

VILLAGE OF DEER PARK

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The Village of Deer Park Newsletter

Summer 2008

From the President's Desk...

The Barrington area coalition against the Canadian National (CN) acquisition of the EJ&E Railway continues its battle on behalf of the Barrington area communities. So far, we have been successful in persuading the U.S. Surface Transportation Board (STB) to require a comprehensive Environmental Impact Study (EIS). The STB released its long-awaited Draft EIS on July 25th; those interested in reviewing this lengthy document may access a link to it on the Village website. The STB invites public comment on all aspects of the Draft EIS; they are providing a 60-day public comment period. The STB will hold Open House / Public Meetings throughout the Chicago area to present the findings of the Draft EIS and to receive public comments. The details of the Barrington Area Open House and Public Meeting are as follows:

Date: Wednesday, August 27, 2008

**Time: 4:00pm - 6:00pm (Informal Open House)
6:00pm - 9:00pm (Formal Public Meeting)**

**Location: Barrington High School
616 W. Main Street - Barrington**

If you are unable to attend this meeting, I encourage you to submit your comments in writing; see the *SBT Fact Sheet* on the Village website for details.

As a part of their on-going efforts, the Barrington area coalition may hold additional public forums to keep the community informed and called-to-action. The Village Board has contributed the use of the Vehe Barn as a venue for these forums; I will send a phone message to the Deer Park community with details as these forums are scheduled.

I thank those of you who have already invested, time, effort and attention to this issue; it is no surprise that this is proving to be a lengthy battle. I encourage all residents who want to avert the negative impact CN would have on our community to get on board and keep up the effort; Village officials and residents share the role of advocate in creating the overwhelming public pressure required to get and keep state and federal officials on board with our cause and acting on our behalf. For the most up-to-date information on the CN acquisition, visit the Village website and click the links provided (www.village.deer-park.il.us).

From the President's Desk -- continued on page-2

It's been a busy summer with many exciting projects underway throughout the Village.

The bulk of the Village's 2008 road repair program has been completed. The Village Board allocated \$551,000 toward resurfacing, patching and sealing projects. Residents are getting more bang for their buck than originally anticipated; paving bids came in about \$40,000 below the Village Engineer's estimate, so the Board directed the engineer to negotiate with the two selected contractors for additional patching and repairs throughout the Village. Roads resurfaced this year included the north section of Rue Valley subdivision (Rue Chamonix and Court LaGroV), Country Corners subdivision (Corners Drive, Country Lane, Madoch Court, Surrey Court, Wagon Court and Wheel Court), and a portion of Swansway subdivision (Swans Way from Corners Drive to Covington Drive).

Seven Village parks will see repairs and improvements this summer. The walking path and culvert at **Michael D'Angelo Park** were repaired earlier this summer. **Old Farm Road Park** currently has landscaping and a walking path; improvements approved for this park include playground equipment and benches. The mulch will be replaced in the tot lots at the **Chapel Hill, Dover Pond, Charles E. Brown, and Michael D'Angelo** parks. A handicap accessible path will be installed at **Vehe Farm Park** connecting the barn sidewalk with the butterfly garden; this improvement has been fully funded by private donations dedicated to the path. Finally, new windscreens are being installed at the **Town Center Park** baseball field; a sponsorship program has been launched as a means of funding the windscreens. Local businesses have been given the opportunity to sponsor the baseball field; in recognition of their sponsorship, their business name or logo will be displayed on one of the new outfield windscreens. Drive by the field and check out the new windscreens. Businesses with an interest in sponsorship may contact the Village Office; information is also available on the Village website - click *Village Parks*.

--Scott Gifford, Village President

Connect-CTY[®] Village Communication Program

The Village Board is pleased to announce the launch of the *Connect-CTY[®]*, Deer Park's new Village communication system. With this system, Village officials can send personalized voice messages to residents and businesses with specific information about time-sensitive or common-interest issues such as emergencies and local community matters.

Publicly available residential and business phone numbers in Deer Park have automatically been included in the system. President Gifford made a test call to these numbers on May 5th; subsequent messages were sent regarding the June 29th Rail Rally and Firework safety. If you did not receive these calls, you are encouraged to update your contact information by visiting the Deer Park website (www.village.deer-park.il.us) and clicking on the *Connect-CTY[®]* secure link on the site's front page.

This link also provides residents with the opportunity to opt-in to provide their complete information (up to three phone numbers and two email addresses) and to indicate if they have a TTY/TDD (for hearing impaired) device by Your personal information is important; rest assured that the Village will not share it with anyone.

Text versions of each message sent are available on the Village website by clicking the *Archived Messages* option. This will be helpful for those without voicemail who notice they missed a call from the Village via caller-id or for anyone who wants to review the details provided in a message at a later time.

Please accept the Board's invitation to participate in this great service. For additional information and answers to Frequently Asked Questions, see the Village website. Those without Internet access may call the Village Office with questions and to have their information updated by Village staff: (847) 726-1648.

Village Finances Track Well with Budget

The Village's fiscal year 2009 began May 1st. Total General Fund expenditures for the first two months of the fiscal year were slightly above the budget target; the good news is that total revenue was also above the expected amount by about 3-percent. With 17-percent (two months) of the year elapsed, the Village has spent 18-percent of its General Fund budget of \$3.238 million. It has received 20-percent of budgeted revenue for the year, a total of \$309,888 of the expected \$2.862 million.

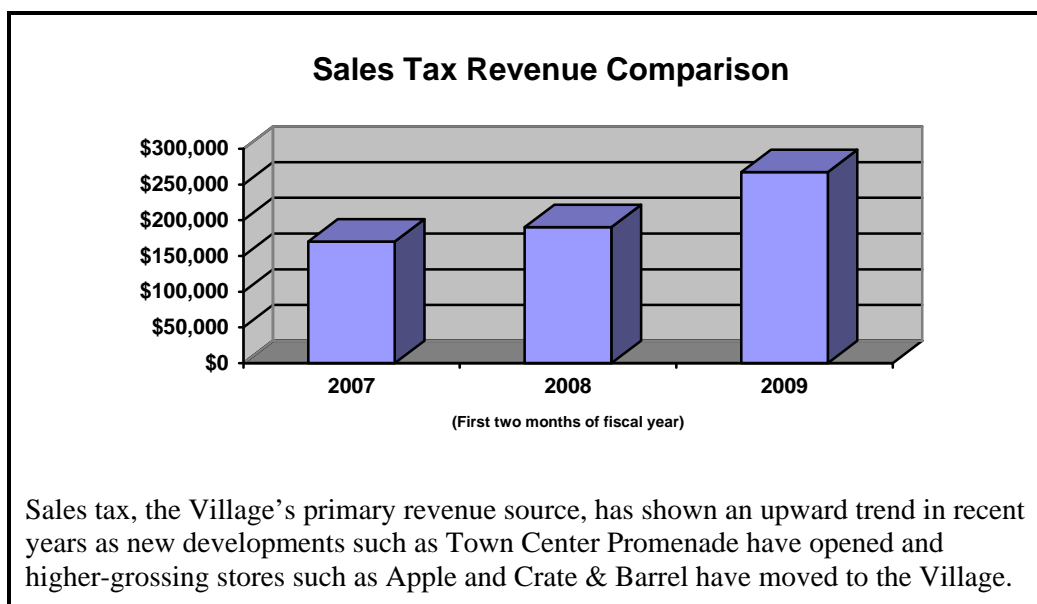
On the expense side, the picture is actually better than it appears because one large expense – the police dispatch fee of \$56,899 – is paid in one lump sum at the beginning of the fiscal year. Most other line items are on or below the budget target. Total administration costs for the first two months, for example, tally only 7-percent of the budgeted amount (this category contains most Village employee salary and benefits, legal expenses, some engineering expenses, insurance, utilities and mosquito abatement, as well as a host of smaller line items). The police services portion of the public safety category is on target, as the annual contract of \$1.33 million is paid in 12 equal installments.

Nearly 35-percent of the roads and drainage budget has been exhausted, but a substantial portion of the year's road resurfacing program has already been paid for out of this category. Historically, the majority of this budget is used during the first half of the year, when outdoor work conditions are best. A little more than one-fifth of the roads and drainage budget is earmarked for snow and ice control to be paid out in the colder months.

On the revenue side of the General Fund, the Village's portion of the state sales tax is running slightly ahead of budget at 18-percent, with receipts totaling \$267,162. Last year at this point the Village had received only 14-percent of its sales tax budget. Other smaller revenue streams are also running better than expected: state income tax, 41-percent; building permit fees, 27-percent; utility tax, 24-percent; and telecommunication tax, 19-percent.

The Village maintains a separate Park, Barn Operations, Motor Fuel Tax and Sewer funds:

- ◆ The Park Fund is close to budget on the expenditure side; with only \$16,858 (15-percent) spent of the \$112,272 budgeted. Park Fund revenues come from two line items: usage fees from sports organizations, which is at 85-percent of budget, and park sponsorship which is helping fund the purchase of windscreens for the Town Center Park baseball field, currently at 26-percent of budget.
- ◆ The Barn Operations Fund is on target for expenditures, but slightly behind on budgeted revenue. Rental income for the first two months tallied \$3,527 or 15-percent of budget.
- ◆ The Motor Fuel Tax Fund is a segregated fund used solely for road repair projects, with all revenue coming from the Village's portion of the state's motor fuel tax. That revenue is running slightly ahead of budget. The Village allocated \$180,000 from the fund to be spent on road repairs this summer, but the amount had not been paid as of the end of June.
- ◆ The Sewer Fund is managed by the Village but pertains to the Special Service Area and is funded wholly by sewer charges in that area.



Yard Waste Collection Options...

Did you know that there is currently a state-wide ban on disposing yard waste (grass clippings, leaves, etc.) in landfills dedicated for regular household refuse and that the development of valuable real estate has significantly reduced the amount of land available for composting hauler collected yard waste?

The average homeowner in the Village lives on one-acre of land and has the potential to produce a significant amount of yard waste, especially grass clippings. There are a few things residents can do to reduce the amount of yard waste they have collected by Groot, the Village's waste hauler:

- ◆ Switch to mulching mower blades. These blades mulch and distribute grass clippings and leaves during the mowing process; the mulched clippings are said to improve one's soil over time.
- ◆ Spread collected grass clippings and leaves as a mulch alternative around bushes or planting beds.
- ◆ Compost grass clippings and leaves at home. Over 15,000 homeowners across Lake County have taken advantage of a SWALCO program that provides Earth Machine composting bins at a reduced price of \$40 each. The easy to operate Earth Machine is 33" x 33", rests in a typical backyard, and holds about 1 cubic yard of material. The bin is sized to accommodate a typical family's organic waste and comes with a 10-year warranty.
- ◆ To arrange to purchase an Earth Machine and for information on composting and yard waste disposal alternatives, visit <http://www.co.lake.il.us/swalco/programs/compost.asp>.

The yard waste season runs from April 1st to November 30th and collections are made the same day as refuse and recycling collections. In order to be eligible to have yard waste collected, residents must either subscribe to Groot's yard waste collection program for a seasonal fee or purchase yard waste stickers to be affixed to biodegradable bags containing yard waste.

Residents may purchase stickers from the Village Office or by contacting Groot directly. Those subscribing to the seasonal 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.

Vehe Barn Rental...

Vehe Barn is available for rent for a wide variety of functions. Already, three wedding receptions have been held in the Barn and numerous residents and local organizations have rented the facility for events such as scouting ceremonies, Chamber of Commerce meetings and birthday parties. 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 available to renters. For more information about renting the Barn, contact the Vehe Barn Events Coordinator Yvonne Keith at via email: deerparkevents@comcast.net or by phone at (847) 438-0764.

Check Out The Village Website

www.village.deer-park.il.us

Stay tuned in with what's happening in the Village between newsletter publications by visiting the Village website. Website items you may find interesting include:

- ◆ Upcoming Village meeting agendas, public hearing notices and approved minutes.
- ◆ The recently approved ordinance amending the Municipal Code regarding Accessory Uses (structures, buildings, and sheds). Click *Important Ordinances* and then *Sheds & Pools* to review the ordinance.
- ◆ Village contact list, links to area resources and community amenities, and neighborhood reminders.
- ◆ Updates and resources regarding time-sensitive and community interest issues such as the Canadian National Railway acquisition.

Vehe Farm Foundation Update...



The Village of Deer Park is a member of the Chicago Wilderness consortium, an alliance of more than 200 public and private organizations that have joined to protect, restore and manage the region's natural lands and the plants and animals that inhabit them.

Chicago Wilderness is currently sponsoring a regional initiative called "Leave No Child Inside". Its purpose is to educate area communities on the importance of connecting children with nature and to provide families with a network of outdoor programs and resources for doing so.

The Vehe Farm Foundation believes that connecting kids with nature is imperative. As a result, on June 22nd, the Foundation held a 2-hour event to kick-off a 3-year initiative to make "children in nature" a core value of the Deer Park, Barrington, and Lake Zurich communities. The event drew 80+ attendees from area families, governments, schools, businesses, non-profit groups, and churches.

Over 50 adults heard speakers Marty Kenahan of Chicago Wilderness, Dr. Everett Weiss of Pediatric Specialists Northwest, April Anderson a writer and naturalist, Andy Howard of Hitchcock Design Group (a recreation design firm specializing in nature-based play venues), and Reverend Zina Jacque from the Barrington Area Community Church.

Approximately 30 children participated in nature-based play activities in the prairie and in the barn's education/museum space. Citizens for Conservation led these activities, with the assistance of Girl Scout Troop 816. The Little Garden Club of Barrington provided self-led nature discovery in the farm's butterfly garden.

We thank the many volunteers who helped to make the event the success it was including the following parties who provided financial support: Barrington Area Community Foundation, Advocate Good Shepherd, Harris Bank, Pepper Construction, Deer Park Town Center, Lake Zurich Chamber of Commerce, McGinty Brothers, Tallgrass Restorations, Costco, Jewel-Osco, and Dominick's.

This initiative is funded purely through grants and corporate and private donations; community engagement is critical to the initiative's success. For more "Leave No Child Inside" information or to become involved with the three-year initiative, visit www.vehefarmfoundation.org, call 847-331-0967 or e-mail info@vehefarmfoundation.org.

Development Update...

New projects are in various stages of development throughout the Village:

- **Grace Communities**, which is developing office condominiums on Field Parkway adjacent to Century Theater parking lot, broke ground this summer. Completion of the first phase of the project is expected in early 2009.
- **Hampton Inn & Suites** poured footings for the foundation of its 104-room hotel on Lake Cook Road; discussions regarding the size of the water main required for the development have delayed construction. Building is expected to resume later this summer with completion expected in May 2009.
- **DeNovo Bank** has proposed the development of a bank facility on the Rand Road property just south of Brunswick Zone. Because this property is part of the Village's Planned Unit Development District, a special use permit is required. The Plan Commission held a public hearing July 14th to consider the proposal. The Commission made a conditional recommendation of the project; the Village Board will review the recommendation and consider approving it at its August meeting.
- **Phase III of Deer Park Town Center** is underway. Developers Diversified Realty has begun marketing this 13,500 sq. ft. office space which is located near La Hacienda restaurant on the south side of the shopping center.
- **Lucky Brands Jeans** known for great-fitting, vintage inspired jeans has begun renovation of the space adjacent to William-Sonoma in the Deer Park Town Center.
- **Tokio Sake Japanese Restaurant** will be opening soon on the south side of the Deer Park Town Center next to Cold Stone Creamery.

Vehe Farm Development Overview & Status

The Vehe Barn renovation is complete, and usage of the facility continues to increase. The financing of the project, however, remains a point of contention for some residents. The following article gives a brief history of the Farm's development; future newsletters will keep residents up-to-date on the Village's attempt to recoup project overrun costs from the original contractor responsible for the Barn's interior renovation and/or his bonding company.

In 1999 the Village was presented with the opportunity to acquire Vehe Farm; a truly unique parcel of land that would help satisfy the Village's municipal and recreational needs, and at the same time preserve the Village's history and one of only two centennial family farmsteads remaining in Lake County. The Village Board of 1999 voted unanimously to purchase the Vehe Farm property.

When the 1999 Village Board made the decision to purchase Vehe Farm it was widely supported by Village residents, and all understood that finances would need to be tightly managed. The Board's decision was made with the long-term municipal and recreational needs of the Village and the Village's long-standing commitment to its heritage and open space in mind.

Since 1999, the development of the land and the renovation of the buildings was approached in phases allowing the Village to absorb the development costs as permitted by its revenue resources without the need to issue building bonds or incur long term debt. The development phases unfolded as follows:

1. The development of a youth soccer field.
2. The renovation and adaptation of the farmhouse to serve as the Village Hall.
3. The restoration of the native prairie and wetland.
4. The renovation of the exterior of the barn.
5. The renovation of the interior of the barn to serve as a community center.
6. The completion of non-contracted items such as paving the parking lot and the final grading

The first four phases of the Vehe project proceeded smoothly. The fifth phase, the renovation of the interior of the barn, proved to be more challenging. R W Clark, a general contractor who had recently completed work for the Village of Lake Zurich and was highly recommended by Metra as a result of its construction of a number of commuter rail stations, submitted the lowest bid for the interior barn phase. Based on the bidding results and the background information received, the Village Board awarded the contract for the renovation of the barn's interior to R W Clark.

Unfortunately, past performance does not guarantee future performance. Shortly into the project it became apparent that R W Clark had underbid the project and was falling behind schedule due to personal financial difficulties. After spending many months attempting to assist in bringing the project back on track, the Village Board made the decision to notify R W Clark and its bonding company that grounds existed to terminate the contract for lack of performance.

The R W Clark contract was terminated by the Village Board in June 2007 leaving the Village Board with the decision of whether to stop all work or to contract with another company to complete the contract. The Board voted to complete the barn's interior and to contract with Pepper Construction, a Barrington based company with an unprecedented reputation, for the remaining work.

One important clause included in the R W Clark contract stipulated that if R W Clark was unable to fulfill his contract and the Village had to hire another contractor to complete the project, R W Clark and/or the bond company backing him would be liable for any amount the Village had to pay over the original contract amount. The total cost for Pepper to finish the job was substantially more than the amount remaining in the R W Clark contract. The Village Board is committed to pursuing the recoup of the contract overage from R W Clark and/or his bond company. This process is well underway; at present, a detailed financial analysis is being prepared. This analysis will be submitted as documentation of the contract overage incurred by the Village. As with most legal proceedings, this proves to be a lengthy one requiring much patience and diligence.

The Village Board will keep the Deer Park residents informed as progress is made and will share a summary and the outcome of the financial analysis in the next newsletter. At this point in the analysis it appears that, while more than expected, the final cost is expected to be comparable to the average current cost of a municipal facility that does not offer the variety of amenities and community-wide uses that the Vehe Farm offers.

Since its completion, Vehe Farm has been received favorably by community leaders from both Barrington and Lake Zurich. Local service organizations, cultural arts groups, children's organizations, and businesses are using the Vehe facilities to fulfill their missions; residents from the tri-community have also been using the facility for private events. Despite the challenges and cost issues, the Village now has the benefits of a municipal facility that is also a community center with recreational facilities and a community park consisting of 14-acres of open space; additionally, the preservation of Vehe Farm has retained a valued part of Deer Park's heritage.

Board Meetings...

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 the meeting is posted at the Village Office by the close of business the Friday prior to the meeting. The agenda is also available on the Village website at www.village.deer-park.il.us or via email at deerparkoffice@comcast.net.

Board meeting minutes are posted on the Village website after approval by the Board. Keep in mind, since minutes are approved at each following regular meeting, there is a one-month delay in their posting (i.e. the minutes for the January meeting will not be approved until the February meeting).

Remaining meeting dates for **2008** are:

August 18 th	November 17 th
September 15 th	December 15 th
October 20 th	

Is Your Mailbox Ready for the Snow?

The Village Board approved a 5-year agreement for ice and snow removal services with Cuba Township at its July meeting. In an effort to reduce the inconvenience to residents when their mailbox is accidentally hit or knocked down during snow removal operations, Tom Gooch, the Cuba Township Highway Commissioner, suggests that residents check their mailboxes now, while the weather is warm and conducive to making repairs, tightening bolts, and stabilizing wobbly posts. To learn more about the ice and snow removal services provided by Cuba Township, visit www.cubaroads.com.

Interested in Village Government...

Three trustee seats as well as the Village President's post will be up for election in the April 7, 2009, Consolidated Election. Nominating petitions will be due in January, although the exact filing date has not yet been announced on the Lake County Clerk's web site. If you are interested in running, check the county web site (www.co.lake.il.us/cntyck) for sample petitions, filing dates and other important candidate information.

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 3rd 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)

Beth Noll (Acting Chairperson)

Barbara Evans

Randy Pinchot

Bill Michael

Russell Mills

Village Hall:

Phone: (847) 726-1648

Fax: (847) 726-1659

E-mail: deerparkoffice@comcast.net

Website: 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

Kildeer Police:

Emergency: 911

Non-emergency: (847) 438-6010

Office: (847) 438-6644

Lake Zurich Fire Department:

Emergency: 911

Office: (847) 540-5070

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

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Reminders... * Lawns should be mowed on a regular basis and invasive weeds such as garlic-mustard and purple loosestrife should be removed as a courtesy to your neighbors.

* Please do not put **garbage** or yard waste out before **6 p.m. on the day prior** to collection and remove garbage carts from the curb **as soon as possible** after the pickup.

* Per Deer Park's Municipal Code, leaves and yard waste may be burned only two times a year: Fall burning is permitted **October 15th – November 15th**; spring burning is permitted **April 15th – May 15th**. During these times, leaves and yard waste may be burned **only on weekends from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.**

* **An integral part of the Village water management system are the swales and culverts** located in homeowners' yards. It is the responsibility of each homeowner to maintain these swales and culverts by ensuring they are clear of debris; check swales and culverts on an annual basis to determine water can flow freely through the system.

* Many household projects (including septic repairs, roof replacement, shed construction, and live tree removal) require **building permits**. Please check with the Village Office to determine if your project needs a permit.

* Per Village ordinances, **dogs and cats are not allowed to roam the Village freely**. Please be respectful of your neighbors and do not allow your pet on others' lawns. Dogs must be leashed when not on their owners' property. If your pet goes to the bathroom on a neighbor's property or on Village park property, please make a point of picking up after it. Loud barking is considered a nuisance and is prohibited by Village ordinances.

* **Boats, trailers, motor homes, commercial or inoperable vehicles** must be kept in a garage or stored off-site; they may not be parked in the driveway or anywhere else on your property except for loading and unloading.

* **Septic maintenance** is required for all septic systems. In addition to the usual pumping required for the tank, homeowners with aerator systems are required to have their aerator inspected every 6 months. Be aware that the Village's requirements for septic systems are in addition to, and are more restrictive than, those of Lake County.

* **Animals on private property (dead or alive) are the responsibility of the property owner**. The Village can provide assistance in removal of unwanted animals through cooperative programs with Lake County and Ela Township; however, **property owners will be billed for removal of these animals**.

* Although **Vehicle Stickers** are not required by the Village, as a convenience to residents who want a vehicle sticker, they may be purchased (\$5 per sticker) at the Village Office during normal business hours.