for assistance (whether it be General or Emergency Assistance). This does NOT necessarily mean that it will take that long. The time it takes for a determination is dependent on the applicant cooperating with the application process.

## Friendly Reminders about Township Services:

### The Salvation Army

- If you are requesting assistance from either the township or Salvation Army for your Nicor and/or ComEd bill, it is recommended that you apply or LIHEAP first before applying for programs through the township or Salvation Army.
- DuPage Township serves as a service extension for The Salvation Army's assistance programs. The township cannot accept in-kind donations (furniture, clothes, etc.) for The Salvation Army. Call 1-800-728-7825 for donations.

### Passports:

- DuPage Township only accepts 1ST TIME passport applications or if a person's passport was issued when they were a minor, if the passport is over 15 years old or there is a name change. THE TOWNSHIP CANNOT PROCESS PASSPORT RENEWALS.

### Marriage Licenses and the County Clerk

- The township issues marriage licenses for Will County and they are for marriages being done in Will County. It does not matter in what county the couple resides, only where the marriage will be taking place. This is the only service the township does for the county clerk. Any other services such as birth certificates will need to be through the county clerk's office in Joliet.
- Marriage licenses and passports are ONLY done by appointment, no walk-ins.



## Wrap Around Services

"Wraparound services" are those services that use the township to as a place to offer particular services to residents. DuPage Township hosts a number of organizations and agencies as a benefit to township residents including:



Hines VA  
Community Outreach  
2nd Thursday of the month  
10am-2pm



**Will County Center  
for Community Concerns**  
Providing Hope Through Self-Sufficiency

Will County Center for  
Community Concerns  
Every Monday  
9am-3pm



Will County  
Recorder of Deeds  
Tuesdays and Thursdays  
8:30am-4:30pm



**catholic  
charities**  
Diocese of Joliet

Catholic Charities Aging  
and Disability Services  
Every Wednesday  
8:30am-4:30pm



## DuPage Township Can Help Fix Your Car

If you are employed or seeking employment, DuPage Township may be able to help fix your car so that you can get to work or help look for a job. To receive assistance for the car repair, you must meet the following:

- Be a township resident
- Be employed or seeking employment
- Have a written repair estimate from a mechanic of your choice
- Meet financial and non-financial requirements

To apply, contact the township General Assistance office at: 630-759-1317



241 CANTERBURY LANE  
BOLINGBROOK, IL 60440-2834

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## FINDING WARMTH IN THE WINTER

A new year has opened, greeting us with frigid air, wet snow, and leafless trees. It can be difficult to feel motivated to take on something new in that setting. Maybe that's why new year's resolutions are so hard to keep.

Curling up with a warm blanket and a mug of hot chocolate is an attractive choice in that environment. It's tough to get up and go when warm weather has gotten up and gone.

But we know the daylight hours will grow longer and spring is not far behind. The author John Steinbeck once said, *"What good is the warmth of summer, without the cold of winter to give it sweetness?"* We appreciate summer more because we made it through the cold.

Through the winter months, hot chocolate can actually travel with you. DuPage Township offers programs you can enjoy all year to help you replace the cold outside with the warm companionship of friends and neighbors. Classes, games, exercises, and more are available nearly every day at the Levy Senior Center, and the youth program activities continue to grow.

Call the DuPage Township Levy Center at 630-759-3411 and find out what warm programs are waiting for you this winter. The English poet William Blake said it best: *"In seed time learn, in harvest teach, in winter enjoy."*

Tom Braxton  
Trustee

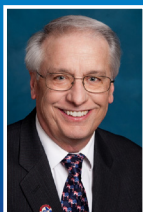
### UPCOMING TOWNSHIP 2024 MEETING DATES

FEBRUARY 20th

MARCH 19th

APRIL 23rd

### Our Elected Officials



THOMAS BRAXTON  
Trustee



TERRI RANSOM  
Trustee



DEBI SAVAGE  
Trustee



REEM TOWNSEND  
Trustee



KENNETH HARRIS  
Assessor



MONTY JACKSON  
Collector



BARBARA PARKER  
Clerk