

# VILLAGE OF DEER PARK

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The Village of Deer Park Newsletter

Spring 2009

## From the President's Desk...

At its February meeting the **Village Board** voted to hire attorney **Richard Boykin** of the **Chicago law firm Barnes & Thornburg** to lobby on the Village's behalf for a portion of the federal stimulus package funds, as well as for money allocated annually through the appropriations process. Mr. Boykin accompanied me and Trustee Howard Thrun to Washington, D.C. in early March to meet with representatives from the Illinois delegation, including Sen. Roland Burris, Sen. Dick Durbin's Chief of Staff, and our 8<sup>th</sup> District Congresswoman, Melissa Bean. The Village previously filed a request with Sen. Burris for \$800,000 to fund various drainage projects as well as a request with Rep. Bean for \$1 million for road resurfacing. Mr. Boykin, who worked for years as chief of staff for U.S. Rep. Danny Davis, also set up meetings with several other Washington officials, including representatives of the House Transportation Committee and the Budget Committee. Mr. Boykin also accompanied me to Springfield in mid-March, where we met with a number of representatives to seek support for our request for a portion of the state's planned Capital Spending budget. We are seeking \$1.2 million, which is also earmarked for road and drainage projects. If the Village is awarded any of the \$2-million it is seeking in federal stimulus money, those funds would be available to spend this year. Any money awarded through the regular appropriations process would not be available until 2010. The contract with Mr. Boykin is for \$60,000, which includes all expenses. We were warmly received by everyone we met; I am hopeful that the Village will greatly benefit from these meetings.

Also at its February meeting, the Board voted to award the **2009 Road Program** to Arrow Road Construction Company. The streets included in this year's \$518,581 road program are as follows: **Circle Drive**, from its dead end up to Lea Road; **Ferndale Road**, from Lake Cook Road to its dead end; **Lea Road**, from Circle Drive to its dead end; **Hillcrest Road**, from Quentin Road to the Village limit; **Wooded Ridge Road**, within the Village limit; and miscellaneous road, curb, and gutter repairs as well as patching.

Starting this fall, approximately **850 Barrington District 220 second grade science students** will visit **Vehe Farm** to study the life cycles of insects. District 220 and the Barrington Area Education Foundation are funding the project, which is being described as a "partnership between Vehe Farm and the School District." Vehe Farm was selected because it is a "rich living laboratory with diverse insect habitats—butterfly garden, prairie and wetland—within a short walking distance of each other" and because of the presence of the barn's learning/education room. Vehe Farm being used as an outdoor science classroom is a key part of the vision for the farm. I'm very excited about this partnership with the School District.

Village staff continue to update and **enhance the Village website** on a weekly basis. The most recent addition is **Board Highlights** which is published on the front page immediately following Village Board meetings. The highlights are intended to communicate action taken by the Board that has communitywide applicability. My hope is that this addition will help fill the communication gap that exists between each Board meeting and the approval of meeting minutes. If you haven't visited the website recently, I encourage you to check it out; become familiar with all it offers and **check the website first** when you have questions about Village services and issues.

At its February meeting the **Village Board** approved contributing **\$5,000 to TRAC** (The Regional Answer to Canadian National) for the on-going lawsuit against Canadian National Railroad (CN). If you experience a specific operational problem due to CN traffic (i.e. noise, traffic delays etc...), please submit an incident report via the link on the front page of the Village website. This report takes just minutes to complete and provides vital information directly to the Surface Transportation Board (STB) and to TRAC. Reported incidents will help TRAC document where CN is falling short with regard to its mitigation commitments and it will help the STB understand where its environmental analysis on the EJ&E acquisition was fundamentally flawed. For the most up-to-date information pertaining to Canadian National, visit the Village website.

As the days lengthen we all begin to anticipate springtime and the chance to enjoy the outdoors. This year, spring also brings with it **important Village elections**. I encourage you to become involved in the election process by becoming informed about the candidates and then by exercising your right to vote. Information on the elections is included in this newsletter. See you at the polls!

--Scott Gifford, Village President

Village website: [www.village.deer-park.il.us](http://www.village.deer-park.il.us)

## Board Considering \$3.51 Million Budget for FY 2010

At a special meeting held March 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Village Board hammered out a lean \$3.51 million budget for the coming fiscal year, which starts May 1st. Revenue for FY 2010 is projected to total \$2.96 million, which would leave the Village with a cash balance of \$1.23 million at the end of FY 2010. **The Board will vote on the budget at its April 20th meeting.** All are welcome to attend.

The proposed budget for the **General Fund**, which makes up the bulk of Village spending, is virtually unchanged from the FY 2009 budget:

- **Police service**, which is contracted through the Village of Kildeer, will cost \$1.39 million, up slightly from the prior year. In addition, the Village will pay an annual dispatch fee of \$60,000 to the Village of Lake Zurich.
- **Road and drainage** expenses are expected to total \$1,203,491. This includes the 2009 Road Program as well as engineering costs, snow removal, a capital outlay of \$257,841 for the Ferndale drainage project, \$10,000 for the Village's portion of the drainage repairs in Oakridge North, drainage work on Lancaster and Primrose Courts, and ongoing root cutting and storm sewer cleaning. \$120,000 of this total is budgeted from the Motor Fuel Tax Fund for road repair.
- **Town Center Park property** principle and interest, which will be paid off in early 2010, totals \$290,128.
- **Administrative** salaries and benefits total \$175,141.
- **Building and Zoning** salaries, administration, and inspection fees total \$73,013.
- **Legal fees** total \$85,000. **Insurance** totals \$14,000.

In addition to the General Fund, the Village maintains separate funds as follows:

- The **Park Fund** has expected revenue totaling \$11,388 and proposed expenditures of \$92,623; \$30,000 of which is allocated for preliminary engineering to prevent flooding at Hamilton Park.
- The **Barn Operations Fund** has projected revenues of \$17,000 and proposed expenses of \$55,730.
- The **Sewer Fund**, which is funded solely through billings to property owners in the Deer Park Town Center area who receive sewer service.

The Village expects total revenues to be \$2.93 million. **\$1.43 million of which is its share of the Illinois sales tax**, a figure identical to the prior year's budget because of the economic downturn. Other significant projected revenue sources include:

- **Utility Tax** totaling \$340,000
- **State Income Tax** totaling \$281,000
- **Telecommunication Tax** totaling \$224,000
- **Entertainment Tax** totaling \$125,000
- **Building Permits** totaling \$102,000
- **Traffic/Red Light Camera Fines** totaling \$139,200
- **Hotel Tax** revenue may also be realized with the July opening of the Hampton Inn on Lake Cook Road.

(article continued above)

Village Treasurer Terri Stade estimated that the Village would finish FY 2009 with revenues exceeding original budget projections by \$343,000. She estimated the Village would bring in \$3.28 million to the General Fund and an additional \$110,347 to the Motor Fuel Tax, Park and Barn funds. Expenses from all funds (excluding the Sewer Fund) for the current year, which ends April 30th, are projected to be \$3.2 million, leaving the Village with a projected cash balance of \$1.76 million for the beginning of FY 2010.

### Vehe Barn Rental...

Vehe Barn is available for rent for a variety of functions. A variety of events (including five wedding receptions) have been held in the Barn; numerous residents and local groups have rented the facility. Deer Park homeowner associations may hold their business meetings at the Barn for no charge. The Barn has a commercial kitchen and a complete audio/visual system. For information about renting the Barn click **Vehe Barn Rental** on the Village website, or contact Vehe Barn Event Coordinator, Yvonne Keith, by phone **(847) 438-0764** or email **deerparkevents@comcast.net**.

### Damage from Snowplows?

If your mailbox or lawn was damaged this winter by Cuba Township Highway Department snowplows, please report it by visiting [www.cubaroads.com](http://www.cubaroads.com) and clicking on the *Deer Park Winter Service Button* or call Cuba Township at 847-381-7793. Snow and slush damage do not warrant replacement of a mailbox by the Township. If the driver actually hit the mailbox or gouged the lawn, the Township will repair the damage. Replacement mailboxes will be a standard mailbox and wooden post. Lawns will be repaired when weather permits.

### Vehe Farm Foundation Update...

We are thankful for the donations we are receiving for the Foundation's initiatives on behalf of Vehe Farm. We appreciate the Village Board and all Deer Park residents for their ongoing support.

Great synergies are occurring as a result of the partnerships the farm has garnered. These include Vehe Farm's Leave No Child Inside (LNCI) events, more of which are planned over the next six months. The LNCI initiative, funded by a Barrington Area Community Foundation grant, has expanded to all communities within School Districts 95 and 220. Numerous Eagle Scout projects are underway and additional scouting activities are planned.

Spring is here; as life renews itself, we are renewing our call for volunteers. Each Saturday from 12:00-2:00 Vehe Farm volunteers will be maintaining the grounds and removing invasive plants. It's fun to be outdoors and, come summer when the prairie is in full bloom, seeing the fruits of our labor is quite rewarding. Everyone is welcome, including adult-supervised children.

-Pat Winkelman, Vehe Farm Foundation President

## **April 7<sup>th</sup> Election for Village Offices**

April 7<sup>th</sup> is the date of the next Village election. This election will include the office of Village Trustee and Village President. Generally, the Daily Herald and Pioneer Press conduct candidate interviews for endorsement purposes. The candidates are listed below in the order they will appear on the ballot.

### **President Candidates – Vote for ONE:**

H. Scott Gifford  
Robert M. Kellermann

### **Trustee Candidates – Vote for THREE:**

Keith Olson	William P. Michael
Dale Sands	William C. Koutsis
<del>John Lahr*</del>	Joyce Trost Beattie

### **Lake County Voting Information**

Call 847-377-2314 or visit [www.lakecountyil.gov](http://www.lakecountyil.gov)

### **Cook County Voting Information**

Call 312-603-0906 or visit [www.voterinfo.com](http://www.voterinfo.com)

\* Although his name will appear on the ballot, Mr. Lahr resigned his candidacy for Village Trustee for personal and private reasons as of March 17th. Please vote for three of the five remaining candidates.

## **Groot Yard Waste Options...**

Groot's yard waste season runs from April 1st to November 30<sup>th</sup>. To be eligible to have yard waste collected by Groot, residents must either subscribe to Groot's yard waste program for a seasonal fee or purchase yard waste stickers to affix to each yard waste bag placed at the curb. Residents may purchase stickers from the Village Office or by contacting Groot directly. Those subscribing to the yard waste service may request a special yard waste cart from Groot in lieu of purchasing biodegradable yard waste bags. For more information, call Groot at (847) 734-6400.

## **Spring Burning Season...**

According to Deer Park's Municipal Code, leaves and yard waste may be burned only two times a year. Fall burning may be done October 15<sup>th</sup> – November 15<sup>th</sup>; **the spring burning season is April 15<sup>th</sup> – May 15<sup>th</sup>**. During these times, leaves and yard waste may be burned only on **weekends from 10am to 6pm**. Contact the Lake County Health Department for additional information and alternatives to burning that minimize the impact leaf burning has on neighbors and the environment: Phone: 847-360.6747 / Website: [www.co.lake.il.us/health](http://www.co.lake.il.us/health)

## **Above Ground Swimming Pools**

At its January meeting, the Village Board approved Ordinance 09-01 amending the Municipal Code regarding swimming pools. Although the Municipal Code had always prohibited above ground swimming pools, it contained misleading language pertaining to above ground, above grade and portable swimming pools. Ordinance 09-01 addresses and eliminates this language; it also provides for a 5-year amortization of existing above ground swimming pools. For information on how to qualify for the 5-year amortization and to read Ordinance 09-01, visit the Village website.

## **Village Officials & Staff**

**President**—H. Scott Gifford  
**Administrator**—Jim Connors  
**Administrative Assistant**—Lisa Pagano  
**Building Permit Coordinator**—Josie Doniec  
**Treasurer**—Terri Stade  
**Clerk**—Susan Meyle  
**Event Coordinator**—Yvonne Keith

**Board of Trustees:** (Meets every 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday)

**David Kizior:** Finance  
**Bob Kellermann:** Roads & Public Utilities  
**Joel Rotter:** Parks & Recreation  
**Patricia Plautz:** Health & Sanitation  
**Maureen Pratscher:** Planning & Zoning  
**Howard Thrun:** Public Safety

**Plan Commission:** (meets as needed)

David Heidtke (Chairperson) Jan Koe  
Frank Comber Bill Koutsis  
Sandy Schroeder Eric Lorenz

**Zoning Board of Appeals:** (meets as needed)

Barbara Evans Randy Pinchot  
Bill Michael

**Village Hall:**

Phone: (847) 726-1648  
Fax: (847) 726-1659  
E-mail: [deerparkoffice@comcast.net](mailto:deerparkoffice@comcast.net)  
Website: [www.village.deer-park.il.us](http://www.village.deer-park.il.us)  
Hours: Monday – Thursday: 9am – 5pm  
Friday: 9am – 12:30pm

**Vehe Barn (Events):**

Phone: (847) 438-0764  
Fax: (847) 438-0799  
E-mail: [deerparkevents@comcast.net](mailto:deerparkevents@comcast.net)

**Kildeer Police:**

Emergency: 911  
Non-emergency: (847) 438-6010  
Office: (847) 438-6644

**Lake Zurich Fire Department:**

Emergency: 911  
Office: (847) 540-5070

**Board Meetings...** are held the **third Monday** of every month at **7:00pm** at the Vehe Barn, 23570 W. Cuba Road, Deer Park. The agenda for each meeting is posted on the Village website and at the Village Office by the close of business the Friday prior to the meeting; or request the agenda via email [deerparkoffice@comcast.net](mailto:deerparkoffice@comcast.net).

**Good Neighbor Reminders** will be back in the next newsletter. In the meantime, they may be reviewed in the Fall/Winter 2008 newsletter and they are posted on the Village website [www.village.deer-park.il.us](http://www.village.deer-park.il.us).

**Village of Deer Park  
23680 W. Cuba Road  
Deer Park IL 60010**

### **Raje Yoga at Vehe Barn**

Raje yoga classes are now being offered at Vehe Barn. Experience the benefits of yoga: reduce stress, build strength, improve posture, find balance, and increase metabolism. New to Raje Yoga, the first class is complimentary. For a class schedule and information, contact Jennifer:

Phone 815-347-6813  
Email [jennifer@raje yoga.com](mailto:jennifer@raje yoga.com)  
Website [www.raje yoga.com](http://www.raje yoga.com).

### **Hampton Inn • Opening Soon**

The **Hampton Inn & Suites** currently under construction on Lake Cook Road will open in July 2009. The hotel has 70-standard rooms plus 34-suites (one bridal suite) for a total of 104-rooms. It also features an indoor pool, hot tub, and party room. A hot breakfast buffet will be provided for all guests. Hampton looks forward to partnering with other Deer Park businesses to offer guest services such as in-room dining and off-site spa services. A complimentary shuttle will be offered to/from the hotel up to 5-miles.

### **Get ICED with Health World**

Educational Summer Camps  
at Vehe Farm!  
Each session (June 15- August 7)  
targets children ages 4-8 and  
features a different theme–  
**Imagine, Create, Explore and  
Discover.**

For more information  
call (847) 842-9100.  
To register visit  
[www.healthworldoutreach.org](http://www.healthworldoutreach.org)

## **Household Habits for Clean Water - From the Village Engineer...**

As stormwater flows over driveways, lawns and sidewalks, it picks up debris, chemicals, and other pollutants. Stormwater can flow into a storm sewer system or directly to a lake, stream, or wetland. Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged (untreated) into water bodies used for swimming, fishing, and drinking water. Polluted runoff is the nation's greatest threat to clean water. By practicing healthy household habits, homeowners can keep pollutants like pesticides, pet waste, grass clippings, and automotive fluids off the ground and out of stormwater. Adopt these healthy household habits and help protect lakes, streams, rivers and wetlands:

- Clean up spilled automotive fluids with an absorbent material like kitty litter or sand; don't rinse the spills into a nearby storm drain.
- Recycle used oil and automotive fluids at participating service stations; don't dump chemicals in a storm drain or in the trash.
- Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly and only in the recommended amounts. Avoid application if the forecast calls for rain; these chemicals may wash into local streams.
- Select native plants and grasses that are drought and pest resistant; these require less water, fertilizer and pesticides.
- Cover dirt piles and mulch used in landscaping to prevent them from blowing or washing into local water bodies.
- Plant vegetation in bare spots in your yard to prevent soil erosion.
- Drain swimming pools only when a test kit does not detect chlorine levels.
- During home improvement projects, use paint, solvents and cleaners in the smallest amounts possible, and follow the directions on the label. Store substances properly to avoid leaks and spills. Clean paint brushes in the sink, not outdoors. Dispose of excess paints via SWALCO's hazardous waste collection program.
- Have septic systems inspected by a professional at least every 3 years and pump septic tanks every 3 to 5 years.
- Flush responsibly; chemicals like paint can destroy the biological process taking place in the septic system.
- When walking your pet, remember to pick up the waste and dispose of it properly. Flushing pet waste is the best disposal method. Leaving pet waste on the ground increases public health risks by allowing harmful bacteria to wash into the storm drain.