

**Monee
Township
Founded 1859**

MONEE TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

Local
Postal Customer

PSRT STD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM Retail

Volume 50 - Published by Monee Township - Spring 2024
Serving Monee, University Park, the Will County portion of
Park Forest and unincorporated parcels in the Township

From the Supervisor

HAPPY SPRING! We were fortunate to have a mild winter (except for those 10 days that were so cold and snowy). Warmer Spring temperatures will be here soon so we can get outside to garden, get out the patio furniture or just take a walk!

BUDGET HEARING: Thursday, April 18th, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the Township Building, 26121 Egyptian Trail, Monee, IL, is the scheduled budget hearing for the Township and Highway Commissioners office 2024-2025 budgets. A tentative budget is posted in the township office if you want to see it before then.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING: Tuesday, April 9, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. You should come earlier as you must sign in as a registered voter who resides in Monee Township. If you come after 7:30, you will not be allowed to vote. All information and details on this meeting were in the January newsletter as our April newsletter might be delivered too late.

PAPER SHREDDING EVENT: Saturday, June 15th from 9 a.m. to Noon. At the Monee Township Building, 26121 Egyptian Trail, Monee, IL. This is a great time to get rid of extra paper we all seem to collect. This is for Township residents only. No Business papers will be accepted. Limited to 4 boxes or 4 white 13 gallon trash bags per household.

SENIOR COMMITTEE: Our next senior event will be held April 12th. It is a drive thru event where you stay in your car, drive to the door and pick up a box lunch plus other goodies. You must be registered to do so.

Registration ends April 5th. Letters with all information were sent to all seniors who participated previously. Call 708-534-6020 if you have never been to a senior event to get on our mailing list for the next event scheduled June 13, 2024, which will be an indoor event with lunch, entertainment and bingo. Seniors must be 65 and over and live in Monee Township. We are restricted to about 100 people for indoor events, so please call early.

YOUTH COMMITTEE: The Township Youth Program was held at Coretta Scott King School in the Fall of 2023 and in February and March 2024. We offered an hour of STEM classes in Math, Science and Robotics and an hour of recreation. Those that came enjoyed the evening but we had lower participation than expected. The Township will re-evaluate the program and try to find a better way to help our Youth in the future.

EASTER BASKET PROGRAM: The Township gave out 33 beautiful Easter Baskets in March containing toys, books and candy to children in 12 families. The baskets were put together by our office staff, Willa, Shirley and Ruth. They looked professionally made.

ARPA GRANT: In 2022 we received a grant to help our Township with the continuing aftermath of Covid-19 problems. The Township was able to help many with much larger dollar amounts to pay our Emergency



Assistance clients who needed help with rent, mortgages or utilities. The Grant money is depleted so the Township is back to the aid structure based on number of people in a household and based on Poverty guidelines. The Grant also allowed us to give out \$100 dollar gift cards with our Thanksgiving and Santa Sack programs in 2022 and 2023, along with the normal food baskets and gifts. So many people qualified and were helped with this extra gift card amount. With the grant depleted, the Township will now go back to pre-grant amounts.

UNIVERSITY PARK TIF-5: FYI: For 23 years, all taxing bodies in the TIF-5 district lost tax revenues which went into the TIF which was used for infrastructure and development of the TIF area. University Park is planning on dissolving TIF-5 this year so it will go back onto the Tax rolls. This will add approximately 93 million EAV and can only be recaptured by taxing bodies in the year it is dissolved which means it will affect our November Levy. All taxing bodies will have to hold a Truth in Taxation Hearing as to put the TIF-5 EAV back onto the tax rolls, it will be over the 5% allowable Truth in Taxation amount. My preliminary figures show it will be a 29% or 30% increase. But don't get upset, this will not be charged to local taxpayers, it will only show up on the taxes of the companies within the TIF-5 district. If the taxing bodies do not raise the levy this year to include the TIF EAV, it will be forever lost. The Village of University Park and the School District will benefit the most as they get the

biggest portion of taxes so they will reap big rewards. The smaller taxing bodies like the Township will be helped also. It will help our Township with a renovation project for our Food Pantry. Putting the TIF-5 EAV back on the tax rolls will be a win for all and will not affect your residential taxes.

BUILDING RENOVATION: The Township is working with an architect to develop a plan to renovate the Township Building to allow room for a new pantry and better offices. We are land locked so we will be using a part of the Highway Commissioners space and building the Highway Department new bays and offices. This will allow us to have a walk-in pantry with commercial refrigerators and freezers. It will allow us to have meats and frozen foods plus room for produce and bakery items. As our Pantry use is growing monthly, we will be able to provide a better variety of foods. Right now we can only give out non-perishable foods as we do not have freezer or refrigerator capacity. It will be a great addition to our services.

Congratulations to our Monee Township Trustee and Youth Chair Billy Morgan on his primary election win which will allow him to run in November for State Representative in the 79th District against the present incumbent.

Finally, as we begin Spring and transition into Summer, I wish you good health and safe travels.

Donna T. Dettbarn, Monee Township
Supervisor

MONEE TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS

Donna T. Dettbarn, Supervisor

Bobby R. Lathan Sr., Clerk

TRUSTEES

Terri Boles

James W. Young

Deborah Burgess

William Morgan

Sandra Heard, Assessor

David Deutsche, Highway Commissioner

Ronald Poindexter, Collector

Location: 26121 Egyptian Trail, Monee, IL 60449

Telephone: 708-534-6020 Fax: 708-534-6080

Email: moneetownship@aol.com

Web site: www.moneetownship.com

Office hours: Monday – Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (closed for lunch noon to 1:00 p.m.);

Friday 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Location: 26121 Egyptian Trail, Monee, IL 60449

Telephone: 708-534-8166 Fax: 708-534-8162

Email: moneetownship@aol.com

Office hours: Monday – Friday 6:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

MONEE TOWNSHIP ASSESSOR

Location: 46 Towncenter, University Park, IL 60484

Telephone: 708-534-6023 Fax: 708-534-6027

Web site: www.moneeassessor.com

Office hours:

Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Closed for lunch 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Wednesday 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

MONEE TOWNSHIP CONTACT INFORMATION

Monee Township 708-534-6020

Monee Township Assessor 708-534-6023

Monee Township Highway 708-534-8166

The Village of Monee 708-534-8301

Peotone Library 708-258-3436

The Village of University Park 708-534-6451

University Park Library 708-534-2580

Crete Monee School District 201-U 708-367-8300

United States Post Office, Monee 708-534-8057

MONEE TOWNSHIP HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Our winter this year was mild with below average snowfall and above average temperatures. The snow plowing equipment has been removed from the trucks and stored for the summer months. We will be preparing for the spring and summer road work which will include mowing roadsides, fixing culverts and road repairs.

In April 2023 the highway department was informed of the need to immediately close the bridge on Highland Avenue. The concrete support beams were cracking and scaling which made the bridge dangerous to drive over. Iroquois Paving is doing the construction on the bridge along with Willett Hoffman Engineering. They have been working on the bridge this

past month and are currently on schedule. The completed bridge will need the approval of Will County and I.D.O.T. The average replacement time is usually 3 years but because replacement of the bridge was an emergency situation, the bridge is scheduled to open on May 17, 2024. We are sorry for the inconvenience the closing of the bridge has caused some residents but we had no choice but to replace it.

With spring planting time almost here, please be respectful of the farming equipment when you encounter it on the roadways. The highway department wishes everyone a safe and enjoyable summer.

David Deutsche



GENERAL ASSISTANCE FUND

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

General Assistance is available to persons in Monee Township, under the following guidelines:

- Those who are ineligible for categorical assistance from the Illinois Department of Human Services (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, TANF)
- Those who are ineligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) from the Social Security Administration
- Those who meet the other financial and non-financial eligibility criteria
- Those who have lived at their address for six (6) months or longer.

GA provides monthly financial assistance to meet basic maintenance needs such as food, shelter and utilities, and also provides basic medical assistance.

A written application for GA must be filed with the Township. The Township will determine whether you are eligible for GA within 30 calendar days of the date you file your application.

Persons who receive GA must participate in the Township's Work Training and Job Search Program.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

Emergency Assistance is available to persons:

- Who are eligible for GA
- Who are not receiving categorical assistance or SSI
- Who face a life-threatening situation due to loss of income, medical emergency or other unusual circum-

stances and

- Who meet the other financial and non-financial eligibility criteria
- Who have lived at their address for six (6) months or longer.

You may receive EA up to a maximum established by the Township only once in a 12-month period. EA is paid directly to a provider (such as a landlord or utility company) to alleviate the life-threatening situation.

A written application for EA must be filed with the Township. The Township will determine whether you are eligible for GA within 30 calendar days of the date you file your application. However, every effort will be made by the Township to make a decision within ten business days of receiving all needed paperwork. For more information, please contact the Township at 708-534-6020.

FOOD PANTRY

The Township operates a Food Pantry to provide food on a temporary basis to persons in immediate need. Foodstuffs will not be provided to supplement food stamps or on a long-term basis. Applicants are asked to apply for food stamps before receiving foodstuffs a second time. Donations are accepted year-round for the Food Pantry.

OTHER PROGRAMS

The other programs the Township provides are Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter Basket and School Supply programs. The Township accepts donations for all programs. For more information about these programs, contact the Township Office.

DIAL-A-RIDE

Monee Township has entered into an agreement with Will County Will Ride, through PACE Bus Company, for Transportation services. This will service senior residents 60 years of age or over for medical visits and disabled residents for medical visits, vocational/educational training and shopping one day a week for seniors and disabled. Once you are registered, contact Pace Dial A Ride, 1-800-244-4410, for reservations. There is a \$2 fee per ride within the Township and \$4 per ride outside the Township, which will be collected at the time of service by the PACE Bus. All riders must NOW register and have a Dial-A-Ride ID. Contact the Monee Township for more information on registration, 708-534-6020.

No transportation service on major holidays: New Year's Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Lincoln's Birthday, President's Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Juneteenth, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving, the day after Thanksgiving and Christmas Day.



Monee Township

PAPER SHREDDING

PAPER SHREDDING EVENT
 SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 2024
 TIME: 9 A.M. TO NOON
 WHERE: MONEE TOWNSHIP PARKING LOT
 26121 EGYPTIAN TRAIL
 MONEE, IL
 BRING YOUR EXCESS PAPER TO BE SHREDDED. LIMITED TO 4 BANKER BOXES OR 4 WHITE 13 GALLON TRASH BAGS. NO BUSINESS PAPER ACCEPTED.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES' DAYBREAK CENTER

Catholic Charities' Daybreak Center currently has funds available for rent and mortgage assistance for Will County residents. Available resources may include: food vouchers, clothing vouchers, financial assistance for prescriptions, rent/mortgage assistance, and information to other community resources. Appointments are onsite every Tuesday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Village of University Park, 90 Towncenter Drive, University Park, Illinois 60484. For more information or to make an appointment, contact Catholic Charities' Daybreak Center, 611 East Cass Street, Joliet, Illinois 60433, 815-774-4663.

RECYCLE ELECTRONICS

Peotone Police Department
 208 East Main Street
 Peotone
 1st and 3rd Wednesdays,
 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
 Limit 2 TVs per vehicle
 ID required to prove Will County area residency



Lockport Public Works
 17112 Prime Blvd (East of I-355)
 Lockport
 Tuesday and Friday only, 6:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.
 Limit 2 televisions per vehicle
 ID required to prove Will County area residency

New Lenox Township
 1100 South Cedar Road
 New Lenox
 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
 Limit 2 TVs per vehicle
 ID required to prove Will County area residency

EDUCATION CORNER

TUTORING
www.k12.gov
www.khanacademy.org
<http://www.goodhousekeeping.com/childrens-products/tutoring-website-reviews/a16511/free-on-line-tutoring>

FREE LEARNING WEBSITES FOR KIDS

- www.switcheroozoo.com
- www.funbrain.com
- www.kids.nationalgeographic.com
- www.reading.ecb.org
- www.pbskids.org
- www.starfall.com
- www.seussville.com
- www.storylineonline.net
- www.abcya.com
- www.highlightskids.com

FREE EBOOKS
www.openEbooks.net



LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHEAP)

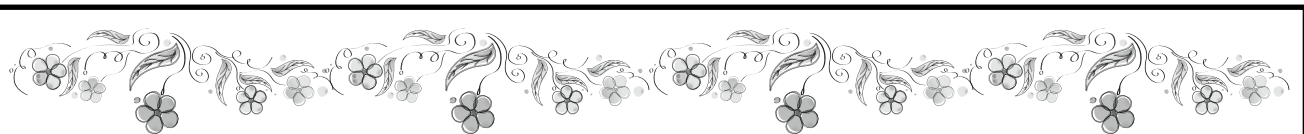
The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program helps income-eligible households pay home energy bills whose income is at or below 150 percent of the poverty level. This help may be in the form of a one-time direct payment to your utility company providing heat and/or electric or a one-time direct payment to you when your heat is included in the rent, but only if rent exceeds 30 percent of your 30-days total gross income.

Applications started October 1, 2023, for Seniors 60 years of age or over and those who are disabled, November 1, 2023 households that are disconnected from their utilities or have a disconnection notice or have less than 25% in their propane tank. December 1, 2023, all other eligible households. Documents needed to apply are: photo ID, proof of Social Security Cards for all household members, proof of gross income from all household members

for past 30 days, a copy of your current gas and/or electric bills, and if you do not pay any utility bills, all printouts from other agencies (food stamps, medical card, social security, child support), a rent receipt or lease is needed, along with landlord telephone number. Any member ages 18 or older will need proof they are or are not receiving benefits from DHS (Public Aid) and IDES (Unemployment).

Applications will also be taken in The Village of University Park at 90 Town Center Drive every Tuesday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. They will also be taking applications for furnace assistance. For more information, call 815-722-0722.

Other programs available through the Will County Center for Community Concerns are, Home Weatherization Assistance program, Mortgage Assistance, and the Home Rehabilitation program. For more information visit their website, www.wcccc.net or contact them at 815-722-0722.



MONEE TOWNSHIP SENIOR COMMITTEE

Monee Township Senior Committee's next event is Thursday, June 13, 2024. Must be 65 years of age, live in Monee Township and must call for a reservation. Free lunch. More information coming soon or contact the office for more information, 708-534-6020.

Top, Above Left and Above Right: The Senior Committee getting ready for the Drive Thru Lunch and performing the Drive Thru Lunch. **Right:** The Senior Committee making Easter Baskets.





VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

The Veterans Assistance Commission of Will County provides assistance for veterans living in Will County. Some of the services: interim and/or emergency financial assistance for basic living expenses, advocacy services to veterans and their families in applying to the proper local, state or federal agencies to procure benefits and provides assistance in filing claims to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. You may also pick up application packet for financial assistance at the township office. For more information, please call 815-740-8389.

WHY I VOTE

Hello Everyone

The United States of America is a country that has a lot to be thankful for each and every day. Despite the human rights violations, crime, hunger, homelessness, unemployment, political turmoil and other tragedies we hear of constantly in the news media, we still are a diversified group of people with much to be grateful for and much to give.

Our military veterans are crucial to the American way of life because they have protected our freedom, and risk their lives for people they have never met. Those currently serving in the various military branches continue to show the courage, skills and values necessary to keep America strong.

As an American citizen, elected public official and military veteran, I know how valuable having a representative government for the people and by the people should be. However, in order to possess a representative government, protect and preserve our way of life we must exercise our right to vote.

It is our civic duty as American citizens, veterans, soldiers, sailors, airman and military cadets to assist in educating others to strive for a better way of life. One of the best ways we can do this is by helping to educate our fellow Americans in civics and vote.

Recently I received the following from a friend that I wanted to share with everyone who reads this article. Some modification has occurred.

We can title it, WHY I VOTE.

I voted for myself

For my son, daughter and grandchildren

For our young people

For our elderly

For those who have suffered the cruel and unusual punishment of disenfranchisement

For all my ancestors who were told by the government that they were less than American and had no voice and no choice

For all my ancestors that were violently and immorally denied the constitutional right as Americans to vote

For those who didn't think their vote would matter but kept the faith and voted anyway

For the wisdom of the ages to come

For a better future

I voted in every election for all of the above to ensure that Democracy will forever prevail.

Let's not allow apathy or negativity to destroy our efforts to create a better society.

In the words of Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, Civil Rights Leader, Keep Hope Alive.

Respectfully,
Trustee James W. Young
US Army Veteran

Honor Flight Chicago

WANTED: WORLD WAR II VETS!

Honor Flight Chicago recognizes America's war veterans for their service and sacrifice by flying them to Washington, D.C., to see their memorial, at no cost. Although we are currently flying our WWII veterans only, we are also accepting applications for Korean and Vietnam War veterans. When we no longer have WWII veterans interested in flying with us, we will begin flying Korean War veterans. All Honor Flight Chicago trips depart and return from Chicago Midway International Airport. For further information, please contact us at 773-227-8387 or go online to honorflightchicago.org.

Honor Flight Chicago veteran applications are also available at the Monee Township Office, 26121 Egyptian Trail, Monee.

AROUND THE TOWNSHIP

MONEE TOWNSHIP

26121 Egyptian Trail
Monee, Illinois 60449
708-534-6020
www.moneetownship.com
Contact the office for more information about the township programs.

PAPER SHREDDING EVENT

Saturday, June 15, 2024
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
Monee Township Parking Lot
26121 Egyptian Trail
Monee, Illinois 60449
Bring your excess paper to shred. Limited to 4 bankers boxes or 4 13-gallon trash bags. No business paper accepted.

SENIOR EVENT

Senior Flag Day Luncheon – IN PERSON AT THE TOWNSHIP BUILDING
Thursday, June 13, 2024
Must be 65 years of age or over and live in Monee Township.
Call for more information.

UNIVERSITY PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY

1100 Blackhawk Drive
University Park, Illinois 60484
708-534-2580
www.uppld.org
CONTACT THE LIBRARY FOR YOUTH AND ADULT PROGRAMS

Beginner Line dancing
– Gentle Yoga – Ceramics – Jewelry Creations
– Computer Classes – DIY Crafts – Story Time – Teen Anime Club – Movie Night and much more.

PEOTONE PUBLIC LIBRARY

515 North Street
Peotone, Illinois 60468
708-258-3436
CONTACT THE LIBRARY FOR ALL YOUTH AND ADULT PROGRAMS
Visit the mobile cart at Monee Township, 26121 Egyptian Trail, Monee
Books for children and adults

CRETE-MONEE SCHOOL DISTRICT 201-U

Crete-Monee School District
Administration Center
690 Exchange Ave.
Crete, Illinois 60417
For more information, contact Carmen Cartharn, 708-367-8369

ATTENTION PARTENTS OF PRESCHOOLERS IN CRETE-MONEE SCHOOL DISTRICT 201-U

Crete-Monee Early Learning Center
For children age 3-5

years old, the district is holding online ASQ and ASQ: SE screening
For more information call 708-367-2770, or visit the website: www.elc.cm201u.org

Screenings area also available for children under the age of 3 for early intervention and Child & Family Connections. For more information call 815-768-3730

UNITY STARTS WITH U

Crete-Monee School District 201-U invites educators, guest teachers (substitutes), and support staff to join our Warrior Team of diverse professionals serving approximately 4,200 students. The district consists of nine schools, employs over 750 support and certified staff – most of whom live in surrounding communities. If you or someone you know is looking to make a difference in the lives of our youngest community members, please visit our website at www.cm201.org and select Employment today.

VILLAGE OF MONEE

For more information on all programs and events, contact the Village of Monee, 708-534-8301

VILLAGE OF UNIVERSITY PARK

For more information on all University Park programs, please call 708-534-6451, ext. 800 or visit the website www.university-park-il.com

MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH

Sunday, May 12, 2024
University Park Golf Club
23520 Crawford Ave.
\$20.00 per person
RSVP by May 3, 2024
For more information contact Sherise Moseley – 708-879-2063

THE VILLAGE OF UNIVERSITY PARK IS HIRING:

- * Human Resource Coordinator
- * Community Outreach Coordinator
- * Part-Time Program Coordinator
- * Public Works Director
- * Finance Director
- * Executive Assistant to the Village Manager
- * Maintenance Technician

MICRO PANTRY

698 Burnham Drive, University Park (in front of the Code Enforcement office)
Pick-up or drop off
Non-perishable item (no glass please when donating)

AQUA Aid

Having trouble paying your Aqua Water bill? Contact the Monee Township Office and ask about Aqua Aid. For Aqua Illinois customers only

AQUA ILLINOIS

Aqua Information Center
24650 South Western Avenue
University Park
Monday and Wednesday – 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Saturdays 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Pick-up bottled water, faucet filters or pitcher filters. Visit the website www.waterfactsil.com or call 877-987-2782 for more information

NICOR Gas Sharing Program

If you are not eligible for the LIHEAP program, you may be eligible for NICOR Sharing program. One-time annual grants are given, with no requirement to be paid back. Special programs are also designed for veterans and customers in crisis situations. Contact Monee Township for more information.

KNOW YOUR HELPLINES

988 – Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis – Free Confidential 24-7-365
911 – Medical and Public Safety Emergencies – Free 24-7-365
211 – Resource Support Line (Housing, Food, Etc.) Free 24-7-365

THORN CREEK WOODS NATURE PRESERVE

247 Monee Road, Park Forest, Illinois 60466
For information and registration on all Thorn Creek Woods Nature programs, please call 708-747-6320

NATURE EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS

A guide for Parents, Teachers, Scouts, Youth and Adult Leaders and Organizations

CENTRAL PARK WETLAND WALK

Sunday, April 28, 2024 – 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
FEE: FREE for all ages
Registration required by April 22, 2024

BIRD HIKE

Sunday, May 19, 2024 – 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
FREE for all ages
Registration by Thursday, May 20, 2024

FLOWER MOON HIKE

Thursday, May 23, 2024 – 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
FREE – Ages 10 years and up
Registration required by May 20, 2024

RENT/MORTGAGE/UTILITY ASSISTANCE

Catholic Charities' Day-break Center
611 East Cass Street
Joliet, Illinois 60433
815-774-4663

Will County Center for Community Concerns

2455 Glenwood Avenue
Joliet, Illinois 60435
815-722-0722

FOOD PANTRIES NORTHERN ILLINOIS FOOD BANK – FOOD TRUCK

Crete-Monee School District 201-U
1500 Sangamon Street, Crete, IL 60417
1st Wednesday of each month – 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

FAITH MOVERS CHURCH

425 Exchange Ave., University Park, Illinois 60484
Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
Closed on the 5th Saturdays

SECOND PLACE CHURCH OF MONEE

25655 South Governors Highway, Unit A
Monee, Illinois 60449
1st and 3rd Tuesdays
4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

NEW HOPE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

4700 West Court Street, Monee, Illinois 60449
1st Monday of each month – 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

WORKFORCE SERVICES DIVISION OF WILL COUNTY

Are you looking for a job? The Mobile Workforce Center will help you find your next job, develop a résumé, revise your résumé, post your résumé, copy and print your résumé. For more information, please call 815-727-4444.

SENIOR SERVICES

Need assistance for your Social Security, Medicare or your discount license plate applications? Age 65 and over and/or disabled persons. Contact Mary Ann Batterman, a certified SHIP Counselor, at 708-258-6917.

ILLINOIS HOME WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Illinois Home Weatherization Assistance Program is designed to help income-eligible Will County residents save fuel and energy while increasing the comfort of their homes. Assistance is available to both homeowners and renters, and can be applied to single-family residents, multi-unit buildings, mobile homes, and townhouses and condos (within association guidelines).

An assessor will conduct an energy audit on approved residences to determine what measures will make the home more comfortable and energy-efficient. Once the assessment is complete, a contractor will be assigned to apply the appropriate measures. One of our staff will then assess the work to make sure each measure called for has been completed. **We work with all types of homes!**

The program evaluates:

- Heating system: furnace will be tested and repaired

or replaced if necessary

- Insulation of exterior walls and attic areas
- Weather-stripping of doors, or replacement if needed
- Caulking of windows; repair or replace if needed
- Sealing of other bypasses that allow heated or cooled air to escape from the home
- Other energy conservation measures as funding allows, such as replacement of old refrigerators with new energy efficient models

Material and labor are free of charge to qualified homeowners. In order to provide services to leased homes or apartments, the landlord must agree to authorize work on the property and are responsible for 50% of mechanical costs when applicable.

For more information, contact the Will County Center For Community Concerns, 815-722-0722.

2024 Exemptions, Renewals, and Senior Events Updates



Sandra Heard, MBA, Monee Township Assessor, CAIO,

Spring is Here! Doors are Open!

Our office staff and I welcome the residents of Monee Township to contact our office at 46 Town Center Dr. University Park, IL 60484, by phone at 708-534-6023 or email at moneeassessor@gmail.com (is preferred) for questions or for general information check out our website www.moneeassessor.com or Facebook page. **Office hours** are Tuesday & Thursday from 9am-4pm (**Lunch hour is from 12:30-1:30pm**) and Wednesday 9am-1pm. Our office is closed on Mondays & Fridays.

Our office hours shown will be the times that the office is open for public entry. Currently, you may make appointments for office visits that require some research in preparation for your visit, but for most situations, you will be able to walk in and get assistance without having an appointment. **Email is still the preferred method of contact, as this is the best way to reach the Assessor directly.** In addition to email, we will continue responding to voicemails, and set appointments to assist you, as needed.

If an appointment becomes necessary, then you will be notified of a future meeting by phone or in person. These meetings will generally be scheduled for 20 minutes during our regular office hours. Please call or email to schedule an available time for an office visit meeting. Wearing **face masks is not required** but is optional for anyone who has safety concerns or if they have cold symptoms. We still have stations established with sneeze guards in 3 locations for the assistance inside our office. There will be a limit of 3-5 people inside the office simultaneously except for workshops or exemption events.

Workshops and Exemption Events

Q: Did you know that exemptions saves \$\$ on tax bills?

A: The Monee Township Assessor's Office assists with the completion of a variety of exemptions that are offered to **decrease** your tax bill! Exemptions are described here:

Increases in Exemptions

Based on a recent announcement at the last Board of Review meeting in July 2023, there will be the following increases in exemption amounts.

- General Homestead Exemption increases from 6,000 to 8,000
- Senior Homestead Exemption increases from 5,000 to 8,000
- (These increases will show on your tax bill received in 2024)

Disabled Veterans' Homestead Exemption

This exemption allows a veteran with a service-connected disability (SCD) of at least 30% that was issued by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to receive an exemption that reduces their assessment. **Exemption amounts below:**

- If the veteran has experienced a SCD ranging from 30%-49% will receive an exemption of 2,500
- If the veteran has experienced a SCD that ranges from 50%-69% will receive an exemption of 5,000.
- If the veteran has experienced a SCD of 70% or greater, a 100% exemption from taxes is granted.

The General Homestead Exemption is determined at the time of sale, based on the indication on the Sales document (PTAX) as the buyer's primary residence. No other action to be taken.

Additional Exemptions that decrease taxes include:

- **Senior Exemption** (must be 65 years or older)
- **Low Income Senior Citizen Assessment Freeze** (based on a household income of \$65k or less)
- **Disabled Persons' Exemption** (SSI or Doctor's statement)
- **Home Improvement Exemption** (additions or up-grades)

Check your tax bill for exemptions to see if you have all that is due to you. If you are not sure which exemption you should have on your property or what your current exemptions are, then call us during office hours and someone will be able to assist you in obtaining this information. **Do you know anyone 65 years or older? Have them contact us ASAP to verify that they have their senior exemptions.**

To understand your tax bill and exemptions come to any workshop and/or Senior event scheduled in May.

Monee Township Exemption Event

The Will County Supervisor of Assessments' office invites you to the 2024 Exemption Event scheduled for Monee Township residents in University Park. This event will be held at

90 Towncenter, University Park, IL 60484 on May 8, 2024 from 10AM -2PM.

Come see one of the exemption specialists who will be available to help you with:

- Low Income Senior Citizen Assessment Freeze – total household income of \$65,000 or less.
- Senior Homestead – 65 years or older
- Disabled Person
- Disabled Veteran – service connected.

The Assessor's Workshop YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS IT!

Information on Assessments, Exemptions, and your Tax bill.

When: May 23, 2024

Where: Monee Township Assessor's Office 46 Town Center Drive University Park, IL

Time: 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

RSVP (708) 534-6023 by May 16 (Leave a Message)

Refreshments will be served

Q: How does assessments relate to taxes?

A: The Assessor's office is responsible for applying fair assessment for the entire township. When assessments go down, the rates usually go up and when assessments go up, then the rate tends to go down, this allows the taxing bodies to receive at least what they received the previous year in their levy to meet their budget and up to 5% increase.

Q: What are the activities that affect your tax bill?

A: 1. Each year your assessment will be adjusted by the Will County **Supervisor of Assessment** (SOA's) factor. Assessment increases do affect your tax bill. Often when assessments go up, then the rate tends to go down, and as a result, people with the Senior freeze exemptions may actually see savings.

2. Then your **taxing bodies, like school boards, villages, township, county** and others will request a levy amount to fulfill their budget needs for the year, and that also affects your bill. The **levies** are generally limited to the **consumer price index (CPI)** amount, used by the county clerk. This year that amount is 5% vs a lower amounts in past years.

3. When **appeal decisions** are made by the Board of Review to lower the assessment for an appellant, this affects all taxpayers that did not receive a reduction since the assessment base is lowered because of granting reductions.

4. Finally, applying exemptions to your bill will result in savings in your taxes.

NOW HIRING

Monee Township Assessor's Office is Hiring

Field Inspector and Summer student– Database

Seeking someone who has experience or ready to learn:

- Familiar with measuring and Photographing properties
- Knowledge of Microsoft products, scan, copy, label and compile various document packages.
- Great communication and listening skills
- Able to calculate areas and perimeters square feet.
- Calculation of measure of central tendency
- Create sketches using Visio and operate Pictometry.
- Student to work on Database maintenance

These positions to be filled by May 30, 2024

Contact us by email or phone located at the top of the article

Announcement of training and information

More information will be available assessments, factors, tax rate, exemptions that saves on your tax bill via future newsletters, FB, podcasts and workshops starting this in the spring. Announcements will be made accordingly.

If you have questions regarding your assessments and how it impacts your tax bill contact us or checkout the information provided in these stated resources and locations.



Make sure to like and share our **Monee Township Assessor's Facebook** page to stay current with office events and FB Live events!!

ANNOUNCEMENT:

Coming soon – Assessor's Podcasts starting April 2024, to be informative and engaging with taxpayers. Announcement to be made on our FB page.

BENEFITS ACCESS LICENSE PLATE DISCOUNT AND/OR RIDE FREE TRANSIT CARD

This is a program through the Department of Aging, formerly known as the Circuit Breaker Program, that allows for the Secretary of State's office to provide for reduced-fee license plates for those who are 65 years of age, or persons with disabilities with specific qualifications. You must also live in the state of Illinois.

Income Limit Eligibility for the License Plate discount and/or Ride Free Transit card:

Your total household gross income last year must be less than:

- \$33,562.00 for a 1 person household (yourself only); or
- \$44,533.00 for a 2 person household (yourself and your spouse, or yourself and one Qualified Additional Resident); or
- \$55,500.00 for a 3 person household (yourself, your

spouse and one Qualified Additional Resident, or yourself and two Qualified Residents).

For more information call toll-free: 1-800-252-8980, or visit: www.cyberdriveillinois.com/services. You may also contact the Monee Township Office, 708-534-6020 or Mary Ann Battermann, a certified SHIP Counselor, 708-258-6917.

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS

Springfield Office of the Governor J B Pritzker, Governor
207 State House
Springfield, IL 62706
Phone: 217-782-6830

Chicago Office of the Governor J B Pritzker, Governor
James R. Thompson Center
100 W. Randolph St., Ste. 16-100
Chicago, IL 60601
Phone: 312-814-2121

Springfield Office Juliana Stratton, Lieutenant Governor
214 State House
Springfield, IL 62706
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Video Phone for Sign language users: 217-717-2331

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40th Legislative District Senator Patrick Joyce
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29th Representative District Representative Thaddeus Jones
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15525 South Park Avenue, Suite 104
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80th Representative District Representative Anthony DeLuca
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Springfield, IL 62706
Phone: 217-782-1719

195 West Joe Orr Road, Suite 201
Chicago Heights, IL 60411
Phone: 708-754-7900

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE Representative Emanuel Chris Welch
Springfield Office:
300 Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706
Phone: 217-782-5350

District Office:
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Westchester, IL 60154
Phone: 708-450-1000