

NORTHFIELD TOWNSHIP PROGRESS UPDATE

MIDYEAR 2022

SUPERVISOR'S MESSAGE



It is my privilege to share the Township's accomplishments and plans that we have put in motion since taking office in May, 2021.

While running for office last spring, the four trustees and I made the following commitments to you: we would be good financial stewards, including using more of your tax dollars paid to the Township for actual services; we would ensure that both the office operations and services we provide are of high quality and reflect the professionalism you deserve; and that we would find ways to communicate more often and more transparently. As detailed below and on the pages that follow, we have made progress on all these fronts.

- Once a month, our food pantry clients receive grocery store gift cards, offering an opportunity to supplement what they receive from the pantry. Given the steadily rising cost of groceries, the board voted to increase the gift card amount based upon family size.
- The board also voted to increase the annual Emergency Financial Assistance to families with income under 200% of the federal poverty threshold. The added funds assist with rent, utilities, groceries and gasoline purchases. This support is critical, given the expiration of the Illinois rent moratorium and present inflationary economy.
- To make continuing education accessible to more residents, the Township board approved \$100,000.00 for a new need/merit-based scholarship program for Township residents attending Oakton Community College.
- We also improved our internal operations. This includes documenting and updating workforce management and financial practices. Both improve transparency and allow the Township to function as an efficient unit of government. We are delighted to appoint Gayle Curcio as our Township Administrator. Gayle has served the Township for over 16 years.
- After decades of not having a specific strategic plan, the Township is initiating a new process to further our mission of providing the best services in the most efficient manner. In the coming months, you may be contacted for your input and we would greatly appreciate your participation.

All of this is possible because of the sleeves-up attitude of your board of trustees and your Township Clerk and Assessor, all of whom are incredibly intelligent and talented professionals. I am very fortunate to be working with this dream team that is committed to excellence and public service. Our ability to serve residents also depends upon the profound kindness of our donors and volunteers, and the hard work and dedication of our staff. The difference they have made in our community is truly humbling.

There is a great deal of work still to be done and we hope that you are pleased with the progress we've made. I encourage you to follow our social media channels, sign-up for the eNewsletter, and interact with our team to improve the quality of life in Northfield Township. If you have ideas or questions, please email me at shiva@northfieldtownship.com.

Humbly yours, **Shiva Mohsenzadeh, Supervisor**

NEW INITIATIVES: \$100,000 ALLOCATED TO OAKTON SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

In December 2021, the Township Board of Trustees approved a new need/merit-based scholarship program for Township residents attending Oakton Community College in Des Plaines and Skokie. Scholarship awards will range from \$500-\$3,500 per student based on the student's need level and funds available. The scholarships can be renewed for a second year.



Township Supervisor Shiva Mohsenzadeh said, "Equitable access to education is an investment. The payoff our community will realize from this investment is qualified young people ready to enter the labor market with knowledge and confidence. Over time these students will realize greater earning potential and transform their lives."

Trustee Daniel Schack partnered with Oakton to bring the new program to fruition; the scholarship selection process will be managed by the Oakton Educational Foundation.

Criteria and applications are posted here: <https://oakton.academicworks.com/>



Shiva Mohsenzadeh, Township Supervisor presents the \$100,000 check to **Richard Van Hees**, Director of Major and Planned Giving/Associate Director of the Oakton Educational Foundation, launching the Northfield Township College Scholarship Program.

SERVICES OVERVIEW

Tax dollars paid to Northfield Township directly fund several critical safety net services. In addition, we provide needed administrative services and help with referrals to state and federal programs. Call our office to arrange an appointment with our staff.

Administrative Services

- Processing US Passport applications (including photos)
- Issuing Disability Parking placards
- Facilitating Voter Registration
- Providing Notary services

Assistance Programs

- Operating a full-scale, award-winning Food Pantry
- Administering the Dial-A-Ride discount transportation program for seniors and residents with permanent disabilities
- Helping with applications for SNAP food benefits, LIHEAP utility subsidies, Coast2Coast prescription drug discounts, and Medicaid coverage

Our Case Managers can help residents with applications for both General Assistance and **Emergency Assistance** funds. Grants can pay for:

- Housing expenses
- Utilities, including internet and cell phone services

Assessor Services include property tax advocacy such as assessment appeal research. Read Assessor Nally's note below for more information.

Human Services Funding provides direct financial support to a broad range of social service organizations. Read the article below to learn more.

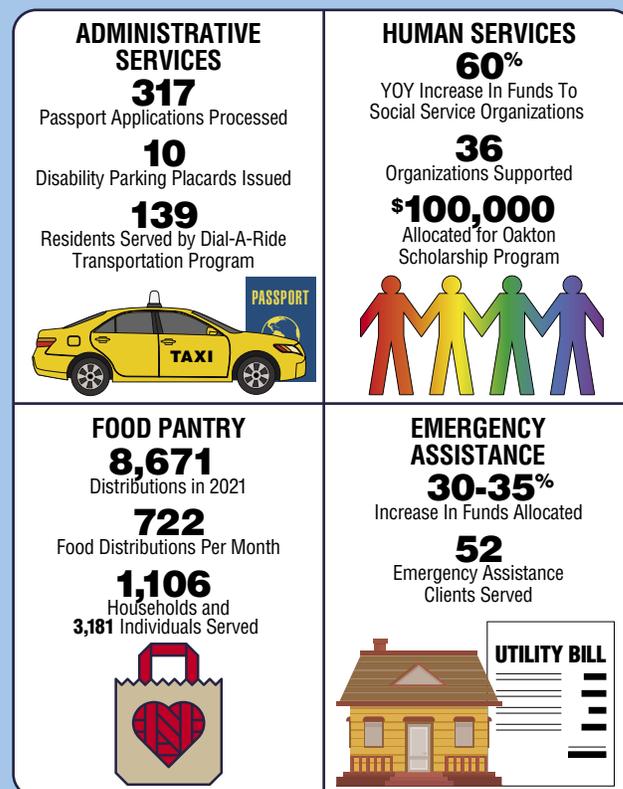
Referral Services Our staff can provide information and contacts for state and federal social service and government agencies, including:

- Social Security Administration
- Clothes closets
- Car repair
- Church and Faith-based assistance programs
- Vision care, through OneSight Lenscrafters Program

The **Road and Sanitary Districts** conduct recycling events, and maintain the sewer system in parts of the township and the roads in unincorporated areas of the township.

TOGETHER WE MADE A DIFFERENCE 2021 IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

We strive to use your tax dollars wisely to meet the unique needs of the township. See the impact you had!



HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

SUPPORTING TOWNSHIP NON-PROFITS

Led by the Human Services Commission (HSC), each spring the Township Board awards financial support to a broad range of area social service organizations. These organizations provide specialized services for families, youths, seniors, and residents with disabilities and mental health challenges. The services they provide are invaluable to the many township residents who rely on them. This year, the Northfield Township Board of Trustees:

- Approved funds for 36 organizations,
- Increased actual funding by 60%,
- Implemented an impact reporting requirement for recipients, and
- Welcomed a new group of volunteers to the HSC.

To select the organizations that should receive funding, the Commission solicits and reviews applications from groups in the fall, interviews organization leaders and conducts site visits. It then recommends funding to the board in late winter. Recipients are notified in February if their application is approved.

HSC Spotlight: Wesley Child Care Center

As all working parents know, quality child care is incredibly expensive. For that

reason, the Township Board is happy to continue its financial support of Wesley Child Care Center. The board approved \$60,000 to fund scholarships for township residents to help defray the cost of daycare, pre-K education classes, before and after school programs, and summer camps.

The Wesley Child Care Center currently serves about 400 families in the township, and operates at the United Methodist Church in Glenview. Impressively, Wesley Child Care Center continued to operate during the pandemic, providing a safe place for dozens of children. Not surprisingly, the center was named a 2020 Business of the Year by the Glenview Chamber of Commerce. Craig Solomon, Executive Director, credits his staff, "We have an amazing team that showed their nimbleness...the staff pivoted, changed the way we operate and the way we serve children."

To learn more:

- Visit the website <http://www.wesleychildcarecenter.com/>
- Listen to an interview with Craig Solomon on our podcast channel <https://northfieldtownshipillinois.libsyn.com>.

ASSESSOR ALIDA E. NALLY ASSESSOR'S OFFICE NEWS

I am pleased to be your new Northfield Township Assessor. You may have seen me around, as I have been with the Township office for several years, the past three years as a Deputy Assessor. I am assisted by our new Deputy Assessor **Elizabeth DeBock**, a friendly and helpful staff member to assist with property tax related questions.



The Township Assessor acts as your property taxpayer advocate and liaison to the Cook County Assessor's Office. The Cook County Assessor is responsible for estimating the market value of your property for assessment purposes which determines your share of property taxes owed. Your second installment tax bill is due later this year and reflects new tax rates, levies, assessments and any tax exemptions for which you have applied and qualified.

Services

Our office provides several services related to your property taxes, including:

- Assisting with questions about your property tax bill
- Helping you understand, apply for and receive all the exemptions to which you are entitled, and
- Assisting with the filing of tax assessment appeals with the Cook County Assessor and the Cook County Board of Review.

Reassessment 2022

All properties in Cook County are reassessed every three years, and Northfield Township will be reassessed in 2022 (taxes payable in 2023). The Cook County Assessor will determine a new market value (for assessment purposes) of your property. You can appeal the new assessment if you believe it is not right or fair. Common grounds for appeal are lack of uniformity, overvaluation, or incorrect information:

- **Lack of Uniformity.** If you believe the assessed value of your property is NOT in line with comparable properties (those similar to yours). You can look for comparable properties on the Cook County Property Tax Portal, www.cookcountypropertyinfo.com or contact us for help.
- **Overvaluation.** If you believe your property is overvalued, provide supporting documentation, such as recent closing statements or purchase prices of similar homes to yours to support a claim to reduce your assessment.
- **Incorrect Property Description.** This includes information about your home such as square footage, age and number of rooms. Surveys, plats and photos can help with your appeal.

My office is here to serve the property owners of Northfield Township. As a member of our community, it is a responsibility that I care deeply about. If you need assistance reviewing your current assessment or provide appeal data, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Alida E. Nally, Assessor, Northfield Township

CLERK CARYN FLIEGLER CLERK'S OFFICE NEWS

It is an honor to introduce myself as your new Township Clerk. Since May our office has been reviewing and improving processes for Township meetings and public hearings to make them more transparent.



The Clerk has several duties codified in statutes.

These include:

- Keeping minutes from all Township Board meetings,
- Attesting to claims for payment from Northfield Township,
- Acting as the custodian of all records, books, and papers of the Township, including filing the budget and tax levy ordinances, and
- Filing all certificates, oaths and other official papers required by law with the Cook County Clerk's office.

I am also the Freedom of Information Act officer for the Township. Please contact me for any FOIA requests.

Our 2022 Annual Town Meeting is scheduled for April 12, 2022. As the date gets closer, we will publish more information on our social media channels and website. Please visit our website to view Board Meeting dates, minutes and budgets.

If you have questions about the Clerk's Office, email me at caryn.fliegler@northfieldtownship.com.

Caryn Fliegler, Clerk, Northfield Township

UPDATE ON IMPROVING COMMUNICATION

The Board has made significant progress on improving its engagement and communication with residents and will continue our efforts.

- **What's New:** We launched, and are posting to, a variety of social media channels, including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. We also periodically post podcasts, which feature interviews with residents and leaders. Follow us on our social channels to get the latest news and updates.

 – @NorthfieldTWPIIL  – Northfield Township Illinois

 – Northfield Township Illinois  – nfieldtwpil

- **What's Now:** We have updated the Township and Food Pantry logos and taglines. Both feature vivid colors and modern graphics to reinforce our mission, services, and values.

- **What's Next:** We are redesigning the website so that it is easier to find information and to contact us. We will also be convening resident focus groups to gather input for our strategic plan.

TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS AVAILABLE FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Northfield Township Board members, Assessor and Clerk are available to talk to local groups about our programs and services. Please contact Gayle Curcio, Township Administrator, or Supervisor Mohsenzadeh.



MEET YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

Your Township officials were sworn in on May 17, 2021. This diverse group of professionals are working to improve our processes and serve residents in the most efficient manner possible. All elected officials are here to serve and encourage you to ask questions, share ideas or comment on Township services.

Shiva Mohsenzadeh, Supervisor

Supervisor Mohsenzadeh has resided in Glenview for the past 11 years with her husband and two sons. Shiva previously served as a Northfield Township Trustee for 4 years while working as chief of staff to State Senator Laura Fine. Prior to her work in government, she advised Fortune 500 companies in corporate and securities law matters for Baker McKenzie LLP. After emigrating to the United States from Iran at age 15 to pursue an education, she graduated from the University of Texas in Austin, and also completed her law degree at the University of Houston Law Center. Passionate about serving her community, Shiva served as Chair of the Glenview Education Foundation, and is a member of the Glenview District 34 PTA Council, and the League of Women Voters of Glenview-Glencoe.



Caryn Meyers Fliegler, Clerk

Township Clerk Fliegler manages grants at T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights, and is active as a volunteer in our community. She serves as a Board member at Makom Solel Lakeside synagogue and as statewide co-lead for the Illinois chapter of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America. Clerk Fliegler has lived in Northbrook for a decade with her husband and two children. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Communication from the University of Pennsylvania and a Master's in Journalism from Columbia University.



Alida E. Nally, Assessor

Newly elected Township Assessor Alida Nally is a Certified Illinois Assessing Officer (CIAO), a former real estate appraiser, and former owner of Landmark Appraisal, a real estate appraisal management company. Prior to her work as an appraiser, she worked as an Assistant Vice President for First National Bank of Chicago. Alida recently served the Township as Deputy Assessor, and is committed to making sure property values are "right and fair." A resident of Glenview for 23 years, Alida grew up in the Boston area, where she earned a business finance degree from Stonehill College. Active in the local community, Alida served as Treasurer of the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Women's Club. She and her husband are the proud parents of three adult children.



Tim Rueckert, Township Highway Commissioner

Highway Commissioner Tim Rueckert has devoted his career to public service, with prior positions as a Special Agent/Supervisor for the Illinois Gaming Board as a sworn police officer for 27 years. Commissioner Rueckert also believes in giving back to the community, serving as a trustee for the Glenbrook Fire Protection District, Vice President of Countryside Civic Association, Coach for the Glenbrook Junior Titans Football Program and American Youth Soccer Organization, Member of the Northfield Township Human Services Review Commission, and a Unit Commissioner for the Boy Scouts of America.



Tim graduated from Oakton Community College (Associates of Science in Business Administration, 1985) and Arizona State University (Bachelors of Science in Finance, 1988). A lifelong Glenview resident, Tim has lived in his present home with his wife and three sons for 25 years. He lives just two blocks from his childhood residence.

Scott Ottenheimer, Trustee

Northbrook resident Scott Ottenheimer is the Vice President Global Head of Vendor Management, at Chubb Insurance and also a practicing real estate broker. Scott's data-driven approach and innovative methodologies have helped companies improve profitability and nonprofits increase funds for research. Scott is also the Treasurer of the Board of Trustees for the Williams Syndrome Association. Scott's oldest daughter was diagnosed with Williams Syndrome, a genetic condition present at birth, characterized by medical problems including cardiovascular disease, developmental delays, and learning challenges. A graduate of Indiana University's Kelley School of Business, he lives in Northbrook with his wife, Jenna and two daughters.



Vincent Pace, Trustee

Owner of a Northbrook-based real estate investment finance company called Albeca Financial, Trustee Pace is a practicing attorney with a focus on securities, and mergers and acquisitions at major international law firms in New York, Tokyo, and Beijing. In addition to his professional work, Vincent has performed pro bono legal work assisting victims of domestic abuse in obtaining U visas (visas for victims of crimes) and establishing nonprofit organizations. A true international man, Vincent speaks eight languages, and holds a Bachelor of Arts in political science, international affairs, and East Asian studies from the Elliot School of International Affairs at George Washington University, a juris doctor from the University of Pennsylvania Law School, and a master's in law from Tsinghua University's Law School. Locally, he calls on his Eagle Scout roots to give back as scoutmaster of Troop 64G, Northbrook's first Scouts BSA troop for girls, and as assistant scoutmaster for Troop 57G, a troop in Glenview. He has resided in unincorporated Northbrook since 2013 with his wife, five children and his mother.



Daniel Schack, Trustee

Daniel is the Vice President of Sales Operations for Rico Industries, a manufacturer of sports-licensed novelties. He is also vice president of Am Yisrael Conservative Congregation in Northfield, where he recently coordinated the synagogue's co-sponsorship of an Afghan refugee family resettling in Chicago. Committed to the issues of housing, domestic violence, and immigration, he is chair of the advocacy committee for the North Suburban Legal Aid Clinic. Last year, Daniel served as co-chair of the Anti-Defamation League's Glass Leadership Institute after graduating from the program in 2020. Trustee Schack earned a bachelor's and master's degree from the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University, class of 2002 and 2003. He grew up in Glenview and graduated from Glenbrook South High School. A resident of Northbrook since 2013, he enjoys a busy life with his wife and three children.



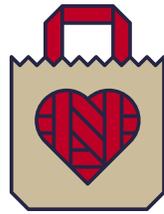
Kate Spears, Trustee

Kate combines her public service with a career as a marketing and communications professional. After five years as a litigator, Kate moved to communications roles at McKinsey & Company and then Accenture before founding her own firm, Compel Communications, where she serves companies and nonprofits. She has a B.A. from Marquette University and received her law degree from the University of Wisconsin Law School. Trustee Spears has lived in Northbrook for 30 years with her two sons who graduated from District 28 schools and Glenbrook North. Kate supports community engagement activities at Kenilworth United Church, the Chicago Chapter of Alpha Sigma Nu (the Jesuit honor society), as well as volunteering at the Chicago Botanic Garden and the North Suburban YMCA. In her spare time she enjoys tennis, hiking, biking, curling, cooking and fiction writing.



THE NORTHFIELD TOWNSHIP FOOD PANTRY

The Northfield Township Food Pantry has addressed food insecurity in our area since the early 1970s. From its beginning in a supply closet, the pantry has evolved to a grocery store setting with carts, aisles organized by food categories, industrial refrigeration, and a walk-in cooler. The expanded infrastructure allows the pantry to provide perishable items such as milk, butter, eggs, bakery items, etc. along with non-perishable dry and canned goods. The Pantry also provides paper products, infant diapers and formula, personal hygiene and household cleaning items. Grocery store gift cards supplement the selection and enable clients to shop for other items.



NORTHFIELD TOWNSHIP FOOD PANTRY

COMING TOGETHER. MAKING A DIFFERENCE.

A Growing Need In Our Community

On average, the pantry serves 600-700 households a month, although that number doubled in the first two months of 2020. If someone you know needs help securing food, please visit <https://twp.northfield.il.us/pantry> and complete an intake form or call 847-724-8300.

Flexible, Volunteer-Led Reliable Operations

Due to COVID-19 mitigations, we currently use a contactless pick-up protocol. Clients call in their order when they arrive in the township parking lot and their completed orders are wheeled out in carts.

The Food Pantry is a non-profit and a member of the Greater Chicago Food Depository.

- Donations of non-perishable groceries and household goods can be dropped off at our offices, or in the yellow donation bins located throughout the Township.
- A list of our most needed items is on

the pantry's web page and on our Amazon Charity Wish List.

- Credit card donations can also be made online by visiting northfieldtownship.com or by calling the Township office at 847-724-8300.

COMMUNITY TAKES AIM AT FOOD INSECURITY

Trustees **Kate Spears**, **Vincent Pace** and Clerk **Caryn Fliegler**

participated in the Volunteer Center's Make a Difference Day where our pantry collected a van load of food donations. Students from Glenbrook South High School held their annual food drive and collected and delivered a bus load of food to the pantry in November.



ENSURING ACCESS TO LIFE'S NECESSITIES

On October 23rd Northfield Township and the Glenview Necessities Network co-sponsored a Community Resource Fair held at Sunset Village Manufactured Housing Community. Supervisor Mohsenzadeh joined by representatives from the Glenview Police/Fire Departments, Connections for the Homeless, North Suburban Legal Aid Clinic, North Shore Senior Center, Citizens Utility Board (CUB), North Shore University Health Systems, Commissioner Scott Britton, Youth Services Glenview/Northbrook, Wintrust Bank, and the Debra Gelfand Children's Foundation connected with residents to share information about local resources and services available to township residents.





Northfield Township
2550 Waukegan Road
Suite 100
Glenview, IL 60025

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Office Hours Of Operation

8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (M, T, W, and F)
8:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. on Thursdays

Township Offices

Phone: 847-724-8300
Fax: 847-724-8310

Road District

847-724-7055
Emergency: 847-471-7055

POSTAL CUSTOMER, LOCAL
NORTHFIELD TOWNSHIP ILLINOIS

MEET THE TOWNSHIP STAFF

Your Township staff provides professional assistance and safety net services to our community members.



L to R- Kevin Berry (Food Pantry Coordinator), **Elizabeth DeBock** (Deputy Assessor), **Sherri Morris** (Administrative Assistant), **Julie Schaeffer** (Food Pantry and Administrative Assistant), **Hilda Morales** (Case Manager), **Bonnie Nahulak** (Bookkeeper and Administrative Assistant), **Gayle Curcio**, Township Administrator

NORTHFIELD TOWNSHIP

ELECTED OFFICIALS

- Shiva Mohsenzadeh, Supervisor**
Shiva@northfieldtownship.com
- Caryn Fliegler, Clerk**
Caryn.fliegler@northfieldtownship.com
- Alida Nally, Assessor**
Assessor@northfieldtownship.com
- Tim Rueckert, Highway Commissioner**
ntroad@northfieldtownship.com
- Scott Ottenheimer, Trustee**
Scott.ottenheimer@northfieldtownship.com
- Vincent Pace, Trustee**
Vincent.pace@northfieldtownship.com
- Daniel Schack, Trustee**
Daniel.schack@northfieldtownship.com
- Kate Spears, Trustee**
Kate.spears@northfieldtownship.com

TOWNSHIP STAFF

- Gayle Curcio, Administrator**
gaylec@northfieldtownship.com
- Kevin Berry, Food Pantry Coordinator**
pantry@northfieldtownship.com
- Hilda Morales, Case Manager**
generalassistance@northfieldtownship.com
- Sherri Morris, Administrative Asst.**
admin@northfieldtownship.com
- Bonnie Nahulak, Bookkeeper, Administrative Asst.**
admin2@northfieldtownship.com
- Julie Schaeffer, Food Pantry, Administrative Asst.**
julies@northfieldtownship.com
- Elizabeth De Bock, Deputy Assessor**
deputyassessor@northfieldtownship.com

Township Board of Trustees Meetings:
Annual Town Meeting -April 12, 2022, 6:00 p.m.
May 10, 6:00 p.m.
June 14, 6:00 p.m.

HOW TO REACH US AND JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Northfield Township is expanding its social media presence with new social feeds that let us stay connected in real time.

We are now on **Twitter**. To see the township's latest tweets, visit Twitter, search **@NorthfieldTWPIIL** and click follow. Our new **Instagram** page is **nfieldtwpil**, select follow to get our posts.

We have a new general **Township Facebook page** to complement the **Township Food Pantry Facebook page**. Simply search Northfield Township Food Pantry, click "like" and follow our page to receive the latest news about the Food Pantry.

You can also enjoy Township video posts on our **YouTube** Channel **Northfield Township Illinois**.

We also publish an electronic newsletter, highlighting local news, emergency updates, event information and more.

Hear the latest episodes of our new **podcast** at <https://northfieldtownshipillinois.libsyn.com>

