

**Monee  
Township  
Founded 1859**

# MONEE TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

Local  
Postal Customer

PSRST STD  
ECRWSS  
U.S. POSTAGE  
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EDDM Retail

Volume 45 - Published by Monee Township - Winter 2023  
Serving Monee, University Park, the Will County portion of  
Park Forest and unincorporated parcels in the Township

## From the Supervisor

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!** My wish for all is that you stay healthy and happy in 2023. We survived the frigid temperatures in December and the New Year has come in gently with slightly above normal temperatures and very little snow. We do live in Illinois so that may change but every nice day gets us closer to Spring.



**YOUTH COMMITTEE: YOUTH NIGHTS ARE BACK!!!** Starting Monday, February 27, 2023, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Coretta Scott King Magnet school in University Park. We will have six bi-weekly sessions ending 5/8/2023. Covid-19 caused many students to fall behind educationally so our NEWLY REVISED YOUTH NIGHT PROGRAM will have an education mode from 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. and a recreation mode from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. See the full article on the Youth Night in this newsletter with a six session break down of exciting learning subjects like: Slimy Science, Recycle Power, Elephant toothpaste, Robotics, and Core Math. Additionally, when students proceed to the recreational mode to play basketball, games, crafts, we are inviting parents, guardians and grandparents to tutoring sessions on Core Math so they can help their students with homework.

Only Monee Township residents may apply. Grades K thru 12. Call the Township at 708-534-6020 for more information or come in to the Township to fill out registration forms and pay a one-time \$5.00 per student fee or a family fee of \$25.00. You MUST be registered to attend. Students must attend both the Education Mode and the Recreation Mode. Registration deadline is February 20, 2023. Fees may be waived for families with financial difficulties. This program is headed up by our Youth Committee Chair, Township Trustee Billy Morgan.

**SENIOR COMMITTEE: NEXT EVENT VALENTINE DAY FEBRUARY 14, 2023:** Drive-up Senior Luncheon. FREE for Monee Township Seniors 65 and over. You MUST call and register and pick your sandwich type: 708-534-6020. See article in newsletter. In December, the free Annual Senior Holiday Brunch was held at the Green Garden Country Club. It was a great time with good food and excellent entertainment. Everyone who attended received a gift and many won poinsettias. Thank you to our Senior Committee for all they do and for the Township Board for supporting all their activities.

**HOLIDAY REPORT:** (See the full report in this newsletter.)

Thank you to all the companies, schools, churches and individuals who donated money, food, toys, gloves, scarfs, and other gifts. And a big Thank you to our loyal volunteers who helped sort food, wrap presents, pack toy bags and do all it takes to provide a good Holiday to families in need of a little help. A special thanks to Willa Simmons, our Township Administrator, Shirley Lathan, Office Assistant, and to Ruth Marcukaitis, our jack of all trades. Also I thank David Deutsche, Highway Commissioner and his road crew: Jeff Zimmer, Ruben Saucedo and Paul Zuro. They picked up food and toys from companies and schools and picked up the Toys for Tots gifts in Joliet. Without all our Township workers and volunteers, we would not be able to help so many residents. Thank you all again.

**THANKSGIVING FOOD BASKET PROGRAM:** 57 families were helped with varying food basket sizes based on family size. They also received gift cards.

**SANTA SACK PROGRAM: FOOD BASKETS AND PRESENTS FOR ALL.** 83 families were helped with food baskets of varying sizes based on family size. PLUS every child 0-12 received four gifts for a total of 248 gifts. Everyone 13 and up each received 1 gift for a total of 124 gifts. That makes 372 gifts we gave out and we wrapped all senior gifts as it might have been the only gift they received. This program is a big project and I thank all who helped.

**FEBRUARY 23, FREE FOOD DISTRIBUTION DAY.**

**FROM 9:00 AM TO NOON** (or until we run out.) You must show ID proving you are a Monee Township resident. We will have 100 bags of food available, first come, first served. Drive up to side door of Township located at 26121 Egyptian Trail, Monee, IL. Any questions, please call 708-534-6020.

**ARPA GRANT:** The Township will be reimbursed for many programs that are helping our Township residents. We will be reimbursed for a portion of the Senior Lunch program. We will be reimbursed for our Youth Program Youth Night. We will also be reimbursed for our cash assistance program of \$100 dollar gift cards given to Thanksgiving and Santa Sack requesters, if they met financial guidelines required by grant. We will also get reimbursement to help with utility and rental assistance thru this cash assistance program. To qualify Township residents must have an income level at or below 300% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

**SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE:**

**UNIVERSITY PARK ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP FUND: \$1000.00 each.** Only for University Park High School Seniors Graduating in 2023. Applications due 4/1/23. This is a firm deadline. Applications can be found now on the University Park Village Web site. After 1/31/23 applications will be available at University Park Village Hall, the University Park Library and at the high schools. Former UP scholarship recipients may reapply with a letter asking for renewal as long as family still lives in UP, financial information is still the same as on original application, and provides a transcript showing GPA. All information on where to send applications is on application form.

**TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS OF ILLINOIS SCHOLARSHIP \$2000.** Deadline to apply is March 1, 2023. Must be mailed in. See info in this newsletter on requirements and how to apply.

**Village of Monee:** Check with the Village of Monee to see what scholarships are available for Monee residents.

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING:** April 11, 2023 is the date of the Annual Town meeting held at 7:30 pm at Monee Township, 26121 Egyptian Trail, Monee. Our next newsletter will have more information on it.

**MONEE TOWNSHIP HONORED AT NOVEMBER CONVENTION:** The Township Officials of Illinois (TOI) honored Monee Township with a plaque from the Illinois Association of General Assistance Caseworkers naming Monee Township as TOWNSHIP OF THE YEAR. It was my honor to accept this award for the Township. This plaque was only possible because of the excellent efficiency and kindness of our Township Administrator, Willa Simmons, who is also the Township's General Assistant Caseworker. Thank you Willa for all you do!

Stay safe and well, please update your Covid-19 vaccines to keep you from the extreme effects of the virus. Have a great Winter!

*Donna Dettbarn, Monee Township Supervisor*

## YOUTH NIGHT – NEW AND IMPROVED

Billy Morgan, Monee Township Trustee and Youth Committee Chair, and Supervisor Donna Dettbarn have worked with the new Youth Night Coordinator, Tara Pugh, to create the scheduling for the Township's NEW AND EXCITING YOUTH NIGHT. We are offering a new concept blending Education and Recreation.

**WHEN:** MONDAY EVENINGS, BI-WEEKLY: 2/27/23, 3/13/23, 3/27/2023, 4/10/23, 4/24/2023, 5/8/23.

**WHERE:** CORETTA SCOTT KING MAGNET SCHOOL, 1009 Blackhawk Drive, University Park, IL 60484.

**TIME:** EDUCATION MODE: 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

RECREATION MODE: 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

This program is for Monee Township residents only. All attending MUST be registered. There is a one-time fee of \$5.00 per student or \$25.00 per family. Register at Monee Township, 26121 Egyptian Trail, Monee, IL. Call 708-534-6020 for more information.

This program is for students in Grades K – 12. Note that students K – 6th grade must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Students must attend the Education mode to be allowed in the Recreation mode.

There will be three modules each session broken into grade groups: K-4, 5th-7th, 8th-12. Below is the planned classes of STEM activities for each session. Note that Tutoring for Core Math for Parents, Guardians or grandparents will be held session 1, 3, and 5 during recreation time for the students. This is to help them help their students with homework.

Monee Township STEM Activities Program

Written by Tara Pugh, Grades K-4, 5-7, 8-12

Session 1, February 27: Module 1: Science K-4 Slimy Science – The kids will engage in a slime lab, while learning about the chemistry behind slime making. Technology and Engineering 5-7 Recycle Power – The children will learn what technologies are behind creating new products from recycled materials. They will complete a recycle project by week 2. Math 8-12 The Core essentials – Common Core Math activities to help your child strengthen their math basics and ultimately their math abilities. Parents – (in recreation time) Understanding Core Math.

Session 2, March 13: Module 2: Science K-4 Elephant Toothpaste – students will observe a chemical change by combining a yeast mixture with hydrogen peroxide and dish soap. Technology and Engineering 5-7 – Students will complete the recycle/create project. Math 8-12 – Students will continue to apply Core Math to everyday activities easing the frustration of the learning process.

Session 3, March 27: Module 3: Math K-4 The Core Essentials – Common Core Math activities to help your child strengthen their math basics and ultimately their math abilities. Science 5-7 How does it grow? – The students will engage in a life science project. The students will need to bring an empty egg carton. Technology and Engineering 8-12 Robotics – Students will learn about and create a robotic. Students must be present for all sessions to participate. Parents – Understanding Core Math during recreation mode.

Session 4, April 10: Module 4: Math K-4 – Students will continue to apply Core Math to everyday activities easing the frustration of the learning process. Science 5-7 will evaluate the growth progress of their project and participate in a discussion about life in our ecosystem. Technology and Engineering 8-12 – The students will complete the robotics project.

Session 5, April 24: Module 5: Technology and Engineering K-4 – You can build it! – The children will enter the world of Lego's while learning about the technology of building. There will be various building projects for them to try. Math 5-7 – The Core essentials – Common Core Math activities to help your child strengthen their math basics and ultimately their math abilities. Science 8-12 – Let's clean it up! – The children will participate in a soap making lab. Parents – Understanding Core Math in recreation mode.

Session 6, May 8: Module 6: Technology and Engineering K-4 – Students will display their builders' projects on a gallery walk. Parents and guardians will be invited to walk through and see. Math 5-7 – Students will have an hour of math fun using games to show their parents how well they understand common core math. Science 8-12 – Let's Clean it Up! – The children will package and label their soap and prepare it to give away as gifts.

REGISTER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. LAST DAY TO REGISTER IS FEBRUARY 20, 2023.

### 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**  
**Calvin Lacefield, 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 – 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:** highwaycommissioner@gmail.com  
**Office hours:** Monday – Friday 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 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:** 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**  
**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

The Township Highway Department experienced a busy summer. We did roadside mowing, trimmed trees, patched roads and as usual we picked up a large amount of trash on the roadsides. Please be responsible and do not discard your trash on the roadsides. The department also had crack sealing applied on various roads in the township. Many of the roads needed to have stripe painting refreshed. Those roads were painted with double yellow lines to indicate no passing zones. White lines were also painted on the edges of both sides of the roads. The white lines can be a tremendous help when driving at night on the dark township roads.

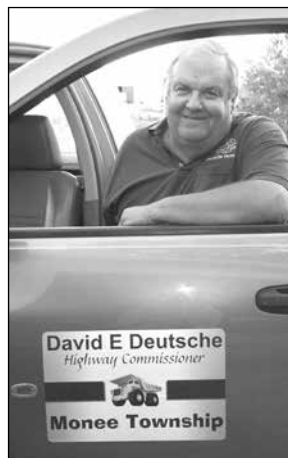
The township has also received delivery of a 2023 International heavy duty single axle

snowplow truck. The truck is equipped with an 11 foot stainless steel box, snowplow and salt spreader. Please remember to keep a distance of 300 feet when driving behind a snowplow truck.

I am including an article from the township's insurance company pertaining to operation of off-road vehicles on public roadways. If you have an off-road vehicle please take the time to read the article. The article will better help you understand the legal and safety issues of operating the off-road vehicle.

Please have a safe winter and hopefully spring will come early this year!

*David E. Deutsche*  
*Monee Township Highway Commissioner*



FOR A Q&A ABOUT NON-HIGHWAY VEHICLES, SEE PAGE 2



# Monee Township

## 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 circumstances and
- Who meet the other fi-

nancial 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, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving, the day after Thanksgiving and Christmas Day.

## EDUCATION CORNER

### TUTORING

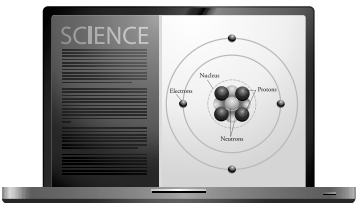
www.k12.gov  
www.khanacademy.org  
http://www.goodhousekeeping.com/childrens-products/tutoring-website-reviews/a16511/free-on-line-tutoring

### 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.abcy.com  
www.highlightskids.com

### FREE EBOOKS

www.openEbooks.net



## TOIRMA Q&A ABOUT NON-HIGHWAY VEHICLES

TOIRMA (Township Officials of Illinois Risk Management Association) has been receiving calls from our membership with questions relating to the use of All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) on road district roads. This topic was recently discussed at the annual meeting of the Western Illinois Highway Commissioners Association in La Harpe, IL. When asked if any of the highway commissioners had been approached by entities or individuals about allowing the operation of ATVs on their roadways, well over a majority raised their hands. The following questions and answers have been developed to help township officials better understand the serious considerations regarding the use of "non-highway vehicles" on road district roads.

**Question 1:** Do "non-highway vehicles" alter liability exposures on road district roads?

**Answer:** Yes. The mixing of vehicles such as automobiles, trucks, and "non-highway vehicles" logically creates considerations that were not in place when roads were designed and constructed. This alone creates a possibility of a loss for which there may be consequences.

**Question 2:** What is a "non-highway vehicle"?

**Answer:** According to the Illinois Vehicle Code (625 ILCS 5/11-1426.1) a "non-highway vehicle" means a motor vehicle not specifically designed to be used on a public highway including: "all-terrain vehicles," as defined by (625 ILCS 5/1-101.8)

a "golfcart," as defined by (625 ILCS 5/1-123.9)

an "off-highway motorcycle," as defined by (625 ILCS 5/1-153.1)

a "recreational off-highway vehicle," as defined by (625 ILCS 5/1-168.8)

**Question 3:** Do road districts have the authority to allow "non-highway vehicles" on road district roads?

**Answer:** The Illinois Vehicle Code (625 ILCS 5/11-1426.1) provides road districts with the ability to allow "non-highway vehicles" on road district roads. However, there are specific steps that must be considered (see question 6).

**Question 4:** Does a highway commissioner have a choice on whether to allow the use of "non-highway vehicles" on road district roads?

**Answer:** Yes. Highway commissioners have the ability to not exercise the statutory authority, or to follow the statutory requirements, then decide whether to proceed or not.

**Question 5:** Can a road district allow the use of "non-highway vehicles" on any road district?

**Answer:** No. There are specific statutory requirements outlined below that must be followed. Further, "non-highway vehicles" may be operated only on roads where the posted speed limit is 35 miles per hour or less.

**Question 6:** What are the statutory requirements relating to the use of "non-highway vehicles" on road district roads?

**Answer:** According to the Illinois Vehicle Code (625 ILCS 1426.1[b]), a road district (highway commissioner) may authorize, by ordinance or resolution, the operation of "non-highway vehicles" on roadways under its jurisdiction if:

The unit of government (road district) determines that public safety will not be jeopardized.

Before allowing the operation of "non-highway vehicles" on its roadways a road district must consider:

Volume of the traffic on the roadway;  
Speed of the traffic on the roadway;  
Character of the traffic on the roadway; and

Determine whether "non-highway vehicles" may safely travel on or cross the roadway.

TOIRMA strongly recommends the involvement of a licensed engineer when evaluating the volume, speed, and character of the roadways, when assessing that public safety will not be jeopardized, and when determining that "non-highway vehicles" may safely travel on or cross the roadway.

**Question 7:** Does a road district have the ability to allow only certain types of "non-highway vehicles" as defined above on road district roads?

**Answer:** Yes. The unit of govern-

ment (road district) may restrict the types of "non-highway vehicles that are authorized to be used on its roads (i.e., "golfcart" only).

**Question 8:** Are there signing considerations when allowing "non-highway vehicles" on road district or township roads?

**Answer:** Yes. The statute requires that appropriate signs be posted when determining that "non-highway vehicles" may safely operate on a roadway. The highway commissioner would need to receive written approval from the county engineer to post the appropriate 35 miles per hour speed limit signs and "non-highway vehicle" warning signs along the applicable roads.

**Question 9:** Should a highway commissioner contact TOIRMA when considering/evaluating "non-highway vehicles" on road district roads?

**Answer:** Yes. As your risk partner, prior to allowing "non-highway vehicles," TOIRMA needs to see the professional evaluation as outlined in Question 6 above. Also TOIRMA would like to review any draft ordinance or resolution before it is adopted.

**Question 10:** People are already using "non-highway vehicles" on road district roads, why shouldn't the highway commissioner adopt an ordinance or resolution?

**Answer:** The operator of the "non-highway vehicle" is doing so at their own risk and the liability is on them, not the road district.

**Question 11:** Are "non-highway vehicles" presently allowed for use on road district roads for farming purposes?

**Answer:** Yes. There is no need for a road district to adopt an ordinance or resolution for forming purposed for existing statue (625 ILCS 1426.1{h}) allows the operation of "all-terrain vehicles" and "recreational off-highway vehicles" on road district roads for the purpose of conducting farm operations to and from the home, farm, farm buildings, and any adjacent or nearby farmland. Note that this does not apply to "golfcarts" and "off-highway motorcycles."

## MONEE TOWNSHIP WINS TOWNSHIP OF THE YEAR

Monee Township, Will County was awarded the 2022 Township of the Year award, at the Township Officials of Illinois 115th Annual Educational Conference and presented by Illinois Township Association of General Assistance Case-workers President Mary Jo Imperato. Supervisor Donna T. Dettbarn accepted the award.

Monee Township was recognized for their response to residents in need utilizing Emergency Assistance Programs as well as outreach programs including back to school supply program. Easter Baskets, Holiday Meal Boxes, programs for Seniors and Youth and more.



## LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHEAP)

The Will County Center for Community Concerns (WCCCC), administrator of the Home Energy Assistance Program, helps income-eligible households with their utility bills and furnace assistance. The assistance will be available to households whose 30-day gross income is at or below 200% of the poverty level. The assistance for utilities will be available from now until May 31, 2023 or until funds have been exhausted, whichever comes first.

Applications will be taken for all income eligible households who are at or below 200% of the poverty level until May 31, 2023 or until funds have been exhausted.

Applications will be taken for LIHEAP furnace assistance for income eligible owner-occupied households whose existing furnace systems are not operational or have been re-tagged by their utility company. You must be at or below 200% of the poverty level. Applications will be taken through March

2023.

Continuing through March 31, 2023 or until funds are exhausted, whichever comes first, there will be an option to enroll into the PIPP program, which will consist of a monthly benefit. This program will be for income eligible households who are at or below 150% of the poverty level.

Applications are taken at the Will County Center for Community Concerns office, 2455 Glenwood Avenue, Joliet, Illinois 60435. Monday

through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. For more information or to find the nearest location to pick up an application, contact the office, 815-722-0722.

The outreach dates are as follows:

Every Tuesday – the Village of University Park – 90 TownCenter Drive, University Park – 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

February 3, 2023 – Monee Township, 26121 Egyptian Trail, Monee, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

## AQUA LIHWAP PROGRAM

### What Is LIHWAP?

The Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) is a NEW emergency water assistance program that was created by the federal government to help families that are experiencing hardship with their water bills.

LIHWAP will assist Illinois families who are behind on their drinking water and wastewater bills to ensure their service remains active and can also be used to restore service that was previously disconnected.

LIHWAP is a grant paid directly to Aqua for the cus-

tomers account.

### Who is eligible for LIHWAP?

Households at or below the 200% poverty level are eligible for assistance through LIHWAP.

### How do customers apply for LIHWAP?

There are a number of

local LIHWAP administering agencies available throughout Illinois. For Will County residents and more information, contact Will County Center for Community Concerns – 815-722-0722.





## VETERANS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

### VA Life Insurance

Find out which life insurance plans you may qualify for—and the benefits you'll receive with each plan.

Website: [VA.gov/life-insurance](http://VA.gov/life-insurance)

Call Center: 1-800-669-8477 (Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m.)

VA life insurance can offer financial security for Veterans, service members, and their spouses and dependent children. Explore your options, manage your policy, and file claims to get the insurance benefits you've earned.

## 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](http://honorflightchicago.org).

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

## 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, 2023 through March 31, 2023, Monday through Friday from 9:00 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, 2023.

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.

## SENIOR COMMITTEE

Monee Township Senior Committee's next event is Tuesday, February 14, 2023, Valentines Day drive through lunch, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, pick-up at the Monee Township, 26121 Egyptian Trail, Monee. The deadline to sign up is Thursday, February 9, 2023.

Must be 65 years of ages, live in Monee Township and must call for a reservation. Free box lunch to choose from are Turkey, Meatball, Tuna, Beef or Italian. Contact the office for more information and to make a reservation, 708-534-6020.

## RECYCLE YOUR 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



## Events Around the Township



## AROUND THE TOWNSHIP

### MONEE TOWNSHIP

Senior Valentines Day  
Drive Through Lunch  
26121 Egyptian Trail  
Monee, Illinois 60449  
Tuesday, February 14, 2023  
Turkey, Tuna, Italian,  
Meatball or Beef  
Must register by Thursday,  
February 9, 2023  
Drive-By Food Giveaway  
26121 Egyptian Trail  
Monee, Illinois 60449  
Thursday, February 23, 2023  
For more information, call  
708-534-6020

### UNIVERSITY PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY

1100 Blackhawk Drive  
University Park, Illinois  
60484  
708-534-2580  
[www.uppld.org](http://www.uppld.org)  
Contact the library for  
youth and adult programs

### PEOTONE PUBLIC LIBRARY

515 North Street  
Peotone, Illinois 60468  
708-258-3436  
[www.peotonelibrary.org](http://www.peotonelibrary.org)  
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  
1500 Sangamon  
Crete, Illinois  
For more info, contact Carmen Cartharn, 708-367-8369

### ATTENTION PARENTS 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](http://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 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.cm201u.org](http://www.cm201u.org) and select Employment today.

### THE 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](http://www.university-park-il.com).

### SENIOR SNOW REMOVAL PROGRAM

Must be a resident of University Park 60 years or older.

Veterans, Disabled, Handicap applicants are encouraged to apply – one applicant/application per household

Proof of Veteran Status (government-issued ID) required.

### WATER BILL RELIEF PROGRAM

Application Dates – January 1, 2023 to February 28, 2023

Must be a resident of University Park

One application per household

Proof of residency (government-issued ID) required  
A current copy of your Aqua Water Bills

Sign up to receive email blasts from the Village of University Park – visit the website

### MICRO PANTRY

698 Burnham Drive, University Park (in front of the Code Enforcement Office)  
Pick-up or Drop off non-

perishable items (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.water-factsil.com](http://www.water-factsil.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 the 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.

### THORN CREEK WOODS NATURE PRESERVE

For information 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 Group Leaders and Organizations

HOO EATS WHOM  
Saturday, February 11, 2023, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Must register by Monday, February 6, 2023

### OWL HIKE

Saturday, February 18, 2023, 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. FREE

Must register by Monday, February 13, 2023

### 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

### 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, IL 60484  
2nd and 4th Thursday of each month, 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
Second Place Church of Monee  
25655 South Governors Highway, Unit A  
Monee, Illinois 60449  
1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month, 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 resumé, revise your resumé, post your resumé, copy and print your resumé. Visit the Mobile Center every Tuesday at the Village of University Park Village Hall, 698 Burnham Drive, University Park, 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon, and the Village of Monee Park District, 5218 West Court Street, Monee, from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. For more information, please call 815-727-4444.

### Senior Services

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



# 2023 Monee Township Assessor and County SOA Updates



**Sandra Heard, MBA, Monee Township Assessor, CAIO,** 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 708-534-6023 or email at moneeassessor@gmail.com (is preferred) for questions or for general information check out our website [www.monee-assessor.com](http://www.monee-assessor.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

**COVID-19 office restriction expected to be lifted by spring.** As many of you have been aware, our office was initially closed to the public, due to this COVID-19 pandemic and in compliance with regulations. Currently our office visits are by appointment only, phone or **email is preferred, as this is the best way to reach the Assessor directly.** It is expected that our office access will become open again in the spring of 2023 to all taxpayers of Monee Township. In the mean time we will continue responding to voicemails, emails and set appointments to assist you.

If an appointment becomes necessary, then you will be notified of a future meeting by phone or in person. These meetings will be scheduled for 30 minutes generally during our regular office hours. Please call or email to schedule an available time for an office visit meeting. **Everyone is expected to wear face masks** when entering the building and remain for your entire visit. We have stations established with sneeze guards in 3 locations for assistance and appointments. There will be a limit of 2-3 people max inside the office at one time for appointments. **When you arrive, please knock on the door for entry.** We ask for your cooperation and understanding as we are complying with requirements established by the governor, CDC and WHO.

We are often asked questions about Tax Bills, but Assessors are not responsible for tax bill issuance, contact Treasurer. We are responsible for assessment equity in our townships.

**Why did you receive 2022 Re-assessment notices?** Most taxpayers did receive a reassessment notice in August indicating median increases to assessments of approximately 9.8 %. These increases were a result of a factor that was determined by the Will County Supervisor (SOA) and State of Illinois for this entire township based on the median sales amounts for the past 3 years. When there is a large **gap** between the indicated value of a property, based on the assessment and what that same property recently sold for, then it causes a factor to be applied in order to lessen that **gap**. Thus for 2022 a higher factor was necessary. You received a notice in 2022 because I did reduce all residential land assessments by 1% so that you could get notification of the increases before getting your tax bill in 2023, when it would be too late to appeal.

**Q: Will there be another assessment increase in 2023?**  
**A:** Most people are aware of the increased sale amounts over the past 3 years. Some of these increases were directly due to the existing seller's market and bidding wars between buyers to win a purchase contract! Many are first-time homebuyers! Since that trend has continued throughout 2022 the expected increase for 2023 may be greater

than 13% as this reflects the estimated amount determined by the Illinois Department of revenue and our new SOA of Will County. This year, the factor will also apply to commercial and industrial properties for the first time in 15 years to equalize the entire township.

**Q: How does assessment increases relate to your 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.

Example: If old assessment was 50,000 with rates at 10% then taxes would = \$5,000 but if the assessments are reduced to 25,000 then the rate that would have to be increased to 20% in order to raise the same \$5,000 in tax revenue. **Most likely this will cause an overall increase in the rate for the township.** If assessments increase to 60,000 then the rate would be expected to be lower to about 8.4% to get \$5,000.

**Q Did you know that exemptions saves \$\$ on your tax bill?**  
**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 below.

**General Homestead Exemption**

is the primary exemption allowed for property owners who live in their property.

(Look at your last year's bill to verify the inclusion of this exemption)

This exemption decreases your assessment by **6,000**.

This exemption is determined at the **time of purchase**. If you find it is not found on your tax bill, then it may be added by meeting the following criteria:

1. Live in property by **January 1st** of the **previous year**
2. Valid ID Card
3. Two Bills from the **previous year**  
-ComEd or Nicor

-Does NOT include your water bill

Qualifications

The General Homestead Exemption is determined at the time of sale, based on the indication on the PTAX as the buyer's primary residence. **No other action to be taken.** **Additional Exemptions that decreases taxes include: Senior Exemptions, Senior Freeze, Disabled Persons' Exemption, Disabled Veterans' Exemption and Home Improvement Exemption.**

**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.**

**Q: What are other activities that affect your tax bill?**  
**A:** Assessments do affect your tax bill. Each year your assessment will be adjusted by the Will County **Supervisor of Assessment** (SOA's) factor. 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 limited to the **consumer price index (CPI)** amount, which is greater than 5% this year vs lower amounts in the past. Finally, when **appeal decisions** are made by the Board of Review to lower the assessment of an appellant, this affects all taxpayers that did not receive a reduction since the assessment base is lowered because of granting reductions. Reduced property assessments due to Recent Sale, impacts your Bill. These are generally purchases by investors and when they re-sell at higher prices the following year then SOA factor increases. These increases are due to a larger sales value compared to reduced assessment from previous low sale.

**Monee Township Assessor's Office is Hiring**

**Office Intern-** Database maintenance - Part time **Seeking someone who is:**

- Current college students seeking a technical degree
- Access Database programming or query writing
- Great communication and listening skills
- Knowledge of Microsoft products, graphics, scan, copy and compile various reports and document packages.
- Must be able to commit to a minimum of 12-15 hours

**This position to be filled as soon as possible**  
Contact us by email or phone located at the top of the article

**Announcements:** Assessor Workshops will be scheduled for February, May and August 2023. Dates to be provided later.

**YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS**

The Assessor's Workshop  
Information on Assessments and your Tax bill.  
When: February 23, 2023  
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 February 21 (Leave a Message)

**Refreshments will be served**



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

 [www.facebook.com/MoneeTWPAssessor](https://www.facebook.com/MoneeTWPAssessor)

**PLEASE WEAR MASKS & BE PROTECTED BY VACCINATIONS!!**

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS 2022

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 in order 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, Better Built Lumber and Supply Inc., Ben Scott, Budreck Truck Lines, Inc., Calvary United Protestant Church, Carol Spelbring, Coretta Scott King Magnet School, Crete Monee Middle School, Debra Jackson, Dralle Chevrolet and Buick, Inc., Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Gwendolyn Saxton, Hydrite Chemicals, IMI Norgen, Iroquois Paving Corporation, JoAnn Lundberg, Kim and Chuck Schaefer and Family, Lee and Denise Throw, Monee Chamber of Commerce, Monee Elementary, Monee Historical Society, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Davis, Mr. and Mrs. James Butt, Mr. and Mrs. James Lehnerer, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Griffin, Mr. and Mrs. Robert

Carlson, National Tube Supply Company, Norma North, Paul Zakrzewski, Pearl Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge and RAM, Phoenix Fire Systems, Inc., Riverside Medical Clinic, South Holland Metal Finishing Company, Inc., Tandem Metals, Inc., The Honorable Robin Kelly, Tom's Truck Repair South, Inc., United States Marines Toys for Tots, University Park Energy, LLC, Walt's Food Center, Weldstar and all those who donated and 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: Karen Brown, Thomas Boles, Kathryn Haisan, Marilyn Lehnerer, Oscar Trevino: Donna Dettbart, Supervisor; Bobby R. Lathan, Sr., Clerk; Willa Simmons, Administrator; Ruth Marcukaitis and Shirley Lathan, Office Assistants; The Monee Township Highway Department, David Deutsche, Highway Commissioner; Jeffery Zimmer, Ruben Saucedo and Paul Zuro.



## HOW TO CONTACT YOUR STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS

<b>Springfield</b> <b>Office of the Governor</b> <b>J B Pritzker, Governor</b> 207 State House Springfield, IL 62706 Phone: 217-782-6830	<b>Chicago Office</b> <b>Juliana Stratton, Lieutenant Governor</b> 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	<b>40th Legislative District</b> <b>Senator Patrick Joyce</b> 108 Capitol Building Springfield, IL 62706 Phone: 217-782-7419	<b>80th Representative District</b> <b>Representative Anthony DeLuca</b> 277-S Stratton Office Building Springfield, IL 62706 Phone: 217-782-1719
<b>Chicago</b> <b>Office of the Governor</b> <b>J B Pritzker, Governor</b> James R. Thompson Center 100 W. Randolph St., Ste. 16-100 Chicago, IL 60601 Phone: 312-814-2121	<b>15th Legislative District</b> <b>Senator Napoleon Harris</b> 413 Capitol Building Springfield, IL 62706 Phone: 217-782-8066	<b>29th Representative District</b> <b>Representative Thaddeus Jones</b> 241-E Stratton Office Building Springfield, IL 62706 Phone: 217-782-8087	<b>195 West Joe Orr Road, Suite 201</b> Chicago Heights, IL 60411 Phone: 708-754-7900
<b>Springfield Office</b> <b>Juliana Stratton, Lieutenant Governor</b> 214 State House Springfield, IL 62706 Phone: 217-558-3085 Fax: 217-558-3094 Video Phone for Sign language users: 217-717-2331	<b>1350 East Sibley Blvd., Suite 403</b> Dolton, IL 60419 Phone: 708-893-0552	<b>15525 South Park Avenue, Suite 104</b> South Holland, IL 60473 Phone: 708-596-7053	<b>SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE</b> <b>Representative Emanuel Chris Welch</b> Springfield Office: 300 Capitol Building Springfield, IL 62706 Phone: 217-782-5350
			<b>District Office:</b> 10055 West Roosevelt Road, Suite E Westchester, IL 60154 Phone: 708-450-1000