

DORR TOWNSHIP
&
DORR TOWNSHIP ROAD DISTRICT
DECENNIAL COMMITTEE REPORT



Dorr Township is one of seventeen townships in McHenry County. It covers portions of Woodstock, Bull Valley, Crystal Lake, and Lakewood. The man after whom Dorr Township was named, Governor Thomas Wilson Dorr, had a dramatically colorful record in the annals of American history, serving a jail sentence from which he was later acquitted by a Supreme Court decision. It appears that Governor Dorr was an unsung hero in the cause of free suffrage for everyone age 21 and older. It was this reason that the citizens paid tribute to Dorr, a man who gave his freedom and good name in the cause of free elections for all legal-age citizens.

The Dorr Township census from 1850 reported 1139 residents. 106 years later, in 1966, there were 9910 township residents. Census 2000 shows an 83.2% increase to 18,157. The 2010 Census reported 20,911 residents and the most recent census in 2020 shows 21,572.

Dorr Township has been in its present location, 1039 Lake Avenue, since December, 2012. Its previous location was for 34 years at 140 Newell Street, Woodstock. Prior to this was in the Odd Fellows Building on East Jackson Street, which has since been demolished.

Dorr Township Road District is located at 12322 Davis Road. The property was purchased in 1974 and went through a building project in 2012. Phase II of that project has begun the planning phase with a proposed completion in 2025, pending elector approval.

Township government is one of the oldest forms of government in Illinois. Townships perform three mandatory functions: administering a general assistance program to qualifying residents, appraising property values, and maintaining township road district highways and bridges.

Dorr Township has successfully maintained a flat levy since 2013. We have also abated taxes three of the past 9 years totaling \$262,700. In addition to abating taxes in 2019 the levy was decreased 10.44%. This was accomplished without any decrease in services.

Committee members for the Joint Decennial Committee met for the first time May 9, 2023. Our second meeting occurred August 8 and the third meeting October 10, 2023. Members include Chairman Susan Brokaw, Supervisor; Clerk Brenda Stack and Trustees John Buckley, Laura Cullotta, Jon Sheahan and Tom Thurman. Township residents appointed to represent the township are Robert Pierce and Mark Andersen. Also included is Highway Commissioner John Fuller and Don Limbaugh, Road District representative.

Submitted by: Susan J. Brokaw
Chairman, Decennial Efficiency Committee of Dorr Township

DORR TOWNSHIP

SUPERVISOR:

The township supervisor is the chief executive officer of the township. The supervisor is the chairperson of the township board and oversees General Assistance. They also serve as treasurer of the road and bridge funds.

Dorr Township offers the following services and programs:

- General Assistance
- Salvation Army Assistance
- SOAR (Serving Older Active Residents) @ Dorr – activities for seniors
- Woodstock Food Pantry – provide space at no charge
- Notary Public
- Voter Registrar

With a limited staff and to be more efficient and cost-effective, reception duties are shared with the Assessor's Office. Staff can cover if there is an absence or times when the office becomes busy. They all pitch in and help when there are special events with our senior program too. The teamwork they display creates a good work atmosphere.

SOAR@Dorr originated through an intergovernmental agreement between Dorr Township and the City of Woodstock. The city continues to support SOAR by including our program information in their community publication and on their website. In 2021 we hired a full-time director for our senior center and expanded programs to 5 days per week. This has been an enormous success and in the first year alone resulted in the Director being named Illinois Townships Senior Director of the Year. We now offer drop-in activities every day of the week to all area residents whether they are in the township or not. We have developed a good partnership with Harvard Senior Center and offer exercise and social service programs through their support.

General Assistance is provided to residents with little to no income. There is also Emergency Assistance for those over-income for GA and adults with children. Our efficiency has increased through cooperation with other townships and social service agencies and it helps with cost savings and avoiding duplicate services that help ease the tax burden for our residents. Additionally, we have an agreement with Seneca Township to oversee their General Assistance.

DORR TOWNSHIP ASSESSOR:

The office of Assessor is responsible for appraising property and placing value on it. They are qualified for the position by successfully completing courses from the Illinois Property Assessment Institute and receiving certification. Continuing education is required by the State. Education is also received through opportunities with Township Officials of Illinois, Department of Revenue and McHenry County Assessor's Organization.

The Assessor employs one full-time person, one part-time and a few seasonal employees. They provide Notary Public services to residents. Assistance with forms that may be required for McHenry County Assessment Office, home or business research and help in navigating the County website are additional services that are provided. Additionally, they assist in other areas of the office as needed. At the township level, we can provide more specific information, ease of access to information, and more personal and efficient interaction.

The Assessor attends the monthly meeting with the Board of Trustees to go over budget items as needed and report sales and other business. She works with Building and Zoning to update city permits and is available to aid in new building development.

DORR TOWNSHIP ROAD DISTRICT:

The Dorr Township Highway Department is responsible for all the roads and bridges under the jurisdiction of the Highway Commissioner. At the present time, there are 33 miles of road and one bridge. The district employs three full time employees. All employees are trained and educated in current Illinois State Laws, Township Code, and safety requirements. This includes, but is not limited to, flagger training, mosquito larvicide training, Sensible Salting, and forklift operator training. Training sessions are also available through TOI and TOIRMA, our insurance carrier. These are offered in-person and by webinar.

The Highway Department's primary function is the maintenance of all roadways in the township. This includes resurfacing and snow and ice removal. They maintain and replace road signs, culverts, mowing the shoulders, and trimming and removal of any trees in the rights-of-way.

Additional services provided are Christmas tree recycling, mulch pickup, and special recycling events. Roadside cleanup occurs several times during the warmer months and roads are checked weekly for brush, fallen trees and road kill.

Dorr Township Highway Department is a member TOI Highway Commissioner's Division, Northern Illinois Township Commissioners Association, McHenry County Highway Commissioners Association, Illinois Public Works Mutual Aid Network, Northwestern Medicine Occupational Health, and Drug & Alcohol Clearinghouse.

Additionally, they have intergovernmental agreements with neighboring townships, cities, and McHenry County Division of Transportation. The Highway Department also takes advantage of the Inmate Worker Program with the McHenry County Corrections Department. These agreements allow for increased labor force on the job, cost savings, and overall efficiency in handling emergency situations and necessary functions in the township.