

# **MONEE TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER**

Volume 53 - Published by Monee Township - Winter 2025 Serving Monee, University Park, the Will County portion of **Postal Customer** 

# From the Supervisor

Park Forest and unincorporated parcels in the Township

2025, a new year! I hope your holidays were joyful. I know I am looking forward to a peaceful, productive year where we can better serve our Monee Township residents.

Someone said to me that the Township was the best kept secret in this area. He was donating many coats to fill our bare coat rack (and many of these were taken by recipients of our Santa Sack Holiday Food and Gift Program). He was very impressed as our whole meeting room was filled

with 120 food baskets and gift bags containing presents for each family. I explained to him that each child 12 and under received 3 gifts and everyone 13 and older received 1 gift, and that we wrapped all senior gifts as that might be he only gift they received. A huge undertaking but worth all the work helping so many families who need a little extra help.

It is no secret that we have done this every year for over 35 years. Our outreach programs help so many people. Besides our yearly Thanksgiving Food Baskets (we gave out 102 this year), our Santa Sack Food Basket and Gift Program (we gave to 120 families this year), we also have an Easter Basket Program for children, and a Back-To-School Supply program every August. We have a General Assistance Program that is a last-resort place for Adults who have very little and need help until they get back on their feet. We also have an Emergency Assistance Program that helps families in need with utility bills and rental assistance.

We have an active Senior Committee who put on 6 events each year. The yearly Senior Holiday Brunch held at the Cardinal Creek Golf Club n Beecher was a great hit. All seniors who attended had a lovely buffet and received a small gift on their way out.

We also have a Youth Program which was revamped for our Fall 2024 session. We hired Keely Childress as Youth Coordinator. Keely took charge, hired many aides, and added many innovative activities for ages K-12. It was a

huge success. Our upcoming Spring Session will start February 9, 2025 at the Crete-Monee Middle School in University Park. Please see the Youth Flyer within this newsletter and call to register your children K-12. (no preschoolers)

We continue to have a year-round food pantry. The exciting news is that we will be expanding our Township Pantry by renovating part of the Highway Commissioner's garage into the new pantry space. We will add commercial freezers and refrigerators which will allow

us to give out frozen foods and meat products. We also hope to offer fresh fruits and vegetables and bakery items. If all goes as planned, we will have our new Pantry ready sometime next Fall. Phase 1 begins in March by building onto the Highway Commissioner's garage to replace the square feet we will take from him to renovate as the new pantry. Phase 2 is the actual pantry renovation. I am very excited that we will be able to help our Township residents in need with better food stability. Until then we will work as we have for years by using food racks along the walls and giving out mostly canned goods with canned meats and fish, and occasionally frozen hamburger from our one freezer.

Building in today's world is very costly. We will go out to bid on this project in 2025. I have savings in a capital fund account but will need to borrow more. Fortunately, University

account but will need to borrow more. Fortunately, University Park's TIF 5 dissolved in November 2024 and a nice amount of tax dollars will now come back to the Township. I will use these new funds to pay off the building loan ASAP. I am estimating that I will be able to pay off the loan in six

April 1st, 2025 will be the date of the consolidated election where I, as Supervisor, my whole Board of Trustees and all other elected officials: Highway Commissioner, Clerk, Assessor and Collector are up for re-election. The whole slate of candidates agreed to run again, and we are unopposed. For most of the slate, this will be our fifth consecutive term. All but Trustee Billy Morgan, who will enter his 2nd term, have served you well since 2009. We are very dedicated to Monee Township and are very conscious that the dollars we spend are the taxpayer's dollars and we try to use them judiciously to help our Township residents have an easier life with all our outreach programs. Thank you for your support in allowing us to serve you as your elected Township officials.

The Township also puts out a quarterly newsletter. We mail it 1st Class mail to all Monee Township residents. The newsletter is filled with Township activities and information. It also has information on what is happening in our villages of Monee, University Park and Park Forest. Read the "Around The Township" columns for this information. Our newsletter contains Veterans information, election information, Assessor's information, and anything pertinent to our Township residents. Many in our Township do not get a local newspaper anymore so we try to fill that gap. Check the "Education Corner" column for information on the 2025 University Park scholarship, the TOI scholarship, Monee Chamber of Commerce scholarship and the Village of Monee scholarship.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING: April 8, 2025, is the date of the Annual Town Meeting held at 7:30 p.m. at Monee Township, 26121 Egyptian Trail, Monee. The meeting starts at 7:30 but come early as you have to sign in as a registered voter to be allowed to vote. Anyone arriving after 7:30 is not allowed to vote. See inside this newsletter for a list of what electors can do at the Annual Town Meeting.

Have a wonderful next few winter months, stay safe and healthy, vote on April 1st and have a great new year 2025. Donna T. Dettbarn, 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

Web site: www.moneeassessor.com Office hours: March 16 - August 31

Monday: Closed

Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Wednesday 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Friday: Closed

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

Winter hours: September 1 – March 15

Monday: Closed

Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Wednesday 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Friday: Closed

Closed for lunch Noon – 1:00 p.m.

## MONEE TOWNSHIP CONTACT INFORMATION

708-534-6020 **Monee Township** Monee Township Assessor 708-534-6023 Monee Township Highway 708-534-8166 708-534-8301 The Village of Monee 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**

The Monee Township Road crew are ready for the winter weather. Snowplows are ready and salt is in good supply. Please remember to keep a safe distance of 300 feet when driving behind a snowplow truck. Please have a safe winter and hopefully spring will come early.

David Deutsche, Highway Commissioner

## **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, 706-034-6020.

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.

## EASTER BASKET PROGRAM

Spring is around the corner and Monee Township is preparing for Easter. The Township will be giving Easter baskets to children, age 12 or younger, in low-income Monee Township families. Baskets will contain toys, books and treats appropriate for the age of the recipient.

When applying, residents should bring written verification of current address, household income for the last 30 days, Photo ID, and birth certificates for the children in the household who are to receive baskets. Applications will be taken starting March 1, 2025 through March 31, 2025, Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m.

a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sign-up can be completed at the Monee Township Hall, 26121 Egyptian Trail, Monee. No applications will be accepted after March 31,

to 3:30 p.m., and Friday from 9:00

Anyone wishing to make a donation to the Easter Basket program or anyone who is in need of more information may contact Willa Simmons at the Township, 708-534-6020.



## 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 Administration.
  - 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

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 circumstances 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.



# Monee Township



## **VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION**

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL MILITARY VETERANS, retired, discharged, active duty, reserve and National Guard. Know that you are admired, valued and respected. May 2025 be another year of peace, prosperity and opportunity within the USA and all geographical countries

where our military personnel are serving.

We recognize that defending and maintaining democracy is not an easy task. It requires much work and sacrifice. Those who have faced the challenge, experienced the dangers and lived with various emotions know that duty to country requires many values which collectively allow us to sleep in peace. WE SALUTE ALL who have served with honor, courage

and integrity. Our military personnel are not and will never be forgotten. Everyone who has served, currently serving, your spouse, parents and other family members are appreciated. In remembrance of our 39th President of the USA and our

former Commander In Chief Jimmy Carter, Jan. 20, 1977-Jan. 20, 1981, know that on his second day in office, he pardoned all Vietnam War draft evaders with Proclamation 4493. This was a humanitarian act to heal America.

With much gratitude, James W. Young Monee Township Trustee, US Army Veteran

## **RECORDING YOUR DD-214**

Your Service, Your Benefits: Safeguard Them The Report of Separation contains information normally needed to verify military service for benefits, retirement, employment, and membership in Veterans organizations. Information shown on the Report of Separation may include

the service member's:

Date and place of entry into active duty
Home address at time of entry
Date and place of release from active duty
Home address after separation
Last duty assignment and rank
Military inh specialty

Military job specialty

Military education

Decorations, medals, badges, citations, and campaign

Total creditable service

Foreign service credited Separation information (type of separation, character of service, authority and reason for separation, separation and re-enlistment eligibility codes).

How do I record my DD-214 in the County Recorder or

Registrar's office?

Bring in your DD-214 paperwork after your separation date shown on your paperwork.

Bring in a picture ID

Make sure that you record your DD-214 in a convenient county. A county where you will remember the location Recording your DD-214 as well as getting copies and

certified copies are free, so please ask for what you will need when you visit the office

For more information contact the Will County Recorder of Deeds, 158 North Street, Joliet, Illinois 60432, 815-740-4637.



## 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.

## ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

- The Electors Present at the Annual Town Meeting Have The Power To:

  1. Take all necessary measures and give directions for the exercise of their corporate powers. (60 ILCS
- Fix the hour at which the town meeting shall be held. (60 ILCS 1/30-30)
- Spend monies for preparation of a detailed property record system. (60 ILCS 1/30-30)
- Make orders for the purchase and sale of property. (60 ILCS 1/30-50)
- May declare property of the township to be surplus for purposes of donating the property to a historical society or other not-for-profit corporation. (60 ILCS 1/30-53)
- Authorize the township board of trustees to appropriate monies in excess of the sum provided in the Public Graveyards Act, for the purpose of putting any old, neglected graves and cemeteries in the township in a cleaner and more respectable condition. (60 ILCS 1/30-60)
- Provide for the decoration and maintenance of graves of persons who at any time served in the armed forces of the United States which are within the township. (60 ILCS 1/30-65)
- Provide space in any township building for courtroom and office use by Circuit Court. (60 ILCS
- Authorize the township board of trustees to exercise the powers conferred by the "Township Zoning Act." (60 ILCS 1/30-75) This does not apply in any county where a county zoning ordinance or resolution is in effect.
- 10. Offer premiums, and take such action as shall induce the planting and cultivating of trees along the highways in the town, and protect and preserve trees standing along or on highways, and purchase, plant along the streets and highways in the township. (60 ILCS 1/30-85)
- 11. Make rules and regulations for ascertaining the sufficiency of all fences in the town, and determine what shall be a lawful fence within the town, except as otherwise provided by law. (60 ILCS 1/30-
- 12. Prohibit animals from running at large. (60 ILCS 1/30-95)13. Establish and maintain pounds
- where deemed necessary. (60 ILCS 1/30-100)
- 14. Impound animals. (60 ILCS 1/30-
- 15. Construct and keep in repair public wells or other watering
- places, and regulate the use thereof (60 ILCS 1/30-115)

  16. Prevent the deposit of night soil, garbage or other offensive substances within the limits of the town. This section does apply to refuse disposal facilities regulated by the Illinois State Department of Public Health and the county in which the facilities are located. (60 ILCS 1/30-120)
- 17. Adopt ordinances regulating standing or parking of recreational vehicles on township roads within each township. (60 ILCS 1/30-125)
- 18. Declare inoperable motor vehicles a nuisance. (60 ILCS 1/30-130)
- 19. Authorize the licensing and regulation and direct the location of all places of business of purchasers, traders and dealers in junk, rags and any secondhand article, including motor vehicles, except in cities, villages and incorporated towns in such township which, by ordinance, provide for such licensing, regulation or places of location. (60 ILCS 1/30-135)
- 20. Regulate hawkers, peddlers, pawnbrokers, itinerant merchants and transient vendors. (60 ILCS 1/30-140)
- 21. Authorize the township boar of trustees to provide mental health services, including services for the alcoholic, the drug addicted, and the mentally retarded, for residents of the township by disbursing existing funds if available by contracting with mental health agencies approved by the Department of Public Health Services, alcoholism

treatment programs licensed by the Department of Public Health, and drug abuse facilities and other alcohol and drug abuse services approved by the Department of Human Services. (60 ILCS 1/30-145) 22. In counties having fewer than

1,000,000 inhabitants, to authorize the board of trustees to contract with one or more incorporated municipalities lying wholly or partly within the boundaries of such township, or with the county within which the township is located, to furnish police protection in the area of such township that is not within the incorporated area of any municipality having a regular police department. (60 ILCS 1/30-

- 23. Authorize contracts with county sheriff to furnish police protection in unincorporated areas. (60-ILCS 1/30-155)
- 24. In counties having a population of 1,000,000 or more, to authorize the board of trustees to contract with one or more municipalities in the township or with the county within which the township is located to furnish police protection in the unincorporated area of the township. The board of trustees may declare the unincorporated area of the township a special police district for tax purposes, proof of which authorizes the county clerk to extend a tax upon the special police district in the amount specified in the annual town tax levy, but not to exceed a rate of .10% of the value of the taxable property as equalized or assessed by the Department of Revenue. (60 ILCS 1/30-160)
- 25. Authorize fire protection in unincorporated areas. (60 ILCS

26. Authorize the board of trustees to contract for the furnishing of mosquito abatement services in the unincorporated areas of the township. (60 ILCS 1/30-170)

- 27. Authorize the supervisor to file an application for the township and all other bodies politic established by or subject to the control of the electors to participate in the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund. (60 ILCS 1/30-180)

  28. Allow for voters at the Annual
- Town Meeting to transfer funds from one or more funds to other or different funds, or to the general road and bridge fund or any fund raised by taxation or bonds for road and bridges. (60 ILCS 1/30-185 and 1/245-5)
- 29. Make all such by-laws, rules and regulations deemed necessary

to carry into effect the powers herein granted and may impose fined deemed proper, except when a fine or penalty is already allowed by law. No offense shall be classified in excess of a petty offense. (60 ILCS 1/30-190)

30. Apply all penalties, when collected, in such manner as may be deemed most to the interests of the township. (60 ILCS 1/30-

- 31. Any group of registered voters may request an advisory question of public policy for consideration by the electors at the annual meeting by giving written notice of the specific advisory question to the township clerk in the same manner as required for an agenda item under subsection (b) of Section 30-10. The agenda published by the township board shall include any such advisory question if the request is timely filed. By a vote of the majority of electors present at a town meeting, the electors may authorize that an advisory question of public policy for question of public policy, for which notice has been given as required by this Section, be placed on the ballot at the next regularly scheduled election in the township. The township board shall certify the question to the proper election township officials, who shall submit the question in accordance with the general election law.
- 32. Adopt revised tax schedule for town purposes. (60 ILCS- 1/235-5 and 1/235-10)
- 33. Increase tax rate for road purposes. (605 ILCS 5/6-504
- . Tax for construction of bridge at joint expense of county and road district and obtain aid from county. (605 ILCS 5/6-508)
- 35. Request referendum to issue bonds for road purposes. (605 ILCS 5/6-510)
- 36. Petition for road or road improvements. (605 ILCS 5/6-
- 37. Request referendum to repeal special tax for road purposes. (605 ILCS 5/6-617)
- . Authorize the use of permanent road funds, general road and bridge funds, or town funds for the purpose of collecting, transporting and disposing of brush and leaves. Allow general road and bridge or town funds to also be used for the purpose of providing disaster relief and support services approved by the township board of trustees at a regularly scheduled or special meeting. (60 ILCS 1/30-117)



MUST LIVE: MONEE TOWNSHIP IS COMPRISED OF THE VILLAGE OF MONEE. THE VILLAGE OF LINIVERSITY PARK

THE WILL COUNTY PORTION OF PARK FOREST AND ALL UNINCORPORATED AREAS WITHIN THE TOWNSH OUR BORDERS ARE WESTERN AVENUE ON THE EAST (UNIVERSITY PARK RESIDENTS

LIVING EAST OF WESTERN AVENUE ARE NOT WITHIN OUR TOWNSHIP), HARLEM AVENUE ON THE

WEST, STEGER ROAD ON THE NORTH AND OFFNER ROAD ON THE SOUTH

## AROUND THE TOWNSHIP

#### **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** 

#### **Beginners Line Dancing and Gentle Yoga**

Line Dancing – Every Tuesday 6:30 p.m. Contact the Library to register and for more information. SIGN UP FOR YOUR LIBRARY CARD PEOTONE PUBLIC LIBRARY

515 North Street, Peotone, Illinois 60468 708-258-3436

www.peotonelibrary.org

### MONEE TOWNSHIP

Youth Night SUNDAY EVENING: February 9, and 23, 2025; March 9,

16, 23, 30, 2025, and April 6 and 13, 2025 Crete-Monee Middle School, 635 Olmstead, University

Recreational - 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. - FREE Call for more information, 708-534-6020

Would you like to be on the Monee Township Youth Committee, if so please contact the office at 708-534-6020. CRETE-MONEE SCHOOL DISTRICT 201-U

Crete Monee School District Administration Center 690 West Exchange Street

Crete, Illinois 60417 ATTENTION PARENTS OF PRESCHOOLERS IN

CRETE-MONEE DISTRICT 201-U

Crete-Monee Early Learning Center For children age 3-5 years old, the district is holding ASQ and ASQ:SE screening. For more information call 708-367-2770, o visit the website: www.elc.cm201u.org

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

#### **CRETE-MONEE SCHOOL DISTRICT 201-U**

Crete-Monee School District 201-U invites educators, guest speakers (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

know is looking to make a difference in the lives of our youngest community members, please visit our website at www.cm201u.org and select EMPLOYMENT today.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CRETE-MONEE MIDDLE SCHOOL 8TH GRADE BASKETBALL TEAM IN PLACING 3RD AT THE IESA 4A STATE TOURNAMENT.

Celebrating the win over James Hart – you've made history at CM201U, and we couldn't be more proud of your hard work and dedication!

hard work and dedication!

Ka'Miyah Reed, Jada Franklin, Scarlett Terrazas, N'Dia

Jasmine Franklin, Harper Lear, Madison Myers, Nyah Sykes, Jozarra Lewis, Alea Thorne and Kayleana Lewis.



## THE VILLAGE OF UNIVERSITY PARK

For more information on all University Park programs, call 708-534-6451 ext. 400, or visit the website www.

#### university-park-il.com MAYOR'S OFFICE OF SPECIAL EVENTS

For more information contact 708-295-0812 2nd Annual Black Success Empowerment Expo In partnership with the Village of Monee Parks and Rec-

Saturday, February 15, 2025 – 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. 90 Town Center, University Park, Illinois 60484 Music, Food, Speakers, Shopping - RSVP by January

Aqua Water Technical Assistance Program Deadline to sign up is March 7, 2025 Save the Date Mother's Day Brunch Sunday, May 11, 2025 – 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. University Park Golf Club – 23520 Crawford Avenue Prescription Drug Take Back Program University Park Police Department 650 Burnham Drive - Box in located in the lobby Unused or expired prescription drugs MICRO PANTRY

650 Burnham Drive, University Park (in front of the Code

Enforcement office)

Pick up or drop off non-perishable items (no glass, please, when donating)

#### VILLAGE OF MONEE

5130 West Court Street, Monee, Illinois 60449 708-534-8301 - contact the Village for information on programs and events within the Village.

#### **NEED LEGAL HELP?**

Administer Justice – all types of cases: Divorce/Custody; Landlord/Tenant; Debt/Collections; Estate-planning; Immigration; Criminal records and more.

For more information call 1-800-818-4554

#### AQUA Aid

Lead Sampling - University Park customers outside of the TAP area or who do not wish to sign up for the program may still have their homes sampled for lead once per month without any charge. Customers may contact Aqua at 815-614-2066 to sign up for the service. A copy of the sampling results will be mailed back to customers.

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

#### 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 customer-in-crisis situations. Contact Monee Township for more information.

#### THORN CREEK WOODS NATURE PRESERVE

For information on all Thorn Creek Woods Nature programs, please call 708-747-6320

#### **Beginning Birds for Kids**

Sundays, January 19th through February 9, 2025 – 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. – ages 18 and older, \$25.00 for 4 ses-

Registration and payment required by January 13, 2025

#### Hoo Eats Whom

Saturday, February 22, 2025 - 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. All ages - registration required by February 17, 2025 Making A Gourd Birdhouse

Sunday, March 9, 2025 – 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. \$15 per birdhouse, limit 1 per person – registration re-

## quired by March 3, 2025 KNOW YOUR HELPLINES

988 - Suicide prevention and mental health crisis -FREE, Confidential, 24/7/365

911 - Medical and public safety emergencies - FREE,

211 - Resource Support Line (housing, food, etc.) -FREE, 24/7/365 in Will County

800-799-SAFE (7233) – Domestic Violence hotline

800-656-4673 – Sexual Assault hotline 800-662-HELP (4357) – Substance Abuse/Mental Health www.griefshare.org -- Grief and Loss (support group

locator)

### www.homelessshelterdirectory.org -- Homelessness

### WILL COUNTY

United Way of Will County

Dial 2-1-1 to get connected - get help - FREE and confidential

Operators are standing by to answer your questions 24/7/365

One FREE call to 2-1-1 connects you with ALL Human Services in Will County.

Food-Clothing-Shelfer-Housing-Rent/Utility Assistance-Counseling-Substance Abuse-Domestic Violence-Sexual Assault-Transportation-Support Groups – Senior Services-Aging Parents-Employment-Legal Assistance - Health Care

### SENIOR SERVICES

Will County Senior Service Center

Will County Seniors is dedicated to connecting resources, information, services and programs to those over 60 to keep them safe, healthy, and independent. The center offers Care Screening, Emergency Senior Services, Adult Protective Service, Tax Preparation and more. For more information on our services and memberships, call 815-723-9713.

Need assistance with your Social Security, Medicare or your discount license plate applications? Are you age 65 and over and/or a disabled person? Contact Mary Ann Battermann, a certified SHIP Counselor, at 708-258-6917.

## **RENT/MORTGAGE/UTILITY ASSISTANCE**

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

for Community Concerns Will County Ce 2455 Glenwood Avenue, Joliet Ilinois 60435 815-722-0722

Community Service Council of Northern Will County 309 North Eastern Avenue, Joliet, Illinois 60432

#### 815-886-5000 **FOOD PANTRIES**

Monee Township – Year-Round Food Pantry 26121 Egyptian Trail, Monee, Illinois 60449 Monday to Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Friday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Northern Illinois Food Bank – Food Truck

Crete-Monee School District 201-U 690 Exchange Street, Crete, Illinois 60417

1st Wednesday of each month – 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Faith Movers Church

425 Exchange Avenue, University Park, Illinois 60484 Every Saturday 10:00 to Noon Second Place Church of Monee 25655 South Governors Highway, Unit A

Monee, Illinois 60449

1st and 3rd Tuesday 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. Pentecostal Church of Christ Cathedral 3840 West 216th Street, Matteson, Illinois 60443 Every Wednesday 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

## THANK YOU DONORS

Monee Township's Santa's Sack was a success due to the many kind individuals, organizations and businesses who generously donated time, food, money and gifts to make the holidays brighter for needy Monee Township families. Monee Township gives a heartfelt thank you to the many individuals who donated as well as the following businesses and organizations:

Assumption Greek Orthodox Church, Balmoral Elementary School, Clestine Hill, Coretta Scott King Magnet School, Crete Monee Middle School, Dan Pohrte-Products Architecture and Design, Dot Foods, Inc., Gwendolyn Saxton, Jo Ann Lundberg, Kenco Company, Marilyn Jupp, Mary Ann Varga, Monee American Legion #1200, Monee Chambers of Commerce, Monee Elementary, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Davis, Mr. and Mrs. James Lehnerer, Norma North, Pastor David Collins and Our Steps are Ordered (NFP) inc., Oscar and Karen Griffin, Jr., RWK design, South Holland Metal Finishing Co, Inc., Tandem Metals Incorp., The Honorable Jackie Haas, the Honorable Robin Kelly Toma's Truck Repair South. Inc. the Honorable Robin Kelly, Toma's Truck Repair South, Inc., United Way, Voortman USA Corporation, Walt's Food Center, Weldstar Company, Wende Ellison and Lynette Rache, and all those who donated who did not want to leave their name and donated anonymously.

Thanks to those who volunteered to gift wrap, bag, sort food, pack boxes and shop for the Santa's Sack program. Kayla Barry, Anna Giglio, Jane Grannum, Kathryn Haisan, Phyllis Huske, Shaquille Lathan, Marilyn Lehnerer, Phillip Snelling, Oscar Trevino, Kenco Company, Donna Dettbarn, Supervisor; Bobby R, Lathan, Sr., Clerk; Willa Simmons, Administrator; Ruth Marculatis and Shirley Lathan, Office Assistants; The Monee Township Highway Department, David Deutsche, Highway Commissioner; Jeffery Zimmer, Jeffrey Panega, Joseph Scheetz, Thonas Wojciechowski and Paul Zuro.

## 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

### SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

University Park Academic Scholarships - \$1,000.00 for high school seniors graduating in 2025 are available. Applications can be picked up at the University Park Village Hall, University Park Public Library, Crete-Monee High School, Rich Township South Campus High School and Marian Catholic High School after January 31, 2025. Applications are also online at www. university-park-il.com under News and Announcements. The deadline is April 1, 2025. This is a firm deadline. Students must be a resident of the Village of University Park.

Former University Park scholarship recipients may reapply by April 1, 2025, with a letter asking for renewal as long as their family still lives in University Park, financial information is still the same as on original application, and student provide a transcript showing GPA. All information on where to send the application form, 2025 Application for the Township Officials of Illinois can be picked up at the Monee Township Office, 26121 Egyptian Trail, Monee, or go to www.toi.org to find the application and more information online All applications must be postmarked no later than March 1, 2025.

Please also check with the Village of Monee for other scholarship information.

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



Vote for Experience in Monee Township - April 1, 2025 -

**SUPERVISOR - Donna T. Dettbarn CLERK** - Bobby R. Lathan, Sr.

HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER - David E. Deutsche **ASSESSOR - Sandra Heard** 

**COLLECTOR - Ronald Poindexter** 

### **TRUSTEES**

Terri L. Boles | Deborah Burgess William "Billy" Morgan | James W. Young

#### **Grassroots Government** Public Servants with the Experience It Takes

PAID FOR BY THE MONEE TOWNSHIP DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATION

Paid Advertisement

# New Year Has Begun! There's Much To Do In 2025



Sandra Heard, MBA, Monee Township

Assessment increases are coming! Our office staff and I welcome the residents of Monee Township to contact our office at

46 Town Center Dr. University Park, II 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.moneassessor.com or Facebook page. Office hours are Tuesday & Thursday from 9am-4pm Assessor, CAIO, (Lunch hour is from 12:30-1:30pm) and Wednesday 9am-1pm. Our office is

closed on Mondays & Fridays. Our office is open Tue-Thurs and email is best way to contact us anytime or you can come in without an appointment during office hours. 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 for help, especially with exemptions and assessment reviews. **Email is still the preferred method** of contact, as this is the best way to reach the Assessor directly at moneeassessor@gmail.com. In addition to email, we will continue responding to voicemails if you leave your phone number and set appointments to assist you, if

except for workshops or exemption events. Will County Supervisor of Assessments (SOA) Updates

necessary. We still have stations established with sneeze

will be a limit of 3-5 people inside the office simultaneously

guards in 3 locations for assistance inside our office. There

Assessment increases are expected to be applied for the Monee Township properties, by the SOA, as well as for other Will County Townships in 2025. The SOA factor for Monee Township's is estimated to be 16%. Each year factors are usually determined by the variance between market sale prices and the 3-year median sales amounts of the indicated value of a property. The indicated market value of a property is 3 times the total assessment. Some neighborhoods experienced higher variances than others due to these high sale prices that have occurred over the past 3 years. The high sales prices are due to this being a Seller's market and many of the homes that sold have been total rehabs, have major renovations or are new constructions. These sales from 2022 and 2023 should have been excluded from the Sales Ratio Study (SRS) but were not. They have and still contribute significantly to the high factors that are being assigned to this Township.

Meetings were schedule on two occasions in 2024 with the SOA to request exclusion of these rehabs from the factor calculations, but was denied The request was denied because of the timing of the sales and the timing of the request. I am making an ongoing effort to provide a list of all 2024 rehabs, non-market sales and some new constructions as candidates for exclusion this year. When this is done it will lower the factor for next year. So far there has been more than 50% of the 2024 sales have been identified for exclusion from the Sales Ratio Study by the state. I will inform you all of the results.

The Pre-Appeal assessment review process worked

In 2024, we offered a Pre-Appeal option for residential

property assessment reviewed based on the last 3 years sales. This process will be ongoing starting August 2025. If your property assessment falls below 1/3 of the median sales price for your neighborhood, then your value is supported. But if your property assessment is higher than 1/3 of the median sales price for your neighborhood, after the factor was added, then your assessment was a candidate for reduction accordingly. You have to submit the information on the form to our email moneeassessor@gmail.com or you can picked up a form to complete and drop off for your request in July. We expect to continue to be able to help get reductions for those qualified owners of the residential property who submit their request in 2025.

Q: Did you know that exemptions save \$\$ on tax

A. The Monee Township Assessor's Office assists with the completion of a variety of exemptions that are offered to decrease your tax bill! One Exemption is shown here:

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 Additional Exemptions that decrease taxes to be taken. include:

Senior Exemption (must be 65 years or older)

- Senior Freeze (based on a household income of \$65k
- Disabled Persons' Exemption (SSI, Dr's statement or
- Disabled Veterans Exemptions (from 2,500 to fully exempt)
- Home Improvement Exemption (additions or upgrades)

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.

**Disabled Veterans' Homestead Exemption** 

This exemption allows a veteran with a serviceconnected 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
- If the veteran has experienced a SCD of 70% or greater, a 100% exemption from taxes is granted and no renewal is necessary.
- Some 2024 changes include If the purchase price exceeds \$750,000 then the veteran will have to pay taxes on the difference.
- World War II veterans will now qualify for exemptions on their primary residence.

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 rate goes down, so that the taxing bodies can receive at least what they received the previous year in their levy to meet their budget.

Q: Was Commercial and Industrial property assessments increased in 2024?

A: No, there were no increases to Commercial and Industrial properties in 2024. But in 2023, for the first time in 15+ years, in this township, a factor was applied to commercial and Industrial properties to equalize the entire township. This may be limited to quad years in the future, starting with

**New Positions Openings** Monee Township Assessor's Office is Hiring Seeking someone for Office/Field Assistant:

Office and Field functions available to work part-

- Great communication, listening skills & assist Assessor
- Familiar with measuring and Photographing
- properties Knowledge of Microsoft products, scan, copy,
- label, and compile various document packages. Calculate area square feet(sf), perimeters & Linear
- Calculation of measure of central tendency.
- Use of software to produce sketches of properties. This position will be filled as soon as possible Contact us by email or phone located at the top of the article

Announcement of training and information

More information will be available on assessments, factors, tax rate, exemptions that saves on your tax bill via future newsletters, FB, podcasts and workshops starting this in the spring. February workshop will be via Zoom to give information about assessment increases in 2024 and how it impacts the bill you will receive in 2025. RSVP will require sending email address. This will be recorded.

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..



Make sure to like and share our MoneeTownship Assessor's Face book page to stay current with office events and FB Live events!! ANNOUNCEMENT: Coming soon! Assessor's Podcast & Pre-Appeal process in 2025, to be informative and engaging with taxpayers. Announcement to be made on our FB page.

## **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 Sprinafield, IL 62706 Phone: 217-558-3085 Fax: 217-558-3094 Video Phone for Sign language users: 217-717-2331

### **Chicago Office** Juliana Stratton, **Lieutenant Governor** James R. Thompson

Center 100 W. Randolph St., Ste. 15-200 Chicago, IL 60601 Phone: 312-814-5240 Fax: 312-814-5228

Video Phone for sign language users: 217-717-2331

#### 15th Legislative District **Senator Napoleon Harris**

413 Capitol Building Springfield, IL 62706 Phone: 217-782-8066

1350 East Sibley Blvd., Suite 403 Dolton, IL 60419 Phone: 708-893-0552

#### 40th Legislative District **Senator Patrick Joyce**

108 Capitol Building Springfield, IL 62706 Phone: 217-782-7419

270 Main Street Park Forest, IL 60466 Phone: 708-756-0882

#### 29th Representative **District** Representative **Thaddeus Jones** 241-E Stratton Office

Building Springfield, IL 62706 Phone: 217-782-8087

15525 South Park Avenue, Suite 104 South Holland, IL 60473 Phone: 708-596-7053

### 80th Representative **District** Representative **Anthony DeLuca**

277-S Stratton Office Building 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:** 10055 West Roosevelt

Road. Suite E Westchester, IL 60154 Phone: 708-450-1000



## **SENIOR COMMITTEE**

Monee Township Senior Committee's next event is Thursday, to 12:00 p.m., at the Monee Township, 26121 Egyptian Trail, Monee. The deadline to sign up is Friday, February 21, 2025. Must be 65 years of age, live in Monee Township and must make a reservation to attend. Be on the lookout for our senior mailing. If you are not on our senior mailing list, call the office to be added. The committee is in need of a co-coordinator to help chair the committee in planning events. If you are interested in being the co-coordinator or just joining the Monee Township Senior Committee, contact the office, 708-534-6020.



## **POLLING PLACES**

REMEMBER TO VOTE IN THE CONSOLIDATED ELECTION APRIL

POLLING PLACES FOR MONEE TOWNSHIP

Precinct 1

90 Town Center Drive University Park

Precinct 2

90 Town Center Drive University Park

Precinct 3

St. Paul's United Church of Christ 5323 Margaret Street Monee

Precinct 4

New Hope Community Christian Church

4700 Court Street Monee

**Precinct 5** 

Thornwood House 1 Thornwood Drive University Park

Precinct 6

First Baptist Church 450 University Parkway University Park

Precinct 7

University Park Library 1100 Blackhawk Drive University Park

**Precinct 8** 

St. Paul's United Church 5323 Margaret Street Monee