



WORTH TOWNSHIP News

Patricia Joan Murphy, Supervisor

EDITION 2 - SPRING 2022

From the Supervisor's Desk



I recently heard the term "Endemic" and thought it was a clever way to symbolize both the end of the pandemic and the beginning of moving forward. With the advent of spring and the country slowly opening back up, here at Worth Township we are happy

to be back in full swing with extended hours. We are most happy about seeing your faces in person once again.

Although navigating through the pandemic was challenging, we are proud to have kept most services running while adhering to healthcare guidelines. From vaccination clinics and Covid testing to emergency food drives, we have played a part in helping township residents during the height of the pandemic. If there is any silver lining, we have learned a lot and have made positive changes that will help us better serve you.

As promised, we are going green, so our newsletter is now digital, so I invite you to click your way through to discover the many ways we are here to serve you.

Thinking about travel? Our Clerk's Office has acceptance agents to assist you in obtaining a passport book or passport card. Our popular Kids Camp will be back with plenty of activities indoors and out. Planned field trips, swimming, arts &

crafts, recreational sports, and organized activities are all held in a supervised setting.

Our senior room has nonstop activities like exercise classes, crochet circles, bingo, card games, field trips and so much more. The Assessor's Office wants to remind everyone that exemption forms are expected to be out in April according to officials in Cook County. These would include exemptions such as Homeowner, Senior, Senior Freeze, Disabled and Veteran exemptions. Look at the article for more valuable information.

Election season is upon us, and this year's Primary Date is Tuesday, June 28th. If you are not registered to vote, come to the township hall and we will help you get registered. Voting is a privilege we enjoy in this country and now, more than ever, we see the importance of protecting one's democracy and sovereignty.

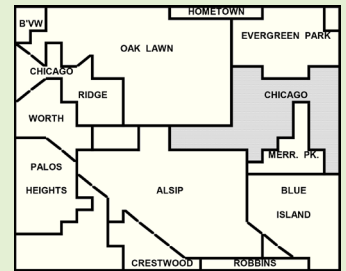
Finally, our hearts go out to the people of Ukraine as they endure the hardship of this unprovoked war with Russia. Worth Township collected much needed items on behalf of St. Catherine's and St. Bernadette Catholic Church's and St. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church who shipped supplies to Ukraine. Thank you to our wonderful residents who donated items for the relief efforts.

Sincerely,

Patricia Joan Murphy
Township Supervisor

Worth Township

11601 South Pulaski Road
Alsip, IL 60803
(708) 371-2900
(708) 371-2144 Fax
worthtownship.com



Worth Township Is...

- Alsip
- Blue Island
- Bridgeview
- Chicago Ridge
- Crestwood
- Evergreen Park
- Hometown
- Merrionette Park
- Oak Lawn
- Palos Heights
- Robbins
- Worth

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WT Elected Officials

Back Row (from left to right):
Jerry Hurckes, Rich Lewandowski,
Kelly Sexton-Kelly,
Mychal J. Toscas

Front Row (from left to right):
Eamon McMahon, Victoria Lee
Moody, Patricia Joan Murphy,
Shaun Murphy

Assessor's Notes



EXEMPTIONS:

Exemption forms are expected to be out in April according to officials in Cook County. All exemptions such as Homeowner, Senior, Senior Freeze, Disabled and Veteran exemptions are automatically renewed if you have had either exemption in the previous year.

Exemptions for those with disabilities and veterans with disabilities should have their exemptions renewed automatically due to Covid, if one had the exemption on last year's tax bill. Those applying for the first time should contact the Assessor's Office for more information.

You may qualify for the Senior Freeze exemption if your total household income was less than \$65,000 in 2020. Exemption forms are available online at cookcountyassessor.com or at our office.

APPEALING YOUR ASSESSMENT WITH THE BOARD OF REVIEW:

Our office is still waiting for an appeals date to be issued from the Cook County Board of Review. Because this date changes annually, our office does not process any appeals ahead of the date. Residents may however, appeal ahead of time on the Cook County Board of Review website.

The Cook County Board of Review is tentatively scheduled to hear said appeals this spring. For specific dates regarding the appeal window, please contact our office by April. We will also co-host an appeals seminar at the Township once we know those appeal dates and we look forward to assisting you in the appeals process.

If any taxpayer suspects that their property is over-assessed, I encourage them to contact our office for assistance. Using your Property Index Number (PIN) or address, our staff can search for your information. We will use our expertise to help you find comparable properties and assist you in filling out the necessary forms to appeal.

Also, our office can assist you with filing out a Name & Address Change with the Cook County Treasurer, Certificates of Errors, Homeowner Exemptions, and other available exemptions. For any questions, please contact our office at 708-371-5557 or by email: assessorworth@worthtownship.com.

If you have not appealed your assessment recently, I encourage you to do so. This service is free, as are all of those offered by the Township Assessor's Office. The best time to appeal is when our month-long appeal window opens as we generally become busier toward the end of the appeal window.

We look forward to hearing from you and assisting you through the process.

Shaun C. Murphy
Township Assessor

Clerk's Corner



The Worth Township Clerk's Office oversees a wide variety of duties for township residents. The main responsibility of the Clerk's Office is keeping the official records and maintaining the minutes and archives of ordinances and policies from township board meetings. The Clerk also serves as the Clerk for the Township Highway Department.

Other duties of the office include:

- Certifying taxes
- Performing voter registration and election services
- Ensuring Freedom of Information Act compliance
- Conducting the annual Town Meeting as required by state statute
- Passport services
- Offering travel brochures and Notary Public services, and
- Issuing temporary handicap parking permits.

NEED A PASSPORT?

Contact us, we have new hours!

Our office has acceptance agents to assist you in obtaining a passport book or passport card. Applications are processed from Monday – Thursday, 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. When applying for a passport book or passport card, you must have the following:

The completed DS-11 application (unsigned). We have the applications at our facility if needed.

1. Proof of U.S. Citizenship (Ex: Previous Passport, Certified Birth Certificate, Original Naturalization Papers)
2. One Passport Picture (2 x 2 inches) We do not take passport photos at our facility)
3. Proof of Identity (Ex: Driver's License, State I.D.)
4. Social Security Number

For more information, please contact our office at 708-972-7855 or 708-972-7868.

Eamon J. McMahon
Township Clerk

General Assistance Department

ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Emergency Assistance: Emergency Assistance is a one-time financial grant, in a 12-month period, available to any Worth Township resident facing a life-threatening circumstance such as eviction or utility disconnection. Emergency Assistance funds go directly to the utility, landlord or bank. Contact the GA Department for more information.

Fire Victims Assistance: Fire Assistance is available for township residents who have experienced hardship due to a fire. A fire report from the responding fire department is mandatory for assistance. For more information, contact the General Assistance Department at 708-972-7863.

FOOD PANTRY

Visitors to the township's Food Pantry has been significantly higher in the past year or so due to the pandemic. Due to increased needs, the township expanded services. The donation of a walk-in cooler has also enabled visitors to now receive dairy products and other perishable foods. Due to Covid restrictions, patrons are no longer coming into the building but rather picking up food near the rear entrance.

The township is now partnered with the Greater Chicago Food Depository and able to offer a selected menu of food to choose from along with two prepackaged bags. Foods range from at least one meat selection, and fresh fruits and vegetables when available. Pantry patrons must be a resident of Worth Township and can visit the pantry twice a month. If you are not a resident of Worth Township, you are allowed to use the Township Food Pantry once. Patrons need to bring in a current picture ID with their name and current address.



Donations: The Pantry is stocked with donations from individuals, families, businesses, schools, and organizations in our community. We accept all monetary donations, food and paper products. Together we can help those in need and we thank everyone for their generous donations.

Extra veggies in your garden? Please consider donating your extras to the Worth Township Food Pantry. There is nothing better than home grown!

HOURS

The General Assistance Office is now open Monday – Thursday, between the hours of 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
The Food Pantry is now open Monday – Thursday, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Need a little financial help?

Need financial assistance? Worth Township offers General Assistance, a short-term locally administered welfare program for persons who do not qualify for any other state or federal assistance. Those eligible have either very low or no income or financial resources. Residents must be 18 years of age or older, with no minor children, and must meet all eligibility conditions.

For more information, contact the General Assistance Department at 708-972-7863.

Note: All applications are confidential.

YOUTH SERVICE BUREAU

WE PROVIDE SUPPORT TO HELP GUIDE PARENTS THROUGH THE CHALLENGES OF PARENTING.

Counseling offers families an opportunity to work through trying times and help them refocus on what is important to them. As an agency, we strive to provide confidential support, clarity, and direction through our counseling services. We offer treatment for anxiety, depression, aggression, strained relationships, self-esteem, family issues, divorce, adoption, adolescent substance abuse, and a variety of school related challenges, just to name a few.

We are currently providing Telehealth or healthcare services remotely by means of telecommunications technology. Counseling services for families are available and we are in discussions about when in-person services will resume.

New families interested in receiving counseling services can be placed on our waitlist for services. Residents of Worth Township can access our professional services on a sliding scale, with fees ranging from \$5-\$20 per session.

Please contact Sue Kelley, Director, Youth Service Bureau for more information or to have your child placed on our waitlist. (708) 388-2101.

Someone

YOU SHOULD KNOW



Paulette Duke
Energy Services Technician

Paulette Duke is someone you should know. Paulette has spent the last five years working at Worth Township helping others with accessing needed services through the township's Energy Services Department.

The department offers a wide range of services to residents within Worth Township and Cook County, Illinois. Paulette was once a client, when she fell on hard times and now, she has made it her mission to be sure others in need are provided the same services/opportunities.

Some of the services offered include energy assistance, family support and community engagement, housing services, home weatherization, and WIC services for (Women, Infants and Children).

Born in Jersey City, New Jersey, Paulette's family moved to Illinois, and she was raised in nearby Summit. She attended Argo High School and after finishing high school, went to modeling school in Chicago. A few years later, Paulette moved to Florida and began working in a ministry. "We worked with inner city children and families to feed them, clothe them and help the parents find employment," explained Duke. This began her path towards her career in community outreach.

In the early 2000's, Paulette moved back to Summit to spend time with her mother and family. Across the street from the family home, was an agency that helped families with energy assistance and more. "I was always a curious person and I wanted to learn more about what the agency was all about," explained Duke. She went to the office and inquired about services. Shortly thereafter, she began volunteering to see if this was an area of employment she could pursue. She realized her volunteer work was very similar to the work she was doing in Florida with the ministry.

Paulette was able to receive computer training and learn other essential work skills. She then fell on hard times and ran out of money. "I had a lot of expenses and needed to provide for my family, so I tried to do temporary work with a temp agency."

The staff at the agency helped her fill out the proper paperwork enabling her to receive financial assistance to pay for some of her expenses. "I went from volunteer to client and those funds were a game changer for me," added Duke. "I now knew I wanted to be able to help others like those in the agency who helped me. I knew there were a lot of people who were hurting, and I decided this was something I wanted to do moving forward." After a few months of volunteering, Paulette was offered employment.

She was employed for the next eight years until that particular office ran out of funding and let all the staff go on a group conference call. "Everyone was out of job. It was a bad time," stated Duke. She then moved out of Summit and relocated to Broadview, Illinois and ventured out to find new employment.

One of the first places she visited had an office with representatives from the agency. It turned out to be the office of then Congressman Daniel Lipinski. The Congressman's Office hired her to help residents with obtaining financial and energy services.

She was employed there several months and then met current Worth Township Trustee Richard Lewandowski. Paulette remembers the conversation and how it changed her life. "He suggested I work at a senior building on Harlem Avenue to help seniors fill out assistance applications. There were 45 seniors in that building and I did all the applications myself."

Her interactions led her to be hired at Worth Township as a floater filling out applications on a part-time basis. Eventually she was offered full time employment at Worth Township to assist with promoting and overseeing the energy services department.

Paulette recalled it was the best day of her life. "I knew it was the best day of my life when I got hired for the full-time job. The agency has helped me and now I am helping others in a big way. I help residents in need with acquiring shoes, clothing, and paying their utility bills. I wouldn't want to do anything else because this is the job I have always wanted and what I love."

For more information about the township's Energy Services Department, please contact the receptionist at 708-371-3393.

Elected Official

SPOTLIGHT



Richard Lewandowski
Trustee

Trustee Rich Lewandowski has been a community volunteer his whole life and is now serving his third term as a Trustee for Worth Township. "I have been a volunteer for as long as I can remember," explained Lewandowski. "When I was asked to run for the township back in 2012, I believe I was asked because people knew I had an interest in doing more in public service."

He was elected in 2013 and is currently the senior trustee on the board. "I probably had the desire to run for public office back in 2010. I wanted to do more than volunteer and I saw public office as a way to achieve that," stated Lewandowski.

Rich sees his trustee role as an opportunity to fill a void in local government. "I always knew township government was relevant to the community. I didn't realize how relevant until I started on the board," stated Lewandowski. "Township government really does fill the gap left by our surrounding municipalities. Municipalities can't offer the kind of services we do

due to a lack of workforce and budget constraints." He referenced services such as senior programs and youth counseling. "We not only offer these services, but we have expanded them beyond what even I thought we could do."

One program Rich is enormously proud of is the energy services program that he played a role in getting to the township. "Then Congressman Bill Lipinski needed a place for the energy services program to make its home. So, I took the idea to the board and they voted to agree to host it at the township," stated Lewandowski. "The staff does an amazing job of helping families who truly need assistance with energy bills."

Rich was born in Chicago in the Pilsen neighborhood and was the second generation born and raised in the area. Prior to coming to Worth Township, Rich was the vice president of his Ashburn Homeowners Association near St. Dennis Parish in the city. He did that for three years and then he and his wife of forty years Susan, moved to Palos Heights where they have been since 2003. Rich and Susan have two grown boys and are looking forward to being grandparents someday.

Outside of public service, Rich owns a family-run, commercial printing company. Rich noted, we are now a third-generation business which is something rare in these times. One of Rich's favorite quotes about printing; "Printers are the keepers of the record of time". In his spare time, Rich plays basketball and is an avid golfer. "Any time I can get in a round of golf I try to do it. I just love the game."

When asked what he would like to be remembered for, Lewandowski said, "as someone who was always willing to help if I could. That is my philosophy of life. It is how I feel every day."

Upcoming Board Meetings

All Township Board Meetings will be held on the last Thursday of each month unless otherwise specified. Meetings are held at 6:00 P.M. at the Worth Township Town Hall, 11601 S. Pulaski, Alsip, Illinois

April 28th
May 26th
June 30th
July 28th
August 25th

September 29th
October 27th
November 17th
December 15th

Worth Township Elected Officials

2021-2025

Your Township Elected Officials are committed to providing the best possible programs and services. Here are your new township officials:

Supervisor

Patricia Joan Murphy

Clerk

Eamon Joseph McMahon

Assessor

Shaun Colin Murphy

Highway Commissioner

Victoria Lee Moody

Trustees

Kelly Sexton-Kelly

Richard J. Lewandowski

Mychal J. Toscas

Jerry Hurckes

What is the Board of Trustees?
The governing body or legislative branch of the township is comprised of the Supervisor and four trustees. The Board of Trustees meets monthly, the last Thursday of every month at the Township Hall at 6:00 pm.

The Board establishes policies, adopts an annual budget, approves all expenses, audits township funds, and certifies tax levies for the township and road district. The levy for the Highway Department is set by the highway commissioner.

The policies established by the Board of Trustees are then carried out by the Supervisor, Clerk and township staff. The Assessor and Highway Commissioner oversee and establish policies for their respective offices.

The Board of Trustees is committed to fiscal responsibility, maintaining transparency and being held accountable in operating township funds.



Fair Housing Review Board Helps Address Alleged Discrimination

The Worth Township Fair Housing Review Board consists of three members appointed by the Board of Trustees, who meet and discuss issues pertaining to the Fair Housing Ordinance as well as to review and update the policy as needed. The board was created in 1999 to prevent discriminatory and unlawful housing practices and to provide fair housing and the promotion of stable and balanced living patterns.

The Fair Housing Review Board is responsible for preventing discriminatory acts and unlawful housing practices within the Township. It is also charged with conducting hearings and adjudicating all complaints filed with the township which allege a violation of the Fair Housing Ordinance.

For further information, please contact 708-371-2900.

Directory of Township Services

MAIN OFFICE

8:30am - 4:30pm (Monday - Thursday)
(708) 371-2900
info@worthtownship.com

SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE

8:30am - 4:30pm (Monday - Thursday)
(708) 972-7840
supervisor@worthtownship.com

CLERK'S OFFICE

7:00am - 3:00pm (Monday - Thursday)
(708) 972-7868 or (708) 972-7855
clerkoffice@worthtownship.com

To apply for a passport, call for an appointment

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

8:30am - 4:30pm (Monday - Thursday)
(708) 371-5557
assessorworth@worthtownship.com

Homeowner/Senior/Senior Freeze
Exemptions, Appeals

ENERGY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

8:30am - 2:00pm (Monday - Thursday)
(708) 371-3393

Worth Township is an official CEDA partner.

FOOD PANTRY

9:00am - 2:00pm (Monday - Thursday)
(708) 972-7869
generalassistance@worthtownship.com

No appointment required.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE DEPT.

7:30am - 3:30pm (Monday - Thursday)
(708) 972-7843 or (708) 972-7851
generalassistance@worthtownship.com

To inquire about help with rent or utilities

SENIOR DEPARTMENT

8:30am - 4:30pm (Monday - Thursday)
(708) 972-7854
seniors@worthtownship.com

Benefit access assistance, senior services

YOUTH COMMISSION

12:00pm - 8:00pm (Monday - Thursday)
(708) 972-7837
sortinos@worthtownship.com

YOUTH SERVICE BUREAU

8:00am - 4:00pm (Monday - Thursday)
(708) 972-7845
ysb@worthtownship.com

**On Fridays, All employees work remotely.
Please call or email them for assistance.**



June 27th - August 5th

Monday – Friday, 9:00am – 3:00pm

For children (ages 5-12)*

Worth Township Summer Camp will be held rain or shine. Plenty of activities indoors and out.

Planned field trips, swimming, arts & crafts, recreational sports and organized activities are all held in a supervised setting.

Registration:

April 4th through June 1st

Monday – Thursday from 8:30am – 5:00pm

Fee: \$600

For more information, call (708) 972-7837 or email youthcommission@worthtownship.com

* Must be 5 by July 1st. Proof of age may be required.



Pictures with the Bunny

Thursday, April 14, 2022

4:00pm – 7:00pm

Worth Township

11601 South Pulaski, Alsip, IL 60803

Park in the back parking lot and enter through the South Entrance and follow the arrows to the Senior room. Do not forget your camera!!

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach us on our direct line at 708-972-7837 or email us at youthcommission@worthtownship.com



American Red Cross Babysitting Classes at WT

Do you have babysitters in your house? Would you like them to be trained in the event of an emergency? The Worth Township Youth Commission offers three-week American Red Cross Babysitting Courses for \$75 per student.

Tuesdays & Thursdays from 4:00pm – 6:00pm
Session 43 – April 5, 2022 – April 26, 2022 (No class on April 14, 2022)

Session 44 – May 3, 2022 – May 19, 2022

See www.WorthTownship.com for details.

Worth Township Youth Commission Game Nights

Do you want to go to the gym for a quick workout and don't know what to do with the kids? Do you have errands to run but don't have a babysitter? Do you want to go grocery shopping without dragging the kids along?

We have "Game Nights" on Monday and Wednesday from 6pm to 7:30pm where you can drop your children off and have alone time for yourself while the children play, and meet other kids that may not go to the same school, in a safe, supervised setting.

Must have a registration form on file before attending. There is a \$3 drop-in fee for residents (\$5 for non-residents). We accept cash or check only.

See www.WorthTownship.com for details.

RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN'S
The KING AND I

Rodgers and Hammerstein's "The King and I" is a tale of the human experience as British tutor Anna Leonowens and the King of Siam struggle with cultural differences after Anna arrives at the royal palace in Bangkok.

Wednesday, May 18

Drury Lane, Oak Brook

Bus departs at 11am and returns at 4:30pm

Cost: \$90 (due at registration)

Trip includes transportation, lunch and show.

Call (708) 371-2900 Ext. 128 for more information or to reserve your space.



Monday, June 6, 2022
9am to 4pm

Join us for our Casino trip to the Four Winds Casino, New Buffalo, Michigan. \$30 fee includes deluxe motor coach transportation, \$15 slot credit and up to \$10 food credit.

There is a 40 person minimum and 55 person maximum.

Call (708) 972-7854 or stop by the Senior Room to register before May 23rd.



SWEET REMINDERS

With their beautiful harmonies, choreography, playful style, and a bit of audience participation along the way, it's a musical journey down memory lane that will make your heart sing!

Thursday, April 21, 2022

Noon - Lunch; 1pm - Show

Worth Township
11601 S. Pulaski, Alsip
\$25 per person

Reservations close on April 14th

Call (708) 371-2900 Ext. 128 for more information or to reserve your space.



AARP Safe Driving Course

Tuesday, May 10th and
Wednesday, May 11th
9am to 1pm

Worth Township
11601 S Pulaski, Alsip

Join us for a Rules of the Road refresher course that covers all the new rules and regulations. Completion of this course may qualify you for a reduction in the cost of your auto insurance.

Call (708) 972-7854 for details.