

DEAF LINE

DECEMBER, 2006



FROM THE DESK OF DEAF SERVICES COORDINATOR

- The Deaf and Hard of Hearing Social/Support Group will meet on **Monday, December 11th**, from 1 to 3 p.m, at Schaumburg Township, in the board room (upper level). Bring goodies to share (optional). We will play games, and make a holiday card! RSVP by December 8th. Look on page 3 for dates of future support group meetings in 2007.
- Schaumburg Township will be **closed** on December 25, 2006, and January 1, 2007.
- There will be no issue of Deaf Line in January, but you will receive a combined issue (January & February) in February, 2007.
- Deadline for Medicare Part D enrollment is December 31st. Individuals having Medicare may stay on the same plan or switch to a different plan. If you are changing, enroll by December 8th to ensure that you get the prescriptions you need on January 1, 2007. You can learn and compare the prescription drug plans online: www.medicare.gov
- Illinois Cares Rx (previously Circuit Breaker & SeniorCare) – must be renewed each year. To be in the program for 2007, be sure to apply by December 31st. Schaumburg Township can assist with your applications or you can apply online: www.cbrx.il.gov
- The Schaumburg Food Pantry is in need of food donations for the Holiday Season. Any donation is welcome Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. You can drop them off at the Township anytime.
- I would like to hear from you as to what events and workshops you would like for me to host in 2007.

Have a good and safe holiday!

Sarita Phadke



NEWS FLASH!

In the past, we have been sending free newsletters to agencies/organizations, and people who live both inside and outside Schaumburg Township. It is necessary to change this policy due to increasing costs.

- Starting January 2007, free newsletters will be sent only to those who live in the Township and agencies/organizations.
- Deadline will continue to be available to everyone on the Township website, www.schaumburgtownship.org/deafline.htm
- A newsletter subscription is \$22 a year (11 issues). If interested, write a check or money order payable to Schaumburg Township Disabled Services and mail to: Schaumburg Township Deaf Services, One Illinois Blvd, Hoffman Estates, IL 60169. Be sure to include your name, address, TTY/VP/Fax number, and email address.

For questions, or more information, contact Sarita Phadke at sphadke@schaumburgtownship.org Email or 847-884-1560 TTY/VP.



SPECIAL ED TEEN & YOUNG ADULT DANCE

Schaumburg Township will host its annual Teen & Young Adult Dance for developmentally disabled teens and young adults on Saturday, January 20, 2007, from 7 to 9 p.m., at Schaumburg Township. Pizzas, and snacks will be provided. Schaumburg Township asks that each attendee bring a donation for the Township food pantry. Reservations are a must: 847-884-0030 ext 2025 V.



Schaumburg Township Deaf Services would like to thank several people:

- **Emma Danielson**, Illinois Sprint Accounts Manager, for hosting the “Free Pizza with Sprint Relay!” event on November 8, 2006 at Barnaby’s Family Inn in Schaumburg. Emma explained the different types of relay services. The audience enjoyed the delicious pizzas and chatting with friends. A raffle gift certificate from Best Buy was given to the lucky winner, John St. Leger. For more information on relay services, check www.sprintrelay.com
- **Marion Dramin** of ITAC for explaining ITAC’s program, the changes in the TTY voucher program, and various phone equipment at the Free Pizza event on November 8th. Two ITAC shirts were given as door prizes. If you have a very old TTY (Ultratec) or Ameriphone TTY, you can own a new TTY for free and keep the old TTY for free too. For details, call the ITAC office at 1-800-841-6167 V/TTY or Sarita Phadke at 847-884-1560 TTY/VP. Also, check www.itactty.org
- **Andrew Leffler**, Sprint Accounts Manager from Indiana, for giving an educational presentation on “Tips/Tricks & How to use a Blackberry Pager” on November 10th. Andrew demonstrated how to use a blackberry pager. The audience enjoyed his sense of humor and learned a great deal. Thanks to **Michael Berger** for assisting Andrew. Several door prizes were given including a Best Buy gift certificate won by Richard Gratzke. For a copy of tips/tricks, contact Sarita at 847-884-1560 TTY/VP.
- **Michele Cunningham**, Victim Assistance Advocate from Chicago Hearing Society, presented a brief, educational workshop, “Victim Assistance Program”, during the Deaf Support Group on November 21st. She explained about the increasing crimes during the holidays and also identity theft. She also explained that she is available to assist such victims. Michele can be reached at 847-248-9174 TTY or 773-248-9106 VP.



NEW DATES FOR THE 2006 DEAF SUPPORT GROUP

Here are the dates for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Social/Support Group meetings for the first 6 months of 2007. The group always meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month, from 1 to 3 p.m., at Schaumburg Township, Room # 114, One Illinois Blvd., Hoffman Estates, IL.

- January 16th
- February 20th
- March 20th
- April 17th
- May 15th
- June 19th

These dates are subject to change, so please RSVP: 847-884-1560 TTY/VP; 847-884-0039 Fax; sphadke@schaumburgtownship.org Email.

NEW 2007 DEAFNATION EXPO SCHEDULE

Here is a list of the DeafNation Expos scheduled with tentative dates in 2007!

3/03 - Phoenix, AZ	5/12 - Atlanta, GA
3/17 - Orlando, FL	9/15 - Worcester, MA
3/31 - Richmond, VA	9/22 - Portland, OR
4/21 - Pomona, CA	10/6 - Chicago, IL
4/28 - Columbus, OH	10/27 - Pleasanton, CA
5/05 - St. Charles, MO	11/17 - Secaucus, NJ

Check the website: www.deafnation.com/expo

KEEP WARM ILLINOIS

The “**Keep Warm Illinois Initiative**” is to help all Illinoisans especially the elderly, families with small children and other vulnerable residents stay warm, healthy, and safe this winter. The Keep Warm Illinois website offers a variety of information such as: Tips to save money and energy, state energy assistance programs, list of warming centers, winter storm preparedness, and much more. Check it out on www.keepwarm.illinois.gov

2007 DEAF ILLINOIS AWARDS

Deaf communication by Innovation (DCI) will host the **2007 Deaf Illinois Award Night** to honor people with outstanding achievements in the Deaf Illinois Community on April 7, 2007, at Park West, 322 W. Armitage Avenue, Chicago. The reception begins at 6:30 p.m. followed by the ceremony at 8 p.m. The tickets are as follows:

Before January 1, 2007 - VIP Reception & Ceremony: \$35; Ceremony only: \$10

January 1 through March 31, 2007 - VIP Reception & Ceremony: \$40; Ceremony only: \$15

At Door - VIP Reception & Ceremony: \$45; Ceremony only: \$20

If interested, mail a check (payable to Deaf Communication by Innovation) with your name and email address to: Deaf Communication by Innovation, Attn: Deaf Illinois Awards, PO Box 13246, Chicago, IL 60613. For more information, call 773-857-7709 V; 773-857-6913 TTY or email info@deafillinois.com

DEVICE AT CULVER’S DRIVE-THRU

Culver's in Schaumburg has installed a product, OrderAssist for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing, at their drive-through restaurant. This device allows a customer buzz the drive-thru device to alert a staff member inside that a Deaf/Hard of Hearing’s car is in line. Pen and paper will be provided as an alternative way to communicate their drive-thru orders. The location in Schaumburg is 1800 W. Wise Road. This is the 4th location for this device. For more information, check www.inclusionsolutions.com or call at 773-338-9612 TTY/VP; 866-232-5487 Voice.

ASL EXPO 2007

ASL Expo is a new trade show targeted to the sign language community, with an emphasis on bringing together the deaf and the hearing communities. This expo will have exhibits, entertainment, and activities for children. It is open to sign language users, friends/families, and those who know, teach, or work with the Deaf & Hard of Hearing communities. There will be 10 shows nationwide in 2007 and one will be Chicago on June 16, 2007. Free admission, but you need to sign up to get a free pass. To register, or for more information, go to www.aslexpo.com (Thanks, Janice Mancill, for this information)

FOR CAPTEL USERS

From time to time, enhancements may be made to the CapTel phone to take advantage of new phone capabilities or to fine-tune existing features. The CapTel phone is designed so that it can be updated over the phone line, without having to send your phone in for service. If your phone ever gets a software update, the display screen will show a special message that reads: NOTICE: Update Available. This message appears when the phone is hung up and not in use. To begin the update process:

- Leave the CapTel phone hung up
- Make sure the red light above the “CAPTION” button is on
- Press the menu button next to the “Update CapTel?” arrow

The process will take about 5 minutes and you will see “Update Completed” when it is finished. If you do not see any update message on your screen, it means your CapTel software is current and no changes are required. Check www.captionedtelephone.com for more information.



5th MIDWEST TIMBERFEST OF THE DEAF

The 5th Midwest Timberfest of the Deaf (MTD) will be held August 30th – September 3rd, 2007, at Camp Lakodia in Madison, South Dakota. There will be many kinds of lumberjack contests such as ax throwing, log splitting, single bucking, and much more. There will be vendors selling or advertising products and services. In addition, Camp Lakodia will provide nightly events. There is an early bird rate before December 31, 2006 of \$50 per person. The other rates are: \$75 (Between January 1 – July 31, 2007) and \$85 (August 1, 2007 – Door).

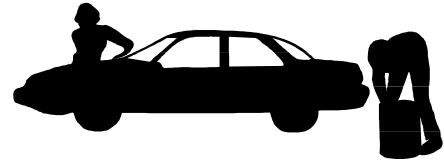
If interested, send a check (payable to MTD 2007) to Gary Etkie, MTD 2007 Registration, 1040 Independence Avenue, St. Charles, IL 60174. Be sure to write your name, address, and all names of people attending and the type of RV. For more information, contact Kevin Ryan: wrestkpt42@aol.com Email. Check the website: www.mtdeaf.org

HOLIDAY INFORMATION

WOODFIELD AREA TROLLEY: Take advantage of the free accessible shuttle service, Woodfield Area Trolley, to go between Woodfield area retail centers, especially when the holidays are around the corner. Trolley service runs Monday through Friday, 12 - 9pm; Saturday, 10am – 9pm; Sunday, 11am – 6pm. For more information, call 847-923-3880 Voice.



HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS: Here are some ideas for gifts: phones, assistive devices, wireless products, signalers, clocks/watches, sign language books & videos, novelties, etc. You may want to call vendors selling assistive devices and novelties and check if they have any discounts. For a copy of vendors, call Sarita at 847-884-1560 TTY/VP.



CLEAR VISION PROGRAM

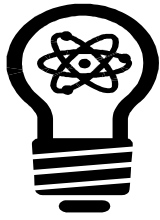
Schaumburg Township’s Road & Bridge Department will continue the **Clear Vision Program** this year with the cooperation with SWAP. This program offers free car washes to Schaumburg Township residents. It is designed to create a safer situation out on the roads by removing the obstruction caused by salt and snow built-up during the winter months. This event will be held every Saturday in January and February, 2007, from 9 a.m. to Noon, at the Township Parking Lot, One Illinois Blvd in Hoffman Estates. Please bring a pantry donation. For more information, call 847-884-1560 TTY/VP or 847-884-0030 V.



Schaumburg Township Supervisor Mary Wroblewski & the Township Officials wish you

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Very Happy Holiday!



ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Are your energy (electricity/gas) bills high? Is your home cold?

There are several assistance programs that can help:

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP): Helps qualifying low-income households pay for energy services. The monthly income levels are: 1 person = \$1,225; 2 people = \$1,650; 3 people = \$ 2,075; 4 people = \$2,500; 5 people = \$2,925; 6 people = \$3,350. The Schaumburg Township Disability Services Dept. can take applications for disabled and senior residents of the Township. If you live outside the Township, you can find your nearest intake agency on www.illinoisliheap.com or call 800-252-8643 V or 800-785-6055 TTY.

Nicor Gas Sharing Program: Provides a one-time annual grant to qualified residential customers. It is based on income and is only for those who are ineligible for state or federal energy assistance programs. The gross monthly incomes are: 1 person = \$1,226 - \$1,633; 2 people = \$1,651 - \$2,200; 3 people = \$2,076 - \$2,767; 4 people = \$2,501 - \$3,333. For more information, call our local Salvation Army at 847-885-4060 V.

Illinois Home Weatherization Assistance Program (IHWAP): Provides weatherization services to low-income households at no cost. It includes insulation, draft sealing, heating system improvements, fire extinguisher, carbon monoxide, and smoke detectors, health/safety testing, etc. The eligibility requirements are: Individuals who are eligible for LIHEAP and have annual income levels: 1 person = \$14,355; 2 people = \$19,245; 3 people = \$24,135; 4 people = \$29,025. For more information, call CEDA at 312-795-8998 (Cook/City of Chicago) or check the website: www.weatherizationillinois.com

DEAF LAWYER DIES

Lowell J. Myers, Chicago, known as the Legal Voice for the Deaf, died on November 7, 2006, at the age of 76, in Rockville, Maryland. Lowell, who lost his hearing as a child, became a lawyer who championed the legal rights of Deaf people. He is best known for his work on behalf of Donald Lang, a Deaf Chicago man who could not speak and was accused of murdering a prostitute in the 1960's. He also was an accountant and tax attorney. In his spare time, he advocated for the Deaf. He pushed for legislation to make interpreters for the Deaf mandatory in court and police interrogations. He also fought for Deaf people's right to drive. He wrote a book, "The Law and the Deaf" on legal issues connected with the Deaf community.

There will be a memorial service on December 3, 2006, 2 p.m., at Bene Shalom Congregation, 4435 Oakton Street in Skokie.

VP BOOTHS AT SALT LAKE CITY AIRPORT

Salt Lake City International becomes the first airport in the U.S. to offer two Videophone (VP) booths for Deaf/Hard of Hearing travelers. They allow Deaf & Hard of Hearing travelers to place calls through an on-screen ASL interpreter to any hearing person in the U.S. You can find both booths in the baggage claim areas.

(Thanks, Barry Jensen, for this press release)



DEAF BOWLING EVENT

Chicagoland Illinois School for the Deaf Alumni Association (CISDAA) will host its **Annual Handicap Deaf Bowling Classic** for all Deaf & Hard of Hearing bowlers on Saturday, January 20, 2007, 10 a.m., at Bowling Green, 30W150 Roosevelt Road, West Chicago. The bowling times are 11:30 a.m. & 2 p.m. There will be prizes for winners. The entry fee for the men's division is \$50 and for the women's division is \$45. There will be a social night at the same location, which costs \$6 per person. For more information, contact Pam Wojcik at 773-589-9764 Fax or Jinx23@aol.com Email.

NATIONAL DO NOT CALL REGISTRY

All phone and cell phone numbers are being released to telemarketing companies and you may get sale calls that are annoying. You will be charged for these calls. So in order to prevent this, either call from your home/cell phone the National Do Not Call Registry: 1-888-382-1222 or register online: www.donotcall.gov It will block your number for five years. Most telemarketers should not call your number once it has been on the registry for 31 days.



HEALTH CORNER: SAFE RETURN PROGRAM

Safe Return is a nationwide identification and support program that provides assistance when people with Alzheimer's disease or dementia have wandered away from home and are lost. If a person enrolled is missing, Safe Return faxes information and the enrollee's photo to law enforcement officials. The local Alzheimer's Association office also offers support during the search efforts. After the person is found, the citizen or law enforcement official calls an 800 number, and Safe Return notifies the caregivers. This assistance is available 365 days a year, 24 hours a day. With a \$40 enrollment in Safe Return, you will receive the following products: Engraved identification bracelet or necklace; 36 iron-on clothing labels; key chain; phone sticker; wallet card; 5 steps for a Safe Return" magnet card to help in a quick response. To enroll: Either fill out a form online, www.alz.org/safereturn, or call 1-888-572-8566 V (Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.).



Schaumburg Township Disability Services Staff Wishes you a very

Happy Hanukkah
Merry Christmas
Happy Kwanzaa
Happy Healthy New Year!

The monthly Deaf Line newsletter is free for Schaumburg Township residents and all agencies & organizations serving the Deaf and Hard of Hearing consumers. Deaf Line and Ablegram newsletters can be viewed on Schaumburg Township's website.

Deaf Line is published monthly. Any agency, organization, or group may reprint any of our articles provided proper credit is given by name of newsletter & date.

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Township Officials

Mary Wroblewski – Supervisor

Timothy Heneghan – Clerk

Diane Dunham – Trustee

Susan Giannone – Trustee

Richard Taccini – Trustee

Scott Kegarise – Trustee

John Lawson – Assessor

Robert Fecarotta – Highway Commissioner

Margaret (Peggy) Franklin – Collector

Schaumburg Township is a Selection Center for the Illinois Telecommunications Access Corporation (ITAC) Program (TTYs, CapTel Phone, and Amplified Phones)

**DEAFLINE
SCHAUMBURG TOWNSHIP DEAF SERVICES
ONE ILLINOIS BLVD.
HOFFMAN ESTATES, IL 60169-3314**

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DATES TO REMEMBER

- Saturday, December 2 – **Holiday Party for Disabled Children & Families** at SCH TWP, 12 – 3 p.m. (RSVP is necessary)
- Monday, December 11, 2006, & January 16, 2007 – **Deaf Social/Support Group** at SCH TWP, 1 – 3 p.m. (RSVP is required: 847-884-1560 TTY/VP)
- Wednesday, December 13, 2006 & January 17 – **TWP Board meeting** at SCH TWP, 7:15 p.m.
- Monday, December 25 – **SCH TWP CLOSED** (Christmas Holidays)
- Monday, January 1, 2007 – **SCH TWP CLOSED** (New Year)

Friendly Reminder: No newsletter in January, 2007. The next newsletter will be in February, 2007.

