

Zion Township Updates 11/18/14

“Compassionately challenging Zion residents to overcome hardships and encourage positive life changes.”

Zion Township is a people-centered local government agency that coordinates area resources and offers a variety of assistance programs to give our residents options to address their critical situations.

- Monthly Report is not attached. We found items that were not tabulating correctly in the system. All of them are being tweaked for the year-end report.
- We were looking to change banks from PNC to First Merit. After careful consideration, Zion Township has decided not to transfer services to First Merit bank. Information provided by Accounting about Illinois Metro Fund shows that we would face a loss of interest income by about \$2,000, which outweighs the benefits of easier access to past checks and monthly collateralization statements. As a result, we will make another effort to connect with government bankers from PNC to iron out those issues.
- The Elf Network has launched. Township and Zion Elementary, ZBTHS and Beach Park School Social Workers are identifying 65 families that will be supported at Christmas by Santa for the Very Poor, as well as Kiwanis, Bernie’s Books and other donors. Those in need should contact their child’s school social worker for an application.
- Brochures to help residents and partner agencies better understand what all Zion Township does are available in our office.
- Consumer Credit Counseling Services are available for one-on-one consultation at Zion Township each Thursday. To make an appointment, call 815-338-5757.
- Zion Benton Leadership Academy graduation was held on Saturday, November 15th at Shepherd’s Crook Golf Course. Graduates included:
 - Brittany Doxie with mentor Kathy Pierce
 - Shanta Frierson with mentor Sharon Funnye
 - Rico McCoy with mentor Joe Kent
 - Shawnette Miles with mentor Mary Lockhart-White
 - Frances Mosley with mentor Chris Clark
 - Chad Murphey with mentor Chris Sweeting
 - Amy Onan with mentor Christine Wertman
 - Shiela Peet with mentor Rosemary Kauth
 - Venny Rivera with mentor Marilyn Krieger
 - Carolyn Rivers with mentor Margie Taylor
 - Byron Wicks with mentor Derrick Lee
- Zion Township partnered with Zion Elementary District with the Youth Leadership Team. Youth are being trained in the 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens. The next meeting is on Wednesday, December 10th.

- Community of Character words have been chosen and defined. More information on the official launch will be shared next month.
- The building across the street from Zion Township is being rented by the Lake County Health Department Behavior Services to provide the Williams Consent Decree program, which enables qualifying individuals with mental illness professional support to live independently.
- Township Officials of Illinois Conference was Sunday, November 9th thru Tuesday, November 11th in Springfield. The key takeaways were:
 - Communication is crucial. Work with other taxing bodies and other townships in county to better communicate to residents the services that are provided.
 - Important to have a Disaster Plan in place. Barrington Township Trustee Ronald Szymanski is spearheading assisting Cook County townships create effective plans. He extended an offer to Zion Township to have 2 representatives attend a “field trip” to visit communities that have best practices. The date will be announced.
 - The importance of an IT Policy
- The Coalition for Healthy Communities Corporate Community Spelling Bee was a HUGE success. Congratulations to Congdon’s Funeral Home for winning, as well as the Queen Bees of Zion Red Hat Society to win the Best Cheerleading Section.
- There will be a Mobile Food Pantry at Abiding Love Food Pantry/ Christian Assembly of God, 2929 Bethel Blvd, Zion on Wednesday, November 19th from 10am til 1pm.
- CAP 50th Anniversary Dinner is Thursday, November 20th, 2014.
- A Safe Place 35th Anniversary and Annual meeting was held on Monday, November 17th at CLC. A Safe Place provides comprehensive services for those plighted with domestic abuse. www.asafeplaceforhelp.org.
- Zion Township will be closed on Monday, December 15th from 11am until 1:30pm for our Christmas lunch.