

THE TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS OF ILLINOIS

township

Perspective

September 2023



**2023
Photo Contest
Winner**

FREMONT TOWNSHIP
(LAKE COUNTY)

toi.org 

Volume 25 • Issue 7

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Township Officials of Illinois
Volume 25 • Number 7



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Director of Member Services: Brad Ruppert, brad@toi.org
Managing Editor: Kayla Jeffers, kayla@toi.org
Database Manager: Teresa Ruenger, teresa@toi.org.

The **Township Officials of Illinois**, organized in 1907, serves as a resource center for state and federal legislative agencies, as well as its member townships. The organization's attention to and involvement with the legislative process enables it to exert influence on behalf of its member units, as well as to report to them on decisions which affect their functioning.

In addition to offering information and guidance, **TOI** promotes and supports strong township government in the State of Illinois. To that end, it offers a series of continuing education programs designed to provide a sense of responsibility, assurance, dedication and unity.

TOI recognizes that offering service benefiting the citizens and taxpayers of Illinois requires the representation of diverse constituencies. Its Board of Directors is structured to accommodate that purpose, as are its respective divisions.

The organization provides leadership for the continuation and effectiveness of strong grassroots government in the state. Through education, dedication and unity, **TOI** has achieved and surpassed the goals of its founders and provides leadership for grassroots government in the 21st Century.

Subscription Rates TOI membership automatically provides a subscription for all elected township officials. Subscription rate is \$50.00 per year. Single issues are \$5.00.

Graphic Design Kingery Printing Company, Effingham, IL.

Article Submission Address all article submissions to Kayla Jeffers. **Deadline:** Copy is due by the first day of the month preceding the issue in which the article will appear. Send all article submissions to Township Officials of Illinois, 3217 Northfield Drive, Springfield, IL 62702 or e-mail kayla@toi.org. Telephone 217-744-2212 Fax 217-744-7419.

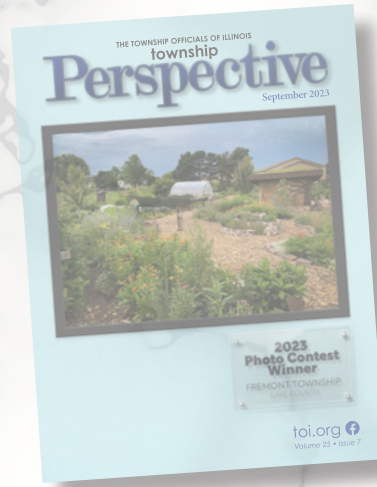
Advertising Address all display advertising and Professional Directory inquiries to Kayla Jeffers. **Deadline:** Both display and directory ads are due by the first day of the month preceding the issue in which the ad will appear. Send all ads to Township Officials of Illinois, 3217 Northfield Drive, Springfield, IL 62702. Telephone 217-744- 2212.

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Perspective

Volume 25 • Number 7 **September 2023**



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Township Officials of Illinois

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UPCOMING EVENTS

September

Sept. 4 TOI Closed (Labor Day)
Sept. 8 TOI Q&A Day
Sept. 13 Lunch & Learn Webinar
Township Investments
Sept. 14 Education District Event *Effingham, IL*
Sept. 29 GATI Training *Effingham, IL*
Emergency Assistance

October

Oct. 9 TOI Closed (Columbus Day)
Oct. 11 Lunch & Learn Webinar
Meeting Procedures

November

Nov. 10 TOI Closed (Veterans Day Observed)
Nov. 11 GATI Training *Springfield, IL*
Beginner's Basics
Nov. 12-14 TOI Annual Educational Conference
Springfield, IL



End of Summer!

Jerry B. Crabtree



TOI Executive Director

As we wind down Summer 2023 and head into Fall, I encourage you all to “Get on Board with Township Government.” We are wrapping up our educational programs with the Annual Educational Conference scheduled for November in Springfield. Registration is open and the program is highlighted in this issue of *Township Perspective*. We are also looking forward to seeing all of you and the new conference attendees. We encourage first-time attendees and challenge those who have attended before to bring a new attendee! The program is great this year!

This summer, I have traveled the state attending division events, county association events, as well as others. The common message delivered is to evaluate your township and make sure that you are all on board to make the best out of your position and the township in your local community. As you are all working on the decennial report you have been required to complete, we are encouraging townships to focus on the achievements you have made, the projects you would like to explore and provide your community, but most of all how efficient and effective you are among your communities. As we have stated—“This is your time to shine”—make it worth it!

The association is looking forward to the fall conference and the scheduled VETO session with the Illinois General Assembly. Most of our legislative issues have been resolved. Many of the new requirements take effect on January 1, 2024, and we are looking at implementation compliance options as we close out the year and prepare for the 2024 calendar year.

As I have indicated, County Associations are the best avenue to pull township officials together in one place and host an educational program. An example of this is the recent mandate of the Decennial Committee report. County Association Events allow TOI staff to reach more officials with the program and informational items. Contact TOI if you have questions about a county association meeting and if we may assist in securing a program.

Congratulations to the winner Fremont Township (Lake Co.) of the September photo contest. Also, thank you to everyone who submitted a photo. They all were great, and I look forward to using them in future publications provided by the association. See page 16 for the full story on the photo contest.

Jerry B. Crabtree

jerry@toi.org





The Business Symposium is your one-stop-shop for energy efficiency — making it easy for your township officials to learn more about the latest technologies, while connecting with trusted energy professionals and gaining additional financial incentives to move your energy efficiency projects forward.

Wednesday, Oct. 11 | 7:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
In person at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield

Register Now at
AmerenIllinoisSavings.com/Township
 or call **1.866.800.0747**.

REGISTER NOW






On June 8, TOI held the first Education District Event of the year in Bloomington-Normal at the Normal Township Activity and Recreation Center.



Attendees of the June 8 Education District Event held in Bloomington-Normal.



TOIRMA Executive Director Jim Donelan speaks to the attendees of the Bloomington-Normal Education District Event.

On July 26, TOI held the second Education District Event in Rockford at the IBEW Hall.



Attendees of the July 26 Education District Event in Rockford.



TOIRMA Executive Director Jim Donelan speaks to the attendees of the Rockford Education District Event.



A big thank you to TOI Secretary, THCOI President, and Union Grove Township (Whiteside Co.) Highway Commissioner Arnold Vegter and TSI President, TOI Board of Directors, and Blackhawk Township (Rock Island Co.) Supervisor Chuck Layer for checking in attendees of the Rockford Event.

The Local Officials Appreciation Picnic

On August 19, the Illinois State Treasurer held the Local Officials Appreciation Picnic at the Illinois State Fair.



THCOI President, TOI Secretary, and Union Grove (Whiteside Co.) Highway Commissioner Arnold Vegter; TSI President, TOI Board of Directors, and Blackhawk Township (Rock Island Co.) Supervisor Chuck Layer; and Trustees Division President, TOI Board of Directors, and Long Creek Township (Macon Co.) Trustee Michael Reynolds.



L to R: TOI 2nd Vice President and Wood River Township (Madison Co.) Township Clerk Sherry Tite; TOI Executive Director Jerry B. Crabtree; TOI Board of Directors and Bruce Township (LaSalle Co.) Township Clerk Marsha Johnston; Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs; and Meriden, Ophir, and Troy Grove Townships (LaSalle Co.) Multi-Township Assessor Deb Lane.



TOIRMA Executive Director Jim Donelan, TOI Director of Member Services Brad Ruppert, TOIRMA Associate Director Matt Knight, and TOI Executive Director Jerry B. Crabtree.



Attendees at the Local Officials Appreciation Picnic picking up lunch.



TOI Executive Director Jerry B. Crabtree and Normal Township (McLean Co.) Trustee Sally Pyne.



Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs and Huntsville Township (Schuyler Co.) Highway Commissioner Danny Hanning.



Attendees at the Local Officials Appreciation Picnic.



Sneak Peek at the 2023 Conference

Brad Ruppert

Director of Member Services

September is here! Major League Baseball playoffs are approaching, and football season has begun. Fall also marks the official start of the 116th Annual Educational Conference season, that is held at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield, IL from November 12-14, 2023.

Planning for the conference is a 12-month process for the staff and Board of Directors of TOI. It's something we put a lot of time and effort into to make a fun and memorable experience for all our members and their guests. Registration is now open! You can register today at toi.org.

Why should you attend the 116th Annual Educational Conference?

Collaboration: Working with staff and other township officials on township issues. Find out what works and what doesn't work. Share ideas and best practices that could be helpful for other townships.

Networking: The 116th Annual Educational Conference provides a great opportunity for township officials to network with other townships. Whether it be a larger township, or smaller townships, the Annual Educational Conference is a chance to meet friends that will last a lifetime.

Education: While the above are all great reasons to attend the Annual Educational Conference, the numerous educational opportunities are the real reason we meet every fall. From exploring new changes in statutory authority, to programs on common practices and procedures, even the longest tenured township official can always learn something new. We offer a wide range of topics and speakers that are tailored to Supervisors, Assessors, Highway Commissioners, Trustees, and Clerks. There's a little something for everyone.

And with that, we are proud to announce the 116th Annual Educational Conference program. A quick reminder that this is not finalized, and all topics and speakers are subject to change. We have worked hard to put together a diverse educational program that we think will provide every attendee a chance to better

educate themselves on a wide range of topics. There are also a few additional courses that will be added.

Monday November 13th

Session A (60 Minute education sessions)

- See What the Clerks Are Cooking Up
- Policies & Procedures for Highway Commissioners
- Ask a Township Attorney
- Township Levy & Ordinance Process
- Celebrating Seniors 2023
- Township Policies and Procedures We All Should Know
- Food Banks & How They Operate

Monday November 13th

Session B (60 Minute education sessions)

- TOI Legislative Update
- The Local Elected Official and the Township Election Process
- Intergovernmental Agreements
- Aging in Place
- An Introduction to Municipal Bonds

Monday November 13th

Session C (60 Minute education sessions)

- Township Budgeting 101
- How to Respond to FOIA in Township Government
- Township Cemeteries
- Human Trafficking
- Crafting Up Connection

Tuesday November 14th

(60 Minute education sessions)

- Local Officials Role in Solar Projects
- Building Relationships with your County Engineer
- Record Retention in Township Government
- Running an Efficient Board Meeting
- Comptroller Reporting Requirements
- IMRF Discussion
- Practical Procedures in Project Development

County Association Meetings

The summertime is a busy time for the staff at TOI. I was recently invited to the De Witt County Association biannual meeting at the Woodlawn Country Club in Farmer City, IL. These are an effective way to collaborate with the township message in your county

and further promote township government from a shared perspective. It gives a chance for staff at TOI to directly address the group on important legislation, events, and general township topics. If you have a county association and would like a speaker, reach out to the TOI office. We would be happy to attend.



DeWitt County Association's biannual meeting on July 24.

2428 W. Farmington Road
Peoria, IL 61604

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Hydraulic needs, Dump Bodies, Service Bodies, Platforms, Liftgates,
Trailers, Snow Plows and Spreaders. We can make hydraulic hoses
while you wait!!!



Tool boxes



Wet Kits



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Trailer Dealer!**



Dump Bodies/Service Bodies



Gooseneck Platforms



Plows & Spreaders

One Event Remaining



2023 Education Events Registration

Sept. 14 **Thelma Keller Center**
1202 N Keller Drive • Effingham, IL 62401
Sponsored by TOIRMA
Sponsored by DK Tanks



County _____ Township _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Contact person name, email, and phone number:

Names & Email of those who will attend (please print clearly):

Supervisor: _____

Township Clerk: _____

Highway Comm.: _____

Assessor: _____

Trustee: _____

Trustee: _____

Trustee: _____

Trustee: _____

Collector: _____

Other/title: _____

Registration is \$50 per location, per person or \$400/township for up to nine attendees. On-site registration is \$75 per person. No refunds will be given once TOI has confirmed attendance with venue.

*Please make checks payable to the Township Officials of Illinois; mail to 3217 Northfield Drive., Springfield, IL 62702. Forms may also be emailed to kayla@toi.org. If you are paying by credit card, only Visa and MasterCard are accepted:

Name, as it appears on card: _____

Credit Card Number _____ Exp.: _____

Township Officials of Illinois Annual Educational Conference
Advance Registration Form
November 12-14, 2023

(Please use one form per delegate, if paying for multiple delegates with one check/credit card, please submit all forms together for accurate processing)

Advance Registration Deadline is October 27, 2023

<p>SECTION I – REGISTRATION INFORMATION</p> <p>County: _____ Township: _____</p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____</p> <p>Phone: _____ Email: _____</p>	<p>Township Position:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Assessor</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Attorney</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> GA Caseworker</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Highway Commissioner</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Senior Citizen</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Supervisor</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Tax Collector</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Township Clerk</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Trustee</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Youth Committee</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other</p>												
<p>SECTION II – REGISTRATION FEES</p> <p>MEMBERS</p> <p>Advance Registrations received on or before October 27, 2023</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Full Registration: \$185</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Full Registration: \$225</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Monday Registration Only: \$110</td> <td>Monday Registration Only: \$135</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tuesday Registration Only: \$95</td> <td>Tuesday Registration Only: \$125</td> </tr> </table> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Full Registration <input type="checkbox"/> Monday Only Registration <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday Only Registration</p> <p>NON-MEMBERS</p> <p>Advance Registrations received on or before October 27, 2023: \$250 per person</p> <p>On-site Registrations: \$310 per person</p> <p>Single-day registration includes admittance to non-ticketed activities occurring on that day ONLY. Monday only registrants MAY NOT attend Sunday or Tuesday events, and Tuesday only registrations MAY NOT attend Sunday or Monday events. Registration information may only be picked up on the day you have registered.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Full Registration <input type="checkbox"/> Monday Only Registration <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday Only Registration</p> <p>GUESTS <i>Does NOT include admission to education sessions</i></p> <p>Advance Registrations received on or before October 22, 2023</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Full Registration: \$95</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Full Registration: \$110</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Monday Registration Only: \$45</td> <td>Monday Registration Only: \$55</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tuesday Registration Only: \$30</td> <td>Tuesday Registration Only: \$40</td> </tr> </table> <p>Guest Registration: <input type="checkbox"/> Full <input type="checkbox"/> Monday Only <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday Only</p> <p>Name of guest as it should appear on badge: _____</p> <p>Registration Fees (see all fees above)..... \$ _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tickets must be ordered on or before October 27, 2023. Special event tickets will not be sold on-site.</p> <p>_____ Awards Breakfast ticket: \$35.00 each..... \$ _____</p> <p>TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED..... \$ _____</p>		Full Registration: \$185	Full Registration: \$225	Monday Registration Only: \$110	Monday Registration Only: \$135	Tuesday Registration Only: \$95	Tuesday Registration Only: \$125	Full Registration: \$95	Full Registration: \$110	Monday Registration Only: \$45	Monday Registration Only: \$55	Tuesday Registration Only: \$30	Tuesday Registration Only: \$40
Full Registration: \$185	Full Registration: \$225												
Monday Registration Only: \$110	Monday Registration Only: \$135												
Tuesday Registration Only: \$95	Tuesday Registration Only: \$125												
Full Registration: \$95	Full Registration: \$110												
Monday Registration Only: \$45	Monday Registration Only: \$55												
Tuesday Registration Only: \$30	Tuesday Registration Only: \$40												

continued on next page

SECTION III – PAYMENT INFORMATION

Payment must accompany advance registration form and should include Registrations, Banquet, and Award Breakfast tickets. A \$3.50 credit card processing fee is added if using a credit card.

Check Enclosed Visa MasterCard

Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Name on Card: _____

Billing Address: _____

Cardholder’s Signature: _____

SECTION IV – SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Please indicate any special requirements (dietary restrictions, handicap accessibility, interpreter, etc.) in this space or contact the TOI office. Special requirements can only be accommodated if requested at least two weeks in advance of Conference:

SECTION V – CANCELLATION POLICY & TICKET ORDER INFORMATION

Cancellations received by **October 13, 2023** will receive full refund.

Cancellations received between **October 13 to October 27, 2023** will receive a partial refund (\$20 administrative fee).

NO REFUNDS on cancellations received after **October 27, 2023**.

Registrations are transferable.

Advance orders and pre-payment for all Award Breakfast MUST BE RECEIVED by October 27, 2023 in order to meet facility meal guarantee requirements. Special event tickets will not be sold on site.

SECTION VI – HOUSING

Hotel reservations will only be made through the Housing Bureau and only those individuals registered for the Conference by October 6, 2023 will be assigned hotel reservations. Hotel reservations may be made on-line via a link on the TOI website, www.toi.org or by submitting the Housing Form. The Housing Form is available in the Township Perspective or on the TOI website, www.toi.org. Reservations must be received by October 6, 2023 and guaranteed with a credit card. Hotel assignment confirmations WILL NOT be emailed until the week of October 16, 2023. Read all of the Hotel Reservation Procedures in the Township Perspective or on the TOI website to make certain you comply with all requirements.

**Send this Registration Form to:
Township Officials of Illinois
3217 Northfield Dr.
Springfield, Illinois 62702**

HOUSING FORM
TOI Annual Educational Conference
November 12-14, 2023

Please complete one form per room reservation and **mail to:**
TOI Housing Bureau
3217 Northfield Drive
Springfield, IL 62702

Read Housing Information for all reservation requests policies and procedures.

This information is available in the *Township Perspective*, and on the TOI website, www.toi.org.

Housing forms will only be accepted when accompanied with credit card information.

Confirmation of hotel assignments will be **emailed** the week of October 16th.

Please type or print all information legibly

Name in which reservation should be made: _____

Number of people in room: _____ Name (s) of additional people in room: _____

Township: _____ County: _____

Zip Code: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Date of arrival: _____ Date of departure: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS REQUIRED FOR RESERVATION ASSIGNMENT (CONFIRMATION OF HOTEL INFORMATION)

You will be placed at the Crowne Plaza, Holiday Inn Express, or at an overflow hotel if needed. All requests are considered on a first-come, first-serve basis by date of receipt, and if you are registered for the conference. Hotel assignment will be made based on type and length of reservation and hotel availability. **If you need a handicap accessible reservation, please turn in housing form as soon as possible.**

Preference will be given to those requests for a minimum of two nights. Reservations made for two nights and later changed risk being charged for two nights and/or moved to another hotel. **Room rate at the Crowne Plaza and Holiday Inn Express is \$106 plus tax per night.**

Indicate your preferred room type. This is a request only and cannot be guaranteed.

King: _____ **Double/Double:** _____ **Indicate any special requirements:** _____

Handicap Accessible: _____ **Type of Handicap accessibility needed:** _____

Housing forms **MUST BE RECEIVED** by the TOI Housing Bureau by **October 6, 2023**. Housing forms received after October 6th will not be processed.

Confirmation of hotel assignment will be **emailed** after October 16, 2023.

Card Type: _____ **Card #:** _____

Expiration date: _____ **Name on Credit Card:** _____

Signature: _____



Highway Commissioners, ATVs (Non-Highway Vehicles) & Premises Inspections

Jim Donelan

Executive Director, TOIRMA

I am writing this *TOIRMA Update* on August 2nd just as the Township Highway Commissioners Association of Illinois (THCOI) is completing their Annual Summer Seminar in Peoria. The event was an enormous success and, on behalf of TOIRMA, I would like to thank THCOI President Arnold Vegter, the entire Board of Directors, and staff for all of their efforts in putting on the event. It was rewarding to see Illinois highway commissioners learning and sharing ideas. The TOIRMA Team deeply appreciates the opportunity to participate in the educational sessions and spend time with highway commissioners from throughout the state.

It is always interesting to hear the conversations and topics relating to road districts during the Summer Seminar. Some of the highlights impacting road districts include recently passed legislation, local road and bridge funding, non-highway vehicles, OSHA/ Illinois Department of Labor inspections, maintenance of pavement, technologies used during winter operations, licenses needed to spray the right-of-way, legal topics for road districts, sign maintenance, and intergovernmental agreements to name a few.

Premises Inspections

The Illinois Department of Labor has been and will be visiting townships and road districts to review compliance with Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards. In preparation for these inspections, we encourage TOIRMA members to take advantage of our premises inspections. A TOIRMA Premises Inspection consists of our Loss Control Team visiting a member's shed or office with the goal of ensuring that your shop or office is as safe as possible with the overall goal OSHA compliance and helping reduce the occurrence of injuries. A premises inspection can aid in the reduction of potential problems, injuries, and avoiding fines. To request a premises inspection, please contact Sean Richardson: (217) 444-1384, sean.richardson@ccmsi.com or Tyler Knight: (217) 444-1387, tknight@ccmsi.com from our Loss Control Team.

Non-Highway Vehicles

Like last year, non-highway vehicles (on road district roads) were a hot topic of conversation. The discussion centered around whether or not non-highway vehicles are and/or should be permitted on township and road district roads. It was clear that the mixing of non-highway vehicles with regular automobiles and trucks, let alone semis, creates exposures not in-place when most roads were designed and constructed.

Although Illinois Statute does provide a process for local governments to allow for the operation of non-highway vehicles on local roads, this process/decision should be carefully evaluated prior to considering implementation. The law does NOT provide the authority to permit the operation of non-highway vehicles on streets and roads with a speed limit over 35 miles per hour.

Further, before a highway commissioner considers whether to allow non-highway vehicles on any road under the road district's jurisdiction, TOIRMA recommends utilizing the services of a licensed engineer to evaluate 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" (as required by statute). TOIRMA would also like to review the study and any draft ordinance/ resolution before it is considered for adoption.

Please visit the "Members Only" section of the TOIRMA website, toirma.org for more information on non-highway vehicles.

Intergovernmental Agreements

During the Summer Seminar, highway commissioners discussed the importance of the use of intergovernmental agreements. Townships helping other townships with snow removal and the construction and maintenance of roads are commonplace. Sharing oiling equipment and employees are examples of the efficiencies of township government. Before entering


into an intergovernmental agreement, TOIRMA strongly encourages members to consult with their township attorney and provide TOIRMA an opportunity to review the draft for our feedback. This will help ensure there is proper insurance coverage, and that the township's interests are addressed.

Thank you again to the Township Highway

Commissioners of Illinois for putting on the Summer Seminar and to all of the highway commissioners and employees who invested their time by attending the event.

As always, if you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me toll-free at (888) 562-7861 or by email at jdonelan@toirma.org.

Think Safe... Drive Safe... Work Safe



Autumn
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50% OFF ALL TOI BOOKS

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This Sale is only applicable to the 2022 Laws & Duties Handbook, 2022 Laws & Duties CD, Desk Reference Set (Township Meetings: A Guide to How they Operate, Township and Road District Levy Handbook, Financial Procedures for Illinois Townships, FOIA & OMA Resource Book), What's My Job?, and 2021-2025 TOI Directory. Discount is not applicable to TOI Division Books. Sale ends September 30.



Taylor Anderson

Anderson Legislative Consulting, Ltd.

The Midwest—where summers fly by and winters hang around... and hang around... and hang around. So, it should be no surprise that this summer is already nearing its end and yet, somehow, it feels like only yesterday that the General Assembly adjourned the 2023 spring session. With these short summer months and the General Assembly on break, it can be a common misconception that legislative matters pause while legislators are not convened in Springfield. And while it's true no legislation can advance over this period, a lot of legislative work continues through the summer. From meetings between stakeholders on future initiatives, to legislative working groups and special task forces, legislative conversations and decisions continue year-round.

Perhaps one of the most overlooked aspects of the legislative process is legislation becoming the actual law of the land. So much of the focus can be upon legislation passing through the General Assembly that the role of the Governor, in signing or vetoing legislation, can become an afterthought. However, the Illinois Constitution is quite clear and mandates a specific number of days between a bill passing both chambers and when action must be taken by the Governor. The General Assembly has 30 days to send bills to the Governor's desk and then the Governor has 60 days after receipt to act on those bills he or she receives (commonly referred to as a "drop date"). Due to this timing, the vast majority of Gubernatorial action on legislation takes place during the summer months.

Of the over 560 bills that were passed by both chambers and sent to the Governor's desk this spring, more than half of them have already been signed into law. At the time of writing, that number of bills signed into law sits at 308—106 House bills and 148 Senate bills so far. Of the nearly 170 bills tracked by TOI this spring, 14 have been signed into law with several still waiting action from the Governor.

Below are some recent bill signings by the Governor.

Public Act 103-0125 – HB 1465: Increases bid threshold for road district to \$30,000 from \$20,000. **TOI Support (Priority Bill).**

Public Act 103-0138 – HB 2040: Provides that a board of trustees may contract with a neighboring township to provide highway commissioner or clerk services if the township has a population of less than 1,000 (rather than less than 500). **TOI worked with sponsors to address concerns.**

Public Act 103-0192 – HB 3424: Expands and modernizes General Assistance. **TOI Support (Priority Bill).**

Public Act 103-0373 – SB 895: Sets limits for the uses of the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act at the local level. **TOI worked with sponsors to address major concerns.**

Public Act 103-0327 – HB 2845: Provides that the definition of "public works" includes the transportation of biosolids. Applies prevailing wage to the transportation of biosolids. **TOI opposed.**

Public Act 103-0346 – HB 3370: Provides that the definition of "public works" includes power washing projects. Applies prevailing wage to power washing. **TOI opposed.**

Public Act 103-0359 – HB 3792: Provides that the definition of "public works" includes fixtures or permanent attachments to light poles. Applies prevailing wage to this work. **TOI opposed.**

**Veto Session October 24-26,
November 7-9 House and Senate.**

Lunch & Learn Webinar Series

Investment Strategies for Townships

September 13, 2023 | 12 PM | 60 Minutes | \$25

Review ILCS 235, which includes all investment vehicles allowed per IL State Statute. Discuss implementing an individual investment policy for your township. Reviewing revenue and expenditures cycles to understand Township Cash Flow. Identifying reserve dollars to invest for additional interest income to be spent on Township initiatives. Understanding competitive investment options and navigating the current economic landscape. High interest rates now so great time to review investment strategies and check in with current providers. Navigating inflationary environment.



Lisa joined PMA Financial Network, LLC in 2017 and is responsible for the sales and marketing efforts in the Illinois municipal space. She has experience working with townships, cities, villages, counties, special districts, insurance cooperatives, K-12 school districts, and other public authorities on their overall investment needs. In her current capacity, she works closely with clients to develop and implement prudent investment strategies for short, intermediate, and long-term funds, reviews and develops investment policies, and provides economic updates. Lisa is an active member of numerous financial associations presenting and moderating at various conferences and events. She received her MBA with a certificate in Finance from Northern Illinois University and holds Series 7, 63 and 50 securities licenses.

Cyber Security: Mastering Security in a Connected World

October 4, 2023 | 1 PM | 60 Minutes | FREE **Sponsored by TOIRMA**

In today's interconnected world dominated by artificial intelligence, the need for robust cyber security practices has never been more critical. Join us for an insightful webinar that delves into the intricacies of safeguarding your digital assets. Led by Vanguard's Senior Manager of Security Operations, Grant Pate, this webinar will explore the latest cyber threats, vulnerabilities, and best practices to defend against them. From understanding the anatomy of cyberattacks to implementing proactive defense measures, we will cover a wide range of topics aimed at helping individuals and businesses fortify their online presence. Whether you're a seasoned IT professional or just starting to grasp the complexities of cybersecurity, this webinar promises valuable insights and actionable strategies to navigate the cyber frontier with confidence. Don't miss this opportunity to enhance your knowledge and join the ranks of cyber defenders.



Grant Pate is the senior manager of Vanguard Security Operations, where he is responsible for monitoring, assessing, and defending Vanguard from all cyber threats and internal threat actors. Mr. Pate is a security professional with more than 25 years' experience in the information security and security operations industry, including extensive hands-on experience in security operations in the outsourcing and financial services arena, with primary focus on security operations, security program management, and data center operations. Before joining Vanguard and after service in the

United States Marine Corps' Surveillance, Reconnaissance, and Intelligence Group, Mr. Pate joined Unisys' security outsourcing division to facilitate the data security program for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's data center. He then joined Computer Sciences Corporation as the compliance and risk executive for the global health care security outsourcing division, overseeing all security programs outsourced to United States health care clients. Mr. Pate's responsibilities included designing, transitioning, and operating programs that protect health care client personally identifiable information. Mr. Pate is a certified information systems security professional and certified information security manager, and he holds certification in risk and information systems controls.

Township Board Meetings: The Good, The Bad, and the Hopefully Not So Ugly

October 11, 2023 | 11 AM | 60 Minutes | \$25

Jim Donelan, Executive Director of TOIRMA, will cover rules and tips for running a township board meeting.



Jim Donelan is presently the Executive Director of the Township Officials of Illinois Risk Management Association (TOIRMA). Prior to joining TOIRMA, Mr. Donelan worked in the Office of the Mayor, Springfield, IL. Mr. Donelan graduated from Illinois State with majors in Finance and Business Administration, and has completed graduate work at the University of Illinois Springfield. He has over 25 years of experience working with local governments, and has served as Associate Director of the Township Officials of Illinois. Jim has participated in numerous community organizations and is past president of Crime Stoppers of Sangamon & Menard Counties and a past member of the Sangamon County Citizens Efficiency Commission. He is co-author of Illinois Statehouse, an Images of America book and is co-founder of a website dedicated to our present capitol building, ilstatehouse.com. Mr. Donelan is married and has two children.

Webinars are convenient, affordable, and interactive.

Visit toi.org for more information and to register!

LEGAL DISCLAIMER: The information to be provided at this webinar is provided by the Township Officials of Illinois for informational purposes only and not for the purpose of providing legal advice. It is intended to provide timely general information of interest but should not be considered a substitution for legal advice. You should contact your attorney to obtain advice with respect to any particular issue or problem. Participation in the webinar does not create an attorney-client relationship with any attorneys participating in the webinar and participants.

2023 Cover Photo Contest

The Photo Contest was a successful hit this year, and we hope to bring it back next year. With 38 submissions, it was a stiff competition to see who would score the highest with our judges to secure a place on the cover. We took into consideration the photo itself, its importance to township government, and the story of importance.



The winner of the 2023 Cover Photo Contest was Fremont Township (Lake Co.). They submitted the following story of importance with their winning photo:

The Fremont Township Community Garden is a multi-functional garden space that provides produce to our food pantry clients and low-income seniors and provides opportunities for enjoyment and learning. It is a treasured site of community activity where residents are invited to get involved, whether as a garden volunteer, with a community service project, or simply to enjoy and make use of the garden as a getaway from the hustle and bustle. Our volunteers consist of summer camps, schools, corporations, local businesses, and residents who work and learn from our garden. Some of its

features include a sandbox, cobb house, bug hotel, memory garden created for a deceased Trustee, butterfly garden, honeybees, compost pile, power for water feature, green roof, and hoop house.

The Garden is designed and maintained according to permaculture and bio-intensive gardening principles, which emphasize the garden's inter-relatedness with every aspect of the local ecosystem and promote biodiversity. The benefits are endless.

Congratulations, again, to Fremont Township!

We had 2 runner ups for the photo contest. They were Bremen Township (Cook Co.) and Niles Township (Cook Co.).

Bremen Township submitted their photo along with the following story of importance:

When Maggie Crotty was elected Bremen Township Supervisor in 2005, she arrived with a vision to improve services and activities for township residents. She led the expansion of the Senior Services Department and the construction of a new Youth Facility and Senior Café. The Senior Wheels division grew to eventually provide more than 800 rides per month for seniors who rely on the township for transportation. The Youth and Family Department she instituted now provides counseling services for any young adult within the township regardless of their ability to pay. In addition, through partnerships with Together We Cope and the Greater Chicago Food Depository she established a Free Produce program for residents in need. This program distributes fresh free produce monthly to more than 2,500 people in need.

A project close to Maggie's heart was the installation of Bremen Township's own walking path. Through her vision and perseverance, an overgrown, debris-filled parcel of township property began a transformation into a quarter-mile scenic walkway for young and old to enjoy.

Unfortunately, with Maggie's passing in 2021, she didn't have the opportunity to see the completion of her dream. As a tribute to her, Bremen Township officials dedicated and named the path in her honor. The dedication ceremony was witnessed by residents, friends, family, local officials, Congressional members, and colleagues from the Illinois Senate and Illinois House.

Maggie's belief that elected officials must serve as advocates for their residents guided her throughout a long public service career. That is the legacy of Maggie Crotty.

Bremen Township (Cook Co.) was the first runner up submission for the 2023 Cover Photo Contest.



Niles Township submitted their photos along with the following story of importance:

Listing only one positive about Niles Township's community gardens would be like planting only one kind of flower in our gardens. Our lovely gardens are filled with vibrant color and variety, and there are multiple benefits to our community in having them in our backyard.



Our vegetable gardens grow nutritious natural food for our neighbors in need who use the Niles Township Food Pantry. Our Monarch Butterfly Waystation offers a crucially needed eco-friendly home for migrating butterflies.

The gardens have also become a serene and lovely setting for our community. Niles Township Supervisor Bonnie Kahn Ognisanti has helped transform our outdoor space into a peaceful venue for special events, which this season include new Saturday morning yoga sessions.

The gardens have also been a volunteer magnet, attracting residents from all over our community—from kids to older adults and including teams from agencies and businesses. It seems like everyone wants to get their hands dirty and help make these beautiful gardens grow.

Niles Township (Cook Co.) was the second runner up submission for the 2023 Cover Photo Contest. They submitted three images for consideration.



We would like to thank all of the townships who participated in the 2023 Cover Photo Contest: Barrington Township (Cook Co.), Bremen Township (Cook Co.), Hanover Township (Cook Co.), New Trier Township (Cook Co.), Niles Township (Cook Co.), Palatine Township (Cook Co.), Wayne Township (DuPage Co.), York Township (DuPage Co.), Milford Township (Iroquois Co.), Quarry Township (Jersey Co.), Derinda Township (JoDaviess Co.), Hanover Township (JoDaviess Co.), Rutland Township (Kane Co.), Seward Township (Kendall Co.), Fremont Township (Lake Co.), Maine Township (Lake Co.), Collinsville Township (Madison Co.), Saline Township (Madison Co.), Venice Township (Madison Co.), Wood River Township (Madison Co.), Sandoval Township (Marion Co.), Emmet Township (McDonough Co.), Limestone Township (Peoria Co.), Blackhawk Township (Rock Island Co.), Drury Township (Rock Island Co.), St. Clair Township (St. Clair Co.), Newell Township (Vermilion Co.), Coloma Township (Whiteside Co.), Prophetstown Township (Whiteside Co.), Sterling Township (Whiteside Co.), DuPage Township (Will Co.), and Plainfield Township (Will Co.).

All submissions for the 2023 Cover Photo Contest can be found on the Township Officials of Illinois Facebook page! Don't forget to give us a like while you're there!

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Chuck Layer



President, Township Supervisors of Illinois
Supervisor, Blackhawk Township, Rock Island County

By the time you are reading this article the Supervisors Division will have completed their 2023 Educational Workshops. If you were able to attend one of these—Thank you. If you couldn't make it this year, we hope to see you in 2024. We are in the process of setting our dates and locations for the 2024 Educational Events. We will again, next year, combine our workshops geared towards Supervisors/Trustees. We are still working on the topics. We do have one GATI Session left. It is this month—September 29th—in Effingham. We are working on our dates and locations next year for the GATI Workshops.

The TSI Board still has vacancies in every zone. You can check on the TOI website, under the Supervisors

Division to see where each zone is located. You can contact Sherrill Knorr, Past President and chairperson of the nominating committee.

Don't forget about the TOI Conference coming up soon. It will be held on November 12-14. We will have a GATI Session on Saturday the 11th. This is a great opportunity for all elected officials. Not only are there great educational opportunities, but the time to network with others in your elected position. If you haven't been to a Conference, try to make this one.

That's all for now... From the TSI Board of Directors

**HAVE A SAFE AND WONDERFUL LABOR DAY...
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On July 28, in Bloomington-Normal was the second joint Township Supervisors of Illinois and Township Trustees Division education event.



On July 14, was the joint Township Supervisors of Illinois and Township Trustees Division education event in Rockford.

**Check Out the New Website Program!
TotallyTownships.com.**

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

Sponsored by the Township Supervisors of Illinois

Friday, September 29, 2023
Thelma Keller Convention Center
1202 N Keller Drive
Effingham, IL 62401

Registration: 8:30 - 9:00
Training: 9:00 - 4:00
Lunch will be provided

Caseworkers are strongly encouraged to attend this training with your township Supervisor.
For questions related to the GATI training, please contact:

Kayla@TOI.org
217.744.2212 - Phone
217.744.7419 - Fax
866.897.4688 - Toll Free

PLEASE PRINT

County _____ Township _____

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Title _____

Address _____

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Email Address _____

Please include the name and title of each additional person attending (limit of 3 per township):

Credit Card payments made via TOI.ORG website.
or

PLEASE SEND \$30 per person to:

TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS OF ILLINOIS
ATTN: GATI Continuing Education
3217 Northfield Dr.
Springfield, IL 62702

BEGINNERS BASIC GENERAL ASSISTANCE

Sponsored by the Township Supervisors of Illinois



Saturday, November 11, 2023

Crowne Plaza
3000 South Dirksen Parkway
Springfield, IL 62703

Registration: 12:30 - 1:00

Training: 1:00 - 4:30

Snacks Provided

(lunch will not be served)

Caseworkers are strongly encouraged to attend this training with your township Supervisor.
For questions related to the GATI training, please contact:

Kayla@TOI.org

217.744.2212 - Phone

217.744.7419 - Fax

866.897.4688 - Toll Free

PLEASE PRINT

County _____ Township _____

Name _____

Title _____

Address _____

City/Zip _____

Daytime Phone _____

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Please include the name and title of each additional person attending (limit of 3 per township):

Credit Card payments made via TOI.ORG website.

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PLEASE SEND \$30 per person to:

**TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS OF ILLINOIS
ATTN: GATI Continuing Education
3217 Northfield Dr.
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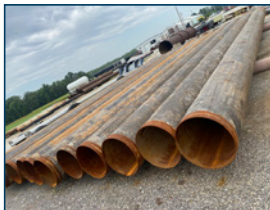


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Pam Bruner



**Vice President, TOI Clerks Division
Township Clerk, Cordova Township, Rock Island County**

By the time you read this *Perspective* article all but one of the summer district training events will be completed. The final district event will be September 14 at the Thelma Keller Center in Effingham. If you were unable to attend one of the events, I would encourage you to sign up for the Annual TOI Conference this November at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield. Registration is open for the November 12, 13, and 14 event. You have until October 27, 2023 for advance registration.

There are a lot of training events at the conference as well as a vendor area and division row where the TOI Clerks division is well represented. Stop by and see us and tell us what wonderful things you have going on in your Township. We also sponsor two training sessions on the first day at the conference. Session 1 is at 1:00 p.m. and Session 2 is at 3:00 p.m. Look for the preliminary schedule in this issue of *Township Perspective* and make your plans to attend. We cannot wait to see you there. Take a moment at the booth and verify your membership standing and make the check-in easier for the Clerks business meeting. The business meeting will have a full agenda and time for a little fun and giveaways.

Several deadlines are on the calendar for the month of September. Take a look at the list and make sure you have the tasks covered.

9/27/2023

- Fiscal Responsibility Report Card
- Last day to file Annual Financial Report
- Comptroller's Report
- File Annual Financial Report with Comptroller and County Clerk

9/30/2023

- Annual Treasurer's Report
- Last day for the supervisor to prepare combined Annual Treasurer's Report filed with county clerk. Publish in local newspaper.
- Audit Town and Road & Bridge
- File CPA Audit with State Comptroller's Office and County Clerk

Thank you to all the Township Clerks who have come forward from the TOI Clerks Board to help with training at the educational events and thank you to all the clerks who have taken the time to participate in the educational events. If you have ideas for training or have topics you would like more information on, please contact me at the email below. It is our goal to provide you with the information you need to do your job efficiently.

If you have a question or suggestion, please send it to me. Email me at clerk@cordovatownship.com, write me at PO Box 311, Cordova, IL 61242, or call (309) 533-1307.

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Arnold Vegter



**President, Township Highway Commissioners of Illinois
Highway Commissioner, Union Grove Township, Whiteside Co.**

In the past 18-20 months that I have been president of the Township Highway Commissioners of Illinois (THCOI), I have fielded many calls from not only highway commissioners from around the state, but also a few supervisors and a couple of trustees. The questions have varied from “Can the township board do this? Can the highway commissioner do that?” There have been many questions both ways and over many different topics.

The reason that I bring this up is TOI, Township Highway Commissioners of Illinois, Township Supervisors of Illinois, and the Trustees Division all have educational seminars to educate Township Officials on how things are supposed to be done legally and the right way. During the conversations that I have had with these various people I always ask them if they have ever attended one of the many educational conferences or educational events sponsored throughout the year. I understand that many of our Township Officials are part-time and have limited vacation time available from their jobs. They don't want to spend their vacation time for these types of events, but I also respond by telling them that all of their questions could and would be easily answered at any of these events. The right people are always there to answer their questions and lead you down the right path to doing things the right way.

A highway commissioner called me with a legal question, and I asked if he had ever been to one of our seminars. He responded that, no, that he didn't think that attending was worth it and, also, he didn't have the time.

My response was that at all of the highway commissioners seminars we have a question and answer session with an attorney and that is well worth the time and money. TOI

also offers monthly free online Q&A Sessions.

THCOI just got done with our Annual Summer Seminar, and while we had the same attendance as in the past, if you look at how many highway commissioners are in the state of Illinois, there could have been better participation. Any township board member (supervisor, township clerk, trustee, assessor, tax collector) could also attend to learn. TOI is having their Fall Conference this November 12-14 at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield and I challenge everyone, *especially* if you have never been to one, to come. You will be pleasantly surprised at what you learn there.

Township Highway Commissioners of Illinois Meeting of The Whole

Tuesday, November 14, 2023 at 10:00 A.M. • Crowne Plaza, Springfield, IL

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| Call To Order | President Arnold Vegter |
| Pledge Of Allegiance/Moment of Silence | Vice President Scott Seebach |
| Minutes | Secretary Tim Killian |
| Treasurer's Report | Treasurer Craig Smith |
| Old Business | |
| Legislative Update | Danny Hanning |
| New Business | |
| Summer Seminar 2024- New Venue | Arnold Vegter |
| Ideas for speakers/topics for 2024 Summer Seminar | Arnold Vegter |
| Any New Business for The Good of The Order? | |
| Speaker TBA | |
| Adjournment | |

Next THCOI Meeting of The Whole Scheduled for August 14th 2024 at The Embassy Suites East Peoria During The 2024 Summer Seminar



On June 7, the West Central Illinois Highway Commissioner Association met in Macomb, Illinois.

THCOI Summer Seminar

July 31-August 2 was the Township Highway Commissioners of Illinois (THCOI) Summer Seminar held in Peoria.



Attendees at the 2023 THCOI Summer Seminar.



TOI Director of Member Services Brad Ruppert and Manito Township (Mason Co.) Bookkeeper Jackie Sunderland. Jackie won the TOI booth prize of a flagpole. Congratulations!



The Township Officials of Illinois booth at the THCOI Summer Seminar. Executive Director Jerry B. Crabtree and Director of Member Services Brad Ruppert were in attendance.



THCOI President, TOI Secretary, and Union Grove Township (Whiteside Co.) Highway Commissioner Arnie Vegter reads out the winner for the TOI booth prize.



TOI Legislative Consultant Taylor Anderson speaks to attendees of the 2023 THCOI Summer Seminar.



Land Values/Farm Land Assessments

Deb Lane

CIAO-I Multi-Township Assessor
Meriden, Ophir, Troy Grove Twp., LaSalle Co.

Summer is upon us, things to do and see, the calendar is full and before you know it will be Fall! This article will be of most interest to assessors and those who have farm ground in Illinois.

In LaSalle County, Assessors handed in their Annual work on June 15, 2023 to the County. This year is called the General Assessment Year or Quad Year—meaning every 4 years, all property in your jurisdiction should be looked at for any changes and adjustments made. All Residential land was revalued in my 5 Townships: Town lots, Subdivision lots, and Rural sites—some values raised and some values lowered. Residential land and Farm Home sites are valued at the market value of the lot or site. The information below is from Department of Revenue Publications, CCAO, and IPAI websites. Farm Land classes are offered by IPAI and IDOR—signup today.

A farm homesite is the part of the farm parcel used for residential purposes and includes the lawn and land on which the residence and garage are situated, and may include farmland that is incidental to the primary residential use. Areas in gardens, non-commercial orchards, and similar uses of land are also included.

Farm Land is assessed differently. Since the enactment of the Farmland Assessment Law in 1977, farmland in Illinois is assessed for property tax purposes on its ability to produce a crop (agricultural use value) and not on its market value.

Since the passage of the Farmland Assessment Law (P.A. 82-121) in 1981, the assessment of farmland has been based upon net income to the farmland as determined by land productivity and use. Land use is determined through the use of aerial photographs and visual inspection. Land productivity is determined through the use of soil maps, productivity indexes, and all other available data.

In 1986, the farmland law was amended. The amendment had a limiting impact on the movement of farmland assessed values from one year to the next. “An increase or decrease in equalized assessed value

per acre by soil productivity index shall not exceed 10% from the immediately preceding year’s soil productivity index certified value.”

Farmland is separated into 4 categories: cropland, permanent pasture, other farmland, and wasteland. Cropland, permanent pasture, and other farmland are assessed based upon productivity index and wasteland is assessed based on its contributory value.

Cropland shall be assessed in accordance with the equalized assessed value of its soil productivity index as certified by the Department and shall be debased to take into account factors including, but not limited to, slope, drainage, ponding, flooding, and field size and shape.

Permanent pasture shall be assessed at 1/3 of its debased productivity index equalized assessed value as cropland.

Other farmland shall be assessed at 1/6 of its debased productivity index equalized assessed value as cropland.

Soil Productivity index (PI) is the capacity of soil to grow crops or plants under specified environmental conditions influenced by soil properties, climatic conditions, and management inputs. The soil productivity indexing system assigns a number (PI) which compares a soil’s potential to produce crops to the potential of the Muscatune soil.

Farmland Assessment Technical Advisor Board (FATAB) is a five-person panel appointed by the Director of the Illinois Department of Revenue. The members of that board are technical experts from Schools of Agriculture from state universities. Their purpose is to advise in and provide technical information in the calculation of agricultural economic value.

“Agricultural economic value,” a form of use-value of the property used for agricultural purposes, is determined, according to the Property Tax Code 35 ILCS 200/10-115(d), by dividing the net return to

land by the five-year average of the Federal Land Bank farmland mortgage interest rate as calculated by FATAB.

According to statute, by May 1st of each tax year, FATAB's duty is to publish its estimates of gross income and production costs (other than land costs). This is done by using data it collects on yields per acre as assigned to each soil productivity index, the crop mix for each soil productivity index as determined by the College of Agriculture of the University of Illinois, and average prices received by farmers for principal crops as published by the Illinois Crop Reporting Service. The net return to land is then determined by taking the difference between the gross income and production costs.

Bulletin 810 was implemented for the 2006 assessment year. Counties moved from the weighted tracked method of assessment to the individual soil survey method. The 10 percent annual per acre change in EAV for each soil PI is still in effect. But, 2006 assessments will use a new set of PIs, which reflect the higher yields. Most soil PIs increased.

This change eliminates a lot of the "guesswork" assessors used, (from the average 1-acre homesite

to accrual acre for the site). Counties also reviewed their use of flood debasements and determining what portion of the farm is really the homesite.

Now, since that is as "Clear as Mud"—HA! HA!

Our land assessments in LaSalle County have been annually going up 10% for years. I'm not sure when the increasing will end? I have asked but it's uncertain.



I know this will be after the fact, but my new T-shirt for the 2023 Farm Progress Show, Aug. 29-31 at the biennial site in Decatur, IL.

Maybe I will see you there!

I was talking with a fellow Township Official—he said that he reads my article. I asked what should I write about? He said "Work together and be nice!" Thanks Melvin Bonnell, Trustee for Lee Center Township, Lee County. I'll work on that.

If you have an idea for an article, please let me know. You can email me at dlane@udnet.net, or regular mail to Box 54, Troy Grove, IL 61372 or call me at cell (815) 343-2127.

116TH ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 12-14TH CROWNE PLAZA, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

TOI 2023 Conference Schedule at a Glance*

Sunday, November 12th

2:00 - 6:00 pm Registration Open
3:00 - 7:00 pm Exhibit Hall Open
5:30 - 7:00 pm - Opening Reception

Monday, November 13th

7:30 - 1:00 pm - Exhibit Hall Open
7:30 - 4:45 pm - Registration Open
7:30 - 9:00 am - Breakfast in Exhibit Hall
9:45 - 11:30 am - Keynote Speaker - Guy Snodgrass
11:30 - 1:00 pm - Lunch in Exhibit Hall
1:15 - 5:00 pm - Concurrent Educational Sessions
7:00 - 8:00 pm - President's Reception (Live music provided by: Moonshiners Band)
8:00 - 10:00 pm - Glo Bingo

Tuesday, November 14th

7:30 - Noon - Registration Open
7:45 - 9:15 am - Awards Breakfast
8:00 - 9:55 am - Concurrent Educational Sessions
10:00 - 11:20 am - Division Meetings
11:30 - 12:30 pm - Annual Meeting (Closing Session)

*Subject to Change



toi.org for benefit package & registration details diane@toi.org

TOI 2023 EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 12-14, 2023

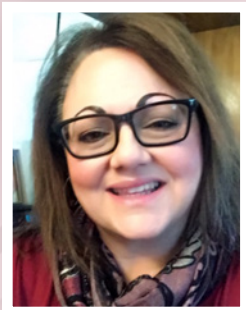


KEYNOTE SPEAKER GUY SNODGRASS



Commander Snodgrass will focus on how to be a leader in your own life and career!

toi.org for details and registration diane@toi.org



A Message from the President

Tina Houdek

President, AITCOY

It is that time of year that AITCOY is getting ready for the Annual Educational Conference. We are excited to be presenting again at two different workshops. The focus of the workshops is on trauma informed care. The first workshop offering is “Trauma Informed Service Delivery,” with the second workshop titled “The Trauma Informed Township”.



The presenter for these workshops is Dr. Natalie Pamphile, Hanover Township’s very own Assistant Director of Clinical Services. Dr. Pamphile began her career as a case manager in south Florida, coordinating care

for individuals living with HIV/AIDS in various non-profit community agencies. During her time in south

Florida, she also served on a Dade County committee responsible for developing standards of care for Ryan White title I case management services, that piqued her interest in developing policy. After obtaining her Master’s degree in counseling psychology, she worked at a residential substance abuse treatment facility, where she became interested in program development and curriculum design, that led her to pursue a doctorate in clinical psychology at Wheaton College.

Since becoming licensed as a psychologist, Dr. Natalie has been part of a team that wrote a curriculum for a day-long seminar for first responders, and has done various trainings on such topics as complex trauma, trauma-informed behavioral health care, and violence risk assessment in schools.

We look forward to seeing all of you at the Conference.

Did You Know?

Did you know... September is Suicide Prevention Awareness month? People often shy away from talking about suicide, but it’s important for people to realize that it’s okay to talk about suicide. In the United States, suicide is the second leading cause of death among people aged 10-14 and the third leading cause of death among people aged 15-24. When people feel supported and not stigmatized, these devastating outcomes can be avoided. Over the last three years, mental health issues have become even more prevalent as families struggled during the pandemic with loss, isolation, and fear. In response to this great need on July 16, 2022, the federally mandated crisis number 988 became available to land line and cell phone users. This easy to use number connects callers to local crisis centers. The hope is that this will be an easy number for people to remember, just like we know to call 911 in other emergencies.

How can you support someone in crisis?

- Talk openly and honestly. Don’t be afraid to ask about their plan.
- Provide empathic responses.
- Don’t argue, threaten, or criticize.
- Create a safe environment by removing weapons, sharp objects, or medications.
- Aid them in accessing help through a crisis line like 988, take them to the emergency room, or help them set up counseling services to address the stressors that led them to considering such a drastic behavior.

Submitted by Allison Kowieski (Wayne/Winfield Area Youth/Family Services (WAYS), Representing Wayne & Winfield Townships

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE CATASTROPHIC INSURANCE PROGRAM

Administered by Allied Benefit Systems, LLC



Your township is liable for medical claims of your G.A. recipients. Now more than ever, it is important to renew or obtain MACI coverage. You can still enroll for the balance of the Policy Year!

Please keep in mind your premiums can be legally paid from GA funds.



PRICING SHEET

October 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024

POPULATION	\$25,000 Deductible			\$15,000 Deductible		
	ADMIN FEE	PREMIUM	TOTAL COST	ADMIN FEE	PREMIUM	TOTAL COST
0 - 499	\$75	\$206	\$281	\$75	\$413	\$488
500 - 999	\$150	\$289	\$439	\$150	\$578	\$728
1,000 - 1,999	\$225	\$392	\$617	\$225	\$784	\$1,009
2,000 - 3,499	\$300	\$495	\$795	\$300	\$990	\$1,290
3,500 - 4,999	\$375	\$660	\$1,035	\$375	\$1,320	\$1,695
5,000 - 9,999	\$450	\$784	\$1,234	\$450	\$1,568	\$2,018
10,000 - 24,999	\$563	\$949	\$1,511	N/A	N/A	N/A
25,000 - 49,999	\$656	\$1,114	\$1,770	N/A	N/A	N/A
50,000 - 74,999	\$750	\$1,238	\$1,988	N/A	N/A	N/A
75,000 - 99,999	\$938	\$1,444	\$2,381	N/A	N/A	N/A
100,000 - 124,999	\$1,125	\$2,063	\$3,188	N/A	N/A	N/A
125,000 - 149,999	\$1,350	\$2,475	\$3,825	N/A	N/A	N/A
150,000 - 174,999	Individually			N/A	N/A	N/A
175,000 - 200,000	Underwritten			N/A	N/A	N/A

The application process is simple and swift. Please contact Steve Barrett, if you require an application or have any questions.
Call toll-free **TODAY** at 1-800-540-6566
or email: maciprotect@gmail.com



Mary Jo Imperato



Director, Human Services, Hanover Township

Human Trafficking, according to the Department of Human Services (dhs.gov) involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act. Every year, millions of men, women, and children are trafficked worldwide—including right here in the United States. It can happen in any community and victims can be any age, race, gender, or nationality.

Who is Affected

Traffickers who exploit people for forced labor do not discriminate. Neither do employers: Victims can be any age, race, religious affiliation, gender identity, or nationality. They may also come from any socioeconomic group. Certain risk factors, however, may make certain individuals more vulnerable to forced labor than others. These include:

- Unstable immigration status
- Language barriers
- Poverty and lack of basic needs like food, shelter, and safety
- The psychological effects of a recent or past trauma
- Lack of social support systems like friends, family, and community
- Physical or developmental disabilities

Traffickers frequently target vulnerable populations, such as children, individuals without lawful immigration status, those with debts, and those who are isolated, impoverished, or disabled, to name a few. U.S. citizens, foreign nationals, women, men, and children can all be victims of forced labor.

As General Assistance Caseworkers we may be faced with individuals or families that are victims of Human Trafficking. Please join us at the TOI Conference, Monday, November 13th at 1:15 p.m. to learn about Human Trafficking, what you need to know, recognizing the signs, and how to help.

General Assistance Caseworkers Association Update

The Illinois Township Association of General Assistance Caseworkers will be presenting awards at the 2023 Township of Illinois (TOI) conference in November. The Association is accepting nominations for 2023 Outstanding Caseworker of the Year, 2023 Best Innovative Township Program of the Year, 2023 Township of the Year, and 2023 Supervisor of the Year. Nominations must be received no later than Friday, October 13th and has not won in the same category in the past two years.

2023 Outstanding Caseworker of the Year must be nominated by the Supervisor, Administrator, General Assistance Director/Manager, or Case Manager. Candidates should be nominated in relation to the following criteria:

- Service Provided
- Going Above and Beyond Serving Residents
- Improving Services for the Community
- Community Involvement and Impact

PLEASE SUBMIT A ONE PAGE SUMMARY DETAILING WHY THIS CANDIDATE SHOULD BE AWARDED **2023 Outstanding Caseworker of the Year**.

2023 Best Innovative Program must be nominated by the Supervisor, Administrator, or Direct Manager of the Program. This program must be utilized within the General Assistance Department and meet the following criteria:

- Program Description
- Service It Provides
- Outcomes, How This Program Benefits General Assistance Recipients

PLEASE SUBMIT A ONE PAGE SUMMARY DETAILING THIS PROGRAM AND WHY IT SHOULD BE AWARDED **2023 Best Innovative Program**.

2023 Township of the Year must be nominated by Supervisor or Administrator and detail past year's Township accomplishments and improved services detailing why they should be awarded 2023 Township of the Year.

PLEASE SUBMIT A ONE PAGE SUMMARY DETAILING WHY YOUR TOWNSHIP SHOULD BE AWARDED **2023 Township of the Year**.

PLEASE SUBMIT A ONE PAGE SUMMARY DETAILING WHY YOUR SUPERVISOR SHOULD BE AWARDED **2023 Supervisor of the Year**.

Nominations should be emailed to: mimperato@hanover-township.org by Friday, October 13th.

The General Assistance Caseworker Association Board continues to strive to bring resources to assist in doing our jobs. If you have any topics or organizations you would like to share, please email them to mimperato@hanover-township.org and we will schedule them into an upcoming *Perspective* article.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Jo Imperato

To become a member, please mail payment to:

Illinois Township Association of General Assistance Caseworkers
c/o Mary Jo Imperato, Hanover Township, 7431 Astor Avenue, Hanover Park, IL 60133

Yes, we want to be a member. My \$50.00 check is enclosed for 2 caseworkers.

Yes, we want to be a member. My \$100.00 check is enclosed for 3 or more caseworkers.

No, I do not wish to join, but please keep me on your mailing list.

Name	Township
Address	City and Zip Code
Email Address	Phone Number





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Evidence-Based Programs— They Work!

Laura Wassinger

Director of SOAR@Dorr, Dorrr Township

If you're considering beginning an evidence-based fitness program at your Township, here's our experience. When my colleague, Lynda Rohe, Executive Director of the Harvard Community Senior Center, approached me with the idea of running a **Fit & Strong** class at SOAR@Dorr my interest was piqued. She and I had run **Matter of Balance**, another evidence-based program together, and it went well. Lynda applied for the grant and received it. Because of the excellent online training, we each received certification to be instructors.

Fit & Strong was created by the University of Illinois at Chicago with precise guidelines meant to increase lower body strength in order to relieve osteoarthritic pain thus increasing mobility and allowing for greater independence and quality of life. **Fit & Strong**, like **Matter of Balance**, requires that there be 2 people present for each class so scheduling the classes was based on our respective centers and already established programming. Once we determined the days of the week and the start/end dates, we were ready to begin receiving materials. We received forms (pre- and post-surveys, participant manuals, and promo materials), adjustable ankle weights, and fitness tubes with handles. The instructor manuals were very detailed and well-organized with weekly fitness goals and discussion topics.

Lynda and I agreed to divide the duties for each class. Because I had been a fitness instructor at one time, I felt comfortable running the fitness component of the class. This meant constructing each weekly class routine according to the guidelines, adding and changing exercises to challenge different muscles and fend off boredom. Lynda regularly completed and submitted paperwork required by the grant, timed as directed during the aerobic sections, assisted with demonstration and talking points, as well as aided participants with equipment changes and safety concerns during class.

Each class began with a 10-minute warm-up, followed by 10-15 minutes of very light aerobics. Next came 15 minutes of strength training with the emphasis first on the lower body and then the upper body. Each

class ended with a 10-minute cool down. After the fitness portion of the class ended, there was a brief presentation on a fitness-related topic and time for Q & A, as well as group sharing. We started out slowly as directed, demonstrated modifications throughout each class, and reminded people to listen to their bodies. On a weekly basis we increased the length of time for the aerobic section and added weight to the ankle weights as participants were able.

About three weeks into the **Fit & Strong** program we began to feel comfortable and started to make it our own. I created a playlist for the class and asked participants to provide names of songs or artists they liked so I could change the list weekly. During class, besides demonstrating proper form and important tips, I also relied on a few willing class members to help me count repetitions. One participant reminded the class to drink water. Another reminded us to breathe. One by one class members came to us with testimonials about how they felt stronger, their balance was better, they had more energy, or they could lift their arm above their shoulder for the first time in months! I think what impressed us the most was the consistent attendance of the participants. Between 18 and 22 people attended each class. They only missed in cases of doctor appointments, illness, or travel, and usually notified us in advance.

One day I asked everyone to try to stand up from their chair without using their hands. Some could do it easily, but others struggled. I continued to ask the group to do it at each class until one day everyone was able to stand up without using their hands, including a 93-year-old woman who had suffered from painful knees! When she finally stood up, the entire class clapped! She beamed.

As the class approached completion, the group wanted to acknowledge the experience we shared by having a potluck lunch and even ordered special t-shirts. Also, Lynda and I decided to continue to offer the class once weekly, as a modified version of **Fit & Strong** to

allow class-goers to maintain what they'd achieved until we offer the full evidence-based program again.

The **Fit & Strong** evidence-based program made a lot of claims that originally sounded too good to be true, but what our participants gained was exactly what was promised. By carefully following the **Fit & Strong** program, we were able to help our participants get stronger, increase their aerobic capability and flexibility, and improve their balance, coordination, and endurance. The increase of confidence and happiness we saw in those who joined us were surprising benefits we didn't anticipate.

Not all of these programs are created equally, and careful research of the requirements is strongly recommended to assure success, but for all of us who participated in the evidence-based program, **Fit &**

Strong, it was one of the most fulfilling activities we've experienced.

For more information about the Illinois Township Association of Senior Citizen Services Committees, visit us at www.itascsc.net. If your Township is not a member of ITASCSC, complete a membership application (available in the Forms section on the website and here in this issue of Perspectives) and submit it with your payment. As a member of ITASCSC, you can also nominate people/programs for ITASCSC's annual awards. Please reach out to President Megan Conway of Hanover Township at 630-483-5671 or mconway@hanover-township.org with any questions. Join ITASCSC to get access to member-only resources and the opportunity to work alongside a great network of professionals serving older adults.



A Snapshot of Guidance on Restroom Inclusivity

Charles Y. Davis, Roland R. Cross, Anneliese B. Fierstos *Brown, Hay & Stephens, LLP* www.bhslaw.com

As employment law counsel, we are often asked specific questions about how employers should address restroom inclusivity in the workplace and how to avoid some of the legal difficulties surrounding the topic. Contrary to what many people believe, there is no specific “law” on gender inclusivity in the workplace, but there are some fairly helpful *guideposts* that can help employers navigate their way through the (sometimes controversial) issue. The purpose of this article is to briefly summarize some of the most pertinent guidance provided at the state and federal levels.

Illinois Law on Bathroom Accessibility and Gender Identity

For years, Illinois has had the “Equitable Restrooms Act” in place which specifically requires that every single-occupancy restroom in a place of public accommodation or in public building shall be identified as all-gender and designated for use by no more than one person at a time or for family or assisted use.

The Act defines “single occupancy restrooms” as a fully enclosed room, with a locking mechanism that is controlled by the user and contains a sink, toilet stall, and no more than one urinal.

Each single-occupancy restroom shall be outfitted with exterior signage that marks the single-occupancy restroom as a restroom *and does not* indicate any specific gender.

Under the Act, all places of public accommodation must comply with the Act. Any business or public facility with questions on whether its facility meets the definition of “places of public accommodation” should consult with legal counsel for a specific legal opinion on their categorization.

Recent Changes to Illinois Law Which Will Allow Businesses to Create Multi-Occupancy Gender-Neutral Bathrooms

In May 2023, Illinois lawmakers passed legislation which expands the Equitable Restrooms Act and allows businesses to create multi-occupancy gender neutral restrooms. Governor Pritzker signed the bill into law on August 11, 2023.

The new law does not require that businesses create multi-occupancy restrooms but provides very specific guidelines if they choose to do so.

For example, the multi-occupancy, all-gender bathrooms would need to have “inclusive signage” that does not indicate any specific gender; stall dividers with functioning locks controlled by the user; and partitions for each urinal (if urinals are present).

In addition, if such bathrooms are part of a newly constructed building or a building undergoing major renovation, they will have to comply with requirements of the federal Americans with Disabilities Act and the Illinois Accessibility Code. Each toilet stall must have a small trash receptacle, at least one vending machine for menstruation supplies, and one baby diaper changing station. The new legislation also provides that any multi-occupancy restroom can be converted to an all-gender restroom. Any place of public accommodation choosing to provide a multi-occupancy, gender neutral bathrooms should consult with independent legal counsel to make certain they have complied with all statutory requirements.

Moreover, the Illinois Human Rights Act (“the Act”) specifically prohibits discrimination in the workplace based on gender identity and, specifically, as it relates to bathroom accessibility. In 2021, in *Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc. v. Sommerville*, an Illinois Appellate court addressed an issue of first impression in Illinois: whether an employer violated the Act when it denied a transgender woman the use of the women’s bathroom. The court found that Hobby Lobby violated the Act in two ways: (1) prohibiting discrimination based on, among other things, gender identity, in employment; and (2) prohibiting such discrimination in the provision of facilities in a place of public accommodation. The employee was compensated with an award of over \$200,000.00 and Hobby Lobby was ordered to allow the employee access to the women’s restroom.

Federal Laws Require Reasonable Bathroom Access Regardless of Gender Identity

Under Federal laws, employers are legally required to provide all of their workers with reasonable access to restroom facilities. The U.S. Department of Labor’s

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requires that employers make toilet facilities available so that employees can use them when they need to do so, and the employer may not impose unreasonable restrictions on an employee's use of the facilities. These laws specifically include transgender employees.

Pursuant to OSHA standards, all employees should be permitted to use the facilities that correspond with their *gender identity*. In other words, a person who identifies as a man should be permitted to use men's restrooms, and a person who identifies as a woman should be permitted to use women's restrooms. OSHA also requires that, regardless of the physical layout of a particular worksite, all employers need to find solutions that are safe and convenient and which respect transgender employees. Under best practices standards published by OSHA, employees should not be asked to provide any medical or legal documentation of their gender identity in order to have access to gender-appropriate facilities. In

addition, no employee should be required to use a segregated facility apart from other employees because of their gender identity or transgender status.

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), the Department of Justice (DOJ), the Department of Labor, as well as other Federal Agencies prohibit employment discrimination based on gender identity or transgender status. The EEOC has specifically ruled that a transgender employee cannot be denied access to common restrooms used by other employees of the same gender identity, *regardless* of whether that employee has had any medical procedure or whether other employees may have negative reactions to allowing the employee to do so. The EEOC has determined that such a denial of access may constitute direct evidence of sex discrimination under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act.

Once again, employers should consult with independent legal counsel for specific legal advice with respect to any questions or concerns about bathroom accessibility.

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OCTOBER 2023

1 2 3 4 5 6 7
8 9 10 11 12 13 14
15 16 17 18 19 20 21
22 23 24 25 26 27 28
29 30 31

October 6, 2023 - Deadline for Hotel Reservations

October 27, 2023 - Deadline to purchase Awards Breakfast tickets and pre-register for Conference

November 12-14, 2023 -
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Determining Public Road Status

Steve Judge

Judge Law, LLC

This month's column discusses the recent Fifth District Appellate Court's opinion in the case of *Hicks v. Pope County Board of Commissioners and the Pope County Highway Department*. *Hicks v. Pope County Board of Commissioners and the Pope County Highway Department*, 2023 IL App (5d) 220733 (Ill App. 2023). The plaintiff, Georgia Hicks, filed a declaratory judgment action seeking exclusive rights to the use of a property located in Golconda, Illinois. The central issue revolved around whether Hicks Road, the access route to the property, qualified as a public highway or a private driveway. The Appellate Court's decision affirmed the circuit court's ruling in favor of the defendants and intervening defendants, granting summary judgment. The court deemed Hicks Road to be a public roadway, rejecting the plaintiff's claim of private ownership.

Georgia Hicks brought a declaratory judgment action before the circuit court of Pope County, seeking ownership and exclusive rights to the use of a property located at 89 Hicks Road in Golconda, Illinois. The dispute centered on the status of Hicks Road, determining whether it was a public highway or a private driveway. The Trovillion brothers, intervening defendants, claimed to have regularly used the road for decades to access their property. The court's ruling in favor of the defendants prompted Hicks to appeal the decision before the Fifth District Appellate Court.

The Plaintiff received a letter from the Pope County engineer, that stated "if she maintains her driveway as it currently exists, and as it has been for years, that she will be charged with a petty offense and fined pursuant to approval by the Pope County Board of Commissioners." *Id.*,

"As we have discussed and I have written to you previously, Hicks Road is a prescriptive public right-of-way per the definition in 605 ILCS 5/2-202. This office, the Pope County Unit Road District, by 605 ILCS 5/9-117 is the highway authority having jurisdiction of said

right-of-way. It is our understanding that you or your family caused obstructions to be placed in the Hicks Road right-of-way hindering others from full access to their property, specifically two cattle crossings, fencing immediately adjacent to those cattle crossings, and longitudinal fencing that drastically narrowed the road that was placed after 1989.

*** Non-removal of the obstructions could result in being charged a petty offense with a minimum fine of \$50 to a maximum of \$500 for each offense and you could be fined \$50 per day for every day that the obstructions are not removed." *Id.*

The plaintiff alleged ownership of the property in question since 1973 and claimed the property's driveway began as a dirt track in the 1920s. The defendants contended that Hicks Road had been a public highway since before the plaintiff purchased her property. To support their claims, both parties presented affidavits from expert witnesses and individuals attesting to their historical use of the road.

Scott A. Trovillion and Scott W. Trovillion filed a motion to intervene as nearby landowners who relied upon Hicks Road for ingress and egress to their property. The Trovillions filed a motion for summary judgment relying upon several affidavits including an affidavit from the County highway engineer. The other defendants joined in the Trovillions motion for summary judgment.

Plaintiff failed to present a question of fact to preclude summary judgment

The motion for summary judgment alleged that there is no genuine issue of material fact that Hicks Road a/k/a Hicks Drive is a public highway pursuant to section 2-202 of the Illinois Highway Code (605 ILCS 5/2-202 (West 2020)), and as such, the plaintiff's complaint for a declaratory judgment requesting a finding that she has the exclusive right to control the

route at issue must fail. The intervening defendants relied upon on the affidavits of numerous individuals to establish that the route in question is a public highway.

Affidavits in support of summary judgment included a licensed professional land surveyor:

“In my professional opinion based upon my experience, education, and the public documents examined, including information from USGS topographic maps Exhibits 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, and 16 attached hereto, Illinois Department of Public Works Maps Exhibit 7 and 12, IDOT Map attached hereto as Exhibit 13, and relying on the published Pope County Plat Books for 2000, 2013, and 2018, and other evidence on the ground, Hicks Drive a/k/a Hicks Road is a public highway pursuant to the relevant statutes, and not a private driveway.” *Id.*

Several nearby property owners and residents also provided affidavits that they had regularly used Hicks Drive to access their property.

“I worked for Southeastern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Inc. from the [sic] 1978 to approximately 2009, where I would use Hicks Drive a/k/a Hicks Road to perform service and maintenance on the power grid and electric line, and emergency power restoration on the properties located along Hicks Drive a/k/a Hicks Road as far south as Scott W. Trovillion’s property at the southern end of Hicks Drive a/k/a Hicks Road.” *Id.*

Plaintiff filed a counter-affidavit in response to summary judgment which stated:

“The current driveway on my property began as a dirt track, put in by the owners of the property in the 1920s, as access to their home and farmland. The dirt track was on properties owned by the Rexer-Walter family who put in the dirt track.

In or about 1928, the State of Illinois made the dirt road running along the Plaintiff’s property line, between Section 18 and Section 19, into the paved road now known as Route 146.

In the 1970s, after purchasing the property, my late husband, Phillip Hicks, and I improved the dirt track into a gravel driveway, and the two of us have maintained that driveway from that time to the present date.

My late husband and I have continually

graveled the entire 1-1/2 miles of the driveway since it was improved in or about 1973, and have maintained, ditched, graded, installed culverts, trimmed trees, and cleared snow for the entire length of the driveway for the past 49 years.

Said driveway travels from Route 146 for one mile to the house in which I reside, and from my house another 1/2 mile to an abandoned house which is the property now owned by the Intervening Defendants.

I own the land on either side of this driveway and use the driveway exclusively to access my property.

The driveway on my property has been in use exclusively for access to the land owned by the persons using that driveway and has never been a public road or used by the State of Illinois or Pope County as a public road.” *Id.*

The court found that the plaintiff failed to provide a specific question of fact and law to dispute the defendants’ claim and granted summary judgment in favor of defendants.

The only issue on Appeal was “Did the Trial Court err in its ruling granting Summary Judgment on behalf of the Defendants, Pope County Board of Commissioners and Pope County Highway Department, and the Intervening Defendants, Scott A. Trovillion and Scott W. Trovillion in deciding that the Plaintiff’s driveway was a public road?” *Id.* The Appellate Court found plaintiff’s argument to consist of “conclusory statements with little to no argument and no supporting authority.” *Id.* Plaintiff failed to cite to any authority, short of the standard for summary judgment, in support of their allegation that the circuit court’s decision was in error.

As a result, the court deemed the issue forfeited for review, affirming the circuit court’s order granting summary judgment to the defendants and intervening defendants.

Conclusion

The court’s decision confirmed that Hicks Road was a public roadway, dismissing the plaintiff’s claim of private ownership. The court’s analysis emphasized the importance of providing clear arguments and supporting authority when appealing a summary judgment ruling. Future disputes concerning public road status in the jurisdiction will likely benefit from the Appellate Court’s assessment of the evidence presented.

Blackberry Township

Blackberry Township (Kane Co.) Assessor Uwe Rotter retired on June 30 after 20 years of service, first as a Deputy Assessor then Assessor. Blackberry Township (Kane Co.) Township Clerk and TOI Board of Directors Lisa Hodge presented Mr. Rotter a plaque at his last Township meeting.



Coral Township

Coral Township (McHenry Co.) Supervisor Bill Damisch awarded Joseph Liebrandt a \$1000 scholarship check for his successful completion of the Coral Township Student Trustee Program over this past year. Aspects of the program included attending monthly Township meetings, County Board meetings, Zoning Board of Appeals Meetings, interviews with Township Board members and an essay entitled *The Challenges of Township Government*. We wish Joe well as he begins school at Roosevelt University in the Fall.



Mount Olive Township

Mount Olive Township (Macoupin County) recognized David J. Yancik at its July meeting for his 46 years of service.



Left to right: Road Commissioner Toby Osmoe, Trustees Aaron Bishop and Roger Kratochvil, Supervisor David Thomas, Retired Trustee David Yancik, Trustee Andrew Petrolina, and Township Clerk Michele Zippay.

Coral Township (McHenry Co.) Supervisor Bill Damisch, Joseph Liebrandt, and Coral Township (McHenry Co.) Trustee and Mentor Laurie Cisneros.

Hebron Township

Hebron Township sponsored a bike decorating station for residents to decorate their bikes and then ride in the Fourth of July parade. It was a huge success.



Alex Zapien Named as New Lockport Township Supervisor

Alex Zapien assumed the position of Lockport Township Supervisor on June 1st, 2023, succeeding Ron Alberico, who dedicated 17 years of service to the Township. In his new role, Alex takes on the responsibilities of managing town funds as the treasurer, which supports essential infrastructure projects such as road and bridge maintenance, as well as general assistance and senior transportation services. Moreover, he holds the position of Chairman of the Board of Trustees, leading the decision-making process for resource allocation within the community.

Looking ahead, Alex envisions a future where the entire community is included and benefits from ongoing growth and development, while maintaining fiscal responsibility. He firmly believes that the strength of our communities lies in unity and mutual support.

Prior to joining Lockport Township Government, Alex actively contributed to various community organizations. He is a member of the Lockport Lions Club and the Rotary Club. Additionally, he worked as a Civics instructor in Crest Hill, and his professional

experience includes people and operations management as well as software engineering.

Alex graduated from Harvard in 2019 with a degree in Physics and Economics and also holds a Master's in Business Administration from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business.

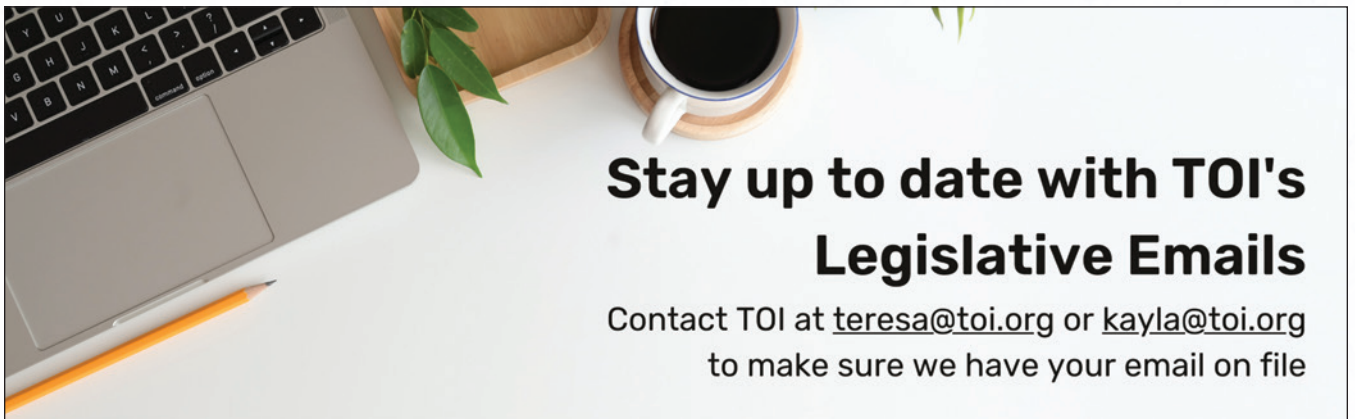
Dean Morelli, a Lockport Township Trustee, and a long-time resident of Lockport, expresses his enthusiasm for working alongside Alex, saying he is "very excited to work with Alex and welcomes the energy and drive he brings to the Township".

Overall, Alex Zapien's appointment as Lockport Township Supervisor marks a new chapter in the Township's governance, characterized by a commitment to community inclusivity, responsible growth, and efficient resource management.

Lockport Township Government is committed to faithful and impartial service to the people of Lockport Township. The Officials strive to improve the lives of everyone they represent by being leaders in the community and public servants to all.



Alex Zapien in his office at the Township Building, enjoying the Old Canal Days Parade with a township resident, and meeting with a township family in his office.



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DeKalb County

Recently DeKalb County's only Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Crisis Center acquired some land to expand their services and build a new center in downtown DeKalb called "New Beginnings." A project like this only comes together with help from the community and that is where DeKalb Township (DeKalb Co.) Highway Commissioner and TOI Board of Director's Craig Smith stepped in and offered assistance.

Grading was needed on the site where another building had been demolished to make way for the new domestic violence center. Craig enlisted the help of Highway Commissioner Brian Keast of Malta Township

and put a plan in place to get this project off to a great start. The team, together with their crew, brought the property into pleasing esthetics until the time when development starts. Now the organization can focus their efforts on serving the community and presenting the final building plans to the City of DeKalb for approval.

Malta and DeKalb Township Road Districts are proud to have supported the community on this project that will help give hope and healing to so many in their darkest hour.



DeKalb County's Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Crisis Center new plot before.



DeKalb County's Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Crisis Center new plot after DeKalb Township (DeKalb Co.) Highway Commissioner and TOI Board of Director's Craig Smith stepped in and offered assistance.



Township Officials of Cook County

TOI Board of Directors, Township Clerks Division President, and Hanover Township (Cook Co.) Township Clerk Katy Dolan Baumer was elected as the Township Officials of Cook County President on June 21. Congratulations Katy!



Hanover Township (Cook Co.) Township Clerk Katy Dolan Baumer speaks to the Township Officials of Cook County (TOCC) after being elected as TOCC President!



Bloom Township (Cook Co.) Highway Commissioner Joe Stanfa and TOI Executive Director Jerry B. Crabtree together at the June TOCC Meeting.



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- Clerk Attestation
- Decennial Committee Report Guidelines
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Double Honor For Rich Township Supervisor Calvin Jordan

Calvin Jordan, Rich Township Supervisor and Democratic Committeeman, has been bestowed double honor by two well regarded organizations.

Township Officials of Cook County recently held their annual meeting and dubbed Supervisor Jordan as their regional Vice-President. Jordan was overwhelmingly selected by his fellow Township Supervisors throughout Cook County.



Illinois State Representative Debbie Meyers-Martin adds, “Supervisor Jordan is more than worthy of this appointment. He truly cares about the state of affairs involving Township government in Illinois. But this

speaks more boldly to Calvin and the current Board of Rich Township Trustees. Collectively, they have efficiently and effectively managed the township in a spirit of excellence and inclusion.”

“Through his leadership Calvin Jordan has created a model of governmental excellence in township government. More amazingly he has done it in two short years. He and the Rich Township Board of Trustees have more than justified and given real purpose for the importance of township government and the role it plays in the day-to-day lives of residents.” says Matteson Mayor Sheila Chalmers-Currin.

On Monday, July 17th, Operation PUSH Founder and President Jesse L. Jackson presented Committeeman Jordan with the prestigious Trailblazer Award. The award is presented annually to an individual who has demonstrated through their leadership a spirit of inclusiveness, equity, and has created a path of opportunity.

“Reverend Jackson clearly was on point in selecting Committeeman Jordan for this honor. Calvin Jordan has shaken the foundation in southern Cook County in how he has coalesced people from all walks of life for the upward mobility of the southland. He has an



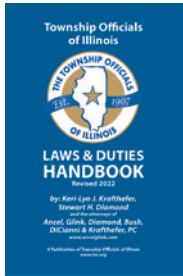
‘inclusion and no exclusion’ approach to government and politics. I love his spirit of volunteerism and unity,” says fellow Democratic Committeeman and Chicago Alderman Stephanie Coleman.

“While I am honored to receive the Township Officials of Cook County appointment as well as the Trailblazer Award, I wish that my fellow Rich Township Board of Trustees and constitutional officers could receive this award as well. We are a team that believes in unity. In addition, my wife Lori Jordan and our children keep me grounded in love and support. I am blessed beyond the stars, but I’ve never stood alone,” says Supervisor Jordan.

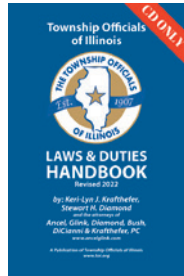
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<https://my.toi.org/toi-store>

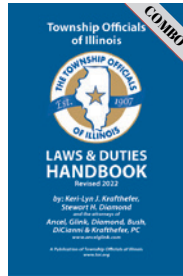
The TOI Bookstore is now exclusively online! Head to my.toi.org to find more details on these publications, prices, and discounts! Questions can be sent to the TOI office via phone (217) 744-2212 or via email kayla@toi.org



2022 Laws & Duties
\$35



2022 Laws & Duties CD
\$30



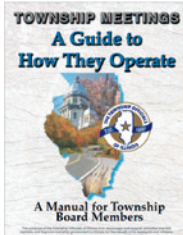
2022 Laws & Duties
Combo
\$45



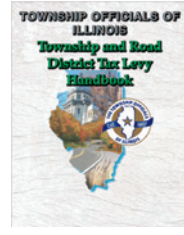
What's My Job?
\$5



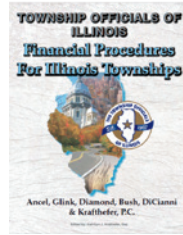
2021-2025 TOI Directory
\$50



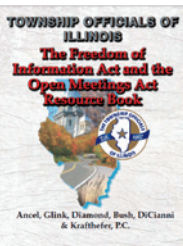
Township Meetings: A
Guide to How They
Operate
\$15



Township and Road
District Levy Handbook
\$15



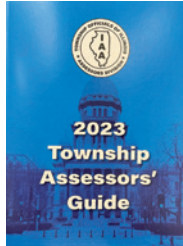
Financial
Procedures for
Illinois Townships
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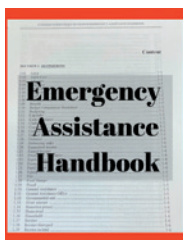
FOIA & OMA
Resource Book
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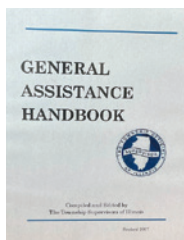
Desk Reference Set
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2023 Township
Assessors' Guide
\$20



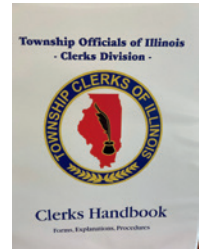
Emergency Assistance
Handbook
\$40



General Assistance
Handbook
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Clerks Handbook

For questions, contact Clerk Katy at (312) 215-5577 or email her at kdolanbaumer@hanover-township.org



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Hanover Township Clerk
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Bartlett, IL 60103

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Township and Road District Checklist

2023 Township Calendar

Checklist dates are now available on the Events Calendar at toi.org

09/27/23	Fiscal Responsibility Report Card*	35 ILCS 200/30-30	Last day to file Fiscal Responsibility Report Card; shall submit within 180 days of the conclusion of the fiscal year. The Annual Financial Report meets this requirement. See reference above.
09/27/23	Comptroller's Report*	50 ILCS 310/3 50 ILCS 310/6	Last day to file Annual Financial Report with state comptroller's office and county clerk. Must be filed within 6 months from end of fiscal year. The report also serves as the Fiscal Responsibility Report Card.
09/30/23	Annual Treasurer's Report Completed*	30 ILCS 15/1	Last day for the supervisor to prepare combined Annual Treasurer's Report for township and road district. Report must be completed within 6 months from end of fiscal year, sworn to and filed with county clerk.
09/30/23	Annual Treasurer's Report Published*	30 ILCS 15/2 60 ILCS 1/70-30	Last day to publish Annual Treasurer's Report in an English language newspaper. Must be published within 6 months from end of fiscal year and filed with county clerk's office. Supervisor must provide each board member with copy of report as soon as possible after filing. However, such publication requirement shall not apply to any county funds or county offices or funds or offices of other units of local government when an audit of such funds or offices has been made by a certified public accountant and a report of such audit has been filed with the appropriate county board or county clerk and a notice of the availability of the audit report has been published one time in an English language newspaper published in the town, district, or municipality in which that public officer holds his or her office, or, if no newspaper is published in such town, district, or municipality, then in a newspaper printed in the English language published in the county in which that public officer holds his or her office. The notice of availability shall include, at a minimum, the time period covered by the audit, the name of the firm conducting the audit, and the address and business hours of the location where the audit report may be publicly inspected.
09/30/23	Audit	50 ILCS 310/6 60 ILCS 1/80-20	Last day for townships to file CPA audit with state comptroller's office and county clerk. Townships receiving revenues of \$850,000 or more for a fiscal year, exclusive of road district funds, must have CPA audit within 6 months from end of fiscal year. Townships receiving revenues of less than \$850,000 for a fiscal year, exclusive of road district funds, may have a 3-member independent audit committee instead of CPA audit. Committee audit must be filed with county clerk within 6 months from end of fiscal year. CPA audit required at end of supervisor's term or if vacancy occurs anytime in the position of supervisor.
09/30/23	Audit	50 ILCS 310/6	Last day for road districts to file CPA audit with state comptroller's office and county clerk. Road districts receiving revenues of \$850,000 or more for a fiscal year must have a CPA audit within 6 months from end of fiscal year.

12/05/23	Last Day to Determine Tax Levy for Truth in Taxation	35 ILCS 200/18-60 35 ILCS 200/18-70	Last day for board of trustees to determine (estimate) property tax levy to comply with Truth in Taxation law. Highway commissioner determines levy for road district. Must determine levies at least 20 days before adoption. Basis for 5% computation and whether notices and hearings are necessary.
12/19/23	Last Day for Truth in Taxation Notice	35 ILCS 200/18-80	Last day notice of Truth in Taxation hearing can appear in newspaper. Notice must be in newspaper not more than 14 days or less than seven days prior to date of hearings.
12/26/23	Last Day to Hold Truth in Taxation Hearing, Adopt & File Tax Levies	35 ILCS 200/18-90	Last day to hold Truth in Taxation hearing, adopt and file township and road district certificates of levy, tax levies, and Certificate of Compliance for Truth in Taxation law with county clerk.

*Assumes fiscal year begins April 1

All dates re: Public Hearings for BUDGET and APPROPRIATION ORDINANCES are dates often used by many townships and road districts. Many townships and road districts adopt their budgets in February or March before their fiscal year begins. You do, however, have until the end of the first quarter of the fiscal year to hold your hearings and adopt the budget.

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IN MEMORIAM

David Carver, 79, of Springfield died June 28. He was a former Assessor of Clear Lake Township (Sangamon Co.)

Betty Ann Clark, 87, of Beecher City died July 10. She was currently serving as Trustee of Liberty Township (Effingham Co.)

Earl Ellis, 88, of Hillsboro died July 10. He was a former Highway Commissioner of Irving Township (Montgomery Co.)

John Elsbury, 90, of Wadsworth died July 9. He was a former Trustee of Newport Township (Lake Co.)

Norman Fassig, 85, of Mendota died July 29. He was a former Trustee of Brooklyn Township (Lee Co.)

Jeffory Johnstone, 66, of Urbana died July 2. He was a former Supervisor of Urbana Township (Champaign Co.)

David Lawson, 74, of Avon died June 28. He was currently serving as Trustee of Union Township (Fulton Co.)

Mary Margaret Lucas, 106, of Joliet died July 27. She was a former Supervisor of Troy Township (Will Co.)

James Moore, 93, of Camp Point died July 8. He was a former Trustee of Camp Point Township (Adams Co.)

Edward Pillash, 94, of South Streator died July 1. He was a former Trustee of Reading Township (Livingston Co.)

Carol Schmitt, 80, of Kickapoo died July 11. She was a former Supervisor of Kickapoo Township (Peoria Co.)

William Troyer, 89, of Oak Park died June 20. He was a former Trustee of Oak Park Township (Cook Co.)





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