

Vernon Hills Village Voice

People Planning with Pride

The Official Newsletter of the Village of Vernon Hills

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Schools are open. Please obey all posted school zones and be extra careful when driving anywhere kids may be.

A distracted driver is an accident waiting to happen. The Vernon Hills Police strongly recommend the use of hands-free devices when making cellular calls while driving.

Dozens of Development Projects Around the Village

Here's a quick rundown of some of the many projects around town. For updated information, visit www.vernonhills.org and check "current projects."

College of Lake County Southlake Campus

The southern branch of the College of Lake County is adding approximately 50,000 square feet of classroom and administrative space. Located off Milwaukee Avenue just north of Route 45, the CLC site has been planned to integrate into any future improvements to the Town Center TIF area, of which it is a part.

Approved in 2002, the Town Center Redevelopment Area is still in the negotiation and planning stages, including ongoing traffic impact analysis and engineering work. It is anticipated that when it is complete, the site will provide a mix of mid-rise luxury condos, town homes, retail, and office spaces, in addition to the CLC campus.

Gregg's Parkway Commercial Parcels

The vacant parcels located along Milwaukee Road at Gregg's Parkway have been subject of several community meetings. Currently, the site is being graded for proper drainage and potential future development. However at this point, there are no substantive plans for development. For information, go to www.vernonhills.org/village/GLCommercial.htm.

Aspen Pointe

Excavation and site improvement is ongoing at the Aspen Pointe project, located on the south side of Route 60 at Aspen Drive. The project is expected to include a bank, retail, restaurants and 132 row houses. Tenants include Walgreens, Buffalo Wild Wings, and Starbucks. The plan includes the preservation of the old farm silo on the west side of the development, which will be incorporated into a landscaped area.

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Site work continues at Aspen Pointe, located on the southwest corner of Route 60 and Aspen Drive. In the background, Hawthorn's new Townline Elementary is ready for the first students to arrive when school starts on September 6.



From the Mayor...

Community Involvement: As we move into fall, I want to take a moment to thank all the individuals and organizations who make Vernon Hills such a vibrant community. The charitable and philanthropic efforts that come out of our community are incredible. Our sense of volunteerism is without rival. Whether we're talking about special events like Summer Celebration, or ongoing efforts such as the Lions Club Blood Drive, United Way campaigns, school volunteer programs, or efforts within our local businesses — we have a lot for which we can be proud.

Village Budget: A quick update on the budget front. As you know, the Village has always been very fiscally prudent. Over the past years, we have tightened our collective belt even further, cutting expenses on everything from personnel to maintenance. Also remember that the Village collects no property tax. Rather, the bulk of our funding for Village services comes from a percentage of local sales tax, as well as from our portion of state income tax.

I would like to report that while sales tax revenues remain somewhat soft, our other revenues have held firm. Our fiscally conservative budget for 2005-06 remains strong. Looking forward, we might anticipate additional sales tax revenue from our many new and expanding retail partners. While that seems a logical trend, note that we will not budget nor spend anticipated revenues. Rather, we will continue to remain extremely conservative in the administration of our Village funds in order to best serve our entire community.

Route 45: A final note of good news. The Route 45/Fairway Drive/Buffalo Grove Road intersection construction and improvement is nearly complete. This project has been years in the making, involving the coordination of countless organizations. The result will be a much needed north-south corridor through Lake County and our community. Thanks for your patience.

Roger L. Byrne

Expanded North Central Rail Service Anticipated for December

Metra officials anticipate that rail service on the North Central line should move to an expanded service this December.

The new second set of tracks are substantially in place through Vernon Hills, with crews moving on northward to continue their efforts.

When the second track opens, it is anticipated that Metra service will increase from 10 weekday trains to as many as 22. Metra has pledged to keep the Village informed. Updated information will be posted at www.vernonhills.org.



Grand Marshals Reign

Thanks to Vernon Hills High School valedictorian **Gordon Scharf** and salutatorian **Katie McDonnell** for serving as Grand Marshals in this year's 4th of July Parade. Best wishes to all of our students as they head into the new school year.

From the Boardroom...

Roads, Overpasses, Trees & Golf Carts

Here are some topics during recent Village Board meetings. Meetings are the first and third Tuesday each month, and are rebroadcast on Cable Channel 4. The cable schedule is posted at www.vernon-hills.org/communityinformation/cable.

- In observance of Rosh Hashannah, the **Village Board meeting** will be moved from October 4 to October 5.
- The Board honored 2005 Pageant participants, including new Little Miss Vernon Hills **Jessica Bowen**, Junior Miss **Sarah Kolb**, and Miss **Emilie Frake**.
- The **2005 Road Rehab Program** focused on streets in the Grosse Pointe and Court of Shorewood neighborhoods. Pavement and sidewalk improvements are complete. Restoration of the parkways will occur in late September, with median plantings completed in October.
- The annual **sidewalk program** is under way. The emphasis of the program is eliminating known trip hazards. Work is expected to be completed by the end of September.

- The board will continue to monitor progress on improvements to the **Route 60 overpass** at the Tollway. Federal funding for that project was recently approved.
- Vernon Hills is participating in a **Grade Separation Task Force** designed to investigate options to ease congestion caused by the railroad crossing at Route 60 near Butterfield Road. While no construction funds have been earmarked for this project, the multi-agency group is looking to proactively offer solutions to expedite any future improvements.
- Vernon Hills was notified that we have again been named as a **Tree City USA**. The National Arbor Day Foundation has bestowed this award on us for many years, based on our extensive tree planting and tree care program.
- Concerns have been voiced by residents in the Gregg's Landing subdivision regarding children playing on the golf course cart paths. Residents are reminded that the Village offers an extensive bike and walking path system, of which our golf course cart paths are not a part.

IN BUSINESS...

The Community Development Department has been busy processing commercial and retail permits. Here are a few businesses that are now open. Remember, it's always a good idea to shop in town – a percent of all sales tax collected from local businesses stays here to support Village services.

- **Lollicup**, Vernon Plaza
- **Spice Bazaar**, Vernon Plaza
- **Accuink**, Vernon Plaza
- **Sports Clips**, Rivertree Court
- **RRB Bicycles**, Rivertree Court
- **Mercury Insurance**, 850 N. Milwaukee
- **Subway**, relocated in Hawthorn Hills
- **Nails-S**, White Hen Plaza
- **The Book Market**, Townline Commons
- **Old Navy**, Marketplace
- **Philly G's dba Gilardi's**, 1252 Rt. 45
- **Designer Rug Imports**, 1320 Milwaukee

At Westfield Hawthorn Shopping Center:

- **Favor Home Accents**
- **Scotts' Brewery Collectibles**
- **Moss Shoes**

New carts and kiosks at Westfield Hawthorn Shopping Center:

Firefly Mobile, Inc.
Azaro Italian Charms
New York Collection
Gutter Topper
Spa Serene

Development Update

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The following projects are also under way throughout the Village:

- **Rivers Edge Condos** are under construction on Milwaukee Avenue. When complete, the project will feature two five-story buildings of 40 condo units each.
- Construction is under way at **Writer Estates**, 16 single family homes on Route 45 east of Prairie Road.
- Residential construction is winding down at **Gregg's Landing** subdivision, with construction ongoing for 60 townhomes and 84 flats in the Bayhill section.

Construction Update: Route 45/Fairway Drive Near Completion

Word from the Lake County Department of Transportation is that the construction of the intersection of Route 45, Fairway Drive and Buffalo Grove Road is nearly complete.

Crews expect to open the stretch of road between the Indian Creek Bridge and Route 45 by mid-September. That section has been closed as contractors realign Buffalo Grove to feed directly into Route 45 at that spot.

Work on the Route 45 road surface is also getting to the final phase, with all asphalt surfaces, concrete curbing, and permanent traffic signals expected to be in place sometime in November. For updates on this and other Lake County road projects, check www.lakegov.info. Information is also available by calling Public Works Director Ed Laudenslager at 847-680-2260.

Route 45 is in the final stages of construction. By mid-September, officials are hoping to open the intersection to allow travel from Route 45 north up Fairway, as well as south down Buffalo Grove Road.

Metra Station: Metra contractors are currently placing pavement in their efforts to add 452 parking spaces directly east of the existing lot. The platform and tracks through Vernon Hills are essentially complete.

Seavey Ditch: This fall, work will begin to restore the Seavey Ditch from the Arborthheater to Route 45. This project will be funded by an EPA Stormwater Management grant for \$138,632.

Lake Harvey: Also receiving grant support is the Lake Harvey improvement. The Army Corps has committed \$260,000 to mitigate shoreline erosion, remove invasive plants, reintroduce beneficial native plants, and enhance water quality. The project is expected to start in December. For details on this or the Seavey project, please call the Engineering Division at 847-918-3562.



- **Sam's Club** will add a drive-up canopy to their warehouse store, located on the east side of Milwaukee Avenue.

- **Walter E. Smithe Furniture** will start construction of a new showroom at Milwaukee and North Woodbine in late fall.

- **Jared the Galleria of Jewelry** is constructing a new building at the site of the former Chili's Restaurant.

- **Potbelly Sandwiches** is renovating existing tenant space for a new restaurant in Hawthorn Hills Fashion Square, on the southwest corner of Route 60 and Milwaukee Road.

- **Tsukasa of Tokyo** is completing a new 10,500 square foot restaurant in the Marketplace near Circuit City.

- South Marketplace, featuring **JoAnn Fabrics, Bed Bath & Beyond, Ashley Furniture, DSW Shoes** and **Old Navy**, is complete.

- **Westfield Hawthorn Shopping Center** continues efforts for its planned expansion and remodel of Hawthorn Center. Staff anticipates plans being submitted to the Village for review in late September.

- **Target** is finishing their 40,000 square foot expansion, with an official grand opening anticipated for October.

Grab Your Radar Gun...

Have you ever seen a car whizzing down your street and wish you could do something to slow it down? Did you know there is a program in place here in Vernon Hills that lets you do just that? It's called the Citizen Speed Control Program.

Under the Citizen Speed Control Program, the Vernon Hills Police Department will lend residents a radar gun, which can be

used to collect traffic data. The police department then uses this information to determine if there is a need for further action by our traffic unit. In addition, we mail out letters to the registered owners of vehicles "caught" speeding by you, encouraging their cooperation in reducing their speed. (Sorry — you can't write any tickets.) If you're interested in this program, call the Traffic Hotline at 847-362-4449 ext. 4832.

PD Promotions

It's been five years since the last promotion at the VHPD, and now we have two to announce! Newly appointed **Sergeant John Briscoe** (left) was sworn in along side newly appointed **Commander Kurt Rutz** (right) on Friday, August 12.



Sgt. Briscoe is a 15-year veteran and has served on the N.I.P.A.S. Swat Team, the Lake County Auto Theft Task Force, and has been a Detective since 1998. Cmdr. Rutz is a 23-year veteran who previously served as a Sergeant since his first promotion in 1999. Rutz has also been the Department's Fitness Instructor since 1991.

In addition, four new officers have been sworn-in and have started their careers in law enforcement. Welcome to Officers **Jim Koch, Shannon Holubetz, Jason Axelrod, and Stacy Bradshaw**. Congratulations to all and best of luck in your new positions!



New DARE Officer Ready for School

Officer Sharon Joseph has assumed the role of the D.A.R.E. Officer and Officer Friendly for all Hawthorn Schools, grades K-5. Officer Joseph spent the last four years as the School Resource Officer for the Junior High, and she knows what troubles await the kids who choose not to make those good decisions we talk so much about. Officer Joseph is excited for the chance to work with our youngsters — which is much more rewarding than catching them in bad choices!

Thanks for Enjoying a "Night Out"

This summer's 2nd Annual National Night Out Sand Volleyball Tournament was a big hit! Over 200 people showed up to cheer as our two police teams took on six area teams in a friendly tourney set up to "give crime a going away party." (It was friendly — but PD did win all six matches!) Thanks to all who participated. If you missed it, make sure you mark your calendar for August 1 next year!



PD Open House Sunday, October 2 1 to 4 p.m.

754 Lakeview Parkway

The Police Department's Open House is set for Sunday, October 2 from 1 to 4 p.m. This family favorite offers plenty of opportunities for kids (and adults) to check out your hometown police facility — from the 9-1-1 Center to the ever popular jail cells. The day includes K-9 demonstrations, interactive displays, refreshments, give aways, and more. For details, call 847-247-4888 or visit www.vhpd.com. See you there!

Law Enforcement Hits the Mall on September 10 & 11

The VHPD will be hosting its first ever (with hopefully many more to come!) **Lake County Law Enforcement Exhibition** at Westfield Hawthorn Shopping Center. The exhibits will be available during the weekend of September 10 and 11.

More than a dozen Lake County police departments will be on hand to show the public the tools and techniques used to battle crime. Come out and try your hand at the latest training tool: the F.A.T.S. Machine — a simulator which puts you in the place of an officer forced to decide whether to use your weapon or not. Also scheduled are K-9 demonstrations, puppet shows, 9-1-1 simulators, speed trailers, car seat safety, and much, much more. Visit www.vhpd.com for details.

Get In on Snowplow Painting

Once again, the Public Works Department will work with local groups to decorate our Village snowplows. They'll supply the paint (and the plows!). For details, call Public Works at 847-367-3726.

Bag Those Leaves!

Remember to put your raked leaves into containers for Onyx to collect. Please don't rake them into the street, as our sweepers are not equipped to handle the debris. Yard Waste Stickers are available for \$1.80 each at Village Hall, Sullivan Center, Dominick's, Home Depot, and Onyx by calling 847-623-3870.

Mosquito Control

The Village works with Clarke Mosquito Control for monitoring and abatement. Though it's been dry, the West Nile threat remains. Protect yourself by eliminating standing water and using repellent. Info is posted at www.clarkemosquito.com.

Keep Watering the Trees

Arborists urge residents to continue to water trees. Even established trees may be suffering from the drought, though damage may not be seen for years. Consider a weekly soak around the root system. That said, at press time water restrictions are in effect — no watering between 12 and 6 p.m., and restrict watering to even addresses on even days, odd addresses on odd days.

Free CareCoach Visits

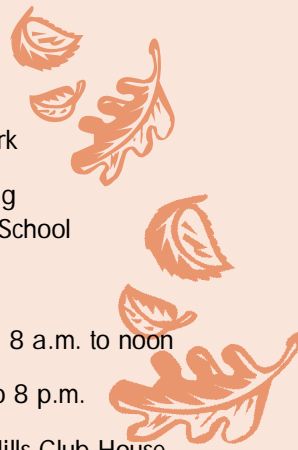
The Lake Forest Hospital CareCoach will visit Village Hall from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. on **September 8, October 6, and November 10**. No appointments are needed for this free wellness service. See www.lakeforesthospital.com or call the Village Hall, 847-367-3700.

Check Out These Light Show License Plates!

Here's a chance to show your civic pride — and enjoy the Holiday Light Show. Consider purchasing Winter Wonderland special events license plates, which can be used from November 1 to December 31. For \$25, you get a beautiful set of license plates, which also serve as a season pass to the entire run of the Light Show. The Village Hall has a limited number of plates available. Stop by or call 847-367-3700 today to find out more.

Mark Your Calendars...

- Classic Cars at Cuneo Museum — September 11
- Lions Club Big-Top Circus — September 12 & 13 at Century Park
- VHHS Homecoming Parade — September 29, 6:30 p.m. starting at Deerpath Park, moving north on Deerpath and back to High School
- Police Department Open House — October 2, 1 to 4 p.m.
- Countryside Fire Pancake Breakfast/Open House — October 9, 8 a.m. to noon
- Halloween — Monday, October 31. Trick or treat hours are 4 to 8 p.m.
- Village Tree Lighting — November 26 at 4:30 p.m. at Vernon Hills Club House
- Holiday Light Show — November 26 to January 1, 6 to 10 p.m. at Cuneo Museum



Vernon Hills Seniors

The Seniors meet on the first and third Tuesdays of each month in the lower level of the Village Hall. Lots of special events are planned. To find out more, call Ed Sychta at 847-918-1723.

SWALCO Collection

The Solid Waste Agency of Lake County is sponsoring a household chemical waste collection on **September 10** at the Round Lake Beach Metra Station, and **September 24** at the Lake Forest Municipal Services Center. If you have unwanted electrical equipment, SWALCO will collect it on **October 22** at Lake Forest High School Athletic Campus on Waukegan Road. For information, log on to www.swalco.org.

Asthma Walk

The American Lung Association urges you to "Blow the Whistle on Asthma" during a three-mile walk set for **September 18** at the Half Day Forest Preserve. Registration starts at 8:30 a.m. For information, check the links at www.vernonhills.org.



Lions Circus Supports Cause

The big top will rise at Century Park for the Lions Club Circus on **September 12 and 13**. Shows are at 4:30 and 7:30 p.m., with advance tickets available from Village Hall, Park District, Meline Chiropractic, Coldwell Banker Libertyville, and club members. Please buy ahead — advance sales offer more support to the club's charitable efforts, including sight and hearing programs. For details, go to vernonhillsil.lionwap.org.

Give Blood at Laschen Center

The next Lions Club Blood Drive is set for Saturday, **September 17** at the Laschen Community Center, 294 Evergreen Drive. This marks the first time the drive will be held at the refurbished Lions meeting room. To schedule an appointment, call the Village Hall at 847-367-3700.

Pool Safety

According to Village ordinance, any pool holding 18 inches or more of water must be secured, fenced, and otherwise follow appropriate ordinances. Many popular inflatable pools fall into this category. Be safe and be informed. Go to www.vernonhills.org and "Download Forms" for details.

Mailbox Check

Now is the best time to check your mailbox out — before the winter storms pummel it with snow. The post should be solid and the mailbox firmly attached. Note that the Village will reimburse up to \$50 for mailbox damage due to Village snow removal operations. For information, check www.vernonhills.org or call Public Works at 847-367-3726.

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290 Evergreen Drive
Vernon Hills, IL 60061

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Resident or Business Customer
Vernon Hills, IL 60061

Vernon Hills Village Voice

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Elected Officials

President Roger Byrne
Trustees Cindy Hebda, Thom Koch, Michael Marquardt,
James Schultz, Jeanne Schwartz, and Barbara Williams
Clerk Holly Udesky

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

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Fall 2005

Scenes from Another Great Summer Celebration



Thanks, Vernon Hills, for making Summer Celebration, and all of our special events, successful!

