

TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

Spring 2022 / Issue 001



JOLIET TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT OFFICES



Your Township Government

As a governing body, we are intentional about identifying the needs of our township and delivering a solution. We are able to work with other governing bodies to reach maximum potential. Joliet Township's approximate proportion has a northern boundary line at Theodore Road, at the Southern boundary Schweitzer Road and we are between Cherry Hill Rd on the East and Joyce Road to the West. Township Government can provide services that may include senior citizens programs, youth programs, assistance to the disabled, parks and recreational facilities, health services and cemetery maintenance.

A Message from the Supervisor



Joliet Township strives to uphold transparency, inclusiveness, respect, and

empower the community of Joliet Township by joining and helping other agencies by not reinventing the wheel. Currently, we are filling in gaps within the community in hopes of creating and establishing relationships with residents and Township organizations. Coming out of the pandemic, Township government can directly impact its people by partnering with other government entities and community organizations.

TOP NEWS

Annual Town Hall had great public participation

Another annual town hall meeting in the books, but this year it was standing room only!

Upgrades to Technology Helps with Transparency

Videos of the meetings are now on the website and facebook.

Township New Faces

New Elected Officials celebrate one year in office and new staff members are welcomed aboard.

We cultivate an environment of protecting historic resources like the museum partnering to provide tours of our city. One of our current projects is opening Oakwood Cemetery located on Cass St. Which is 33 acres. Joliet Township is reopening for cremation burials while providing discounts for our residents. In addition, developing a community engagement portal to allow easier access to past loved ones.

New Clerk, Alicia Morales is Happy To Be of Service

Wearing Many Hats; She is Expanding Services at the Clerk's Office



Alicia Morales is a lifelong resident of Joliet and a grandmother of three beautiful grandchildren. She is a business owner; a bilingual ALLSTATE insurance agent in Joliet. She graduated from Joliet Township High Schools and Joliet Jr. College. She earned her BS & MBA from the University of St. Francis. Morales has volunteered at places like Big Brothers Big Sisters, the Spanish Community Center and the Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce. She is also a licensed K-12 bilingual substitute teacher. Clerk Morales is also elected as a precinct committeewoman and as a JJC Trustee.

"I would like to express my sincere THANK YOU to all Joliet Township residents that have chosen me as your Joliet Township Clerk. It is an honor to be able to serve the entire community in this capacity. My goal is to serve all residents and continue to work closely with the community to implement new programs for all of our constituents and to continue to modernize our processes to be more efficient."

NOTARY SERVICES

The Clerk's Office provides
FREE notary services. Hours
8:30AM - 12PM and 1PM - 4PM
175 W Jefferson St
Joliet IL 60432
(815) 726-4781

BILINGUAL/SERVICIOS BILINGÜE

Oficina de la Secretaria está trabajando para proporcionar más información en español y pronto tendrá más información en el sitio web tanto en inglés como en español. Mientras tanto, los residentes pueden llamar al **(815) 726-4781 extensión 309**

Rachel Ventura, Deputy Clerk, Interim Assistant

Filling in Where the Township Needs her the Most, Ventura Steps Up

Rachel Ventura joined the Township in August 2021 as the Deputy Clerk. Ventura serves on the Will County Board and is the chair of the Public Health and Safety Committee. She is also the Vice President of the Forest Preserve, an elected precinct committeewoman, and a mother of twin teenage girls. She has been very active in the community advocating for solutions to affordable housing, providing better jobs in the area, and responsible growth. She graduated with a mathematics degree from Benedictine University and a biology degree from Tidewater Community College. Ventura enjoys creating art & crafts, traveling, gardening, reading, and spending time with family.

At the Township, Ventura has digitized files, added video recordings of the meetings, and provided social media access. When Ana Campa Castillo stepped away to have her baby, Ventura filled the role of Interim Executive Assistant to the Supervisor.



ELECTIONS JUNE 28TH

Early Voting Has Begun

Voting in Joliet Township

The Will County Clerk's Office provides a variety of services to our voters. www.willcountyclerk.gov/elections/voter-services/

REGISTERING TO VOTE

United States citizens who are 18 years old, or citizens who are 17 years old and will turn 18 on or before the date of the next General or Consolidated Election, are qualified to register to vote. Voters must be residents of their precincts 30 days prior to Election Day.

How Can I Register To Vote?

- Illinois Online Voter Application – ova.elections.il.gov

Grace Period Registration And Same Day Registration

Residents also can register to vote at an Early Voting location or at their Polling Place on Election Day. Those who participate in Grace Period Registration or Same Day Registration and Voting must cast their ballots at the same time they register. Two forms of identification are required.

Am I registered to vote?

- Check Your Voter Status and Polling Place online
<https://www.willcountyclerk.gov/voter-lookup/>



VOTE BY MAIL DROP BOXES

Voters can mail their ballots back using the United States Postal Service (postage included) or use the Drop Boxes which are under camera surveillance outside of the Will County building and at the Black Road Public Library before June 28th at 7PM.

Will County VBM Drop Box

302 N. Chicago St, Joliet, IL 60432

May 19 thru June 27, 2022

Drive up to deposit ballot 24/7

June 28, 2022

Tuesday open until 7 p.m.

Joliet Public Library, Black Road Branch VBM Drop Box

33395 Black Road, Joliet, IL 60431

May 19 thru June 27, 2022 Drop Box available during library hours.

WAYS TO VOTE

Will County voters have three different ways to cast their ballots.

- **Vote By Mail**

www.willcountyclerk.gov/vote-by-mail

- **Early Voting**

www.willcountyclerk.gov/early-voting

- **On Election Day At Your Polling Place**

www.willcountyclerk.gov/elections/voter-services/precinct-lookup/

EARLY VOTING

Will County Office Building

302 N. Chicago St., Joliet, IL 60432

May 19 - Jun 27 | 8:30AM - 4:30PM

Closed 5/21-5/22, 5/28-5/30, 6/4-6/5, 6/11-6/12

Joliet Park District

3000 W. Jefferson St., Joliet, IL 60435

Jun 13 - June 23 | Hours Vary

Spanish Community Center

309 N. Eastern Ave., Joliet, IL 60432

Jun 13 - June 26 | Hours Vary

Joliet Black Road Library

33395 Black Rd., Joliet, IL 60431

Jun 13 - June 27 | Hours Vary

Sus Buzones de votación por correo

Oficinas del Condado de Will

302 N. Chicago St, Joliet, IL 60432

Deposite su boleta a cualquier hora entre el 19 de Mayo y el 27 de Junio. Martes 28 de Junio estarán abiertos hasta las 7 pm.

La Biblioteca de Joliet, (Black Rd.)

33395 Black Road, Joliet, IL 60431

Deposite su boleta entre el 19 de Mayo y el 27 de Junio durante sus horas de servicio.

Cemetery Access, New Website, & Historical Tours

New Intern Derrick Mainor Spends Time Digitizing the Gravesites

Joliet Township runs the historic Oakwood Cemetery. We will be implementing a secure cloud records management system, giving access to the public via the internet. Once this website is active, residents will have the opportunity to search for gravesites, print maps with directions, use drag and drop arrows, see pictures of the exact location, and more. As we develop this website, we will need your help if you want to add obituaries, short stories, and pictures to personalize the gravesite. **Veterans:** If you have loved ones who are service members and are buried in Oakwood Cemetery, please help us honor them by adding their information to our newly implemented software. The Township is working with the Historical Museum to offer tours. The Cemetery opens for new cremation burials on June 1, 2022

HIGHLIGHTS

Peace Pole Planted

A dedication and commitment to moving towards Peace in Joliet Township.

Cemetery Site Upgrade

The new site will help family members find history and graves more easily.

New faces and more

Ana will celebrate 1 year anniversary after returning from having her baby girl

Welcome Back Ana, New Baby

Ana Campa Castillo Returns as Executive Assistant After Having Baby Girl, Céu



Ana handles all the Human Resource responsibilities, the Freedom of Information (FOIA) requests, and scheduling. She is instrumental in helping coordinate each department with the Supervisor's office.

In early March, Ana went on parental leave to have her third child, a baby girl. She named her Céu which means "sky, heaven" in Portuguese.

Ana Campa Castillo came to work at the Township in July 2021. She is a Joliet Junior College Alumni and received her bachelor's in psychology from National Louis University.

Ana is invested in improving the community through her work and volunteering towards championing community causes.

Planted Peace Pole

Joliet Township joins the initiative of Non-Violent Cities, mission for peace

The Nonviolent Cities Project not only envisions cities that could become nonviolent, but it is also working to make this vision a reality across the US and the world. Inspired by Nonviolent



Illinois, Pace e Bene has been working with organizers across the country to implement nonviolence in every sector of our communities, including the city council, townships, police department, school system, library system, healthcare system, religious communities, and nonprofit organizations.

Joliet Township joined the mission of creating policies that work for our residents to move the township toward peace and nonviolence.

On Earth Day the township and Nonviolent Cities members joined to plant flowers and the peace pole. A sign has been added to the plot to bring awareness to the mission.

Doug Kasper said, "we are living in trying times, as we can sense and feel all around us. Social justice and peace need to start at home. It is time for all of us to commit to these values."

Joliet Township Awards \$200,000+ for 2021 Grants

Helping fund youth & park programs, housing, education, and veterans

This last year new and existing organizations were awarded grant dollars including VFW, Veterans Assistance Commission (VAC), Veterans Family & Friends Housing, Starwars Day at the Library, Park District after school buses and events, Forest Park Community Center, Spanish Community Center, Y.M.C.A., Safe Housing Program, A.G.A.P.E., Step Into the Light, Heritage Corridor, Warehouse Workers for Justice, and The Art Movement.



Senior Groups and Programs

Township continues to support senior groups

Joliet Township has a number of senior groups that it supports. Most of the groups meet monthly and provide food at the events. Seniors over the age of 51 are welcome to become a member of the Senior Citizen Association which covers a large area in Joliet, Crest Hill, Shorewood, and more of Will County. **All townships have Senior Citizen Programs expended to senior groups for the following purposes:**

- A. To decrease the sense of isolation and dependence which often accompanies advanced age;
- B. To enrich the social and intellectual life of older adults;
- C. To help older adults contribute to community well-being as effective as useful citizens;
- D. To organize community interest in generally improving the climate of living for the older adult.

New Senior Club Social Latino

Magic shows, Zumba, Bingo, and Giveaways



The Township is integrating diversity, equity, and inclusion into everything we do. Local teachers and volunteers, Yenny Munoz-Swaninger, Monica Ramirez, Silvia Cadenas, Alejandra Garibay, and Beatriz Ulloa-Mireles, launched the first Latino Social Club for senior citizens in February 2022.

The first meeting had a magic show and bingo. The second meeting included Zumba and a giveaway! Come to the third meeting the last Sunday! ➡

SENIOR GROUPS

Joliet Moose Senior Club

Moose Lodge
1st Monday at 6PM

St Paul's Senior Club

St Paul's Church
1st Wednesday at 5:30PM

Senior Citizens Association

St Joes Club on Theodore
2nd Thurs at Noon

Widow & Widowers

2nd Baptist Church
2nd Saturday at 11AM

St Joe's Senior Club

St Joes Club on Theodore
3rd Wednesday at Noon

St Ray's Cathedral

St Ray's School on Raynor
3rd Thursday at Noon

Joliet Area Retired Teachers

Al's Steakhouse
4th Wednesday at Noon

S.O.A.R

Silverspoon Restaurant
4th Thursday at Noon

Club Social Latino

Hartman Center
4th Sunday at 2PM

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

We are pleased to provide General Assistance or Emergency Assistance to eligible township residents. This assistance provides direct vendor payments for Rent and utility bills.

General Assistance is a locally administered program which provides monthly financial assistance to persons who do not have adequate income or resources to provide for their own basic needs. To qualify, the individual must meet certain financial and residential criteria, and not be eligible for any other state or federal assistance programs.

Applications are available at the township office Monday – Friday 8:30am – 4pm. If you have questions regarding these programs please contact the Township at **815-726-4781 x 301**.



Ivan Diaz

New Finance Director

Ivan Diaz is the new Finance Director at Joliet Township. He graduated from Lewis University with a Bachelor's Degree in accounting and a minor in finance. Upon graduation in 2018, Diaz began working as an accountant at Wermer Rogers Doran and Ruzon, one of the largest locally owned accounting firms in Will County.

Over his three years of working at WRDR, Diaz gained valuable expertise in Auditing, Bookkeeping, and Taxation which are all vital in his role at the township. Outside of his role at the township, Diaz is a sports fanatic and his favorite Chicago teams are DA Bears and the Bulls!

Soledad Ruiz

General Assistant Caseworker



Soledad Ruiz was born and raised on the South side of Chicago. She has been an interpreter & translator of English to Spanish (and vice versa) her whole life. Professionally she has 25+ years of customer service experience and 6 years in general law.

Her goal is to contribute to her community and leave this place a better world to live in.

Ruiz and Ana Campa Castillo both help with bilingual services for the residents: Para hablar con un trabajador social de asistencia general, comuníquese con Soledad en **815-726-4781 x 304**

ADVISORY COMMITTEES

In April, the Township passed an Ordinance establishing several advisory committees. The Supervisor and the Board of Trustees have determined it is in the best interests of the Township to include more community participation. Therefore, the following committees were created:

- Youth Services;
- Senior Services;
- Economic Development;
- Public Health;
- Town Beautification; and
- Township Outreach and Events

If you are interested in being appointed please find the application online at www.JolietTownship.net

HIGHLIGHTS

New Vans

A more efficient animal control van was added to our fleet!

Architect Takes a Look

Need more room to house animals from those returning to work who can no longer provide care to new pets

Eagle Scout Project

Eagle Scout Tyler Humann beautifies the Animal Control. He installed this bench and added plants and mulch



Animal Control and Care News

Joliet Township Animal Control upgrades Vans and hosts pet events

Joliet Township Animal Control hosted pet pictures with Santa. Many past adopters came to get their photos with Santa, as well as other pets with their families from around the community. The event raised \$400 to go towards the Transfer Team which helps pets in need of extra medical/behavioral care.

In anticipation of the Township requesting ARPA funds from the county, an architect came to draft a proposal for the much-needed facelift and expansion this year! The plan will add 18 dog cages to the Dog Room, and 21 dog/cat cages to the Intake Room.

With spring came an exciting opportunity for a local Eagle Scout, Tyler Humann, to use the facility for his project. He worked hard to freshen up the landscaping in the front of the building and planted new flowers, laid mulch, and added a bench!

Whitney McGill, Director of Joliet Township Animal Control said "we appreciate that he chose our facility for his project and are thankful he is working to make an impact on our shelter and the animals we are caring for!"

Now that the mandates surrounding covid19 have been lifted, we are eagerly awaiting the return of volunteer orientations. A reminder that all volunteers must complete an orientation before being allowed to volunteer with Animal Control. The orientation includes a tour of our facility, a rundown of our rules, safety, and proper animal handling.

JTAC is also excited to announce the return of the low-cost vaccine clinics to our facility! Just Animals will be at JTAC every first Saturday of the month and to make an appointment they can be reached at **815 830-6568**.



Joliet Township Road District

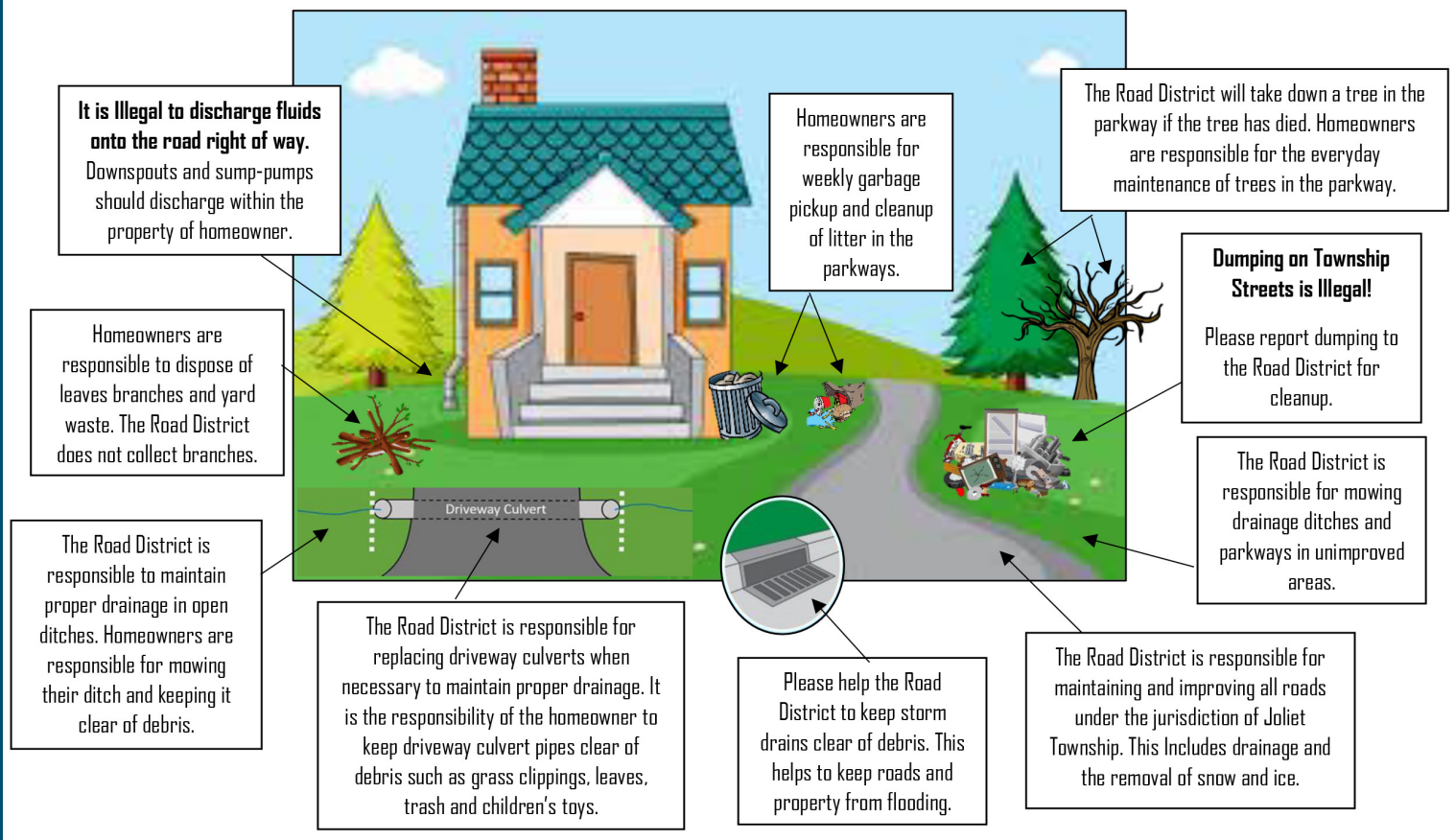
New Highway Commissioner: Vincent Alessio



I believe we need an opportunity to move Joliet's infrastructure forward with a new direction. I will optimize the road district's ability to seek grants and other monies to best service the residents and area. As you know, with incoming industries and the move toward logistics in our current economy, the roads in our area are crumbling. I will work with local state and county authorities to stress the necessity of our area not only in Illinois but in the international economy. With North America's largest inland port (over 19 Million containers move through our area each year), we move 3.6 % of the nation's GDP.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

A quick guide for Homeowners of the responsibilities of the Joliet Township Road District



The Road District is responsible for the maintenance of over 60 miles of roadways and 6 bridges within the Road Districts' Jurisdiction, but it takes us ALL to keep our Township looking its best!

Our NEW office hours are Monday - Thursday 6:30am-3:30pm and Friday by Appointment.

Reach out to us with any questions or concerns you have at **815-722-6646** or by email

admin@joliettwp-rd.com. We would love to hear from you!

Should you have a roadway emergency after hours please call the Will County Sheriff's Office at **815-727-6191**.

HERE FOR YOU!

The Joliet Township Assessor's Office is here to answer any question or concerns about your property and it's assessment.

You can access your assessment info online at www.jolietassessor.net

You can contact the assessor directly at **815-726-5446** or jtajim@joliettownship.net

A Look at Your Tax Assessor

Jim Brenzcwski has been assessing for 24 yrs



Jim Brenzcwski was born and raised in Joliet. He graduated from Holy Cross Grade School, Joliet Central High School, JJC and Western Illinois University. His experience in the assessment field

comprises of working in the Joliet Assessment Office, the Will County Board of Review and Chief Deputy in the Will County Supervisor of Assessments Office. Brenzcwski is the son of the late Edward and Ellie Brenzcwski. His mother worked for the Joliet Township Office for 25 years as a bilingual intake secretary. He has been married to his wife Mary for 47 years, is the father of three children Missy, Jaime and Ryan, and proud grandparent of Jameson, Alyssa, Chase, Benjamin, Ellie and Kennedy. He is dedicated to fair assessments and treating the people of Joliet Township with respect and kindness.

Helpful Hints on Tax Bill

When you receive your tax bill, please remember to check the exemption line to make sure you are receiving every exemption you are entitled to. If your property is owner occupied, you should receive a General Homestead Exemption worth \$6,000 off of your assessment.

If you are 65 or older you can receive a Senior Citizens Exemption worth an additional \$5,000 off of your assessment. There is also a Senior Freeze Homestead Exemption.



The requirement for the Senior Freeze are as follows:

- Fulfill property residency requirement
- Max household income must be \$65,000 or less
- Complete and return the Senior Freeze Application each year to either the Supervisor of Assessments Office or your Township Assessor's Office.
- Please remember that this exemption must be renewed and qualified for every year.
- Please note that this exemption freezes your assessment and does NOT freeze your taxes

If you think you may be entitled to one of the above exemptions, please give us a call at **815-726-5466**.

Two Question Quiz on Taxes and Assessments

Question:

If assessed values rise, do taxes have to rise?

Answer: No. Taxes only rise because of an increase in spending, which reflects the funding needs of the various taxing districts.

Please remember the ultimate goal of the assessor's office is to have each property assessed at .3333 of market value to ensure the tax burden is proportioned in a fair and equitable manner based in the value of your real estate.

Question:

If assessed value falls, do taxes have to fall?

Answer: No. Taxing authorities decide how much the property tax must rise each year.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Just Animals Low Cost Vaccine

Clinic on the 1st Sat / Month
2807 McDonough St, Joliet
815-830-6568

Joliet Iron Works: After the Whistle Blows Tour

75 Columbia Joliet, IL 60432
June 2nd, 2022 5:30-7PM

FREE "Concerts On The Hill"

201 W Jefferson St, Joliet
June 2 thru September 1, 2022
6:30PM

Bike and Brunch

Fee: \$20 per person
Age: Ages 21 or older
Contact: 815-727-8700
Joliet Iron Works Historic Site
Saturday, June 4, 2022 9:30AM

We Will Rock You at Billie Limacher Bicentennial Park

201 W Jefferson St, Joliet
Jun 17 - Jun 26th

Paws on 66 Pet Rescue Day Van Buren Street Plaza

Joliet, IL 60435
June 18, 2022 11AM-3PM

Taste of Joliet

Joliet Memorial Stadium
3000 W Jefferson St, Joliet
Friday June 24 3PM thru
Sunday June 26, 2022 8PM

Craft Show at

Louis Joliet Mall
3340 Mall Loop Dr, Joliet
Saturday, July 9th, 11AM thru
Sun, July 10th, 6PM

JTAC Pet Day at the Joliet Slammers Stadium

1 Mayor Art Schultz Drive
Joliet, IL 60432
August 16, 2022 6:30PM

Joliet PrideFest 2022

Billie Limacher Bicentennial Park
201 W Jefferson St, Joliet
Saturday, Sep 17, 12 PM

Grease

Rialto Square Theatre
102 N. Chicago Street,
Joliet
September 8, 2022 6PM

Free Concerts are held at Preservation Park

710 Taylor Street, Joliet
Fridays 6:30pm - Dusk

Expanding Partnerships

The Township is excited to expand on existing partnerships with Joliet Park District and we are building new ones too! We are supporting local Community Centers that serve the interest and needs of our Township residents. The Township is co-sponsoring programs with the Joliet Park district to provide programming before and after school. We are also co-sponsoring Camp Braveheart Summer Camp. Joliet Township is excited to help sponsor the Joliet Public Library's 11th Annual Star Wars Day on June 4th at 11AM and bring families to Downtown Joliet.

Summer Fun at YMCA Camp

YMCA summer camps offer an action-packed, adventure-filled experience, where young people in our community can make new friends while having a whole lot of fun! At Y camp, kids laugh, learn, explore and grow, while creating memories and friendships that last a lifetime. To support kids in our community, Joliet Township is proud to provide a \$25,000 grant to the Greater Joliet Area YMCA. These funds will help to ensure that no child is turned away from the Y due to the inability to pay, and will provide much needed scholarships for kids in our community attending YMCA camp at the Salvation Army Community Center in downtown Joliet this summer. To learn more about the YMCA camp, please visit www.jolietymca.org.



175 W. Jefferson Street
Joliet, Illinois 60435
(815) 726 - 4781



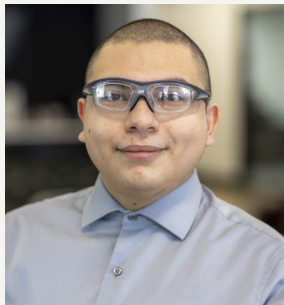
Angel Contreras
Supervisor



Your Township Government



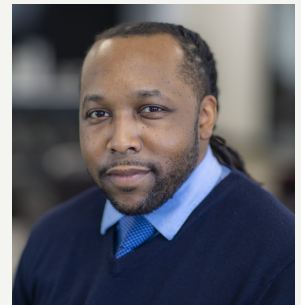
Suzanna Ibarra
Trustee



Cesar Escutia
Trustee



Raymond Slattery
Trustee



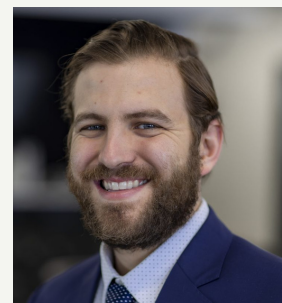
Karl Ferrell
Trustee



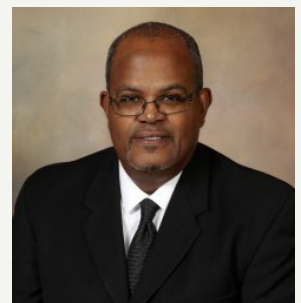
Alicia Morales
Clerk



Jim Brenczewski
Tax Assessor



Vince Alessio
Highway Commissioner



Archie Gavin
Tax Collector