

## Township Government

Townships, established in Rhode Island in 1636, are the oldest existing unit of government. The Town Meeting is the quintessential example of direct democracy, and gives each citizen a direct say in the operation of their government. Townships in Illinois hold their annual Town Meeting on the second Tuesday of each April.

The next Annual Batavia Town Meeting will be on Tuesday, April 10, 2012.

Most counties in Illinois operate under the township form of government with 1432 townships serving more than 8 million citizens. There are 16 townships in Kane County, each with three primary functions: Road and Bridge Maintenance, Property Assessment and General Assistance. Learn more about Illinois Township government on the Township Officials of Illinois website [toi.org](http://toi.org)

Voters elect the following township officials: Supervisor, Trustees, Clerk, Highway Commissioner, and Assessor. This issue features the Batavia Township Supervisor and Assessor.

### Batavia Township

Unlike the typical township of 36 square miles, Batavia is one-half of that area, about 18 square miles. Batavia and Geneva Townships were split during the early history of the county. Batavia Township extends from the Kane County boundary on the east to Blackberry Township on the west, from Geneva Township on the north to Aurora Township on the south. This area includes most of the City of Batavia, a portion of the Village of North Aurora, and unincorporated areas, mostly on the west. Batavia Township has a population of about 30,000, approximately 13,000 real estate parcels, and an assessed valuation over \$1 billion.

### Batavia Township Highway Department

#### Hours of operation:

Monday–Friday 6:30am–3pm

**Phone:** 630-879-5515

**Fax:** 630-879-5556

**E-mail:** [crew@bataviatownship.com](mailto:crew@bataviatownship.com)

The Batavia Township Highway Commissioner and his services will be featured in a future issue. In the meantime, two services provided by the Highway Commissioner for residents of unincorporated areas of the township are worthy of mention at this time.

#### Leaf Program

The Batavia Township Highway Department provides a leaf removal program for the township residents. This program starts October 19 and ends November 23 (the week of Thanksgiving). For more information view the details of this program on the township website or contact the Highway Department.

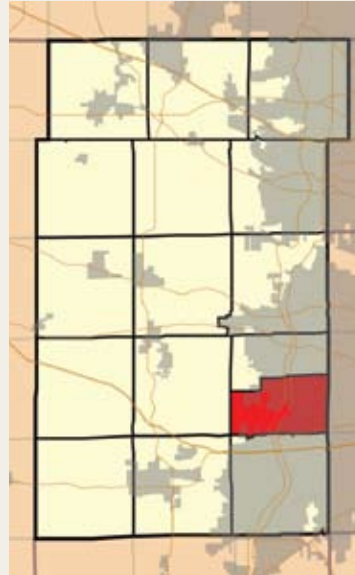
#### Snow Removal

Generally snow removal begins when at least 2" of snow is on the road. On certain occasions it may begin earlier but 2" is usually the starting point. While plowing, salt is also spread to help prevent the roadways from freezing. Plowing the roads continues until the snow storm has ended. You may also view the details of this program on the township website or contact the Highway Department.

Boundaries of local governments are not congruent, so it is often confusing as to which serve you. Some residents of the City of Batavia are in Geneva Township. Some residents of the Village of North Aurora are in Aurora Township. Some township residents are served by the Batavia Park District, others by the Geneva Park District, some by the Fox Valley Park District. Some are served by the Batavia Library, some by the Messenger Library in North Aurora. Some are in the Batavia School District, some in the West Aurora School District. Look at your property tax bill. You can see which units serve you. The property tax is the major source of revenue for each of these governmental units.

Note that Batavia Township gets the smallest share of your property tax.

Townships also constitute election districts and serve as political party organizations. The smallest election district is the precinct. There are 21 precincts in Batavia Township. Four of these precincts have North Aurora addresses, 17 have Batavia addresses. Go to the Kane County Elections website [kanecountyelections.org](http://kanecountyelections.org) for more information.



### Batavia Township Supervisor

James R. Anderson is your Batavia Township Supervisor. Elected in 1985 as Supervisor, Jim is responsible for general assistance and serves as chairman of the township board of trustees. In addition to the Supervisor the four elected Township Trustees make up the township board of trustees.

The Batavia Township Board of Trustees generally meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7pm in the township offices. The next meetings will be on November 15 and December 13. Township meetings are televised by Batavia Access Television

As Supervisor, Jim is also the treasurer of township funds, and responsible for their distribution. Jim has been instrumental in developing and funding various programs including:

- 708 Board for Mental Health Funding*
- Tri-City Health Partnership*
- RSVP Medication Assistance Program*
- St. Vincent DePaul Society*
- Home Sharing*
- Lazarus House*
- Batavia Interfaith Food Pantry*
- Riverwalk Funding*
- Crisis Line Funding*
- Batavia Eastside Community Center*
- Salvation Army Tri-City Corps*
- Dial-A-Ride*

Jim was born in Batavia, where he has lived and worked his entire life. He has served as an elected official since 1969 on the Park Board, the Zoning Board of Appeals, and as an Alderman on the Batavia City Council.



### Batavia Township Assessor

Tammy J. Kavanaugh is your Batavia Township Assessor. Tammy has served as your Assessor since 1998, and prior to that was employed in that office since 1994. She holds a CIAO (Certified Illinois Assessing Officer) designation and attends continuing education classes annually. Tammy and her staff welcome the opportunity to answer your questions and help you obtain a fair assessment of your property.

The office of the Assessor is the only elected position that has statutory, pre-election requirements. Candidates for Assessor must obtain the Certified Illinois Assessing Officer designation from the Illinois Property Assessment Institute. The township assessor is essentially an appraiser. The assessor's responsibilities include the appraisal of all taxable property within the township.

The Assessor must analyze recent sales and perform sales ratio studies to determine which areas require reassessment and must also analyze the fairness of assessments. The assessor reports changes to county officials and also establishes homestead exemptions and responds to complaints about assessments.

The Assessor determines the market value of all taxable property, which is then assessed at 33 1/3% of that value. The purpose of the assessment is to apportion the tax burden as created by taxing districts: schools, municipalities, park districts, counties and townships. Assessors do not levy, collect or distribute tax revenues.

The 2011 equalized assessments are now complete and can be viewed on our website [www.bataviatownship.com](http://www.bataviatownship.com). Click on Assessor's Office, Property Search.

Assessments are as of January 1, 2011. The market "today" may not be reflected in the current assessment. Any sales or appraisals dated after January 1, 2011 cannot be considered until the 2012 assessment year. Illinois State Statutes mandate the use of the three previous years of sales to obtain the fair cash value for a current assessment year. So for the 2011 assessment year we must use sales from 2008, 2009 and 2010.

Review your 2011 equalized assessment. If you have questions please contact the Assessor's Office, 630-879-1323, 8am–4pm, Monday through Friday.



### Elected Township Officials

Each of these officials is elected for a term of four years. These officials will be next elected in the Consolidated Election of April 2013

**Supervisor:** James R. Anderson

#### Trustees:

- Ron Gilkerson
- Brian Singer
- Leigh Tracy
- John West

**Clerk:** Susan Fricano

**Assessor:** Tammy J. Kavanaugh

#### Highway Commissioner:

Christopher R. Long

#### Other Township Staff

##### General Assistance Case Worker:

Layla Brown