

Vernon Hills Village Voice

People Planning with Pride

The Official Newsletter of the Village of Vernon Hills

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May 8 Tree Sale to Offer Larger Saplings

Our tree-loving tradition continues with the Annual Village Tree Sale set for Saturday, May 8. This event has become a Vernon Hills favorite, providing residents with high quality trees at very reasonable prices.

The sale will be held at the Public Works facility, 490 Greenleaf Drive (at the corner of Greenleaf and Butterfield Road). Hours are 8 to 9 a.m. for pre-sale order pick ups, and 9 a.m. to noon for same-day sales.

This year, Village Arborists have hand picked seven species from which to choose: Colorado Green Spruce, Autumn Blaze Maple, Shadblow Serviceberry, Kousa Dogwood "Milkyway," Prairiefire Crabapple, Bur Oak, and Bald Cypress.

To honor residents' requests for trees with more growth, this year's trees are larger — most come in 5-gallon containers. With that in mind, residents may want to arrange for appropriate transportation.

Cost is \$20 per tree, with residents allowed to purchase up to three trees per household. You may be required to show proof of residency, and some restrictions apply with regard to homeowner's associations.

Given demand, the Village encourages you to pre-order your selections. Details about each species, as well as order information, are available on the Village website (www.vernonhills.org) as well as at the Village Hall and Public Works Department.

Note: In an effort to hold down expenses, Public Works employees will not be providing free woodchip delivery this year. However there is always a large supply of free woodchips available at Public Works. Please bring your own shovel and containers.



Colorado Green Spruce



Shadblow Serviceberry



Prairiefire Crabapple

New this spring...

Vernon Hills Community Harvest Farmers Market

Starts May 26

Wednesdays from
7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Route 60 and Milwaukee Avenue
in Westfield Shoppingtown lot

For information:

MarketManager@vhills.org
or 847-367-3700

From the Mayor...

Sales Tax and Road Work

Sales Tax Referendum: As many of you are no doubt aware, a Lake County Referendum to collect an additional quarter percent sales tax in Lake County was defeated on March 16th. This money was earmarked for road and intersection improvements that are sorely needed to alleviate the growing traffic congestion problems of our area. For this reason the defeat of the referendum is not good news for southcentral Lake County. We hope that the county opts to seek approval for this increase again in the future, and at that time it is able to gain the support of Lake County residents for this important measure.

Extra Caution for Springtime

Workers: As you're driving in the streets of Vernon Hills, please be mindful of the presence of Village employees. Police Officers, Building Inspectors, and Public Works crews can often be found working on or along the roads of our community, which is an especially dangerous environment. These employees and their families would greatly appreciate some added caution from all motorists. Please slow down and exercise heightened caution when passing stopped Village vehicles or for any crews working near the road, or on islands in the median.

Roger L. Byrne

Town Trivia: Who is Vernon Hills' largest employer?

For the answer, go to www.vernonhills.org and check the economic development information posted in the "Community Development" section — or read the answer in the next newsletter.

Village Unveils Broadcast Email System

The Village recently unveiled a broadcast email communication system, offering another way that residents can be reached with important (though not necessarily emergency) information.

For example, if a section of village street will be closed for repairs, an email might be sent to residents in that area to pass along pertinent information.

Registration for the system is voluntary and simple. Log on to the Village web site (www.vernonhills.org), enter your email address, and select the region(s) that apply to you. More information is also posted. In light of the potential benefits, the Village encourages residents to participate.

Train Horn Comments Due April 19

The Federal Rail Administration is accepting public comments until **April 19** with regard to train horn noise. This comment period is in conjunction with the FRA's "Interim Final Rule on the Use of Locomotive Horns at Highway-Rail Grade Crossings," which addressed, among other things, the creation of quiet zones around residential areas.

The Village has already provided comment, and will continue to work closely with neighboring municipalities to explore ways to maintain safety, reduce

disruption, and lessen the burden of current requirements. If residents wish to voice their opinions, direct letters to: Docket Management Facility
US Department of Transportation
400 Seventh Street, SW
Nassif Building, Room PL-401
Washington, DC 20590

You may also fax comments to 202-493-2251. Please be sure to include your name, address, and phone number. Additional information is posted on the Village website, www.vernonhills.org.

4th of July Parade Approaches



The Village is now accepting registrations for entries in this

year's 4th of July parade. Take part!

Participation is free — it's a great opportunity for your service organization! For information, call Lisa Fischbach at 847-918-3562 or download a registration form from www.vernonhills.org.

Please note that the parade will run at its "traditional" time — 9 a.m. until approximately 11 a.m. on Sunday, July 4. The Parade Committee gave great consideration to the fact that Independence Day falls on Sunday. Given the availability of marching units, the timing of other parades, and generally cooler morning temperatures, it was decided to keep the parade at the Sunday morning time.

Parade volunteers will make every effort to assist residents in navigating the Deerpath area that day. We thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Passport Service Now Offered at Village Hall

The Village Hall, 290 Evergreen Drive, has been designated an official passport application site by the U.S. Department of State. U.S. citizens may apply for passports by appointment, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Detailed information on application requirements, a complete list of locations to apply, downloadable application forms, and a wealth of other international travel information is available at travel.state.gov.

IN BUSINESS

Shopping in town supports our community — one percent of all sales tax revenue comes back to our Village. With that in mind, here are a few business openings taken from recent permit requests:

- Bank One, 325 N. Milwaukee Ave.
- Baxter Medical Delivery Services, 1000 Butterfield Rd., #1021
- Chuck E. Cheese, 700 Milwaukee, #134 (*opening soon*)
- Direct Communications, 700 Milwaukee Ave., #127
- Justice/Just For Girls, 701 Milwaukee Ave., #288
- Phoenix Business Consultants, 3 Hawthorn Pkwy., #180
- Asian Treasure, 526 Hawthorn Ctr.
- New kiosks at Westfield Shoppingtown Hawthorn include:
 - Cellular Advantage
 - Chicago Lilac
 - Dell Direct
 - Dish Network
 - Pashmina
 - Uptown Pets
 - Urban Conspiracy

From the Board Room...

Budget Discussions, Sports Fields

Here are some topics being addressed at Village Hall. Board meetings are the first and third Tuesdays, and are rebroadcast on Cable Channel 4 (*Thursday at 6:30 p.m.; Saturday at 11 a.m.; Sunday at 8 p.m.*).

- Ongoing budget discussions have resulted in more than \$1.4 million in expense reductions, including the elimination of 10 positions that have gone unfilled since November 2002. A budget draft is now available at Village Hall, with a **public hearing scheduled for April 6** starting at 7 p.m. in the boardroom.
- The Mayor continues to accept letters of inquiry into the **vacant Trustee position**, created when Stephanie Weil moved out of the area. Residents wishing consideration should submit a letter to Village President Roger L. Byrne, at the Village Hall, 290 Evergreen Drive. Letters will also be accepted via email at lynnd@vhills.org. Letters will continue to be accepted until the position is filled.
- Trustees continue to work at committee level to discuss the funding and physical parameters of the proposed Town Center **TIF** development at Milwaukee/Route 45.
- Signs have been posted on the **commercial properties** along Milwaukee Avenue at Gregg's Parkway. Prior to any develop-

ment, the Planning and Zoning Commission will hold public meetings, which residents will be encouraged to attend.

- Work is substantially complete at the **Vernon Hills Athletic Complex**. The Village is working with the Park District and three school districts on final agreements for maintenance, use policies, etc. The park will see more extensive use this spring, with a formal dedication expected in mid-summer.
- The Village is investigating the installation of a Thor Guard **lightning warning system** for the Vernon Hills Athletic Complex and the 9-hole golf course. (White Deer Run already has a system.)
- Final surface will be applied to **Fairway Drive** through the Vernon Hills Athletic Complex, with work expected to be finished by mid-summer.
- By mid-April, a **new sign** will be installed along route 45 at the Vernon Hills Golf Course.
- **Metra crews** continue building the bridge near Route 45 and Deerpath and are expected to complete their work in early summer.
- Watch for construction at **Milwaukee and Old Half Day** from now through June.

Answers to Common Home Project Questions



The last Village newsletter provided a few commonly asked questions regarding home improvements and the permit process. Here is more information from the Community Development Department:

Q: Why do I need approval from my Homeowners Association (HOA) before submitting a building permit application?

A: Many subdivisions have active HOAs that have asked for the opportunity to review and approve projects in accordance with their subdivision covenants. This requirement reduces unnecessary expense and frustration that may arise when a proposed improvement conflicts

with neighborhood standards. Generally, HOA approval letters are required for all exterior property improvements.

Q: What does a building permit cost?

A: Generally, the cost of a permit is 1% of the total value of construction with a minimum residential permit fee of \$25. All permits also require a refundable cash completion bond, which is also based on construction value, with a minimum of \$50. Typically, completion bonds are refunded about four weeks after the final inspection.

Q: How do I request an inspection?

A: Inspections may be requested Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. by calling 847-367-3704. Inspections need to be requested one day in advance. Please provide the permit number, the project address, and the type of inspection required. If you want to be present for the inspection, the Department will do its best to schedule an approximate time for the inspector and resident to meet.

For more information, check online at www.vernonhills.org, or stop by the Department from 8:30 to 5 each weekday. (Department staff are available beginning at 7:30 a.m. by calling 847-367-3704.)

Ordinance Requires Secured Firearms...

PD Provides Free Trigger Locks

Although Vernon Hills does not require a gun owner's permit, there are still firearms-related Village ordinances (in addition to state law) that must be abided by. In fact, if you were a Vernon Hills resident in 1998, you might remember when the village enacted two important ordinances relating to firearms. One of the ordinances deals with parental responsibility. The second is more commonly known as a trigger lock ordinance. The latter is one that we'd like to review with you.

The trigger lock ordinance requires that all firearms sold, transferred, or possessed within Vernon Hills have a protective trigger lock installed. The ordinance defines a "trigger lock" as any operable device which must be unlocked or disengaged in order to

shoot a firearm. Though the photos at right show only handguns and locks, the ordinance requires locks on all firearms.

No one can disagree with the importance of keeping firearms safe and secure, especially when children are in the home. This ordinance exists to help reduce the possibility of accidents, misuse, and tragic consequences.

In an effort to help you comply, the police department offers free firearm locks to any Vernon Hills resident. Two locks are available per household. The locks can be picked up Monday thru Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at the Vernon Hills Police Station, 754 Lakeview Parkway. More information is also available at www.vhpd.org and by calling 847-362-4449.

Please note that no identification is required when picking up a lock, and no one who requests a lock will be questioned as to their residency.

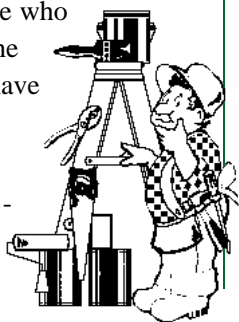


Improve Your Odds for a Good Home Improvement Project

Spring is the time for homeowners to tackle home repairs and improvements. If you plan to hire someone to do the work for you, remember that unscrupulous and dishonest repair people are always looking for their next target. Make certain that you get the quality labor and materials that your hard earned money deserves.

Whether the work involves exterior trim, siding, roofing, or a simple driveway resealing, keep these things in mind to avoid being ripped off:

- Be leery of someone who "happens to be in the area" or claims to have material remaining from another job.
- Be cautious if someone wants you to pay in cash.



- Don't be pressured into a decision. If you hear a "now or never" type line, refuse.
- Ask for references and check them. Ask friends and relatives for references too.
- Get at least three written estimates. Be sure to ask first if there is a charge for the estimate.
- Get a written contract before the work begins. Make sure that there is a guarantee on the work.
- Pay with a check so that you can stop payment if you need to.
- Don't be afraid or embarrassed to call the police if you are in a situation that makes you uncomfortable.

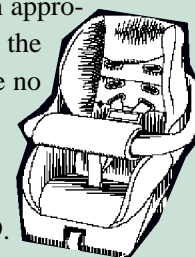
Remember — if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is!

Alert: Unneeded Fees for Deeds

The Lake County Recorder's office urges caution when it comes to companies offering "great deals" to provide such paperwork as a certified copy of your house deed. This paperwork is available from Lake County for the state-set fee of \$18, which is substantially less than what a recent solicitation is requesting. If you have questions, contact Lake County Recorder Mary Ellen Vanderventer at 847-377-2575.

Car Seat Reminder

Please remember that as of this past January, children under age 8 are required by law to be fastened into an appropriate car or booster seat. As the law currently reads, there are no exceptions based on weight or height, but rather it's all based on age. If you have questions, call 847-362-4449.





Warning Sirens

The Village tests the emergency alert systems at 10 a.m. on the first Tuesday of each month. It's a good time to familiarize your family with the system — especially since most tornadoes occur in April, May, and June. When you hear the siren and recorded message (*at times other than the test*), seek shelter immediately. Vernon Hills does not give an “all clear” signal, but rather you should monitor the situation on local radio and TV. For cable viewers, the emergency cable TV override system will offer information. To learn more, visit www.vhpd.org and click on “Safety and Security Info.”

Yard Waste Collection Resumes April 5

At true harbinger of spring — yard waste collection begins on April 5. Remember that all yard waste must be collected into kraft paper bags, or into containers marked with an “X.” For information or for a special “spring cleaning” pick up, contact Onyx Waste Services at 847-623-3870.

Give Blood on April 17

The Village Blood Drive, sponsored by the Vernon Hills Lions Club, will be held on Saturday, **April 17** at Hawthorn Elementary North, 301 Hawthorn Parkway. Appointments are scheduled from 8 a.m. until 2:40 p.m., and can be arranged by calling the Village Hall at 847-367-3700. If you have questions about donating blood, or would like to schedule a different time, contact LifeSource at 847-298-9660 or check www.lifesource.org.

Get Your Pool Passes Now

Pool passes for the Family Aquatic Center are available now at the Park District Sullivan Center, 635 N. Aspen. Get yours before May 15 and save. Complete information on rates, swim parties, and more is available by calling the Park District at 847-996-6800, or visiting www.vhparkdistrict.org.

Pageant Application Time

The Vernon Hills Pageants will be held June 21. Applications are available at the Village Hall, or online at www.vernonhills.org. If you have questions, contact Pam Adams at 847-362-7598.

Vernon Hills Volunteers

Are you interested in getting more involved in your community? Are you a student looking for service hours? Would your organization like a special project? Consider volunteering. The Village offers several volunteer opportunities throughout the year, including assisting with the 4th of July parade, helping at Summer Celebration, working on Light Show displays, and more. Contact Lisa Fischbach at 847-918-3562.

Time to Hit the Links

Passes are now available for the Vernon Hills 9-hole Golf Course. Resident passes are \$375 for adults and \$225 for children and seniors. Preferred tee times are available on Saturday. Take advantage of the scenic clubhouse for your family gatherings and special events. You'll enjoy great buffet options at reasonable rates. Call Jeanne for details at 847-680-9310.

Free CPR Classes

Countryside Fire Protection District is offering free CPR classes. The four-hour American Heart Association training sessions are scheduled for Saturday, **April 3** and Saturday, **April 17** from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Laschen Center, 294 Evergreen Drive. Space is limited. For information, call Nancy Gibbs or Mike Prosi at Countryside Fire, 847-367-5511.

Spring Classic is May 8

The annual spring classic golf outing will be held May 8 at the Vernon Hills 9-hole Golf Course. Get your foursome together and come on out for a great day of golf, food, prizes and fun. Call the pro shop at 847-680-9310 to learn more.

Cut the Hassle with a Metra Station Parking Pass

Users of the Vernon Hills Metra Station are reminded that Convenience Permits are available from the Village Hall, or online at www.vernonhills.org (click on “download forms”). Permits run for two months and cost \$60.

SWALCO Collection Visits Vernon Hills Metra Station

The Solid Waste Agency of Lake County (SWALCO) will hold a household chemical waste collection on **Saturday, May 1** at the Vernon Hills Metra Station. Hours are 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Note that SWALCO no longer accepts latex paint. To discard latex paint, dump in crushed corncobs (available at no cost from Public Works). Once the paint is absorbed, place the cans beside your garbage cart for regular collection.

If you have old electronics and computers you'd like off your hands, SWALCO will collect electronics on May 22 at the College of Lake County in Grayslake. SWALCO can also provide information on recyclers and refurbishers.

For more information, call SWALCO at 847-336-9340 or check the agency's website, www.swalco.org.

Examples of items accepted on May 1:

- oil-based paint
- used motor oil
- mercury
- solvents
- paint remover
- antifreeze
- aerosol products
- metal polishes
- insecticides
- gasoline
- hobby chemicals
- pool chemicals
- weed killer
- fluorescent bulbs
- cleaners
- household batteries

PRSRT STD

US POSTAGE

PAID

Vernon Hills, IL 60061

PERMIT #198

ECRWSS

Vernon Hills Village Voice

290 Evergreen Drive
Vernon Hills, IL 60061

Inside...

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Resident or Business Customer
Vernon Hills, IL 60061

Vernon Hills Village Voice

April/May 2004

Please send comments to the Editor:

Evan Teich, 290 Evergreen Drive, Vernon Hills, IL 60061
Phone: 847-367-3700 • Fax: 847-367-0880
Email: evant@vhills.org

Elected Officials

President Roger Byrne
Trustees Richard Cashman, Richard Duros, Cindy Hebda,
Thom Koch, and Barbara Williams
Clerk Jeanne Schwartz

Contact Information

Fire 911 (Non-emergency – 367-5511)
Police 911 (Non-emergency – 362-4449)
Mark Fleischhauer, Police Chief: 847-247-4880
Village Hall 847-367-3700
Michael Allison, Village Manager: 847-918-3540
Linda Pelletier, Deputy Village Clerk: 847-918-3572
Karen Brooks, Human Resources: 847-918-3542
Public Works 847-367-3726
Edward Laudenslager, Director: 847-680-2260
Community Dev. 847-367-3700
John Kalmar, Assist. Village Manager: 847-918-3550
Building Div. 847-367-3704
Vernon Gerth, Building Commissioner: 847-918-3548
Engineering Div. 847-918-3565
David Brown, Village Engineer: 847-918-3544
Cable Studio 847-918-3560 TDD 847-918-3597
Main Fax 847-367-0880 Internet www.vernonhills.org

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in access to governmental services and programs. For assistance, call the Village's ADACoordinator at 367-3700. Printed on recycled paper.



A scene from the mural "Children's Stories" commissioned in 1937.

Take One More Look...

The Hawthorn Preservation Committee will host a final tour of the "old" Hawthorn School on **Sunday, April 18** from 1 to 4 p.m. While the building will be razed for new construction, the committee is preserving artifacts, including a recently rediscovered WPA wall mural. For details or to learn how you can contribute funds toward the preservation of this artistic treasure, please call Karen Cencula at 847-367-8000.