

www.frankforttownship.com



Jim Moustis Frankfort Township Supervisor

Dear Frankfort Township Resident,

Spring is in full swing, and I hope you can take advantage of the nice weather and spend some time in the great outdoors! Nothing beats the fresh fragrance of springtime flowers and new growth.

Given where we have all been in the past two years, the renewal that the season brings is most welcomed. Life is returning to normal and so is Frankfort Township and the many programs and services that we offer. In-person activities and vital

township services are moving ahead and you can learn more about them in this newsletter.

First, I want to express my appreciation to our hard-working staff and many volunteers who help with the Frankfort Township Food Pantry. During the past two years we have lent assistance and helped offer food security to thousands of people in our area. Visit frankforttownship.com for more information on the Food Pantry.

The Township is again offering many services, and fun activities for our senior population. Please check out the rest of this newsletter or visit the website to explore what interests you. Whether it's bingo, exercise classes, social outings, movies, or

communal meals with friends, Frankfort Township is a great place to have fun and keep busy. Frankfort Township provides transportation assistance to residents that are 60 years and older and/or have disabilities. Rides are available for medical appointments and work.

There are many other services available to Frankfort Township residents including our branch, leaf, and brush pick-up provided by our Township Road Commission, electronics recycling, voter registration, handicapped placard applications, and even a "nurses' closet" where you can borrow medical equipment. Once you explore it all I am sure you'll discover that getting to know Frankfort Township government is worth your while!

Two events I would like to especially highlight are:

A Job Fair on - Wednesday, August 17, from 4pm - 6pm, and a very special Low Vision Products Road Show hosted by the venerable Chicago Lighthouse to be held on Wednesday, June 8 from 10am – 3pm. You can learn more about these upcoming events in the newsletter.

Finally, I would like to remind everyone about getting your Covid vaccine and booster shots. Vaccination is clearly the best thing you can do to stay safe and healthy and now that the FDA has authorized a fourth shot, I urge you to get yours. In the meantime, I wish everyone a healthy happy and safe Springtime and Summer. Enjoy the great outdoors!

Best Wishes,

Jim Moustis, Frankfort Township Supervisor

YOUR TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT Workfort Township Covernment provides a wide variety Your Frankfort Township offers:

Your Frankfort Township Government provides a wide variety of important services for residents. While many residents are familiar with services like our senior housing and mosquito abatement, we offer a wide variety of services to our residents including operating PACE transportation services, voter registration, road maintenance and more. You can visit our website at www.frankforttownship.com to learn more about these services.

Check our website at www.FrankfortTownship.com for more information.

• Senior Housing

- Senior Activities
- Handicap Placards
- Mosquito Abatement
- VoterRegistration
- Early Voting

- General Assistance
- Nurse's Closet
- Frankfort Township Cemetery
- Food Pantry
- PACE dial a ride

And more...

OFFICE ADDRESS:

11000 W. Lincoln Highway Frankfort, IL 60423

PHONE: 815-469-4907 FAX: 815-469-4911

Monday-Friday 8 A.M. to 4 P.M. CONNECT WITH US ON FACEBOOK!

Frankfort Township facebook.com/ FrankfortTownshipIllinois

Frankfort Township Charities facebook.com/ frankforttownshipcharities

SUPERVISORJames Moustis

TRUSTEES

Nick George Gayla Smith David Smith Laura Miroballi ASSESSOR Joseph Kral

HIGHWAY
COMMISSIONER
Bill Carlson

CLERK Nella Piccolin

COLLECTOR Jessica Kot

PRSRT STD L.S. Postage Homewood, IL Permit No. 130

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RESIDENTIAL POSTAL CUSTOMER

Nella Piccolin

Clerk's Corner

How wonderful it is to breathe the spring air as we all emerge from the pandemic and resume normal activities another. One of those special activities was our annual – in person - Frankfort Township meeting. It was great to see so many of you there! Please come

back often and stop in to say hello or participate in many of our Township activities. My personal and favorite indulgence during spring is working in my garden. There's just something about planting flowers or vegetables and watching them grow.

But, my primary job when I'm not in my garden is to work for you!. My goal is always to provide you with top notch service.

The duties of township clerk are many and varied and include:

- Serve as executive secretary to the township board.
- Keeper of the municipal seal.

- Maintain custody of all minutes and archival records and When necessary, advertise ordinances, resolutions, and the municipal budget.
- Attest to the signatures of municipal officers and officials.
- Maintain receipt of service for legal documents.
- Administer and record oaths of office.
- Local election authority in our municipality working closely with the County Clerk.
- All other duties that may be imposed by state statutes and regulations or municipal ordinances or regulations.

As your Township Clerk, I am committed to act in an ethical, responsible, and hardworking manner to serve the people of our great township.

I have been elected to serve all Frankfort Township residents. As you clerk, I want to be as accessible as possible. Please feel free to contact me with any concerns or ideas on how I can better serve you.

Thank you once again! It is my privilege to serve you.

TOWNSHIP ASSESSOR STRIVES FOR **TRANSPARENCY**

Education key to understanding property taxes

Frankfort Township Assessor Joseph Kral is charged with ensuring that property in the Township is fairly appraised and valued. The tax rate and levy on every property tax bill are numbers approved by Township Trustees and then applied to every piece of assessed property. The tax rate and levy are fixed numbers for everybody, but the assessed value varies from parcel to parcel. Determining those values is the job of the Assessor. It is the assessed value of property applied to the tax rate and levy that determines what property taxes you will pay.

As Assessor, Kral oversees the identification of all properties and maintains a detailed inventory of what parcels are "on the books". Assessments of every property are made in accordance with the State Tax Commission's regulations methods and procedures.

Property tax assessments can be hard to understand for many people. It's for that reason that Assessor Kral is ready and willing to take the time to sit down and explain the process to any homeowner. And he's more than happy to explain how the appeals process works if you believe your property was improperly assessed. Maybe that's why Assessor Kral's office won an award from the state for his work launching a "soft appeals" process.

The soft appeals process offers a chance for property owners to sit down and discuss their property value with the Assessor face to face before the formal appeals process begins. Residents can ask questions and

Joseph Kral prepare to file a formal appeal if they believe a change to their property value is warranted. And Kral says that new property owners can bring in their closing papers if the purchase price for their property is different than the



"I strive to ensure fair and equitable assessments," said Kral. "I'm available to answer any questions that people have about their home or property value. I urge folks to visit our website and explore the many areas that provide useful information like how to look up your property, how to file an appeal or just simply learn how our office goes about the peoples' task of assessing property in Frankfort Township."

assessed value and he can drop the value accordingly.

Property assessments can be hard to understand, but Assessor Kral's office is always ready to help you understand how the process works.

For more information visit www.FrankfortAssessor.com or call 815-464-3180.





Trustee Nick George

SENIORS RECEIVE GIFTS OF WARMTH AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Over the past twelve months we have witnessed a sort of community re-awakening. Lots of folks are excited to enjoy the fresh start that springtime brings. However, there are some in our community, for whom the effects of the pandemic remain a daily struggle. Many residents, especially seniors, remain cautious about leaving their homes. As a result, these individuals often become physically, emotionally, and mentally secluded. Many of

our neighbors feel isolated, lonely, and excluded, especially around holidays or sentimental times, like birthdays or anniversaries.

In 2021, Frankfort Township Charities introduced its Simple Gestures Initiative, and we're proud to say our first effort – a blanket drive - was a success! The seniors were truly surprised and delighted with their gifted blankets. Many of them contacted us with their appreciation. Because of the impact we had, Frankfort Township Charities chose to highlight our seniors for a second year with a Valentine's Day Coffee Mug Drive. We collected just under 100 new coffee mugs which we stuffed with a hot cocoa treat bag and a handmade Valentine's Day card. Thanks in part to the Meals on Wheels program, the donations received from the Mug Drive were delivered to each homebound senior who receives a meal in the Frankfort Township area.

The community was so generous that we donated the remaining mugs to the senior clients at the Township Food Pantry where they picked them up during their monthly shopping appointments. A special thank you to Frankfort Township Charities Board Member, Stacey Ripp, the driving force behind the success of both the Valentine's Day blanket and mug drives. Her efforts have enabled us to brighten the day for some of our senior neighbors two years in a row. Frankfort Township and Frankfort Township Charities will continue to shine a light on our local seniors, as they are the fastest growing demographic needing outside assistance. The primary mission of Frankfort Township Charities is to assist

impoverished Frankfort Township residents. That also means not letting those closest to us feel alone. It takes just a few minutes to knock on a neighbor's door and ask if they're alright. Old and young alike, we can all benefit from the kindness of others.

The next Simple Gesture will take place later this summer when our focus will shift to the younger members of our community and we hold a school supply drive. Frankfort Township Charities believes that school aged members of our community need the basic tools, such as proper school supplies, for a strong foundation toward success. We are confident that the rest of the community will step up again by donating and volunteering to make this Simple Gesture a success. Together we will make sure the students of families experiencing hardship have what they need to start the school year prepared.

While Frankfort Township Charities understands we cannot address every problem wrought by poverty or financial hardship, it is our mission to be a local resource dedicated to making a positive impact on those experiencing it. The Frankfort Township Charities is a locally based 501c3 non profit foundation with a mission to assist impoverished Frankfort Township residents.

Looking to volunteer? Come and see what we're about.

"Frankfort Charities is an invaluable asset to our township," said Frankfort Township Trustee Nick George. "It's more than just a charity, it fosters friendship and community."

We welcome new members, contact Frankfort Township Charities President Lucy Eaton via email at FTCharities@gmail.com or call (815)469-4907.

The last few years have been challenging, but when we work together, great things will be accomplished. There is help out there. If you or someone you know is experiencing financial or food hardship within Frankfort Township, please contact us at (815)469-4907. We can help.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

Frankfort Township offers general assistance to qualified residents of Frankfort Township.

Our case worker can also offer residents help in accessing other community assistance like Illinois Supplemental Nutrition Assistance, commonly known as SNAP, and Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, known as LIHEAP.

For more information about these and other community assistance programs please contact Lucy Eaton at 815-469-4907 ext. 2768.

Semon Housing



Trustee Dave Smith

As individuals age, housing can become a challenge for seniors. Homeowners are often unable to keep up on maintenance for a house that may be larger than what they need. Frankfort Township helps fill the need for affordable housing for our seniors. The township operates Landings Pointe and Autumn Valley Senior Housing. These beautiful, modern apartment buildings are available to seniors who are age 60 and older are Frankfort Township residents or who have at least one child residing in the township.

Seniors must be able to live on their own.

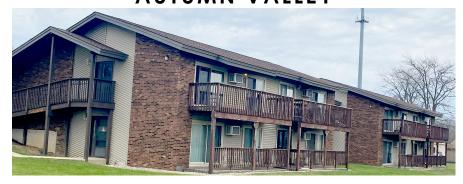
"I'm very proud that our Township offers this option for seniors to age in their own homes right here in our community," said Frankfort Township Trustee Dave Smith. "Housing like this is critical to our social fabric."

LANDINGS POINTE



Landings Pointe Senior Housing has two bedroom units for a maximum total residency of three people. Each unit includes appliances and a designated parking space in the underground parking garage. The space is for a small to medium car. All units include appliances and residents are responsible for all utilities. Children of applicants must be at least 50 years old to qualify for residency.

AUTUMN VALLEY



Autumn Valley Senior Housing has single bedroom units with a maximum residency of two. The units all include appliances and are all electric and residents are responsible for all utilities.



Frankfort Township provides applications for temporary and permanent handicap placards. Persons with temporary disabilities will be issued a placard which will be good for the length of time certified by a physician up to a maximum of three months.



TOWNSHIP PACE BUS GETS RESIDENTS WHERE THEY NEED TO GO

Transportation is a vital piece of a healthy, fulfilling life and Frankfort Township is dedicated to getting residents where they need to go. If you are 60 years or older or have a disability, your township can help you get to medical appointments or work.

"This is a vital service for our seniors and special needs residents," said Township Supervisor Jim Moustis. "People need transportation to get to work and medical appointments. We're dedicated to providing that service and I'm thankful that we are able to help our residents get where they need to go."

While PACE provides low-cost busses, the Township operates them and covers all other expenses, including drivers. Frankfort Township also partners with the county's Will Ride program for residents that need to travel outside of the township. You can schedule a ride by calling 815-806-2767 Monday through Friday between 8am and 3:30 pm. There are no same day bus rides so call in advance.

SENIOR TRIP TO THE SMOKY MOUNTAINS OF TENNESSEE

If you're looking to get away from it all, mark your calendars for September 10-15, 2022, for a six-day trip to Tennessee's iconic Smoky Mountains. The package includes five nights of lodging, transportation, five breakfasts and dinners, including dinner at Dollywood, tours, shows, and more.

Brought to you by the Frankfort Township Board, this tour is not to be missed. Attendees will be treated to four shows at the Country Tonite Theater, Paula Deen's Lumberjack Feud, the Charlie Bob Morning Show, and Hatfields & McCoys Feud. In addition to those shows, the trip includes admission to Dollywood theme park, a tour of the Biltmore Estate, a Smoky Mountain Tour, and a tour and tasting at the Ole Smoky Tennessee Moonshine distillery.

A trip meeting will be held in June and contact sheets need to be completed by every traveler. Travel insurance is available. The cost for the trip is \$975 for double occupancy and \$1,225 for single occupancy.

Visit FranfortTownship.com or call Jodi Dilling at 815-806-2766 for more information and access to forms.



CONGREGATE MEALS RESUME FOR SENIORS

Balanced diet helps seniors stay independent

Proper nutrition is vital to the health and wellbeing of all people and for seniors it can be the difference between moving into an assisted living facility and staying in their own home. That's why Frankfort Township works with Will County Senior Services and the Community Nutrition Network to provide tasty, nutritional meals for residents who may struggle with food insecurity.

"We're happy to say that the Community Café program is back," said Township Supervisor Jim Moustis. "For those that qualify, meals on wheels and the Community Café provide healthy food and options to eat and socialize in a congregate setting."

Close to 45 clients currently use the café or receive meals on wheels, delivered to their homes. The home delivery also provides the opportunity to conduct a wellness check.

"In addition to someone physically going to a resident's home and interacting with them five days a week, we also conduct weekly phone calls with clients," said Gabrielle Haywood, who manages the Will County operation for Community Nutrition Network. "It's important for people to feel connected to their community and we're glad to be a part of the community fabric."

If you or a loved one needs food assistance, you can contact Will County Senior Services as 815-723-9713.

Nurse's Closet

NURSE'S CLOSET LOANS MEDICAL EQUIPMENT TO RESIDENTS FOR FREE

A medical accident or surgery can be difficult to cope with on its own. But if you or a loved one also needs a wheelchair, cane, crutches, or a walker, the financial burden can be difficult to handle. And what to do with those medical devices if you no longer need them?

"I'm very proud of the Nurse's Closet which has been quietly helping residents save money for more than twenty years," said Township Clerk Nella Piccolin. "This free service is supported entirely through donations and your donations will be greatly appreciated by the next family in need."



The Nurse's Closet is a free library type of service that loans medical equipment to residents for 90 days. Items are available for adults and children and if the item is needed for longer than 90, an extension can be given. So don't buy that walking cast or crutches, call the Nurse's Closet to see if they have what you need. You can reach them at 815-469-4907.

NEWS FROM YOUR FRANKFORT **TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY** Senior Center

The Frankfort Township Senior Center at 20701 Landings Pointe Road in Frankfort is running a full roster of activities in partnership with Will County Senior Services and Catholic Charities to help older residents socialize and stay active. Senior Site Manager Kathy Brady and lead volunteer Mary Brennan have been instrumental to the successful programming, working hard to make each guest feel welcome. Lunch or a snack is provided on most programming days.

From holiday parties, to exercise classes, there is something for everyone at the Senior Center. A partnership with the Lincolnway Special Recreation Association (LWSRA) also brings special events to some of their older participants.

Seniors 60 and over can join us for weekly BINGO including five cent BINGO on the second and third Monday of the month from 11a - 3p, and penny BINGO each Tuesday and Thursday from 11a – 2:30pm.

Contact Kathy at (815) 557-3849 for information or volunteer opportunities.



Collector Jessica Kot

If you're planning a staycation this year, you might want to visit one of Illinois most interesting tourist attractions, right here in our own back yard, Frankfort Township Cemetery. That's right. You'll find some of the oldest gravesites in Will County, in fact, some of the oldest graves in Illinois. Some graves predate the Civil War.

The style of grave markers has changed over the course of time and Frankfort Township recently hired

Stonehugger Cemetery Restoration to restore every marker in the cemetery. The renewed beauty of these grave markers is truly something to behold.

"We are very fortunate to have this piece of history right in our own back yards," said Township Collector Collector Jessica

Kot. "There are some beautiful old monuments located in the cemetery and some of them are quite old, dating back nearly 200 years."

The oldest gravesite belongs to Sarah Hill, dated November 2, 1836. The 1873 atlas of Will County, recounts that the unnamed cemetery was surrounded by the Alias Scheer Family Farm. Until the Frankfort Cemetery Association was formed in 1891, the burial ground was informally known as the Scheer Cemetery.

On August 23, 1894 the newly formed association had the cemetery surveyed. It was recorded with the State of Illinois on January 17, 1896.

As the members of the association aged, they wanted to ensure that the graves would be preserved with dignity and the grounds maintained. Consequently, they donated the cemetery to Frankfort Township along with an access road. The Township has maintained both ever since that time.

MOSQUITO CONTROL

A MATTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH



Trustee Gayla Smith

Frankfort Township provides mosquito abatement to unincorporated areas of the township throughout the summer months. Not only are mosquitoes a pesky nuisance, they are also well documented carriers of some types of disease.

"Mosquito abatement is something that we sometimes take for granted," said Township Trustee Gayla Smith. "We take public health seriously in Frankfort Township and this service really is a valuable public health tool ." Residents can take some simple steps around their homes to make sure that mosquitos aren't unknowingly invited First and foremost, mosquitos will be attracted to even the smalles amounts of standing water. Look for standing water and remove it from gutters, flower pots, tires, buckets and trash cans. Baby poo should also not be left with standing water for long periods and

birdbath water should be changed frequently.

Residents can find out when their area is scheduled to be sprayed by calling our hotline at 1-800-942-2555. Frankfort Township contracts Clarke mosquito control services for abatement in our communities. More information can be found on their website at www.clarke.com.





GET REGISTERED IN FRANKFORT **TOWNSHIP**

Are you new to Frankfort Township?

Are you ready to exercise your constitutional right to vote? Anyone who wishes to vote in Will County must be registered and can do so by filling out an application at the Township office. Early voting is also available at the Township office to any registered voter in Will County.





From street repairs to snow plowing, the Frankfort Township Road District stays busy all year. The Road District provides road, sidewalk, bridge, and curb repairs, ditch maintenance, as well as snow removal and road salting during the winter. The District also provides weekly branch pickup in the spring and summer and leaf pickup in the fall. And with more than 60 miles of centerline road under the Department's jurisdiction, there is never a shortage of work.

"My goal is to utilize the resources of the township to best serve our constituents," said Township Road District Commissioner Bill Carlson. "I work alongside our street maintenance crews so I can see firsthand our needs and how well we are fulfilling them."

Beginning May 2, the Road District will start their branch pickup program. Branch pickup is strictly for tree and bush trimmings. Only that type of debris will be picked up. Branches must be out by the road by 7:00 am on Monday. They should be placed on the ground at the roadside with the cut ends facing the street. Bundling branches is not necessary. Thorny debris should be in a separate pile.

The Road District also handles home improvement permits. Permits are needed for improvements including for driveway replacement, new garage construction, home additions, deck and shed installations, and pool installations. Residents can contact the office to obtain a permit or find out if they need one.

Office hours are Monday – Friday, 7:00 AM to 3:30 PM. You can reach the Frankfort Township Road District by phone at 708-479- 9673 or by email at ftrd@comcast.net. The Road District is located at 9434 W. LaPorte Road in Mokena.



Looking for

The Workforce Services Division of Will County will be holding a job fair in the Frankfort Township community room at 11000 W. Lincoln Highway on Wednesday, August 17th from 4pm – 6pm.

Job Fair attendees can expect a variety of businesses from around the area to be present and able to answer questions about available positions in their companies. Attendees should bring their resumes and dress for success. There is also the possibility of on-the-spot interviews.

If you need help preparing for job interviews, polishing up your resume, or would like to participate in a hands on workshop, visit the Workforce Services Division of Will County website at www.jobs4people.org.



TECHNOLOGY HELPS PEOPLE WITH LOW VISION

Vision Loss is a source of frustration for many people. Thankfully, technology is available to help people with low vision continue to live independent, fulfilled lives. If you or someone you know has low vision, make sure to mark your calendar for the Chicago Lighthouse Low Vision Products Road Show on June 8th from 10am to 3pm.

"The Township is always looking for ways to support our residents, especially the elderly and people with disabilities," said Township Supervisor Jim Moustis.

The Low Vision Road Show provides an opportunity for the public to learn about the latest in assistive technology with the help of staff from the Chicago Lighthouse. Attendees can see product demonstrations and explore new tools that can help with work, school, and daily life.

The Road Show is free to attend and open to the public. Low vision products demonstrated at the event may include independent living products like talking clocks and watches, kitchen items, and large-button phones. Products like computer aids, reading devices and voice activated GPS can also be expected.

Serves all walks of like

Pilot plan would open pantry one Saturday per month



Trustee Laura Miroballi

More than 200 people shopped for essential items at the Frankfort Township Food Pantry in the month of March. And while that is less than a third of the number of clients who shopped there during the height of the pandemic when many people were out of work, the number of people experiencing food insecurity has been inching up as inflation and rising gas prices put stress on people's pocketbooks.

"A lot of our clients are seniors who may be on a fixed income," said Food Pantry Director Steve Muransky. "We also serve families with children and rising prices for consumers has lead more people to come in to the food pantry in the last few months."

The Frankfort Township Food Pantry welcomes these people in from Monday through Friday from 9am to 3pm. Clients are allowed half an hour to shop for food, health and beauty products and even pet food. Muransky said that not everyone can shop during those hours, so they will be opening the pantry for one Saturday per month beginning May 14.

"The standard hours don't work for all of our clients," said Muransky. "They may be a caretaker during the day or work a job that doesn't allow them to shop on a weekday."

Muransky said that the Lions Club recently held a coat drive for the food pantry and a local school collected hats, gloves, and scarves for clients of the pantry. During the Thanksgiving and Christmas season, the pantry received turkeys and hams with boxes to make complete holiday meals.

The pantry relies heavily on volunteer workers. The latest count pegged the number at 56.

"Volunteers are vital to food pantry operations," said Township Supervisor Jim Moustis. "They are a lifeline to the community, and we couldn't operate without them."

Volunteers help stock the food pantry and make deliveries to homebound residents in addition to other tasks. Individuals interested in volunteering at the Frankfort Township food pantry, you can visit the township website or call 815-469-4907.

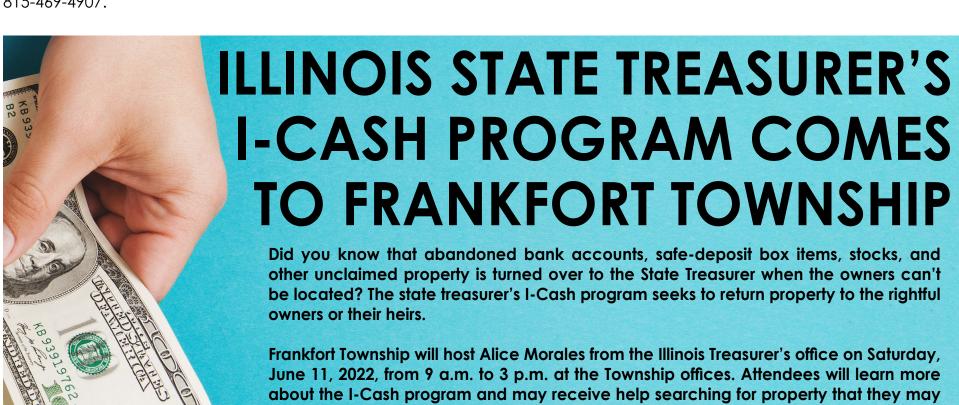


A big thank you to Old Plank Trail Community Bank for their support of the Frankfort Township Food Pantry. From left to right: Karen Allen, Bank Chairman & CEO Paul Slade, Township Supervisor Jim Moustis, Joe Zahour, and Mike Hilton

The food pantry also has a great relationship with the Northern Illinois Food Bank which provides things like milk, eggs, butter, and cheese. Anyone wishing to donate to the pantry can find a wish list on the Frankfort Township website at www.frankforttownship.com under the food pantry tab which includes popular items like rice mixes, coffee, and deodorant.

"Our township residents and business community really step up to help our most vulnerable residents," said Township Trustee Laura Miroballi. "Whether it's collecting food, raising money, or showing up in person, it's great to see so many people working together to make our food pantry work."

A special thank you goes out to our local Meijer store in Mokena and all of the people who participated in the Double Match program or purchased Simply Give gift cards to help stock our food pantry. In 2021, a total of \$39,810 was raised through Simply give donations and the Double Match Days. The next Double Match Day opportunity will be held on Saturday, June 18, 2022. On that day, every \$10 Simply Give purchase will be matched with a \$20 contribution from Meijer. This is a wonderful way to stretch your donation so please consider participating in this important event.



be entitled to receive.