



The S.A.L.T. Communicator

Seniors and Law Enforcement Together

Serving & Protecting Seniors Citizens

July 2020

Milton Community Pulling Together in Sacrifice and Giving

Milton Township joined the nation during these past months to respond to the COVID-19 disruption. The Township stayed open to serve clients through its Food Pantry and General and Emergency Assistance without interruption.



Volunteers for the Township stepped in to respond to the great need that

opened, forging new ways to serve in the face of this great challenge. Paula Smith, wife of



SALT Chairman Chuck Smith, Linda Fellai, Paula's sister, and Nancy Bogardus, a concerned Wheaton resident, sewed over 1655 masks for our community. Chuck handled the delivery of masks to local



seniors, hospitals, senior living facilities, food banks, PADS, the DuPage VA, and a local fire station. Nancy Bogardus alone crafted and donated 755 of the masks. SALT also reached out to



seniors via its website at the beginning of the Stay at Home order, offering to shop and deliver groceries to the seniors' porches. Volunteers were touched by the warm thank you notes received by those helped.



Milton Township Trustees John Monino and Yadav Nathwani and volunteer Jim Hoffner committed to local fresh produce and grocery pick-ups for both the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry and Milton Food Pantry.

Both Food Pantries greatly appreciated food drives from organizations and individuals across Milton Township.



Wheaton: A Mayor's Perspective on a City Coming Together

SALT reached out to Mayor Suess, eager to learn his thoughts on the City during this challenging time. The Mayor warmly responded to our invitation, opening our conversation on the note that Wheaton is very fortunate, in both its resources and its people, whose nature and accomplishments fascinate and impress him in everyday times and certainly during this crisis.

Thanks to the dedication and efforts of first responders and public works staff, the City has been able to provide City services without initiating contingency plans. Keeping our fire fighters, police officers, and City services staff safe is a top priority. Wheaton College entered into an agreement with the City and DuPage County to provide housing free of charge to first responders worried about bringing the virus home. Additionally, steps were taken to segment shifts to minimize interaction between personnel. Staggered shifts create more opportunities for social distancing and have led to different work times, with public works employees sometimes patching roads at 7 pm.

Mayor Suess stated that the pandemic has placed a spotlight on the culture of care that exists in our community. He proudly named examples of Wheaton residents and organizations stepping up to take care of one another. The Student Excellence Foundation of District 200, sustained by community donations, created a Food Insecurity Crisis Fund to meet the chasm that has opened up from furloughs and job loss. PADS, which has had to temporarily halt its overnight, or interim, housing services, reached out to clients to put together alternative safe emergency housing in hotel rooms. City staff phoned seniors who receive housing aid from the Wheaton Housing Commission to check in.

They also created a webpage

to keep connected to residents and businesses, offering tabs with updates, business and community resources, City services, and senior caregiver resources.

Phil Suess, Mayor
City of Wheaton



Mayor Suess also highlighted the City's ongoing care of seniors in the Ride DuPage program and the Wheaton Housing Commission in which seniors may apply for assistance to stay in their homes. When staff notices that a senior is on its wait list after their application is reviewed and approved for aid, they will work to secure funding to move that senior off of the list to receive housing assistance.

Noting the severe constraints on businesses, the Mayor cited the innovative ways that the Downtown Wheaton Association has adapted. The Association compiled a *COVID-19 Resources* page on its website with tabs for businesses and individuals, a Retail to Go section, and a Gift Card Challenge. Its *Wheaton To Go* Facebook page, created in concert with the Wheaton Chamber of Commerce, advertises retail items, services and restaurant menus and hours for downtown businesses.

Amid his gratitude for the fortunate circumstances of the City, Mayor Suess is also realistic. Revenues for the city are down 30% and there will be financial implications. The city will continue with the renovations of downtown and the road program, but other capital projects have been deferred. Wheaton has the resources and resilience to weather this moment, but given the magnitude of business closures there will certainly be challenges going forward. He is confident in Wheaton's resolve to meet these challenges with determination and compassion.

City of Wheaton: wheaton.il.us

Senior resources webpage: wheaton.il.us/475/Seniors

Ride DuPage: webpage: wheaton.il.us/397/Ride-DuPage-Program
phone: 630.260-2064

Housing Commission: webpage: wheaton.il.us/295/Housing-Commission
phone: 630.260.2012

Downtown Wheaton Association: downtownwheaton.com

Glen Ellyn: A Leader's Perspective on Resourcefulness and Care

Diane McGinley enthusiastically took up SALT's request to discuss the responses of Village residents and businesses to the incredible challenge posed by the sudden and sustained interruption to daily life and interactions. Village President McGinley provided insight into the character of the Village through its unifying actions in the face of physical separation.

President McGinley opened with the Village's priority of staying connected to the community. She described how staff wrestled with the question of how to communicate with all residents. The staff made an entire webpage dedicated to COVID-19 coverage, at glenellyn.org/COVID. This page contains the latest orders and detailed plans, the means for signing up for Village emergency alerts, as well as current and older newsletters. This page also contains a section on services for seniors, with a compiled Resource Guide of local grocery stores with dedicated senior hours, compiled by Senior Services Coordinator and SALT Council member Jodi Hefler. Senior Services continues to facilitate its senior and paratransit ride program, food assistance and has given masks to seniors in need as supplies allow.

The page dedicated to services and assistance tailored to the current situation also contains a section entitled *Glen Ellyn United*. This effort is a means to keep the community connected while home more, with great stories, videos, and pictures of volunteers and kids carrying out helping projects.

Village President McGinley highlighted how churches have reached out to their congregants in coordination with the Village to make sure no one feels alone. She is touched by how many residents have posted on social media when they are free to

Diane McGinley,
Village President, Glen Ellyn



to shop for seniors and others safer at home. College students have formed a club just to support those who feel that they cannot leave home. The message: You are not alone; many people want to support you.

"The Chamber of Commerce and Downtown Alliance have been amazing and creative," said President McGinley.

"The Chamber expanded its services even to those outside of its membership." The Chamber website has a *Glen Ellyn Dine at Home* page dedicated to take-out hours and methods of contact for all restaurants, and another page called *Stop, Pop, and Go* in which a shopper could order a retail item, drive up to the curb, pop open their trunk and have the item(s) placed inside, and depart. Retail businesses help shoppers by FaceTime, panning around their stores to help someone select the item they wish to purchase.

A Facebook page called *Glen Ellyn To Go* also highlights restaurants, including reviews and specials. President McGinley described how residents always tend to have had their favorites, but during the pandemic it has been a time for discovery of new spots that they likely never would have found. These resources have provided avenues for restaurants to come together, all the while providing residents with important and helpful information.

The Alliance of Downtown Glen Ellyn continues to host virtual shopping events on social media during the Stay at Home order. Each participating boutique or storefront has the opportunity to showcase their products during their designated timeslot, rotating to a new store every ten minutes. Viewers can glimpse items offered by each retailer, with an opportunity to purchase items online or over the phone.

This Village President is glad and grateful for the coming together by residents and businesses alike.

Village of Glen Ellyn: glenellyn.org

Glen Ellyn Senior Services:

Phone 630.858.6343

Email seniors493@geseniors.org

Alliance of Downtown Glen Ellyn:

downtownglenellyn.com

The SALT Council hopes to host its Annual Auto Inspection this fall.

We certainly know that this year has required much flexibility, and we ask for your patience as we work to determine whether SALT can host this event we enjoy so much.

Please stay tuned in the coming weeks to our SALT webpage at miltontownshipsalt.com and also our Facebook page.

While COVID-19 has forced a major disruption in most aspects of our lives, unfortunately scam perpetrators have taken no break from fraud.

The FTC warns that scammers are pitching fake coronavirus vaccines, unproven cures, and bogus at-home testing kits as well as exploiting confusion about economic impact payments. Here are tips to resist scams perpetrated in the name of coronavirus:

- ◆ Ignore offers for vaccinations and home test kits
- ◆ Hang up on robocalls
- ◆ Watch out for phishing emails and text messages
- ◆ Research before you donate; visit consumer.ftc.gov/features/how-donate-wisely-and-avoid-charity-scams
- ◆ Stay in the know
- ◆ Visit ftc.gov/coronavirus for the latest scam information. Sign up at ftc.gov/subscribe to receive alerts.

The SSA has also warned of increased scam calls of fraudsters pretending to be government employees and claiming a problem with SSA accounts or benefits. Governmental employees will never:

- ◆ Threaten anyone
- ◆ Suspend a Social Security Number
- ◆ Demand immediate payment
- ◆ Require payment by cash, gift card, pre-aid debit card, internet currency or wire transfer
- ◆ Ask for gift card numbers over the phone or to wire cash

Tips from SSA to protect yourself :

- ◆ Hang up when you receive a robocall or questionable call
- ◆ Do not return unknown phone calls
- ◆ Ask someone you trust for advice before making large financial decisions
- ◆ Don't feel embarrassed to report if you shared personal financial information or suffered a financial loss
- ◆ Visit oig.ssa.gov/scam to learn about current scams. Also, sign up for updates at: oig.ssa.gov/e-updates

-Federal Trade Commission, Social Security Administration

Milton Township SALT was alerted to a scam in which a senior was approached by someone claiming to need entry to her home to test the water supply for COVID-19. Do not allow anyone in your home for a scam of this nature . If approached, call 911.

The [Milton Township SALT Facebook page](#) offers a trove of resources in our community. Check out our tabs on Transportation, Food Security, Housing, Safety & Communication, Legal & Financial services, Health options as well as the Age Guide.



Financial exploitation of the elderly is very common. Older individuals are perceived as financially stable and are therefore more likely to be victims of fraud than the general public. Below are steps that family members and caregivers can take to protect the elderly:

- Be involved in their life. Being a part of an older adult's life helps them feel less lonely and isolated. The bonds that form enhance their self-esteem and reduce the likelihood of being victimized by fraudsters.
- Obtain a copy of their credit report. An older adult's credit report should be reviewed at least once a year. This establishes whether personal information was stolen or accounts fraudulently set up in their name. Any error found in the report should be corrected.
- Shred sensitive documents. To prevent the theft of personal information, older adults should utilize a cross-cut paper shredder. Unsolicited credit card offers, financial statements, paid bills, and summary notices from healthcare carriers should be shredded and discarded once reviewed.
- Be alert for signs of fraud and diversion of funds. Watch for sudden changes in an older adult's behavior. Large bank withdrawals, frequent ATM use, bank charges for NSF checks, unpaid bills, and calls from collection agencies are signs that the individual may be communicating with a scammer.
- Be aware of new "romantic" interests. Elders desiring romance can be easily duped into sending large sums of money to fraudsters professing a romantic interest in them. These fraudsters often live in other countries and are difficult to track. New love relationships are not always obvious, as older adults may be reluctant to discuss romantic or sexual matters with others.
- Be aware of individuals who get close to an older adult. Watch for family members, hired caregivers, and new "friends" who exploit the trust placed in them. They may insist on going to the bank with an elder or try to offer financial, legal, or estate planning advice when not qualified or licensed to do so. They may pressure elders to give them "gifts" or "loans" or make changes in their will or power of attorney (POA).
- Educate them about online fraud. Online "relationships" are fraught with scammers residing in other countries pretending to be someone else. Requests for money by wire transfer, gift card, prepaid debit card, or other unconventional payment methods are signs of scams. Once such payments are remitted, the money is gone and cannot be recovered. Online requests for credit card or personal information should be thoroughly verified before complying. Unsolicited emails with attachments and links should be immediately deleted and not opened.
- Protect their medical identity. An elder's health insurance and Medicare information can be used to fraudulently bill for medical services never rendered. Criminals can also use this information to obtain services for which the elder is billed. An elder's medical identity information should be shared only with providers who can be trusted.
- Donate wisely to charities. Before sending money to a charitable organization, potential donors should confirm that the charity is registered with the Illinois Attorney General's office and that the registration is current. This information is available at <https://illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/charities>.
- Remove their name from "Robocalls" lists and stop junk mail. To stop telemarketer calls and junk mail, register with the Federal Trade Commission's National Do Not Call Registry at: <https://www.donotcall.gov> and the National Do Not Mail List at https://www.directmail.com/mail_preference, respectively.
- Be supportive if they were victimized. If an older adult is the victim of a scam, encourage them to discuss what transpired by reaching out in a warm and understanding way. Realize that they're apt to feel embarrassed and may be reluctant to discuss the details of what occurred with you.
- Report financial fraud. If an older adult is the victim of financial abuse, report the incident to the local police department for possible criminal charges.



Want to read a past issue of this newsletter?

www.miltontownship.net

Want to call the Township?

630.668.1616

Want to visit the Township?

1492 N. Main St
Wheaton

Questions or comments?

p.cannova@miltontownship.net

S.A.L.T. Council Members

Chuck Smith, Chairman · Jodi Hefler, Vice Chairperson · Penni Cannova, Social Services Coordinator, Milton Township · Arnold Shifrin, Director of Communications · Officer Jill Uhler, Wheaton Police Dept. · Officer Joe Nemchock, Glen Ellyn Police Dept.

DuPage Sheriff's Office

Sergeant Ed Castillo · Corporal Troy Agema - Sheriff Liaisons

Chief Bill Schultz, Wheaton Fire Dept. · Fire Administrator Nicole Shanley, Glen Ellyn Volunteer Fire Dept. · Sue Davison, Glen Ellyn Senior Center · Chief Dennis Rogers, Warrenville Fire District

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