

STICKNEY TOWNSHIP

News & Views

Summer 2022

Stickney Township Office Locations

SOUTH

5635 State Road
Burbank, IL 60459
708/424-9200

NORTH

6721 W. 40th Street
Stickney, IL 60402
708/788-9100

CENTRAL

4949 S. Long Avenue
708/458-4126

LOUIS S. VIVERITO SENIOR CENTER OFFICE ON AGING

7745 S. Leamington
Burbank, IL 60459
708/636-8850

WEBSITES

www.townshipofstickney.org
www.stickneypublichealthdistrict.org

Save
the Date

September 23
9:30 am - 12 pm

COMMUNITY FAIR

Vendors may call 708.636.8850
for information on
participation.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

Township Services Promote Healthy Communities



Louis S. Viverito

In each issue of our Township News and Views you may have noticed that I try to highlight some aspect of Stickney Township services or facilities and the value they bring to our residents. What may be overlooked is how the Township contributes to the overall health of the communities we service.

And, what makes a community healthy? It's when the needs for mental and physical health, nutrition, safe housing and education are addressed.

According to U.S. Census figures from 2019, more than 55% of children aged 3 and 4 attended pre-school in Illinois, an increase of more than 7% over the numbers from 2015.

Competition for quality affordable pre-school programs is a pressure many young working families feel. In response, the Township offers high quality affordable pre-school programs at both our North and South facilities. Parents are consistently pleased with these programs and, judging by our recent graduation classes, so are the children. (See pages 6-7)

According to AARP, 90% of seniors want to stay in their own homes as they age. If they begin to need day-to-day assistance or ongoing health care during retirement, most seniors (82 percent) still would prefer to stay in their homes.

Many area residents have spent a lifetime in their homes and are hesitant to leave as they face the limitations of aging. The Stickney Township Office on Aging offers an array of services that provide just the type of support needed to age in place. In addition to well-being visits, programs for seniors are offered at our facilities—both North and South—and are soon to return to Central.

(Continued on page 3)

Do You Know that Stickney Township Has An On-Site Community Advocate Working for You?



Jerry Mulvihill has more than thirty years of experience cutting through bureaucratic red tape to get assistance from government and social service agencies for individuals and families. Some services include:

MEDICARE AND SOCIAL SECURITY PROBLEMS INCLUDING:

- ✓ Disability cases and appeals
- ✓ Supplementary social security (SSI) filings
- ✓ Medicare A, B, D
- ✓ Hospital billing disputes

IRS DISPUTES

- ✓ Involving all types of advocacy such as taxpayer disputes, taxpayer rights, dispute resolution and filing errors

MILITARY AND VETERAN ISSUES AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL SUCH AS:

- ✓ Eligibility for care at VA hospitals
- ✓ War injury diagnoses and medical bills
- ✓ Financial compensation for disabilities
- ✓ Medical treatment disputes

MISCELLANEOUS SENIOR CITIZEN ISSUES THAT INVOLVE FEDERAL PROGRAMS AND INTERAGENCY BUREAUCRATIC DISPUTES

OBAMA CARE AND HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE ISSUES

AT THE STATE AND TOWNSHIP LEVEL ON AN AS-NEEDED BASIS, SUCH AS:

- ✓ LIHEAP/LINK applications
- ✓ Real estate tax exemptions
- ✓ Consumer fraud
- ✓ Identity theft issues

*Jerry's Office is located at the
North Central Community Center
6721 W. 40th Street
Stickney, IL 60402 • 708.788-9100*

Get Ready! Medicare Open Enrollment Begins October 15

You can enroll in Medicare health and drug plans from October 15-December 7. Get ready with these tips:

Check your mail. You may get important notices from Medicare or Social Security. If you're in a Medicare plan, you'll get an Annual Notice of Changes, telling you of any changes in coverage, costs or service area.

You may also get brochures and other marketing materials from insurance companies that offer Medicare health and prescription drug plans. Remember—plans aren't allowed to call or come to your home without an invitation from you.

Think about your Medicare coverage needs for 2023. Carefully review your current Medicare coverage and note any upcoming changes to your costs or benefits. Decide if your current Medicare coverage will meet your needs for the year ahead. If you like your current coverage and it's still available for 2023 you don't need to take any action to keep it.

Still confused about Open Enrollment? Contact our Senior Advocate for assistance at 708/636-8850.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

(Continued from page 1)

Illinois ranks higher than the national average for private health insurance coverage and lower than the national average for those on public insurance. However, the CDC estimates that more than 9% of our population is still uninsured.

The Stickney Township Public Health District offers a low cost alternative to private doctors and behavioral health therapists. In addition to visiting our clinics, the Public Health District supports our communities by responding to breakouts of communicable diseases, providing vaccine

availability and by offering in home nursing visits for those unable to easily leave their homes. I truly believe that our Township offers more than most and that, in doing so, we deliver value that is often over-looked. The communities that are within the Township are attractive to residents both younger and older as a result of our efforts.

And our work is never over. Later this summer we will unveil the latest facility upgrade as we re-open our Central Stickney Community Center. In addition to

expanded and modernized spaces the center will feature community programs for older adults, library programs for adults and children, and the return of our meal program for seniors.

This Spring has seen a number of our staff retire. We wish them well and welcome new members to our Stickney Township family. As I reflect on these changes I look forward to what the future of our community will offer to both longtime and newer residents.



Construction continues at the Central Community Center with completion expected sometime this Fall.

*Need Help
Completing
Paperwork
or Sorting
Through
Benefit
Programs?*



*Szukasz Pomocy
Socjalnej?
Pomożemy
Ci znaleźć
odpowiedni
program i
złożyć podanie!*

**STICKNEY TOWNSHIP
OFFICE ON AGING
HAS STAFF TO HELP**



**STOA BIURO POMOCY
OSOBOM STARSZYM
MOŻE CI W TYM
POMÓC!**

- ✓ Navigate government guidelines
- ✓ Understand special enrollment criteria
- ✓ Complete paperwork correctly

Appointments are available with our Polish-speaking volunteer to learn more about SNAP, LIHEAP, property taxes and programs available to older adults.

- ✓ Dowiedz się jakie są Twoje opcje
- ✓ Sprawdź czy spełniasz warunki pomocy socjalnej
- ✓ Wypełnij poprawnie swoje podanie

Mówiący po polsku przedstawiciel doradzi na temat: podatku od nieruchomości, SNAP, LIHAP i innych programów socjalnych które przysługują osobom starszym.

*Call (708) 636-8850 to schedule
an appointment or walk-in on
the first Tuesday of the month
from 9-11am for assistance.*

*Możesz się z nami spotkać bez
umówienia w każdy pierwszy
wtorek miesiąca w godzinach od 9
do 11 rano; albo zadzwonić
pod numer: (708)636-8850*

Stickney Township Council on Aging Volunteers Deliver Donations to Manteno Veterans



Township Supervisor, Louis Viverito authorized the use of a Stickney Township bus to transport Council On Aging volunteers to the Veterans Home in Manteno with donations they have collected. On the way back "Mr. V," treated the volunteers to a much-deserved lunch.

Do You or a Loved One Have Medicare?

Many people with Medicare qualify for programs to cover premium and co-insurance amounts. If someone meets the income requirements, they may qualify for assistance through the Medicare Savings Programs (MSP) to pay their Medicare Part A and Part B costs and the "Extra Help" program, which covers costs for a Part D prescription drug plan.

The Social Security Administration is currently sending a letter to eligible people, which begins:

"You may be eligible to save \$2,041.20 or more in Medicare costs through a Medicare Savings Program..."

If you receive this letter, please don't throw it away! Contact the Stickney Township Office on Aging for assistance. Our office has a SHIP counselor available to help people enroll in the Medicare Savings Program (MSP) and the Extra Help program.

Call the Stickney Township Office on Aging at (708) 636-8850.

Preschoolers at North and South Facilities Celebrate Graduation 2022



Here's What Parents Have to Say About Our Preschool Programs...

My daughter loves the program, she is always looking forward to coming in. There are no complaints.



So far my daughter is enjoying her time at school. Thank you for all the positive encouragement towards learning and creativity. A big thumbs up!



Thank you. These beautiful moments—without a doubt my daughter has learned to share and live together and above all, she is learning to count. Thank you very much for teaching her.



Dean is having a blast and learning a lot. I've seen his social skills improve greatly...overall, we appreciate all that you teachers are doing.



My daughter has been doing amazing ever since she has joined the program. I am truly happy with how far she has come academically. Keep up the good work, teachers!



I love it. Great staff. Daughter loves it. Very patient with kids and fun learning for them. Please continue doing a great job. Anam loves school and all the teachers. We all appreciate everything the teachers have taught her so far.



Thank you for such EXCELLENT work. My daughter Cecilia loves to come to school. She talks about how great the teachers are. I feel this is important because this is the beginning of her education and she is excited to go to school. I love all the certificates she brings home, as well as all of the crafts. I feel like in the two hours she is there she really learns a lot. Would love it for a longer time.



I've seen an improvement with Jose's attitude and his ability to interact with others. Stickney Township Pre-K is doing a great job getting the little ones ready for Kindergarten.



First off, I would like to say thank you to all the teachers who teach and have love for our kids. I have noticed that Damien is getting better at pointing out his letters and saying his numbers.



The Stickney Pre-K program is great. My daughter has learned so much in such a short time. Really enjoy the communication between teachers and parents. The kindness and patience they show our children is amazing. Truly appreciate everything you do.



Very good teachers and staff. I would like to thank everyone for helping my son to improve his skills and confidence. Great school with great teachers. My son loves the school and the teachers.



I am very happy that I found Stickney Township Pre-K because their teachers are very nice. My daughter loves this school.



The Stickney Township Pre-K program is a safe and fun learning environment. It's organized and has patient teaching.



We really like that we know what goals to work on with Nathan at home (shapes, name, spelling). He gets excited to show us his certificates.



Animal Control Officer Searches for 'Tequila and Tacos...'

...No, not the drink or food, but a friendly 13-year-old pitbull wearing a t-shirt printed with "Tequila and Tacos," who went missing the night of April 20th from a backyard in the Village of Stickney. The distraught owner posted notices online describing her dog as "nice but old...(and) also on medication." They were worried that their dog had either escaped or was taken.

After four days of searching, an unlikely report came into the Stickney Township Animal Control office from a captain of a vessel on the I&M canal. The captain indicated that they had spotted a dog on the bank of the canal, half in the water and not doing well. He also said the dog had a t-shirt on that said, "Tequila and Tacos!"

(Continued on page 9)



CAREGIVER RESOURCE CENTER

Caring Crew Meetings

**July 19th
August 16th
September 20th
10:00-11:00 a.m.**

Caregiving is challenging and feeling isolated makes the role even more complicated. Our Caring Crew group meets monthly to connect, share tips, and learn from each other.

Gathering with other caregivers who assist friends or family helps many not feel quite so isolated in their own situations, and a support group can provide this interaction.

Lunch will not be provided on site, but you may register for a meal in advance to take home.

For more information, and to register, please contact Sarah Bernhardt at (708) 636-8850 or by emailing sbernhardt-wasag@townshipofstickney.org.

Funding in whole or in part by AgeOptions.

THE STICKNEY TOWNSHIP NUTRITION PROGRAM IS HERE TO HELP YOU

- Save time and money
- Do less cooking and shopping
- Socialize and be active
- Encourage independence
- Enjoy a nutritionally balanced meal
- Learn about nutrition
- Avoid missed meals



NORTH SENIOR CENTER

6721 W. 40th St. Stickney • 708-788-9100

Meals served: Tuesdays & Fridays (Mondays- Township residents only)

LOUIS S. VIVERITO SENIOR CENTER

7745 S. Leamington Burbank 708-636-8850

Meals served: Monday - Friday

\$2 donation per meal • Pick-Up & Go from 10:30-12:00. • Dine-In at 12:00

**Interested? Join us! Must be 60 years of age or older.
See office to register or call 708-636-8850 for more information!**

The Stickney Township Assessor is Here to Assist Township Residents

The Township Assessor's office is available to assist you in many areas related to your property tax assessments. Amy Dimas-March, Township Assessor, can help residents better understand the assessment process and take advantage of money saving exemptions provided to all those who qualify.

You will receive help in completing exemption applications, filing property tax appeals, completing name-change requests for the County Treasurer's office and many more services.

Our office provides the following services and many more to all township residents:

- Complete name and/or address changes and property location corrections.
- Assist residents in analyzing their assessed value to ensure their property is not overvalued or undervalued.
- If formal appeal is warranted due to inaccuracies, we will complete all forms, and file them with the Cook County Assessor's office.
- If an appeal is denied by the Cook County Assessor's office, we will help prepare and submit documentation for the appeal process through the cook county board of review, and the property tax appeals board.
- Complete and file senior homestead exemption applications and senior assessment freeze exemption applications.
- Assist new residents in applying for a homeowner exemption.
- Assist taxpayers in applying for the disabled persons' Homeowner exemption and the returning veterans' exemption.
- Provide assessment information, property ownership, sales data, and permanent index number inquiries to residents, realtors, banks, attorneys, and appraisers.

The Assessor's Office is located at 6721 W 40th Street in Stickney. Office hours are from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm, Monday through Friday. **Please note that due to COVID concerns all in person meetings are by appointment only.**

You may contact Amy Dimas-March by phone: 708-788-9100 or Email: adimasmarch@townshipofstickney.org

Search for 'Tequila and Tacos'



(Continued from page 8)

Because the report came from a boat on the Canal, it was initially difficult to determine the exact location of the dog. However, Stickney Township Animal Control Officer Pam Barnett was able to find the pet and, with help from Cook County Animal Control, the dog was back on dry land within an hour and a half.

"Thank God one of the guys came because I would not have been able to carry the big, soaking-wet, lethargic dog back up the steep embankment," says Barnett.

She adds that after spending three days in the hospital the dog made a full recovery—a happy ending for both Barnett and "Tequila and Tacos" owner!



Keep Food Safe This Summer

Summer promises sunshine, heat, and carefree gatherings with families and friends. It also coincides with an increase in food poisoning as warmer temperatures cause foodborne germs to thrive. Here are some tips for keeping gatherings safe.

- When shopping for groceries or eating outside, make sure to refrigerate perishable food within 1 hour if it's 90°F or warmer.
- If you're preparing food in advance for a family reunion, graduation party, or other event, divide cooked food into containers and store in the refrigerator or freezer to cool it rapidly.
- When handling raw meat, chicken and seafood, separate it from other food and refrigerate before grilling.
- Wash your hands before and after handling raw foods. Make sure its juices do not touch other food, utensils and surfaces.
- Use a food thermometer to ensure food is cooked to a safe temperature and refrigerate leftovers within 2 hours of cooking. Always use clean utensils and a clean plate to remove cooked meat from the grill.

- At fairs, festivals, carnivals, and rodeos, follow these tips to have a safe cooking, eating, and drinking experience. Before buying food, be sure the vendor has a license to sell food and that employees wear gloves and use tongs when serving food. Bring hand sanitizers or disposable wipes in case there aren't any places to wash your hands.

PEOPLE WITH A HIGHER RISK OF FOOD POISONING

An anyone can get food poisoning, but certain groups of people are more likely to get sick and to have a more serious illness. Their bodies' ability to fight germs and sickness is not as effective for a variety of reasons. These groups of people are:

Adults Aged 65 and Older

Older adults have a higher risk because as people age, their immune systems and organs don't recognize and get rid of harmful germs as well as they once did. Nearly half of people aged 65 and older who have a lab-confirmed foodborne illness from Salmonella, Campylobacter, Listeria or E. coli are hospitalized.

Children Younger Than 5 Years

Young children have immune systems that are still developing, so their body's ability to fight

germs and sickness isn't as strong. Food poisoning can be particularly dangerous for them because illness can lead to diarrhea and dehydration. Children younger than 5 are three times more likely to be hospitalized if they get a Salmonella infection. And kidney failure strikes 1 out of 7 children under age 5 who are diagnosed with E. coli O157 infection.

People with Weakened Immune Systems

People with weakened immune systems due to diabetes, liver or kidney disease, alcoholism, and HIV/AIDS; or receiving chemotherapy or radiation therapy cannot fight germs and sickness as effectively. For example, people on dialysis are 50 times more likely to get a Listeria infection.

Pregnant Women

Pregnant women are more likely than other people to get sick from certain germs. For example, pregnant women are 10 times more likely to get a Listeria infection.

If you or someone you care for is in one of these groups, it's especially important to take steps to prevent food poisoning and to know which foods are more associated with illness than others.

For more questions about food safety visit FoodSafety.gov or call the Stickney Public Health District at 708.424.9200.

Staff Comings and Goings

Three long time staff have recently retired and we wish them the best.

After 38 years with Stickney Township, most recently as the assistant to Township Supervisor Louis S. Viverito, Dawn Roach retired this June and is moving to San Marcos, California with her husband Jim.

Starting out in 1984, Dawn worked in the Behavioral Health billing department and floated, as needed. Within a few years she moved into accounting and then in 1993, began working as the assistant to the Health Director. In 2006 she took on the role as assistant to Supervisor Viverito.

Indirectly, she owes a little something more personal to her employment at the Township. Her future mother-in-law worked for Stickney Township and introduced Dawn to her son at a dinner dance sponsored by Supervisor Louis S. Viverito. Jim didn't have a date and neither did Dawn. The rest is history.

This Spring we also bid farewell to Maria Chronos, after serving 18 years as head of the accounting and payroll department. As the person who wrote the checks, Maria kept the lights on. Her contribution to the consistent delivery of Township services can't be measured.

STOA also has two new staff members Steven Gantt, Case Manager and Maria Martinez, Receptionist.

Ayoub Affaneh joined Stickney Township earlier this year as the Emergency Response Coordinator. Ayoub previously served as one of the COVID contact tracers in the Public Health Department.

Best of luck to those who are leaving us and welcome to our newcomers!



Township Supervisor Louis S. Viverito with his assistant, Dawn Roach.



I. to r.: Tracy Augle, Cheri Metelski, Maria Chronos and Sup. Louis S. Viverito. Tracy moved from her position in the Department of Environmental Health to work as assistant to new Chief Accountant, Cheri, who moved up to replace Maria.



Public Health Director/Township Administrator, Dr. Chris Grunow and Supervisor Louis S. Viverito congratulate Deanne Weisenbach, Program Support Specialist, on her retirement from the Stickney Township Office on Aging. After 29 years of service to the Township in a variety of positions, she will be difficult to replace!.

CLINIC & DENTAL SERVICES

Beat the Rush for Required School Exams

Dental exams are required for:

- Students entering Kindergarten, 2nd, 6th & 9th grades.

Exams are available free of charge at the Mobile Dental Unit, North & South Clinics.

Appointments are required. Call the Mobile Dental Unit @ 708-878-3828 or the South Clinic @ 708-424-9200, between the hours of 8:30 am - 3:00 pm.

Physical Exams are required for:

- Students entering school (daycare, special education, Head-Start or pre-K)
- Kindergarten, 6th & 9th grades
- Students transferring into Illinois from out of state or country

Appointments are required. Please call 708-424-9200 for more information.

CLINIC LOCATIONS:

South:

5635 State Road Burbank, IL
60459 708-424-9200

North:

6721 W. 40th St. Stickney, IL
60402 708-788-9100

**Medicaid,
Private Insurance,
No Insurance
NO PROBLEM!**

Immunizations are available to residents of all ages at low or no cost. Stickney Township Public Health District offers VFC, CHIP & privately purchased vaccines.

STICKNEY TOWNSHIP NEWS & VIEWS

5635 State Road
Burbank, IL 60459
708/424-9200



PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BEDFORD PARK, IL
PERMIT NO. 1025

Information for residents of the City of Burbank, Villages of Forest View and Stickney, Central Stickney and Nottingham areas.

Stickney Township Officials

'Working For You'



Louis S. Viverito
Supervisor



Ettore "Hector" Cesario
Clerk



Amy Dimas March
Assessor



Daniel Paluch
Highway Commissioner



Donna R. Galeher
Trustee



Tony Guleiva
Trustee



Louise Toribio Zelinski
Trustee



Laura Kreil
Trustee

TOWNSHIP OFFICE CLOSINGS

Monday • 7/4
Independence Day

Monday • 9/5
Labor Day

Monday • 10/10
Columbus Day

Friday • 11/11
Veterans Day

News from the Behavioral Health Division

The Behavioral Health Division is now open to new consumers who may benefit from psychiatric evaluations and medication monitoring services. Tatiana Buonicore, PMHNP-BC, is the Division's Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner and is currently available at our clinic one day a week.

Please contact the Behavioral Health Division at 708-237-8946 for further information about our services and to schedule an intake appointment.