

VILLAGE OF DEER PARK est 1957

The Village of Deer Park Newsletter

March 2005

From the President's desk....

Dear Neighbor,

As the days lengthen we all begin to anticipate the coming springtime and the chance to once again enjoy the outdoors. This year, spring will also bring with it important elections. Every odd year our Village elects a portion of the Board of Trustees—this year 3 Trustee positions and the position of Village President are on the ballot. Additionally, there will be 2 important referenda—the Lake Zurich Rural Fire Protection District and the Lake County Road Improvement referenda. Each of these voting decisions will directly impact the lives of all Deer Park residents.

I encourage you to become involved in the election process by being informed about the candidates and the referenda—and then by exercising your right to vote. Also, for those residents who might be traveling over Spring Break from schools, the election is the Tuesday immediately following Spring Break. Unpredictable weather may impact travel plans, so absentee ballot may be a good choice.

Information on the elections is included in this newsletter, along with information on absentee voting.

See you at the polls!

Village President Scott Gifford

What's the Buzz?

The newsletter is available online at our Village website: www.village.deer-park.il.us . Generally the newsletter is published online when it goes to the printer, meaning that you have access online to the information approximately 2 weeks before the newsletter will arrive in your mailbox, due to printing and mailing lead times. Also online you will find information not included in the newsletter, such as press releases from local businesses, the high school, SWALCO, and Groot. Agendas for Board meetings are generally available online the Friday prior to scheduled meetings, and minutes of Board meetings are posted online after approval by the Board (therefore, there is a one-month delay, i.e., January minutes of the Board were approved at the February meeting, and are now available online).

Election for Village Offices

April 5th is the date of the next Village election. This election will include the offices of President (two candidates for one position) and Trustee (four candidates for three positions). The candidates are listed below in the order in which they will appear on the ballot. Generally, the Daily Herald and Pioneer Press conduct candidate interviews for endorsement purposes.

Candidates for President, in ballot order (vote for one)

H. Scott Gifford
Martin A. Jackson

Candidates for Trustee, in ballot order (vote for three)

Joel A. Rotter
Patricia Wattenberg Plautz
Howard A. Thrun, Jr.
Roger L. Hankin

Referenda which will appear on the ballot:

While there may be other referenda on the ballot, *the Board of Trustees has endorsed passage of the following two referenda: the Lake Country Road Improvement Referendum and the Lake Zurich Rural Fire Protection District Referenda.*

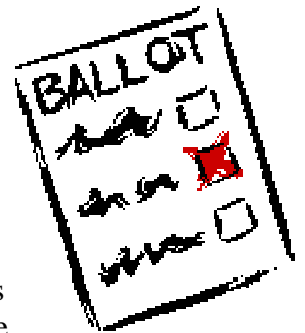
More information on the referenda appears below:

Voters can view actual ballots by visiting the web site for the county in which they reside:

Lake County:

www.co.lake.il.us/cntyclk/elections .

Cook County: www.voterinfont.com .



Lake County Road Improvement Referendum

This road improvement referendum would fund traffic congestion relief throughout Lake County. If implemented, the county sales tax would increase by ½ cent for each dollar spent. Groceries and prescription medications would be exempt. The additional funding would be used to improve traffic flow and reduce congestion through road widening, intersection improvements and traffic signal synchronization on state, county and local roads.

The referendum question that will appear on the ballot will be:

Shall the County of Lake be authorized to impose a tax at the rate of ½% upon all persons engaged in the business of selling tangible personal property at retail in the county on gross receipts from the sales made in the course of their business to be used for transportation purposes?

More information is available on the Lake County web site at www.co.lake.il.us. The site has a detailed map which splits most of the proposed projects into two color –coded categories denoting those that would be paid for out of sales tax revenue and those to be funded by current revenue sources. It is estimated that typical Lake County residents would pay an extra \$44 in sales tax annually if the proposal is approved.

Fire District Referendum

Jeff Sedlack, President of the Lake Zurich Rural Fire Protection District notes:

The area where you live is protected by the Lake Zurich Rural Fire Protection District. It differs from a municipal fire department in that it is a self-supporting entity; it levies a tax that is paid as part of your annual county real estate tax bill to pay for Ambulance, Fire and related Emergency Services. This is the Fire District's principal revenue source. The law does not provide for us to receive sales tax revenue from retailers.

Respecting the decision of the residents to not support the District's November 2, 2004 referendum questions and raise taxes at that time to provide full emergency services response levels on a 24/7 basis, the District has begun adjusting coverage's in preparation for the long term implementation of necessary reductions. As an interim measure, and in the best interest of "Life Safety", All District stations are now staffed for ambulance service only. Fire engines have been eliminated at two of the District fire stations, so that personnel could be redistributed enabling ambulance service at all stations. Fire response will come from one District station and the downtown Lake Zurich station, yielding lengthened response times. This will continue until May 1, 2005 at which time the District will no longer have the funds to continue this interim format and will have to return to complete closure of one of the District's stations on a rotational basis.

It is our hope that during the April 2005 vote the District's residents will recognize that the minimal tax increase being requested would provide an extraordinary high value return in ensuring the overall security and quality of life we have enjoyed in our community up until recently. Those who have experienced some reduction in response time during the recent cutbacks can relate their feelings about the impact to their sense of security. The rest of us should think of ourselves in similar scenarios to assess the level of concern we have prior to the next referendum in April. Your vote is very important to the total Fire Protection District, please consider your priorities and vote.

The Fire Protection District has **two tax rates for two different funds**—the combined funds make up the operating budget of the District. **The Corporate Tax Rate** accounts for fire operations and administrative costs; the **Special Tax** accounts for ambulance operations and administrative costs of these services. As a result, there will be **two separate referendum questions** posed to voters in November:

Shall the maximum allowable tax Rate for the Lake Zurich Rural Fire Protection District be increased from .30% to .40% of the value of all taxable property within the District as equalized or assessed by the Department of Revenue?

AND

Shall the Board of Trustees of the Lake Zurich Rural Fire Protection District be authorized to increase the Special Tax for ambulance service to a rate not to exceed .30% of the value of all taxable property within the District as equalized or assessed by the Department of Revenue for the purpose of providing ambulance service?

An estimate of the cost of the increase follows:

Home Market Value	Annual Tax Increase	Cost per month
\$300,000	\$150	\$12.50
\$400,000	\$200	\$16.66
\$500,000	\$250	\$20.83

Voting Information:

Information regarding polling locations and sample ballots can be found on the web at:

Lake County: www.co.lake.il.us/cntyclk/elections/voterservices .

Cook County: www.voterinfont.com .

Absentee Voting

If you are unable to go to the polls for election-day voting, there are two options available to afford you the opportunity to vote—in-person absentee voting and absentee voting by mail. ***In-person absentee*** voting may be completed at the County Clerk’s office or at your Township Office as late as one day prior to the election. Please call these offices for details, hours, and documentation required.

Lake County Clerk: 847-377-2406

Cuba Township: 847-381-1924

Ela Township: 438-7823

Cook County Clerk: 312-603-0944

Palatine Township: 847-358-6700

Absentee voting by mail requires the County Clerk to mail the Application for Absentee Ballot, and once the signed application is received, the Clerk mails the ballot to the voter. Voters may request an application from the Lake County Clerk by:

- ❖ Calling 847-377-2406
- ❖ Email your name, address, and telephone number to elections@co.lake.il.us
- ❖ Fax your name, address, and telephone number to 847-625-7029
- ❖ Send your written request to:
 Lake County Clerk, Absentee voting
 18 North County Street
 Room 101
 Waukegan, IL 60085

Applications may be obtained from the Cook County Clerk by:

- ❖ Calling 312-603-0944
- ❖ Applications may be obtained by visiting either the Township or County office (phone numbers listed above)

Seen Somewhere: *People who stay home on Election Day because they don't want to have anything to do with crooked politics have a lot more to do with crooked politics than they think!*

Vehicle Stickers

Vehicle stickers are available **free of charge** at the Village Office during Office hours. Stickers are \$1.00 if requested by mail.

Be sure to check your expiration—vehicle stickers issued last year were valid through 2005.

Vehe Farm —Foundation’s President’s Comments—Accomplishments and Goals

Since its creation by the Village of Deer Park in 2000, the Vehe Farm Foundation has been guided by its vision statement for the farm: *“To provide the public with a visual and interactive experience featuring the essence of the original prairie, the history of local farming, community recreation, and a restored centennial barn and outbuildings serving as a community and cultural center.”*

The Foundation’s mission:

Preserve the 136-year-old Vehe Farm site and, through it, tell the history of local farming;

- Restore the essence of the original prairie and wetlands, promoting awareness of the 14-acre site’s wildlife habitats and partnering with the area school districts and community organizations to provide a venue for outdoor environmental studies;
- Provide the community with unique and much needed facilities for meetings and cultural arts and community events; and
- Offer environmentally low impact recreational activities—a nature trail, soccer field, tot lot, and garden areas—with a special emphasis on accessibility for senior citizens and disabled persons.

Goal: Preserve and modify the main barn and six outbuildings for use as a village meeting hall, a community center, and a cultural arts venue. Provide interior and exterior space for museum exhibits that tell about the Vehe family and the life of early area farmers.

The exterior of the barn has been restored as the first step in the adaptive reuse of the barn and outbuildings. The barn interior is now being modernized and made suitable for community meetings, cultural arts performance, receptions, and arts and museum exhibits. The outbuildings will be restored as museum exhibits and used as exhibit areas during outdoor community events.

Goal: Create a native prairie and wetland area, and educate the public on the essential elements and importance of these habitats.

Initial restoration efforts dispersed seed including 70 different prairie species. In addition, 2500 plants, tuber, bulbs, and rootstocks were planted. Citizens for Conservation (CFC) has annually donated seed and plants for the ongoing prairie restoration efforts. Combined with plant material purchased by the Foundation, 2250 prairie plants and 1800 wetland plants have been planted.

In 2004, in recognition of the successful prairie restoration work done on Vehe Farm, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 and Chicago Wilderness, a consortium of more than 175 public and private organizations, recognized the Village of Deer for its high quality prairie restoration efforts.

Also, in 2004, Vehe Farm received certification from the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) as a backyard wildlife habitat.

Goal: Provide opportunities for local school districts and youth organizations to use the site for educational and civic programs.

A local Cub Scout group has assisted with the planting of prairie plants, and made and installed nine bluebird houses. Additional excursions to the farm have been made by other local youth groups.

Goal: Build recreational facilities to include a soccer field, nature trail, and tot lot.

A soccer field has been built and is in its second year of use by soccer associations in both Ela and Cuba Townships. A nature trail has been created for visitors’ passive recreation. The tot lot will be built upon completion of barn and outbuilding restoration work.

Goal: Establish a farmers’ memorial, inclusive of a windmill, and a butterfly garden for the public’s education and enjoyment.

A focal point to telling the history of local farming will be a memorial on the farm to honor the original farmers who settled the Deer Park area. The goal is to complete the memorial in 2006. Opened to the public in the summer of 2004, the butterfly garden has been created to attract visitors interested in learning about butterflies and their habitat needs. The garden’s current approximate size is 50 feet by 50 feet and includes more than 50 different types of flowering plants and shrubs. It has been designated a memorial garden in honor of Mrs. Betty McLaughlin—a co-designer of the garden and an area resident for 75 years. In partnership with the Little Garden Club of Barrington, volunteers maintain the garden. A separate contribution fund for accepting private donations has been established to fund the maintenance and expansion of the garden.

Goal: Provide a high degree of site accessibility for senior citizens and handicapped persons.

With a special emphasis on seniors' and disabled persons' accessibility needs, the location and materials of the paths will enable the broader public to visit the barn and outbuildings, memorial area, soccer field, pond and wetland areas, and butterfly garden. The construction of these paths is planned for 2006.

Sincere Thanks: These accomplishments were achieved, and the 2005-2006 goals described above will be reached, because of the continued support of the Village trustees, residents, Foundation members, and volunteers. As Foundation president, I wish to express my thanks to all of you for sharing in this community enriching vision and providing your continued support to the Vehe Farm endeavor. It will be a truly wonderful community asset. *Teri Bridge, Foundation President*

Email Updates are available from both the Village Office and the Kildeer Police. If you are interested in receiving ***Village news of a time sensitive nature***, email the Clerk at dpclerk@comcast.net to be added to the *Deer Park Dispatch* list. If you are interested in ***community alert information*** from the ***Kildeer Police***, log onto their website at www.kildeerpolice.com.

Animal Control

Animals on private property—alive or dead—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**, and rates are determined by the County and Township, not the Village. Property owners may choose to secure the services of private companies for removal services of unwanted animals.

Ordinances Passed

Correction: The December '04 Newsletter stated Ordinance 04-35 had passed (Special Use for Praedium Development). Praedium had received Final Approval from the Plan Commission at printing of that newsletter, but was still pending before the Board of Trustees.

05-01: Grants Special Use to Praedium Development for the Town Center Promenade at Long Grove and Rand Roads.

Resolutions Passed

R04-08: Designates Trustee Kizior as Alternate Director for SWALCO for the Village.

R05-01: Supports and encourages the development of affordable housing in the Village in compliance with State Statutes.

Board Meetings

Board meetings are held the **3rd Monday** of every month at **7:00 p.m.** at Charles Quentin Elementary School. Charles Quentin is located at 21250 West Shirley Road, Palatine. Agendas for the meeting are posted at the Village Office by the close of business Fridays prior to meetings, may be requested by email from the Village Office (deerparkoffice@comcast.net), and are available on the Village website (www.village.deer-park.il.us).

Meeting dates for **2005** are as follows:

March 21	April 18
May 16	June 20
July 18	August 15
September 19	October 17
November 21	December 19

Village Officials

President—H. Scott Gifford

Administrator—Kari Diesen-Dahl

Administrative Assistant—Josie Doniec

Treasurer—Terri Stade

Clerk—Sandra Smith

Trustees: (meets 3rd Monday of the month)

Greg Dowell: Finance

Pat Ekstrom: Roads & Public Utilities

David Kizior: Parks & Recreation

Patricia Plautz: Health & Sanitation

Joel Rotter: Planning & Zoning

Howard Thrun: Public Safety

Plan Commission:(meets 1st Monday of the month, as needed)

Chair—David Heidtke

Frank Comber

Jan Koe

Bill Koutsis

Eric Lorenz

Sandy Schroeder

Zoning Board of Appeals: (meets on request)

Chair—Randy Szczesny

Barbara Evans

Dr. Aurel Goglin

Jack Honomichl

Russell Mills

Beth Noll

Contact Us:

Phone: 726-1648 Fax: 726-1659

Email: deerparkoffice@comcast.net

Website: www.village.deer-park.il.us

Police: (emergency) 911

(non-emergency) 438-6010

(office) 438-6644

Fire: (emergency) 911 (office) 540-5070

Village Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday: 9 – 12:30 & 1:30 – 5:00

Friday: 9 – 12:30



Reminders

*The next time **burning leaves and yard refuse** will be allowed is ***on weekends*** from **April 15 – May 15, during the hours of 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM.** Only the Village can authorize burning outside of the times specified by Village ordinances; requests for variations must be submitted to the Village Office in writing for review by the Village Board.

* Many household projects (including septic repairs) require **building permits** due to specific regulations concerning construction. Please check projects with the Village office to determine if you need a permit.

* **Dogs** must be leashed when not on their owners' property, per Village Ordinances. Be aware that cats must not be allowed to roam the Village freely. Also, loud barking is considered a nuisance and prohibited by Village ordinances.

* **Motorized vehicles** are not allowed in Village Parks.

* **Please ensure the use of Deer Park as the city in your postal address.** Not only will this speed up delivery of your mail, it will also ensure that any taxes you pay are directed to the correct municipality.

* **Septic Maintenance** is required for all septic systems. For homeowners with aerator systems, Village ordinances require inspections of the aerator every 6 months, in addition to the usual pumping required for the tank. Also, be aware that the Village requirements for septic systems are in addition to those of Lake County, and are generally more strict than those of Lake County. Check with the Village Office if you are unsure of the requirements for your particular system.

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

**Presort Std.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Barrington IL
Permit 101**

House registration

Please fill in the following information to register your house with the Kildeer Police Department. This form provides the police with a contact person for when you are away or out of town, should something happen involving your home. If you have any questions, please call the department at 438-6644.

Kildeer Police Department—2005 House Registration

Please fill out and send to the Police Department—21911 Quentin Rd., Kildeer, IL 60047

All information is kept strictly confidential

Name _____ Address _____ Phone _____

Alarm w/outside ringer only Alarm connects to a receiving station No alarm

Keyholder's Name _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

In Case of Emergency, Please Notify: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Other Pertinent Information: i.e., Alarm Company/Phone, Dog, etc. (please list on separate sheet)