

# Annual Report 2022



**WE LEAD. WE EMPOWER. WE ADVOCATE. WE CONNECT RESIDENTS TO  
RESOURCES, SERVICES AND SOLUTIONS.**

**WE MAKE ZION BETTER.**



# **ZION TOWNSHIP**

**LEADERSHIP • ADVOCACY • RESOURCES**

# Core Values:

## WE LEAD WITH HEART

**Humility:** We are servants of the Zion community.

**Encouragement & Education:** We support our residents and equip them with knowledge.

**Appreciation:** We value partnerships that assist our residents.

**Reverence:** We respect each person's journey.

**Tenacity:** We don't give up on believing in the best.



## Supervisor's Team

**Cheri Neal**, Township Supervisor

**Sandra Usher**, Business Manager

**Adriana Ortiz**, Client Services Director &  
Summer Work Program Coordinator

**Grace Gamboa**, Client Services Coordinator

**Amy Onan**, Client Workforce Coordinator

**Nayeli Cardenas**, Receptionist

## 2022 SWP Mentors

**Roderick Henry**, Mentor

**Cameron Bridges**, Mentor

## Assessor's Team

**Colette Davis**, Township Assessor

**Michelle Buttera**, Deputy Assessor

**Theresa Huber**, Deputy Assessor

Regular Town Board of Trustee meetings are held in the Zion City Hall Council Chambers, 2828 Sheridan Road, Zion, IL at 6:00 P.M. on the third Tuesday of each month.

### BOARD MEMBERS

#### MAY 2021 - CURRENT

Clerk Sheryl Spooner

Trustee Christopher Fischer

Trustee Jacqueline Holmes

Trustee Mike McDowell

Trustee Richard Frierson

### SCHEDULE OF 2022 BOARD MEETINGS

January 18, 2022

February 15, 2022

March 21, 2022

**Annual Township Meeting:** April 12, 2022

**Township Budget Public Hearing:** April 19, 2022

May 17, 2022

June 21, 2022

July 19, 2022

August 16, 2022

September 20, 2022

October 18, 2022

November 15, 2022

December 20, 2022

# CHERI L. NEAL

## ZION TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

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### **A look back at 2022....**

Zion Township is constantly seeking ways to most fully impact our township. Being part of the Zion Leaders' Team has been a game changer for our community. We are hosting quarterly dialogues, inviting all residents via a mailed postcard, as well as in the Zion Quarterly, and collaborating in any way to work smarter and save tax dollars. Our team loved participating in community events throughout the year including the Bee Bash, Trail of Treats, Resource Fairs, the Community Walk, Zion Together Days, the Coalition's Movies in the Park, Monarch Mania, and many other agency events.

As part of team development, we all participated in a Mental Health Training, the Global Leadership Summit, and two staff were accepted into the Charmm'd Leadership Academy. Assessor Colette Davis, Business Manager Sandra Usher and Supervisor Cheri Neal dedicated themselves to the Zion-Benton Leadership Academy. And we welcomed Nayeli Cardenas to our team. Additionally, we designed and began presenting a Zion Township Overview Presentation that tells about what we do and who/how we're able to assist.

Special thanks to Business Manager, Sandra Usher for her dedication as editor of the Zion Quarterly and Grace Gamboa for her help in translating the copy into Spanish to better serve the entire community.

The Zion Township team is delighted to serve the Zion Community and we look forward to all that is in store for our community in 2023! Stay tuned for the community study that will take place shortly through a grant from the Healthcare Foundation of Northern Lake County. The primary goal of this project is to gain an in-depth understanding of the multiple factors, including social, economic, and cultural, that affect the overall health of the residents in Zion. Utilizing this information, we will begin to put together strategies to address all that holds us back so we can truly become the community we know we can be!

## ZINNIAS FOR ZION - COLORING ZION WITH ZINNIAS

Zinnias for Zion had its 4th year, with over 2,000 packets of Zinnia seeds given out across the community via local restaurants thanks to donations made by:

- Ball Horticultural Company who donated 186 huge packages of seeds totaling 1,500 seeds
- Applewood Seed Company donated 2lbs of seeds which were both repackaged by the Queen Bees of Zion Red Hat Society.
- Joyful Butterfly donated 75 packets of 100 seeds, and Zion Township purchased 1,000 seed packs.

Additionally, 160 flats of Zinnia flowers were purchased by local businesses and households through Anton's Greenhouse. This year's Coloring Contest was sponsored by the Zion-Benton Public Library and Culver's of Zion. Winners were presented with certificates at the Zion Monarch Mania Festival.

The best Yard Contest were awarded to 5 homes and 7 business in Zion. Awards were presented at the Zion Monarch Mania Festival.



## ZION TOGETHER DAYS & MONARCH MANIA

The Monarch Mania Festival was rained out but rescheduling for August 21st allowed two additional food vendors and Missy's Monarchs to join in the festivities. It was guesstimated that at least 450 people attended the event.

We had great food, entertainment, bubbles, crafts, games and other activities, two pinatas and the release of over 75 Monarchs! Special thanks goes to the Monarch Mania Committee, led by Carlen Borland, as well as the Zion Park District and the City of Zion for their support.

Zion Together Days would not have been possible without our sponsors. We are grateful to have the Gurnee ReMax Showcase Realtors as the official sponsors. This year, the events were also sponsored by The Grove at the Lake, Rep Joyce Mason, The Varsek Team and Waukegan Community Bank - Wintrust.





# 2022 HIGHLIGHTS

Thanks to Samantha Gallagher, the Monarch Mural artist and Garrett Newman, we were able to add a gorgeous art bench to our front entrance.



## SUMMER WORK PROGRAM



We were able to hire 27 14 & 15 year-old youth for this year's Summer Work Program. Roderick Henry was once again our Lead Mentor and was assisted by Carmeron Bridges as a Seasonal Mentor. June 21st the program kicked off with a training day at New Tech High School. The day was packed with financial literacy from Community Partners for Affordable Housing, Nicasa Teen Court presenting and including youth in a mock trial, team building activities with ZB social studies teacher Chris Kubic, and other activities with their mentors.



## ZION QUARTERLY

The Zion Quarterly, an initiative started by your Zion Township Team, includes every taxing body in Zion. It is mailed four times a year to over 11,135 households, with 12,200 printed for additional distribution. It continues to be a cost-effective way to communicate with Zion residents.

## ZB COALITION FOR HEALTH COMMUNITIES ZION-BENTON LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Assessor Colette Davis at the helm, with Supervisor Cheri Neal and Business Manager Sandra Usher along with ZB Social Studies Teacher Chris Kubic, continue to show their dedication to the Leadership Academy. We had 8 graduates this year, and their leadership continues as they host the first ZBLA Volunteer Fair on March 4th, 2023.





# OUR SENIORS

## QUEEN BEES OF ZION

The Queen Bees of Zion Red Hat Society enjoyed several day trips this year, spreading joy wherever they went.

## LIHEAP

Supervisor Cheri Neal and Client Services Director Adriana Ortiz visited the Zion senior buildings to assist in completing 48 LIHEAP applications, totaling over \$31,000 to help pay utility bills this winter.

## BIRTHDAY CARDS

958 Birthday Cards made by the residents from Aspire, were mailed to Zion seniors with a free donut, thanks to CJ's, and a free custard, thanks to Culver's along with confetti pieces.

## TRANSPORTATION

We were able to assisted 60 Zion seniors with Half-fare taxi tickets for in-town transportation. Cards are provided to all seniors over the age of 65 in need.

We also completed 172 Benefit Access/RTA applications for seniors and those with disabilities, completed 144 passport applications, 87 notary request, and assisted residents with faxing for no charge.

## SENIOR RESOURCE DAY

Coordinated by Zion Township's Business Manager Sandra Usher, the Zion-Benton Senior Resource Day Expo was once again a huge success with co-sponsors: Zion Park District, Benton Township, and The Grove at the Lake. We were able to distributed over 150 bags to seniors loaded with goodies and a guidebook with 50 vendors represented.



# FAMILIES

Thanks to Santa's Volunteers and Christ Community Church, 107 Zion families 357 family members participated in the Elf Network this Christmas. This is a coordinated effort between the township, Christ Community Church and Santa's Volunteers, as well as ZB Kiwanis, and the Marines - Toys for Tots referred by Family First Center of Lake County.



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Zion Township partnered with the ZB Library to host another successful Secretary of State Mobile Unit visit that allowed seniors to participate in the Rules of the Road course, and others to get their licenses and State IDs renewed.

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Zion Township subsidizes a portion of other agency programs to ensure continued, accessible services to residents including:

- Love INC Clothing and Household Item Pantry: \$1,000
- Abiding Love Food Pantry: \$2,000
- North Point Church Food Pantry: \$1,000
- PADS Emergency Shelter Program: \$1,500
- Zion Park District Senior Luncheon: \$3,000
- Zion Park District Weekly Shopping Program: \$3,000
- Nicasa Substance Abuse Counseling Program: \$3,000



The ZT Team is proud of the work we completed and the incredible partnerships we have to best assist residents in their time of need. Here are some of the various resources we were able to assist Zion residents with in 2022:

- Mothers Trust Foundation Assistance provided \$31,001.34 to 43 residents;
- Salvation Army assistance provided \$9,553.76 for 20 residents;
- CAP LIHEAP applications provided \$84,893.00 for 48 residents;
- We utilized \$6,157.19 for 16 residents in disaster relief;
- Zion Township's Emergency Assistance provided \$21,786.65 for 62 residents;
- Zion Township's General Assistance allocations were \$61,084.58 for the year.

We were able to process a total of \$89,028.42 in resources for Zion residents. Aside from connecting residents with cash assistance in their time of need, we also counsel, guide and advocate on behalf of residents for a variety of issues, sometimes spending hours with each resident to best understand each situation and connecting to the best resources available. Our team works hard to serve those in greatest need.

As a team, we are all focused and determined to serve the Zion Community in the most impactful, cost effective way and look forward to another productive year in 2023.

ALL OUR BEST,  
Cheri and your ZT Team





# COLETTE DAVIS

## ZION TOWNSHIP ASSESSOR

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The past year has been one of growth and knowledge. The real estate market has slowed down and interest rates have increased. We still have a steady supply of sales, but we also have a chance to breathe. All in all, we are seeing these new homeowners as a long-term investment in Zion.

We continue to meet our goal of having a broader presence in the community by collaborating with fellow taxing bodies and community organizations, posting on our Facebook page which provides periodic PTT-Property Tax Tips, and updating our website for a user-friendly way to have direct access to the most common topics and processes needed.

I am often asked the question, how does my assessed value affect my tax rate and my taxes? The assessed value is a part of the calculation used to determine your tax bill. However, the Assessor's office does not determine the total amount of taxes collected in your community, the tax rate, or your tax bill. The assessor's primary responsibility is to find the fair market value of your property so that you pay only your fair share of taxes. The amount of tax you pay is determined by multiplying your tax rate by your property's assessed value. Your tax rate is determined by all the taxing bodies (i.e., City, School Districts, Park District, Township, Library, Police, Fire, etc.) The taxing bodies determine how much tax is needed to provide all the services needed to operate our city.

Exemptions are a form of tax relief. There is still time to apply. Be on the lookout for the blue assessment notice that usually comes in the mail late summer. This will have your annual assessment amount listed along with all of your property information we have in our system. Reminder that 2023 is our Quadrennial year. This means that we will reassess all parcels in the jurisdiction. This is a great time to verify the information we have on your property for accuracy. All information provided is an effort to educate the taxpayer of the assessment process as we know that it can be quite complex.

Please don't hesitate to stop in or call if we can be of any assistance.

Colette Davis and your Assessment Team

# 2 0 2 2      S E R V I C E

	2022	2021	2020
<b>PROGRAMS AND SERVICES</b>			
Incoming Calls	5874	6848	4606
Walk-ins	N/A	N/A	N/A
Notary	87	70	10
Passport	144	93	20
Senior Half Fare Tickets	60	63	79
Senior Birthday Cards	958	936	894
Senior Resource Day	300	250	0
Summer Work Program	26	16	0
Elf Network	107/357	80/333	80/330
<b>ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS</b>			
Resource Appointments	373	1946	344
Total Referrals Made	1192	1391	1121
Zion Township Directly Assisted	662	190	72
General Assistance Application submitted	36	30	37
General Assistance Appointments	259	242	257
General Assistance Approval Funds	<b>\$61,084.58</b>	<b>\$55,525.95</b>	<b>\$ 59,587.10</b>
Emergency Assistance Appointments	87	67	68
Emergency Assistance - Households served	69	52	51
Emergency Assistance Approval Funds	<b>\$21,786.65</b>	<b>\$17,628.78</b>	<b>\$ 14,968.86</b>
Emergency Transportation Assistance	38	9	7
Disaster Relief Approval Funds	<b>\$6,157.19</b>	<b>\$13,803.77</b>	<b>\$18,750.62</b>
<b>OTHER AGENCY APPLICATION PROCESSING</b>			
RTA Free or Reduced Ride Program Apps	44	27	26
Benefit Access Program Applications	128	76	98
Salvation Army Applicants	39	106	0
Salvation Army Apps Completed	20	45	0
Total Funds Accessed for Salvation Army	<b>\$9,553.76</b>	<b>\$23,654.55</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
LIHEAP Applicants	103	66	65
LIHEAP Apps Completed	48	66	65
Total Funds Accessed for LIHEAP	<b>\$84,893.00</b>	<b>\$30,204.00</b>	<b>\$ 35,625.00</b>
Love Inc Intake/Referrals	34	21	26
Mother's Trust Intake/Referrals	43	54	32
Total Funds Accessed for Mother's Trust	<b>\$31,001.34</b>	<b>\$15,257.52</b>	<b>\$15,281.56</b>

# R E P O R T

2019	2018	2017
5147	4415	2836
2533	2072	1596
27	23	13
12	0	0
127	98	57
863	922	927
188	165	205
35	33	31
210	50	50
501	472	381
1525	1468	1088
742	733	316
36	16	8
210	168	187
<b>\$50,026.58</b>	<b>\$35,946.81</b>	<b>\$26,434.15</b>
120	116	116
108	92	85
<b>\$31,725.53</b>	<b>\$22,004.33</b>	<b>\$19,971.87</b>
33	39	30
<b>\$2,922.83</b>	<b>\$405.00</b>	<b>\$0</b>
104	95	33
216	222	74
0	0	0
0	0	0
0	0	0
343	365	380
343	365	380
<b>\$172,883.00</b>	<b>\$150,726.00</b>	<b>\$125,343.00</b>
42	36	37
4	1	3
N/A	N/A	N/A

