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## Riley named Supervisor of the Year

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Al Riley was named 2008 Illinois Township Supervisor of the Year for his commitment to providing senior services.

The award was presented by the Illinois Township Association of Senior Citizens Services Committee.

Riley, in his capacity as state representative, worked on the Mass Transit Bill to ensure the bill met the needs of the south suburban region, according to Pat Peters, director of Rich Township's Transportation Department. As a result of the bill's passage in February, Rich Township was able to receive funds through PACE to continue full operation of its paratransit service for senior citizens and all residents who are disabled. The Township's paratransit service provides 70,000 trips annually and serves all or portions of 12 municipalities.

"He impacted the lives and freedom of thousands of seniors," said Peters, who nominated Riley for the award. "Without our buses, many seniors would be homebound because there's no public bus system available in the south suburbs."

Riley also steered Rich Township to apply for an RTA Innovation, Coordination and Enhancement grant. In November, the RTA awarded the Township a \$190,000 grant to purchase a Global Positioning System and scheduling software. The grant will enable the Township to expand bus service for medical appointments to any hospital or facility in the Chicagoland area for outpatient surgeries, chemotherapy, radiation treatments and other medical procedures. Rich Township is currently the only township in the region to provide this type of transportation.

"So many seniors have absolutely no one to take them to weekly chemotherapy and radiation treatments, or laser treatments to improve their eyesight," Peters said. "There's such a pressing demand for this service."

The grant will also enable the Township to partner with the neighboring townships, the Homewood-Flossmoor Park District, the American Cancer Society in Tinley Park, and other agencies.

"Now we'll be able to expand this important transportation program throughout the south suburban region so our seniors can travel long distances to their hospital of choice for outpatient treatment," Peters said. "We believe the new GPS system and scheduling software will potentially open up medical transportation service to 20,000 new senior customers."

More information about Rich Township's transportation program is at (708) 748-6722.

<http://www.southtownstar.com/neighborhoodstar/matteson/1370097,MRcaptionRileyAward.article>