

Vernon Hills Village Voice

People Planning with Pride

The Official Newsletter of the Village of Vernon Hills

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Think Green...

Village Landscapes Garner Kudos

Arboretheater Earns Gold Award

Landscape Concepts of Grayslake was recently notified that their maintenance and improvements at the Vernon Hills Memorial Arboretheater have earned a prestigious Gold Award from the Illinois Landscape Contractors Association (ILCA). The judging committee, which will bestow the award later in February, was particularly impressed the effort to faithfully recreate the prairie that existed before this area was settled. The more naturalistic areas were actually carefully cultivated to remove plants that were not native to early fields, and replace them with authentic plantings.

“The Arboretheater is not only a tremendous and beautiful community amenity, it is also a powerful learning tool,” notes Dorin Petre, spokesman for Landscape Concepts. “We would love to see area schools and other groups take advantage of this unique ecosystem within our midst.” For more information about the prairie restoration, contact Landscape Concepts at 847-223-3800.

Village Hall’s Natural Look Earns EPA Award

Village staff recently received notice that the Village Hall landscape has earned the 2003 Conservation and Native Landscaping Award from the United States Environmental Protection Agency and Chicago Wilderness. The award cited the effective use of a water detention feature surrounded by native grasses, which are purposefully left unmown. The landscaping

was designed by former Village Landscape Architect Bret Poi and is maintained by the Public Works Department’s Forestry and Grounds Division.

This isn’t the first “green” award earned by the Village. For the past 12 years, Vernon Hills has earned the Tree City USA designation from the National Arbor Day Foundation. Last year, the Village earned an Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation grant, which helped fund the development of a nature-friendly water detention system at the new Vernon Hills Athletic Complex.

Board Seeks Trustee

The Village Board of Trustees seeks to fill a vacancy on the Village Board, created by the recent resignation of Trustee Stephanie Weil, who is moving to North Carolina. The term will run through April 2005. Village residents wishing to be considered should submit a letter addressed to Village President Roger L. Byrne, in care of the Village Hall, 290 Evergreen Drive. Letters will also be accepted via email at lynnd@vhills.org.



The Arboretheater, photo copyright 2003 by Linda Oyama Bryan

Holiday Light Show At a Glance...

- 18,499 . . . Number of cars visiting Light Show
- 190 Number of lighted displays
- 7 Number of new displays
- 20' x 90' . . . Size of Victorian Village display

From the Mayor...

The Village Board and I hope that you all had happy and joyous holiday season. We also hope you were able to enjoy some of Village-sponsored holiday events, including the Winter Wonderland Light Show, New Years Eve fireworks, and the Village Tree Lighting. The Board and I also extend our heartfelt thanks to all of the volunteers and Village employees who work hard to make these events so terrific each year.

The new **Vernon Hills Athletic Complex**, located at the site of the former Nike Missile Base in the center of the Village, will be ready for use this spring. It promises to be a wonderful amenity for all of us. This project has taken many years to bring to a successful conclusion and has involved the hard work of elected officials and staff from numerous agencies at all levels of government. The Village Board and I are pleased that all of this work is coming to fruition. A formal ribbon cutting ceremony is planned for sometime later this year. We will keep you posted when the details become available.

What About the Whistles? For many of our residents who live within ear shot of the two railroad lines that run through town, late night train whistles are nothing new. For the past several years the Village has joined with other municipalities to seek changes the rules regarding the blowing of those whistles. The Federal Rail Administration recently published new rules regarding whistles, and at first reading it is not favorable. That said, the Village will continue to work with other governmental entities and legislators to re-address these rules while still providing for the public's safety at our crossings.

Roger L. Byrne

Metra Crews Work Through Winter

Metra's contractors continue to work through the winter to construct the second track for the Metra North Central and Canadian National lines. From now through April, crews will be widening a bridge over the Seavey Creek, just southeast of Route 45 at Deerpath.

In April, work will begin at our station to add the new inbound platform and install the second track from south of Port Clinton Road through to Route 60. Using federal grant dollars, Metra will extend the existing parking lot eastward, adding 452 new spaces designed to

accommodate future ridership demands.

Information and site plans are available at the Village Hall and on our web site, www.vernonhills.org. Questions or comments can be forwarded to Evan Teich at evant@vhills.org or 847-918-3558.

Road closures are anticipated at Port Clinton Road, Route 45, Butterfield Road and Route 60 to allow Metra crews to widen these crossings. Once the schedule is determined, closures will be posted at crossings, as well as on the website (www.vernonhills.org) and *Village Voice*.

Primary Election is March 16

The next primary election is scheduled for March 16. **To vote in that election, you must be registered to vote by February 17.** Voter registration is available at the Village Hall, local libraries, and other locations.

Registration requires two forms of identification featuring your current address. One piece must be a photo ID, for instance a valid driver's license. For more information or to check your status, visit the county clerk's website, www.co.lake.il.us/cntyckl. That website also features a polling place locator.

Absentee voting is available through a

variety of methods. Beginning February 5, you can absentee vote in person at the County Clerk's office in Waukegan. Beginning February 23, you can absentee vote in person at other locations, including our Village Hall. Absentee voting is also available by mail. For information, check the Lake County Clerk's website www.co.lake.il.us/cntyckl, or call the Village Hall (847-367-3700).

Sample ballots are published in local newspapers just prior to the election. One of the items up for decision is a Lake County referendum for a quarter-percent retail sales tax to help fund transportation initiatives.

Village Budget Process Underway

The Village is currently involved in the 2004-2005 budget process, which starts with Board discussion during committee meetings. It is anticipated that by late March these discussions will have progressed to the development of a full budget document, which will then be made available at the Village Hall.

The process also includes public hearings, which are anticipated to begin during the March 16th Board Meeting, held at 290 Evergreen Drive. (Note that meetings are generally held the first and

third Tuesday of each month. A complete schedule is available in the December newsletter, which is available at www.vernonhills.org/communityinformation/village_voice.) Meetings start at 7 p.m., with hearings held at the beginning.

All meetings, including budget discussions, are shown on Cable Channel 4. A current broadcast schedule is posted at www.vernonhills.org/communityinformation/cable. For questions, comments or updates, please call the Clerk's Office at 847-367-3700.

Waste Hauling Revisited

May 2004 will mark the second anniversary of our new waste hauling and recycling program. With any new system there is always room for improvement, including providing a few clarifications:

1. Each residential property receives one waste and one recycling container (if the recycling cart is requested). Containers are to remain with the property.
2. You may change your container size once during a 12-month period at no charge. If you now want a recycling container, one can be provided at no charge.
3. Lost or stolen containers will be replaced for a fee. Carts that are damaged due to overfilling or excessive weight will also be replaced for a fee. (Drivers file reports.)
4. Residents are encouraged to place their address on their containers.
5. The Village program allows for only one discarded item to be placed outside the containers. That item should be less than 50 pounds. Large appliances (water

heaters, dishwashers, large furniture, etc.) cannot be picked up by your regular route driver.

Please call Onyx Waste Service at 847-623-3870 to schedule a special pick up, with rates starting at \$15. Call at least 24-hours in advance.

6. Any container (other than your waste or recycling container) may be used for landscape waste. Mark your landscape container with a large "X" to help route drivers identify these containers. "Kraft" paper or blue plastic bags may also be used. Please keep weight under 50 pounds per container.
7. If you're part of a homeowners association, please check with them about your regulations regarding collection before you request a change of service.

For information, contact Onyx Waste Service at 847-623-3870..



65 gallon cart

From the Board Room...

Capital Projects and Tighter Belts

Here are some topics of discussion during recent Village Board meetings. Meetings are the first and third Tuesday each month, and rebroadcast on Cable Channel 4.

- Staff presented a revised roster of 2004-2005 capital improvement projects, which they had trimmed by more than \$1 million in response to reduced revenues from sales taxes and other sources. (Note that the Village collects no property tax.) Reductions include elimination of this year's neighborhood road rehabilitation project; reduction in spending on general maintenance for roads, sidewalks, and Village buildings; and postponement of bathroom construction at the Metra station. Projects that are underway, or that have federal/state funding, will continue. To learn more, contact Dave Brown at DaveB@vhills.org.

- This spring, final surface will be applied to Fairway Drive through the Vernon Hills Athletic Complex. Plans to improve the Route 45/Prairie Road intersection are moving through the state's permit process, with construction planned for 2005.

- Trustees discussed the upcoming Lake County referendum requesting a quarter percent sales tax to fund transportation improvements. That election is March 16.

- Village and other legislators continue to work to reduce transportation gridlock by addressing the Route 60 interchange with the tollway. Discussions about widening that overpass are still preliminary, and the project remains unfunded.

- Adraft of the Bike/Pedestrian Path Plan is available at www.vernonhills.org. Look for notices for Public Hearings on the plan in mid-February.

IN BUSINESS...

Shopping in town supports your 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:

- **Countrywide/Full Spectrum Lending**
3 Hawthorn Pkwy, Suite 350
- **Misako USA**, 706 Hawthorn Center
- **The Coca-Cola Red Lounge**,
1038 Hawthorn Center
- **Ann Taylor Loft**, 320 Hawthorn Center
- **Body Works Fitness**, 300 Center, #107

Shop the Farmers Market Starting in May



The Village of Vernon Hills and Westfield Shoppingtown Hawthorn announce the **Vernon Hills Community Harvest Farmers Market**.

For easy access, vendors will set up in the Westfield parking lot just north of the intersection of Milwaukee Avenue and Route 60. The event will be held each Wednesday from May 26 to October 27, from 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The event will include a Westfield hospitality tent showcasing Vernon Hills restaurants, as well as "Featured Merchants" providing services such as knife sharpening. Details, including a vendor form, are available at www.vernonhills.org. E-mail your questions and ideas to MarketManager@vhills.org.

Thanks, Cultural Partners

Cultural Partners support our community by helping fund such special events as the New Year's Fireworks, Arbortheater Concerts and Summer Celebration. So far this year, the following organizations have signed on as Partners (If you'd like to join them, contact Lisa Fischbach at 847-918-3562):

American Hotel Register	CDW
Washington Mutual	Target
Civiltech Engineering	AMLI (2004)
Westfield Shoppingtown	
Bradford Real Estate (2004)	

Notes from the PD...

Officers Honored at Annual Police Department Meeting

Residents may not realize the hard work and dedication that occurs every day by members of the police department. Too often the action that goes on "behind the scenes" goes unnoticed. That being said, we thought that you would like to know about the awards that Chief Mark Fleischhauer presented at the annual police department employee meeting in December. The following employees were honored for their extraordinary contribution to the department and to our community:

Investigator Kevin Grampo and **Investigator Greg Slivka** were recognized for their investigation of a burglary that resulted in three arrests and the recovery of more than \$210,000 in cash and a handgun.

Telecommunicator Ed Manke and **Officer Mike Katzenstein** each received a commendation for their handling and response to infant that had stopped breathing. Ed's prompt, professional dispatching of the call and Mike's performing of CPR probably saved the child's life.

Officer Jesse Goldsmith and **Officer Jon Paret** were honored for their initiative and effort in a surveillance operation that was set up in Vernon Hills to combat some commercial burglaries that had occurred throughout the county. Their actions not only resulted in three arrests, but it is believed that they

thwarted crimes that were about to occur in Vernon Hills.

Officer Art Fink was acknowledged for his alertness and prompt action in solving a burglary that had just occurred at a home under construction. Two subjects were arrested and over \$5,000 in property was recovered. The arrests also led to the solving of burglaries that had occurred in other communities.

The following officers were recognized for their outstanding efforts in the detection and apprehension of DUI violators during 2003:

Officer Rebecca Foy — 58 DUI arrests

Officer Ken James — 31 DUI arrests

Officer Ken Maier — 29 DUI arrests

Officer Jon Paret — 29 DUI arrests

Officer Bill Heelan — 28 DUI arrests

Each year the department makes special recognition to an employee who goes "above and beyond" in his or her service to the community. Suitably called the **Community Service Award**, for 2003 it was bestowed upon **Records Clerk Ruth Peters**. If you have attended one of the recent police department open houses, you will recall seeing Ruth in her role as Peek-A-Boo the Clown, where she patiently made balloon animals for the children. In fact, Ruth also donated her own time and materials to make balloon animals for the children

in attendance at the Vernon Hills July 4th fireworks display. She was also a contributor on the department's child safety music CD, *Dressed In Blues*. Her service to the village is exemplary, and the department is proud to give her the recognition she deserves.



Ruth Peters earned the 2003 Community Service Award

SECURITY ALERT

Don't Get Hooked on "Phishing" Scam

Anyone who uses e-mail should be alert to avoid becoming a victim of a high tech scam known as "phishing." In phishing, fraudulent operators use misleading e-mail messages and copy-cat web sites to trick people into revealing personal information, such as credit card and Social Security numbers.

For example, you might receive e-mail that appears to be from a company with which you do business. The e-mail tells you that you need to update your account information, and provides you with an apparent link to the business' website and to an "account information" form for you to complete. However, the link is actually to a fraudulent look-alike site and NOT to the legitimate business web site. (The look-alike can be very believable, and could include corporate logos.)

If you receive such e-mail, do not reply to the message or click on the link. Instead, contact the company in question via telephone to check on the request and report your experience.



Wanted: Volunteers!

Looking for a way to get involved in your community? Meet your neighbors? And have fun while you're doing it? Consider joining the **4th of July Parade Committee**. Each year, this group makes sure we all enjoy a wonderful old-fashioned 4th. To find out more, contact Lisa Fischbach at 847-918-3562.

There are also opportunities for folks to assist with **Summer Celebration**, scheduled for July 14 through 18. Volunteers are needed to help in planning, as well as to staff activities and sell tickets during the event. To find out more, call the Village Hall at 847-367-3700.

Lend a Hand

The St. Marys of Vernon PADS shelter continues to host a large group each Thursday night. This local effort to care for the homeless can always use juice boxes, cereal bars, paper products, and funding. Contact Jim Wogan at 847-782-4126.

GLMV Home Show

The GLMV Chamber's 14th Annual Home Improvement Show will be held March 20-21 at the Libertyville Sports Complex, Route 45 and 137 in Libertyville. The event will showcase more than 100 home improvement resources. For details, contact the Chamber (847-680-0750 or www.glmvchamber.org).

Snow Parking Rules

Remember, there's no parking on Village streets following a snowfall of two inches or more. Thanks!

Snow, Ice and Safe Fun

The Park District posts flags at outdoor skating and sledding areas when conditions are considered safe. Green flags indicate ice thickness of at least 6 inches on designated ponds. Neither the sled hill on Indianwood Road nor the skating ponds are supervised. Use care and have fun. See more at www.vhparkdistrict.org.

Free CareCoach Visits

The Lake Forest Hospital CareCoach visits the Village Hall parking lot each month. Sponsored by the Senior Center, the mobile clinic offers free service to all, regardless of age or insurance. Services include cholesterol screenings, immunizations, and more. (The Coach is not staffed to treat illness or injury.) The next visits are set for 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. on February 12, March 11, and April 15. Call the Village Hall (847-367-3700) or the CareCoach (847-535-6709), or go to www.lakeforeshospital.com, click on *education*, then *carecoach*.

Lake County Water Report

Lake County Public Work's annual water quality report for Vernon Hills is available online at www.co.lake.il.us/pw. (FYI, Vernon Hills receives water from Lake Michigan, and the report is favorable.)

Book Your Banquet Today!

The Vernon Hills 9-hole Public Golf Course offers full banquet facilities. And the course is open for golf year-round, weather permitting. To find out more, call 847-680-9310.

Yard Waste Collection

Yard waste collection resumes April 1 — something spring-like to look forward to!

Start Thinking "Pageant"

The 2004 Vernon Hills Pageants will be held June 21. Applications will be available beginning April 1. If you have questions, contact coordinator Pam Adams at 847-362-7598.

From the Community Development Department...

Tips to Help You Plan for Projects



As you plan your summer projects, the Community Development Department offers this information:

Q: When is a building permit required?

A: Building permits are required for just about every project completed with the use of tools, except decorating. Examples of projects that require a permit include decks, fences, additions, basement remodeling, patios, brick pavers, siding, and water heaters.

Q: Who should apply and pay for a building permit?

A: Either the homeowner or the contractor may apply or pay for a building permit. The applicant generally acts as the "contact person" for all correspon-

dence. Ultimately, it is the homeowner's responsibility to make sure a building permit is acquired before work commences. It is equally important to verify the project has received final approval from the Village prior to making the final payment to the contractor.

Q: How long does it take to review and process a permit application once it has been submitted to the Community Development Department?

A: Permits for re-roofing/siding/fascia/soffit replacement, satellite dishes, and water heaters are issued immediately over the counter. All other permits are reviewed and processed on a first in, first out basis. For planning purposes, the review and processing time will take 15 working days to complete. If the permit application and plans need to be re-submitted or if additional information is

requested, the re-review would again be dependent on the current work load of the plan examiner, but would not take longer than an additional 15 working days. Please plan ahead! Our goal is to review plans thoroughly and as quickly as possible. Spring and summer is our busy season, when permit processing takes the longest.

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.)

Please Share Your Thoughts

As part of the Village's effort to continuously improve our quality of service, the Community Development Department encourages your comments and questions. **Customer Surveys** are available at the front counter of the Village Hall and posted on the Village website, www.vernonhills.org. Tell us what's on your mind. Whether it is praise, criticism, suggestions, each survey is given individual attention. We look forward to hearing from you!

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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

February/March 2004

Please send comments to the Editor:

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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 ADA Coordinator at 367-3700. Printed on recycled paper.



PD Earns Reaccreditation

The Vernon Hills Police Department recently went through the process to become reaccredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA). In November, Chief Mark Fleischhauer (*shown above*) and Deputy Chief Bill Price received the award.

The Department has been accredited since 1995, which shows that it meets an established set of professional standards. We're all proud of this achievement. In fact, there are only 35 accredited law enforcement agencies in Illinois, and only 600 nationwide. To learn more, visit www.calea.org.