



Lockport Township
Decennial Committee Report
August 13th, 2024

Table of Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| Cover Letter..... | 3 |
| Committee Background..... | 4 |
| Committee Members | 5 |
| Township Overview | 6 |
| Review of Laws, Township Policies, Rules and Procedures | 8 |
| Ordinances, Agreements, Proclamations, & Resolutions | 9 |
| Ordinances | 9 |
| Intergovernmental Agreements..... | 10 |
| Proclamations..... | 10 |
| Resolutions..... | 11 |
| Township Programs, Services, and Events..... | 14 |
| Senior Programming | 14 |
| General Services & Support..... | 16 |
| Veteran Services..... | 19 |
| Partnerships..... | 20 |
| Committee Findings & Recommendations | 22 |
| Conclusion..... | 23 |

Cover Letter

August 13, 2024

Will County Board
302 N. Chicago St.
Joliet, IL 60432

Dear County Board Members,

I am pleased to present the Decennial Committee Report of Lockport Township.

This report includes the committee members, our meeting schedule, the topics we reviewed, and our resulting recommendations. We have put a lot of effort into this report, reflecting our commitment to our constituents.

If you wish to discuss this report or have any questions about our services, please feel free to contact me at 815-838-0380 or supervisor@lockporttownship.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alex Zapien". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Alex Zapien
Lockport Township Supervisor

Committee Background

The Decennial Committees on Local Government Efficiency Act (50 ILCS 70), created by P.A. 102-1088, became effective on June 10, 2022.

Committee Requirements/Duties (50 ILCS 70) Include:

- Committees must meet at least three times, with separate notice given for each meeting. After each meeting, residents in attendance must be surveyed for their input. This can also be done via email.
- Committees must study the governmental unit's statutes, ordinances, rules, procedures, powers, jurisdiction, shared services, intergovernmental agreements, and relationships with other governmental units and the State. They must also collect necessary data, research, and analysis if any.
- Committees must summarize their work and findings in a written report, including recommendations for increased accountability and efficiency. This report must be provided to the administrative office of each relevant county board within 18 months of the committee's formation.

Our committees were formed on May 9, 2023, requiring our report to be filed with the Will County Board by November 9, 2024.

The Decennial Committee was required to meet at least three times over an 18-month period. Below are the meeting dates and the general topics discussed:

| Meeting # | Date | Time | Topic |
|------------------|--------------------|---------------|---|
| 1 | May 9, 2023 | 6:40PM-6:50PM | Committee Formation |
| 2 | August 13, 2024 | 5:30PM-6PM | Review of Report |
| 3 | September 10, 2024 | 6:15PM-6:20PM | Approval of Report. Dissolving of Committee |

Committee Members

Below is the list of members of the Decennial Committee. The Township Trustees were required to serve on the Board, along with the appointment of at least two residents.

Committee Chairman:

- Alex Zapien – Supervisor

Governing Board Members:

- Dean Morelli – Trustee
- Gregg Bickus – Trustee
- Karen Johnson – Trustee
- Denise Salvino – Trustee

Township Residents

- Dionne Wright
- Timothy Sellars

Township Overview

Lockport Township is located in Will County, Illinois, which comprises 25 townships. As of the 2020 census, Lockport Township has a population of 60,088 residents. Excluding elected officials, the Lockport Township office employs 25 individuals as of this report's submission.

The Township's primary municipalities are Lockport, Romeoville, and Crest Hill. It also includes a small neighborhood portion of Plainfield and a tiny non-residential section of Joliet. Below is a basic map of Lockport Township along with its boundaries.

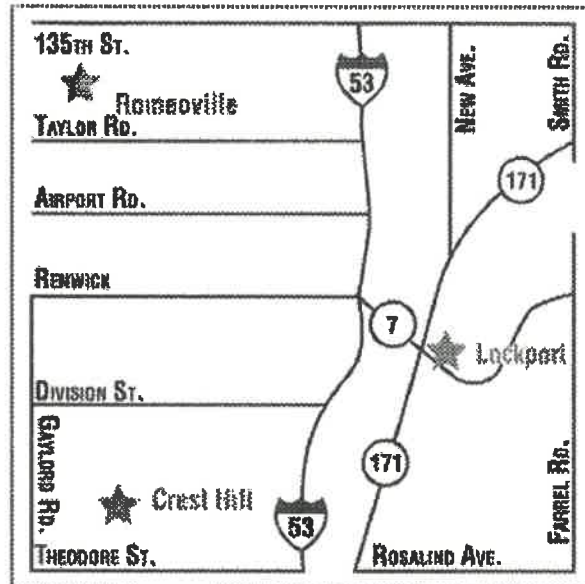
Boundaries:

North – 135th Street

East – Farrell Rd + Smith Rd

South – Theodore St + Rosalind Ave

West – Gaylord Rd



Map of Lockport Township

Our total annual budget for 2024-2025 and appropriations was \$5,160,999. The Township's equalized assessed valuation for 2024 was \$2,290,502,604.

Townships are the oldest form of government in the United States, with Lockport Township being founded in 1849. The three basic functions of Townships in Illinois include:

1. Providing General Assistance to those in financial need

General Assistance is administered by the Township Supervisor's office. Assistance includes food, shelter, utilities, and emergency relief.

Townships are required to provide funds as outlined in Article VI of the Public Aid Code.

2. Assessing real property for local taxation

Assessments are conducted by the Township Assessor's office.

Townships are required by 35 ILCS 200/9-70 of the Illinois Property Tax Code.

3. Maintaining roads and bridges outside federal, state, and other jurisdictions

Road services are administered by the Highway Commissioner's office (see Road District Decennial Report).

Townships are required to comply with 605 ILCS 5 Section 6-201 of the Illinois Highway Code.

While these are the most basic services, Lockport Township prides itself on offering an extensive range of other services to its residents, including those from the Clerk's office and senior services, all while maintaining fiscal responsibility. This report will review these services in detail.

Review of Laws, Township Policies, Rules and Procedures

We have reviewed the following, non-exhaustive list of laws, policies, training materials, and other documents applicable to the Township to evaluate our compliance and to determine if any of the foregoing should be amended. The full Township code can be found [here](#).

- [Illinois Open Meetings Act \(5 ILCS 120\)](#)
- Policy on public comment
- Designation of OMA officer (5 ILCS 120/1.05(a))
- All of Elected Officials have completed OMA Training (5 ILCS 120/1.05(b))
- Schedule of All Township Regular Meetings for Calendar or Fiscal Year (5 ILCS 120/2.03)
- [Illinois Freedom of Information Act \(5 ILCS 140\)](#)
- Designation of FOIA officer (5 ILCS 140/3.5(a))
- FOIA Officer Training (5 ILCS 140/3.5(b))
- Computation and Retention of FOIA Requests (5 ILCS 140/3.5(a))
- Posting Other Required FOIA Information (5 ILCS 140/4(a); 5 ILCS 140/4(b))
- List of Types or Categories of FOIA Records under Township's Control (5 ILCS 140/5)
- Periodic Meetings to Review Closed Meeting Minutes (5 ILCS 120/2.06(d))
- All of our Elected Officials have filed statement of economic interests (5 ILCS 420/4A-101; 5 ILCS 420/4A-101.5)
- Sexual harassment prevention training (775 ILCS 5/2-109(c))

Ordinances, Agreements, Proclamations, & Resolutions

Here is a comprehensive list of all ordinances, intergovernmental agreements, proclamations, and resolutions entered into by the Township over the past 25 years.

Ordinances

Meetings

- 2003-5 Closed Session Policy
- 2011-4 Town Fund- Public Comment

HR

- 2004-5 Town Fund – Ethics Policy
- 2017-7 Town Fund Sexual Harassment
- 2022-3 Establishing A Whistleblower

Prevailing Wage & RBO

- 2007-3 through 2015-3 Prevailing Wage
- 2009-5 Town Fund Responsible Bidder
- 2024-3 Update to Town Fund Responsible Bidder Ordinance 2009-5

Employee & Officials Compensation

- 2000-14 Officials Salaries 2001-2005
- 2004-8 Officials Salaries 2005-2009
- 2008-4 Officials Salaries 2009-2013
- 2012-5 Officials Salaries 2013-2017
- 2016-5 Officials Salaries 2017-2021
- 2016-5 Officials Salaries 2021-2025

- 2016-6 All Travel, Meal, and Lodging Expenses

Budget & Finances

- 2012-1 Committed Funds (10 Years)
- 2023-3 Committed Funds- \$1,000,000.00- Replaces Ordinance 2012-1

- 2000-2 through 2024-2 Town Fund Budget
- 2000-16 through 2023-5 Town Fund Tax Levy

Misc.

- 2019-1 Establishing Refuse Collection And Disposal
- 2019-1.1 Transferring a Portion of Lockport Township Water and Sewer System to the City of Joliet

Intergovernmental Agreements

- Lockport Township & County of Will - Geographic Information System (March 2004)
- Lockport Township & Village of Romeoville - Emergency Weather Warning System (October 2015)
- Lockport Township & City of Lockport - Dissolution And Termination of Agreement in the Central Square Building (July 2016)
- Lockport Township, City of Lockport & Homer Township Highway Department - Resurfacing of Farrell Road (May 2022)
- Lockport Township, Lockport Township Highway Department And Bonnie Brae Forest Manor Sanitary District – Receiving CDBG Funds (February 2024)
- Lockport Township & City of Joliet - The Joliet African American Context Study (April 2024)

Proclamations

- Lockport Township High School Boys Cross County Team (December 1997)
- 6th Grade St. Dennis History Fair (July 1999)
- Census 2000 (November 1999)
- National Drug Court Month (May 2000)
- Take Back the Night (October 2000)

- Honoring The Anniversary Of The Drafting Of The Constitution Of The United States (September 2002)
- Honoring The Lockport Women's Club (September 2002)
- Honoring The City Of Crest Hill 50th Anniversary (January 2010)
- Honoring The Crest Hill Woman's Civic League 50th Anniversary (November 2010)
- Declaring The First Friday In June To Be National Gun Violence Awareness Day (June 2021)
- Honoring The Lockport Township Football Team (December 2021)
- Support of Nonviolent Cities (October 2023)

Resolutions

- 1996-1 Honoring Patricia Hartley
- 1997-1 Honoring Joseph Fitzgerald
- 1997-2 Drunk Driving
- 1998-1 State of Illinois
- 1998-2 Honoring Bernard Havidich
- 1998-1 Allow Service Credit for Military Service
- 1998-2 Waiver of Building Permits
- 1998-5 Prohibit Desecration of the US Flag
- 1998-6 Applying for Will County Community Block Grant
- 2000-1 Central Management
- 2000-2 40th Anniversary of Crest Hill
- 2001-1 Applying for Will County Community Block Grant
- 2001-2 Support Fair Housing
- 2002-1 Applying for Will County Community Block Grant
- 2003-1 Applying for Will County Community Block Grant
- 2003-2 State of Illinois Federal Surplus Property Program
- 2005-1 Applying for Will County Community Block Grant
- 2005-2 Adoption of National Incident Management System
- 2006-1 Applying for Will County Community Block Grant
- 2006-2 Lots Sizes
- 2007-1 Applying for Will County Community Block Grant
- 2008-1 Applying for Will County Community Block Grant
- 2009-1 State of Illinois Federal Surplus Property Program
- 2009-2 Honoring Trustee Doyle

- 2009-3 Honoring Trustee Greenan
- 2009-4 Allocation of Monies
- 2010-1 Applying for Will County Community Block Grant
- 2010-3 Include Taxable Allowances as IMRF Earnings
- 2011-2 Applying for Will County Community Block Grant
- 2011-3 Honoring Judy Batusich
- 2012-1 Applying for Will County Community Block Grant
- 2012-2 Honoring Jack Waxweiler
- 2013-2 Applying for Will County Community Block Grant
- 2013-3 Honoring Norbert Likar
- 2013-4 Honoring Percy Conway
- 2014-1 Honoring George Mushro
- 2014-3 Park District Land Lease
- 2015-1 Clerk/Assessor Credit Card Authorization
- 2015-5 Township Pays Premium Difference for BCBS Health Insurance
- 2015-6 Honoring Mike Kelley
- 2015-7 Adopt 1,000 Hour Standard for IMRF Participation
- 2015-8 Heritage Corridor Convention & Visitors Bureau- Promote the Township
- 2015-9 Authorizing the Supervisor & Attorney to Execute Documents for a New Building
- 2016-1 Policy on Public Comment
- 2016-3 Pace Bus Municipal Vehicle Program
- 2016-5 Conveyance of Title to Central Square
- 2017-1 Honoring Barb Morrissette
- 2017-2 Rent Space at the Township Building
- 2017-3 Participation of Elected Officials in IMRF
- 2017-4 Retain Attorney Employment
- 2017-5 Honoring David Skoryi
- 2017-6 Execution and Delivery of a Municipal Lease
- 2017-7 Participation of Elected Officials in IMRF
- 2018-1 Adoption of Employee Handbook
- 2018-2 Unincorporated Garbage Disposal Proposition
- 2019-1 Relating to the Participation by Elected Officials in the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund
- 2019-2 Honoring Highway Commissioner John Cielenski
- 2020-1 Warrant of Appointment – Barb Boyce, Lockport Township Trustee

- 2020-2 Declaring Vacancy In The Office of Collector
- 2020-3 Declaring Vacancy In The Office of Assessor
- 2020-4 Declaring Vacancy In The Office of Trustee
- 2020-5 Warrant of Appointment, Mary Ann Williamson, Assessor
- 2020-6 Warrant of Appointment, Sherry Williams, Collector
- 2020-7 Transfer of Monies at The Annual Town Meeting
- 2020-8 Established Criteria For Tax Refund For Eligible Lockport Township Property Owners From Senior Fund And Town Fund
- 2020-9 Authorize Township Supervisor To Seek A Request For Proposal To Distribute To Lockport Township Property Owner Rebate From Senior Fund And Town Fund
- 2022-1 Whistleblower Protection Policy
- 2022-2 Heritage Corridor CVB as Lockport Township's Tourism Agency
- 2022-3 Codify the Electronic Participation in Meeting/ Remote Attendance Policy For Elected Officials
- 2023-1 Declaring Vacancy in the Office of Supervisor
- 2023-2 Warrant of Appointment, Alex Zapien
- 2023-3 Honoring Ron Alberico
- 2023-4 CDBG Grant- Bonnie Brae Forest Manor Sanitary District
- 2023-5 Adopt a FOIA Policy
- 2023-7 Participation of Elected Officials in IMRF
- 2023-8 Support Application For Community Block Grant- Riley Avenue Drainage
- 2023-9 Revised Lockport Township Employee Handbook
- 2024-1 Electronic participation For Meetings/ Remote Attendance (Also See Resolution 2022-3)
- 2024-2 Transfer Excess Funds From Tax Refund From Approved Resolution 2020-8 To Senior And Town Fund
- 2024-3 Support Application For Community Block Grant- Bonnie Brae Forest Manor Sanitary District

Township Programs, Services, and Events

Lockport Township prides itself as serving the residents with many services on top of the basic functions described on page 7. Below is a taste of the services and frequent events we host organized in alphabetical order.

Senior Programming

Emergency ID bracelets

Residents aged 55 and older can apply for an emergency ID bracelet by filling out an application form with their important ICE (In Case of Emergency) information. The Township provides the bracelet at no cost to residents within the Township, while non-residents can receive it for \$10. The bracelets feature an ID number and WESCOM's phone number, ensuring that the wearer can be identified and assisted if they are unable to communicate. Residents can call **815-838-0380** or visit our website [here](#) for an application.

Homebox Loaner Program

Residents aged 55 and older can apply for a FREE loaner lockbox from the Township. The lockbox allows the Fire Department easy access to a resident's home in case of an emergency. Both the lockbox provided by the Township and its installation by the Fire Department are provided at no cost. Residents can call **815-838-0380** or visit our website [here](#) for an application.

Senior Breakfast

A fan favorite, the Township hosts a complimentary full breakfast for seniors. This event typically spans three (now four) consecutive days and is usually held at Prairie Bluff. Each day features entertainment from a local musical band and serves up to 150-160 seniors from the Township. Seniors are encouraged to bring one nonperishable item to donate to the food pantry. The buffet breakfast usually includes, but is not limited to, scrambled eggs, sausage, bacon, pancakes, fruit, coffee, and juice. Residents must RSVP for this free event, and seating is limited.

Senior Expo

Every June, Lockport Township hosts a major event from 9 AM to 12 PM in the Township's community room. This expo features nearly 50 local organizations and businesses engaging with seniors. Highlights include a mobile OSCO Pharmacy offering immunizations for pneumonia, shingles, RSV, and more, as well as the Secretary of State Mobile DMV assisting with license and ID renewals, vehicle sticker purchases, and other services. A shred truck is also present outside in the Township's parking lot. The event features raffle prizes, an ice cream social, and free giveaways, attracting approximately 500 residents each year.

Senior Transit

Lockport Township operates two shuttles to provide safe, daily transportation for senior citizens throughout the Township. With convenient hours from 7AM to 3PM, Monday through Friday, and easy scheduling, the Lockport Township Senior Transit System is designed with seniors in mind. It offers reliable transportation for residents aged 55 and over. All shuttles are wheelchair accessible and provide curb-to-curb service from the resident's home to their destination. The cost is only \$1 per round trip. Residents must call **815-293-6320** to make an appointment 24 hours in advance. Visit our website [here](#) to learn more.

Shingle Shots

Lockport Township is partnered with Jewell-Osco Pharmacy in Lockport to offer fully funded shingles vaccinations for senior residents. To schedule an appointment, residents should call Lockport Township at **815-838-0380**. The vaccine will be administered at the Lockport Jewell-Osco location at no cost to the resident. Lockport Township covers the entire cost of the vaccine.

TRIAD

Lockport Township partners with local police departments to offer a monthly event known as 'TRIAD'. Held on the last Tuesday of each month at 9 AM, this event takes place either in the Township's community room or at the American Legion in Lockport. Residents can attend and hear from a new guest speaker on important senior safety topics, such as fraud prevention, fall safety, and heart health. A full breakfast is provided by the Township.

General Services & Support

Back-to-School Fair

An event hosted at the Township that was inaugurated in July 2024 to distribute school supplies to up to 100 students in the Township. Supplies included pencils, crayons, colored pencils, notebooks, tissues, wet wipes, and more. The event featured balloons, popcorn, and several vendors, including the library and park district, handing out additional items.

Children's Winter Event

The Township hosts an annual event in December tailored towards families and kids. The community room features games and a visit from Santa Claus. Arts and crafts are available in the side rooms, and there are food trucks on site.

Community Fun Day

The Township hosts an annual family-friendly event in May tailored towards families and kids. Over 40 vendors are set up in the community room, offering services and handing out fun items for children. There are also food trucks and plenty of snacks like popcorn and cotton candy. This free event is open to the public.

Community Mental Health Program

In collaboration with the Lockport Township Fire District and Thriveworks, a mental health organization, residents of all ages can call a confidential number at the Fire Department to request mental health services. They will then be referred to Thriveworks for counseling, which can be received either in person at Silver Cross Hospital or via telehealth. The Township covers any costs not covered by insurance or all costs if the individual has no insurance. Visit our website [here](#) to learn more.

Classroom Support

Lockport Township High School experienced a ceiling collapse in its freshman student center, leaving the special needs division without a designated space while freshmen were temporarily relocated to another large building. The Township provides space for the special needs students (approximately 30) and their teachers, allowing them to hold regularly scheduled classes throughout the school year.

Diaper Drive

In partnership with United Way of Will County, the Clerk's Office provides one free diaper bundle to Will County residents. Each child is eligible for one diaper bundle every 30 days.

Early Voting

The Clerk's Office offers early voting to all registered voters in Will County. Residents may also register to vote with the Clerk's Office.

Job Fairs

In partnership with Will County Workforce, the Township hosts 1-2 job fairs annually in the community room. Around 35 employers attend, providing information to attendees. There is also a station for free professional headshots. Most recently, a job fair was held in May 2024, emphasizing union trades and military recruitment. The event is open the public and outreach was done especially to recent high school graduates.

Little Free Library

Residents may leave or borrow books from the Township's little free library available outdoors at all hours of the day.

Medical Closet

The Township maintains a closet stocked with medical supplies ranging from walkers and wheelchairs to bandages and undergarments. Residents can borrow this equipment on a temporary basis, completely free of charge. There is no time limit on the loan, and we also accept donations from the public. View our website [here](#) to learn more.

Mosquito Abatement

We have allocated funds for mosquito abatement services for the unincorporated areas of Lockport Township and have contracted with Clarke Environmental Mosquito

Management, Inc. to provide these services. The services provided by Clarke include surveillance, monitoring, and treatment.

Notary Public

Complementary notary public services are offered to all residents. View our website [here](#) to learn more.

Temporary Handicap Parking Placards

Residents may apply for a 3-month temporary handicap parking placard at no cost.

View our website [here](#) to learn more.

Township Newsletter

A 12-16 page newsletter with Township updates and an extensive list of services is mailed out to all residents in the Township 2-4 times per year. This also serves as a great way to advertise Township events, especially to the senior population. A collection of the Township's newsletters can be found [here](#).

Trunk or Treat

The Township hosts an annual Trunk or Treat event around Halloween in the Township's parking lot. Participants are invited to dress up their vehicles and hand out candy provided by the Township to children and their families in Halloween costumes. There is a public vote for the best-decorated vehicle and a contest for the best children's costume.

Shred Events

The Township will host free shred truck events for residents to securely shred their sensitive documents at no cost. These shred truck events are held approximately four times a year.

Social Media

The Township has a [Facebook page](#) that offers information on Township resources and upcoming events to residents who are active on social media.

Website

The Township's website regularly updates residents with information about upcoming events and major announcements, such as changes in garbage pickup schedules. The site also offers online applications for most services and features a frequently visited page of ['Useful Information.'](#)

Vaccine Drives

In partnership with Jewel-Osco Pharmacy, the Township will host vaccine clinics throughout the year. All residents are welcome to attend, simply bring their insurance card, and receive their vaccination on-site.

Veteran Services

Veterans' Affairs Office

The Township provides complimentary space for the Veterans' Affairs Office to operate a satellite office in Lockport Township. The office is open five days a week and offers veteran services by appointment, including assistance with federal, state, and local benefits. It also provides resources on disability claims, employment, education and training, health care, housing, military records, and more.

Veterans Cabinet

A new addition to the Township is a custom-made, well-lit wooden cabinet purchased to display memorabilia from veterans across the Township. Veterans were invited to help decorate the cabinet, which features seals from each of the military branches. The cabinet is located outside the Veterans' Affairs Office.

Veterans Dinner

Once a year around Veterans Day, the Township hosts a complimentary buffet dinner for veterans and their spouses at Mistwood Golf Club. The event features a color guard and entertainment.

Partnerships

Allegro Dance Academy

Similar to its partnership with Limestone Stage, the Township provides Allegro with storage space and access to the community room stage. In return, Allegro hosts recitals several times a year that are open to the public. Additionally, Allegro performs maintenance on the lighting, sound system, and stage at no cost to the Township.

Catholic Charities

The Township provides Catholic Charities with complimentary space one day a week. This organization offers low-income assistance to residents.

Fairmont Food Pantry

The Fairmont Food Pantry is located in the Fairmont Community Center, operated by the Lockport Township Park District. As an independent entity highly reliant on outside support and donations, the pantry benefits from Lockport Township's contributions. The Township donates canned goods collected from senior breakfasts and provides substantial annual financial support. In 2024, this donation amounted to \$23,000.

Limestone Theater

Lockport Township partners with Limestone Stage Community Theater by providing storage space and access to the community room stage. In return, Limestone Stage hosts week-long plays several times a year, which are open to the public. Limestone also does maintenance for the lightwork and stage at no cost to the Township.

Lockport FISH Food Pantry

The Township provides complimentary space to the Lockport FISH Food Pantry, a non-profit organization operated by volunteers that offers supplemental food items to families in need. The Township allocates approximately one-quarter of the building for the pantry's food storage and service. The pantry is open from 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

Meals on Wheels

The Township provides complimentary all-day kitchen space to Meals on Wheels, an organization that prepares and delivers meals to low-income seniors in the area.

PACE Dial-a-Ride

The Central Will Dial-a-Ride program is operated by PACE Bus and coordinates the collaborative efforts of five townships (Homer Township, Jackson Township, Joliet Township, Lockport Township, Troy Township) and the City of Joliet to provide transportation service to residents who are 60 years of age and older and to residents with a disability. The Pace Dial-a-Ride bus can transport eligible individuals from their home to and from work, grocery stores, local shopping centers, nursing homes, Village Hall, restaurants, hair appointments, medical appointments, and to visit a friend or relative.

Will County Community Concerns (LiHEAP)

The Township provides complimentary space a few times a month. This organization offers utility and rental assistance to residents in need.

Committee Findings & Recommendations

The Decennial Committees on Local Government Efficiency Act required each committee to make recommendations in respect to increased accountability and efficiency. On December 13, 2023, the Decennial Committee met for this purpose.

After a review of the report and associated documents and some discussion, the group recommended focusing on the following:

Online Presence

While the Township has a robust presence through mailings and consistent events, the growing population increasingly prefers digital news. Although the Township has a website and a newly established Facebook page, we are just beginning to tap into the potential for instant, widespread outreach. We recommend expanding our social media presence, getting verified, and collecting emails to create an online newsletter.

More Balanced Presence in All Municipalities

Lockport Township serves Romeoville, Crest Hill, and Lockport, with greater name recognition in Lockport, where the office is located. The 9th Street Bridge acts as a natural divide between Romeoville, Crest Hill, and Lockport. In the short term, hosting more events in Romeoville and Crest Hill, and increasing collaboration with municipal entities there, can enhance visibility.

Expanded Services in General Assistance

The Township has established guidelines and digital programs for general and emergency assistance. However, operational costs are significantly below the revenues received for the General Assistance Fund. The tax levy for this fund is nearly at its maximum, and the only additional revenue comes from property replacement tax, which is set by the Illinois State Comptroller's Office and beyond the Township's control. New statutes and acts allow the Township to use these funds for more than just emergency assistance. We should explore funding additional public aid programs through the General Assistance Fund, potentially reallocating Town and Senior programming to this fund and lowering the tax levy and rate in those areas.

Expansion of Other Services

While the Township already offers a wide range of services, there is always room for improvement. We can now focus on specific niches for targeted populations. While we

provide robust support for seniors, the general population, and mental health, we could expand our services to include programs specifically for veterans and youth. This would complement our existing programming and better serve our diverse community.

Resident feedback and reports indicate that the construction and drainage projects underway in the unincorporated areas of the Township, particularly Fairmont, have not gone unnoticed. These projects, a result of the collaboration between Lockport Township, the Lockport Township Highway Department, and Will County Land Use, highlight the importance of intergovernmental cooperation. Such teamwork ensures that all stakeholders, including residents, benefit from these efforts.

Conclusion

Lockport Township is dedicated to offering a broad range of services to its residents. We take great pride in this commitment and continually evaluate our operations to ensure we are meeting community needs effectively. As the layer of government closest to the people, we strive to provide exceptional value, delivering extensive services with relatively low tax dollars. Although there is always room for improvement, we remain self-reflective and focused on enhancing our efficient operations while expanding the services that matter most to our residents, all while maintaining fiscal responsibility. Lockport Township Government plays a crucial role in our community, and we are committed to its ongoing importance and effectiveness.