

VILLAGE OF DEER PARK

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The Village of Deer Park Newsletter

Spring 2008

Dear Neighbor,

Most of you have probably noticed the yard signs around the Village proclaiming "People Before Freight." These signs are part of a campaign by the ***Barrington Communities Against Canadian National Rail Congestion*** coalition to fight the proposed acquisition of the EJ&E Railway by Canadian National Railroad (CN).

Deer Park has been a member of this coalition since its inception. The Village Board has officially and unanimously declared its commitment to opposing the acquisition and many Deer Park residents have zealously responded to the coalition's call for public involvement in stopping CN.

According to CN's acquisition application, Deer Park would see more than 15 new freight trains per day. These additional trains would back up traffic significantly on Cuba Road (where the EJ&E passes through Deer Park), interfere with emergency response traffic and create noise that would disrupt our otherwise quiet community.

So far, the coalition has been successful in persuading the U.S. Surface Transportation Board (STB) to require a comprehensive Environmental Impact Study prior to making its ruling regarding the acquisition. This study could take up to three years to complete; in addition to addressing typical environmental concerns such as groundwater contamination, the study will address traffic flow, crossing safety, noise and other issues.

The coalition and other communities along the EJ&E have rallied state and federal legislators to join the call against the acquisition. On March 17th, seven members of the Illinois Congressional Delegation sent a joint letter of opposition to the STB. I encourage you to read the full text of this extremely informative letter available on the coalition's web site www.fightrailcongestion.com.

This joint letter is a tremendous step forward, but please remember that fighting CN will take persistent and continued 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.

I thank those of you who have already contributed, time, effort and attention to this issue; and 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.

--Scott Gifford
Village President

For the most up-to-date information, to find out how you can get involved in fighting the CN acquisition, and to read the Illinois Congressional Delegation joint letter, visit the ***Barrington Communities Against Canadian National Rail Congestion*** web site:

www.fightrailcongestion.com

Board Proposes \$3.38 Million Budget

At a special meeting held March 31st, the Village Board hammered out a fiscal year 2009 budget that envisions expenditures of \$3,561,754 and revenues of \$2,992,492. The actual deficit could be smaller than projected, however, because the Board prefers to be conservative in its revenue estimates.

Police services continue to make up the largest portion of the Village's budget. In March the Board approved a new long-term contract with the Kildeer Police Department that will cap increases at 5 percent a year. The cost for the coming year will be \$1.33 million, with Lake Zurich dispatch services costing an additional \$56,899.

Roads, drainage and infrastructure maintenance represent the second largest line item with a total budget of \$1,034,000. That amount breaks down as follows:

- Road repair has a budget totaling \$551,000 (\$371,000 from the general fund plus \$180,000 coming from the Motor Fuel Tax fund). Road repair will consist of patching and sealing cracks throughout the Village in addition to resurfacing 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).
- The Board has allocated \$210,000 for drainage projects. Phase three of the Ferndale subdivision drainage project is budgeted at \$180,000, while a new outlet structure for the wetlands just north of Forest Green Lake Estates is estimated to cost \$30,000.
- Snow and ice control has a budget of \$100,000. The remaining \$173,000 is allocated to storm sewer cleaning, root cutting, miscellaneous maintenance, street signs, street lights, engineering fees and resident engineering assistance.

Resident engineering assistance is a program that was successfully piloted by the Board in 2007 whereby residents may request up to \$500 assistance from the Village Engineer to give guidance on private property drainage problems. Homeowners are required to pledge to fund the repairs; this allows smaller projects involving the Village right-of-way to move forward more quickly.

The Village continues to pay off the short-term loan that was incurred to buy the property that is now Town Center Park. The principle and interest payments for the coming year will equal \$297,995. The final payment on the debt will be paid in January of 2010.

Other significant line items include salaries, benefits and payroll taxes (\$221,236), park expenses which include landscaping, maintenance, capital improvements, and grant fees (\$106,272), legal fees for the village attorney and the traffic court attorney (\$101,000), and building inspector's fees (\$70,000). Reimbursable expenses (which appear on the pie chart as 4 percent of the Village's budget) are expenses for which the Village is reimbursed in full by a third party, such as a developer.

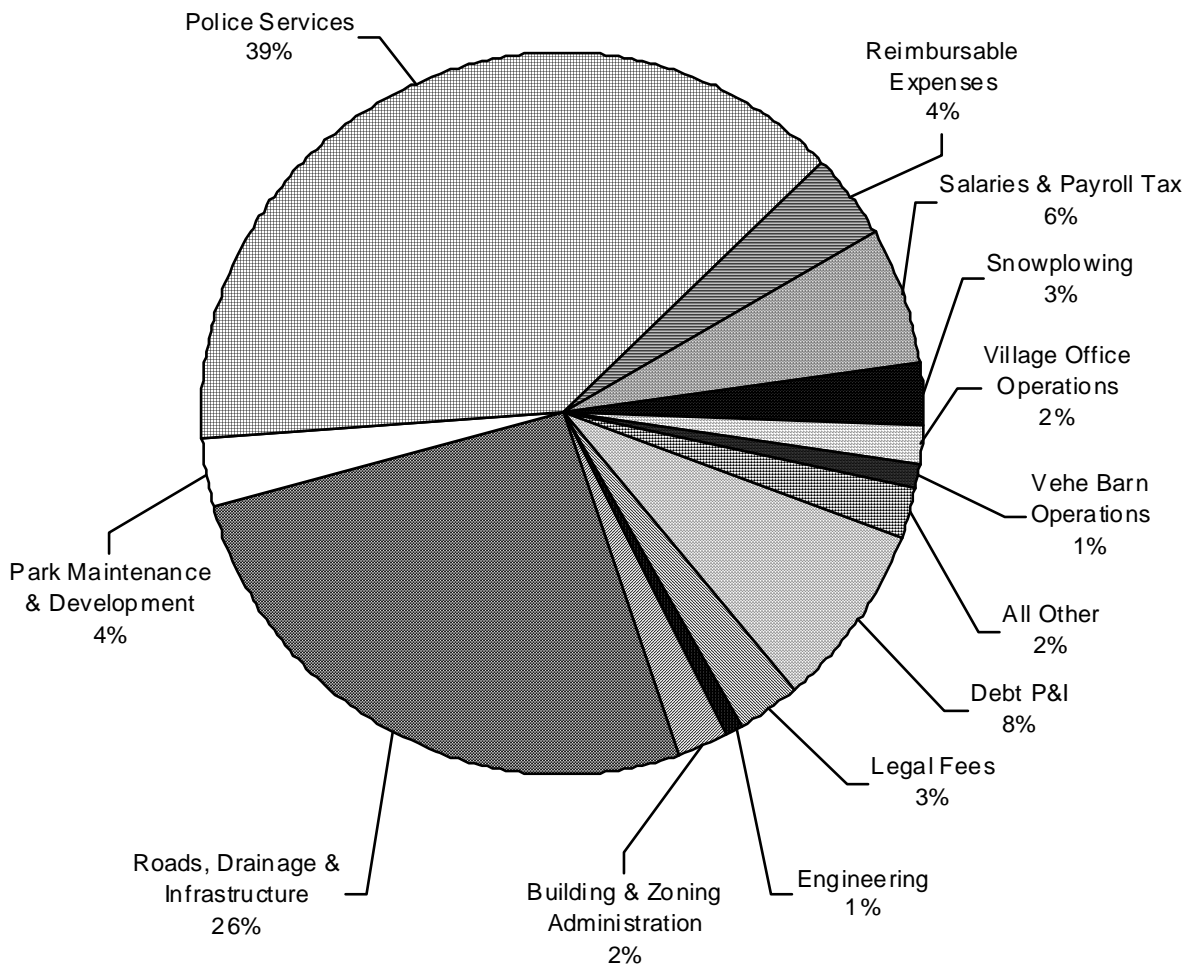
On the revenue side, the largest inflow (\$1.43 million) is expected from the Village's portion of the state sales tax. The utility tax is estimated to bring in \$300,000, while the telecommunication tax is expected to add another \$187,000. The Village's share of the state income tax is projected to be \$287,500 and the entertainment tax could bring in \$130,000. Other sources of income include Motor Fuel Tax funds, traffic fines, building permit fees, cable franchise fees, business registration fees, liquor license fees, barn rental fees, park usage fees, and park sponsorships.

Potential revenue that may decrease the budget deficit includes income from the red-light camera enforcement program. The Board hopes to have the cameras installed by this fall; President Gifford suggested that the Board to consider putting the income from that program into a reserve to help fund the annual 5 percent increase in the police contract. It is also possible that the Village may realize some income from the hotel tax depending on when the Hampton Inn & Suites opens for business. Finally, the Village may see more than the \$1.43 million budgeted from the sales tax.

Village Treasurer Stade estimates that the Village will have \$1.56 million in cash at the end of the current fiscal year. If the more conservative revenue estimates hold true, that balance would be reduced to \$1.13 million by the end of April 2009.

The Board is expected to vote on the budget at its April 21st meeting. The fiscal year begins May 1st. See the pie chart below for additional information on the proposed budget.

2008-2009 Village Budget



Please Take Note as the Spring Burning Season Approaches...

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 15th – November 15th; **the spring burning season is 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.** The residents who observe the leaf burning rules of Deer Park are appreciated.

Contact the Lake County Health Department for additional information, alternatives to burning and **Good Neighbor Leaf Burning Tips** that will minimize the impact leaf burning has on neighbors and the environment:

Lake County Health Department –
Phone: (847) 360.6747
Web site: www.co.lake.il.us/health

Yard Waste Collection Options...

The yard waste season runs from April 1st to November 30th. In order to be eligible to have yard waste collected by Groot, the Village's waste hauler, 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. Yard waste collections are made the same day as refuse and recycling collections.

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 directly at (847) 734-6400.

Groot to Collect SWALCO Fee for Village...

Deer Park residents may notice a \$1 surcharge on their July garbage and recycling bill from Groot. This surcharge is the result of an annual Operations and Maintenance Fee enacted by the Solid Waste Agency of Lake County (SWALCO). SWALCO is an intergovernmental entity and therefore does not receive funding from Lake County. Last year SWALCO voted to enact the Operations and Maintenance Fee and to assess each of its 42 municipal members \$1 per household in order to achieve a balanced budget.

As Deer Park is one of SWALCO's municipal members, the Village Board voted at its March meeting to pay this \$1 per household assessment to SWALCO in full (totaling \$1,104). Although Groot has no relationship to SWALCO, they have agreed to collect the surcharge on behalf of the Village and forward the funds to the Village as they are received.

SWALCO was formed in 1991 to implement the Lake County Solid Waste Management Plan. Solid waste management encompasses the entire spectrum of garbage, from its generation and transportation to recycling and land filling. It includes all the administrative, financial, environmental, and operational aspects of the management of solid wastes.

SWALCO's member communities comprise at least 85 percent of Lake County's population. SWALCO educates and advises Lake County member communities about solid waste issues. The agency offers both permanent and mobile household chemical waste recycling programs, household electronic collections and athletic shoe recycling. The agency also sells compost bins and rain barrels to residents. For more information about any of SWALCO's programs, call the agency at (847) 336-9340 or visit its web site at www.co.lake.il.us/swalco.

Vehe Farm Foundation Initiative Seeks to Leave No Child Inside

The Vehe Farm Foundation has joined a national effort to encourage children to spend more unstructured time outside and will kick off the initiative June 22nd at Vehe Farm with an event called **“Leave No Child Inside -- Bringing to the Barrington/Lake Zurich Area the National Dialogue on Nature-Deficit Disorder.”**

The program is for parents and children as well as area civic, business, education, recreation and faith-based leaders. While the adults are listening to speakers in the areas of nature, conservation, landscape architecture, and medicine, children will be engaged with nature-based play activities led by Citizens for Conservation.

Leave No Child Inside (LNCI) is sponsored locally by Chicago Wilderness, a consortium of more than 200 member organizations. The consortium launched its multi-year LNCI campaign for the Chicago area in 2007, becoming one of more than three dozen initiatives nationwide aimed at reconnecting children with nature.

The Foundation is seeking volunteers to help with the LNCI initiative and to serve on a variety of other committees relating to children’s cultural arts, grant writing, fundraising and publicity, as well as to join in the ongoing prairie restoration effort Saturdays from noon to 2 p.m.

For more information, call (847) 331-0967 or go to www.vehefarmfoundation.org

Health World Summer Camp will be held at Vehe Farm again this year. Camps include the Adventure Camp for 4 and 5 year olds, Quest Camp for 6 to 8 year olds, and Dissection Detectives for 9 to 12 year olds. For more information, call (847) 842-9100 or visit <http://www.healthworldoutreach.org/>.

Vehe Barn Rental...

Vehe Barn’s interior renovation is complete, and the space is available for rent for a wide variety of functions. Already, two 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.

Vehe Barn Events Coordinator Yvonne Keith was hired by the Village in December to facilitate rentals of the Barn. The Barn has a commercial kitchen and a complete audio/visual system available to renters. For more information about renting the Barn, contact Yvonne at (847) 438-0764 or via email: deerparkevents@comcast.net.

Part-Time Opportunity...

As of May 1st, the Village will be accepting resumes and interviewing to fill a part-time Maintenance Coordinator position for the Vehe Barn facility.

This part-time position requires up to 10 hours per week. General duties include coordinating the daily, weekly, monthly and yearly facility maintenance and repairs as well as event set-ups and take-downs during day, evening and weekend events.

The position requires a high school diploma or equivalent as well as a valid driver’s license. Two years of facility maintenance experience are preferred, but not required.

Applicants should send a letter and resume to Village Administrator Jim Connors, Deer Park Village Office, 23680 Cuba Road, Deer Park IL 60010 or deerparkoffice@comcast.net. For more information, call Mr. Connors at (847) 726-1648.

Village to File Claim Against Contractor's Bonding Company

The Village Board voted at its March meeting to pay the final invoice from Pepper Construction, the contractor who took over the Vehe Barn renovation project from the original contractor, R.W. Clark. Clark's contract was terminated in June of 2007 for failure of the company to fulfill its terms, particularly the completion date.

One important clause included in the original R. W. Clark contract stipulated that if Clark was unable to fulfill the contract and the Village had to hire another contractor to complete the project, Clark and/or the bond company backing him would be liable for any amount the Village had to pay over the original contract amount in order to get the project done. The total amount paid to Pepper to finish the job was \$640,509. This is substantially more than the amount remaining in Clark's contract. The Village will now seek to recoup the overage from Clark or the company that issued Clark's construction bond.

At the time Pepper was hired, the majority of the Village Board expressed the opinion that the money already spent (to renovate the exterior of the Barn and the interior work that Clark had already completed) would be wasted if the project was not finished. Pepper's cost basis was higher than Clark's, but some of the additional costs were incurred because Pepper discovered substandard work completed by Clark that had to be redone. Clark's references were checked in 2004 when his bid was accepted, and there was no indication at that time that he would not be able to complete the project on time, within budget and according to code.

The Board has directed Village Attorney Paul Keller to attempt to recover the excess money spent by filing a claim with the company that put up the original contractor's bond. Questions have been raised about the viability of the bonding company, however, and it is uncertain at this point how much, if anything, the Village will be able to recover. The payments to Pepper and to several subcontractors of Clark who stayed on the job have been made from the Village's general fund.

Certain work that was included in Clark's contract will be put on hold at this time, specifically the renovation of the farm outbuildings. The Vehe Farm Foundation will work to secure grants for the Village to fund those projects as soon as possible. The Foundation will also investigate potential sources of funding for a tot lot and handicapped-accessible walking paths for Vehe Farm, which were included in the original site plan when the Village received a grant from the state to help purchase the property.

Resident Communication via Email Updates...

Did you recently receive an email from the Village Clerk notifying you of the March 31st special Board meeting? If not, then you are NOT enrolled in the Deer Park Dispatch Program. This is a voluntary email notification program available to residents who wish to receive time-sensitive Village information via email. If you would like to enroll in this program, send an email request to the Village Clerk including your name and email address:
deerparkclerk@comcast.net.

Damage from Snowplows?

If your mailbox or lawn were damaged this winter by Ela Township Highway Department snowplows, please call the Village Office immediately. Snow and slush damage do not warrant replacement of a mailbox by the Township, but 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.

Road, Drainage and Infrastructure Funding February 2008 Sales Tax Referendum

In recent years the Village Board has grappled with the issue of how to fund road and drainage repairs. Asphalt prices have risen astronomically, and Village Engineer Todd Gordon has determined that the Village needs to do \$700,000-\$1 million of road repair work each year for the next five years in order to fix existing problems. In addition, the torrential rains last summer made evident many drainage and aging infrastructure problems that were not previously apparent.

The Village Board voted at its October 2007 meeting to place a referendum on the February 2008 ballot seeking to impose a sales tax of one-half of 1 percent (0.5%) on all goods and services sold within the Village limits. Per Illinois Statute use of this additional revenue is restricted to public infrastructure expenditures such as road and drainage projects.

Village voters defeated the Sales Tax Referendum with 41 percent of voters in favor of the 0.5% sales tax increase and 59 percent of voters opposing the increase. The Board had projected that the incremental revenue generated by the additional half-percent sales tax could have been between \$600,000 and \$700,000 in the coming fiscal year, which begins May 1st.

In discussions at the October 2007 Village Board meeting, trustees agreed that an additional 0.5% sales tax would greatly benefit the community while having a negligible impact on Village residents and retailers. The majority of people who shop and dine in Deer Park do not live in the Village, so most of the additional sales tax revenue would come from non-residents. Data from other towns that have imposed an additional sales tax show that few customers are lost when the tax is increased by a small amount.

The Village does not levy a real estate (property) tax nor does it require residents to purchase vehicle stickers (which many towns use to fund road work). As a non-home rule community, the Village has limited taxation and revenue raising options and the Board is concerned that the other options, such as building permit fees or a real estate transfer tax, are not reliable sources of revenue in the long run. Because road and drainage issues are never-ending, the Village Board feels it needs to find a revenue source that will be relatively permanent and produce a fairly large amount of money.

Currently, the sales tax in the Village is 6.5%, with 5.5% going to the state and other government entities, and 1% being returned to Village coffers. Sales tax and state motor fuel tax (gasoline tax) are the primary sources of revenue for Village road projects. The Village portion of the motor fuel tax is expected to be \$88,000 for the coming fiscal year; these funds are restricted to expenditures on roads. That amount, however, doesn't come close to funding necessary road and drainage work, even when combined with current sales tax revenue. If a new source of revenue is not added, Village streets, roads and flood control systems will deteriorate faster than the Village can repair or improve them.

The Village Web site – www.village.deer-park.il.us

Stay tuned in with what's happening in the Village between newsletter publications by visiting the Village web site. Web site items you may find interesting that are not included in this publication due to space constraints include:

- ◆ Information on the recently approved red light photo enforcement program and the agreement with RedSpeed Illinois (expect a summer newsletter article - the program is expected to launch this fall).
- ◆ Environmental resources for homeowners recommended by Village Engineer Todd Gordon include Living with Wetlands, Neighborhood Best Management Practices; Maintaining Stormwater, and Fertilizer.
- ◆ Upcoming Village meeting agendas, public hearing notices and approved minutes. (Check after April 21st for the changes approved in the Accessory Building section of the Village's municipal code.)
- ◆ SWALCO used tire collection (May 13th).

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

Village to Launch *Connect-CTY*[®] Service

The Village Board is pleased to announce the launch of the *Connect-CTY*[®] service, Deer Park's new village-to-resident notification system. With this service, Village officials can send personalized voice messages to residents and businesses within minutes with specific information about time-sensitive or common-interest issues such as emergencies and local community matters. The *Connect-CTY*[®] service will be used to supplement current communication plans and augment public safety.

Publicly available primary residential and business phone numbers in Deer Park will automatically be included in the system. In the near future, President Gifford will be making a test call to these numbers.

Additionally, residents may opt-in to provide their complete information (up to three phone numbers and two email addresses) and indicate if they have a TTY/TDD (for hearing impaired) device by visiting the Deer Park web site (www.village.deer-park.il.us) and clicking on the *Connect-CTY*[®] secure link. Your personal information is important; rest assured that the Village will not share it with anyone.

The Village received an Infrastructure Maintenance Fee grant award, which will fund the *Connect-CTY*[®] system for seven years (2008-2015). Please accept the Board's invitation to participate in this great service. For additional information and answers to Frequently Asked Questions, see the Village web site. Those without Internet access may call the Village Office with questions and to have their additional information added by Village staff: (847) 726-1648.