

Vernon Hills Village Voice

People Planning with Pride

The Official Newsletter of the Village of Vernon Hills

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Scenes from the Dedication

More than 300 residents, dignitaries and other guests took part in the August 25 dedication of our Village's new municipal hall. The event featured a moving tribute to our veterans as members of American Legion Post 1247 presented the colors, then raised the flag for the first time over the new building. In addition to brief remarks and a ribbon cutting, the afternoon included tours, refreshments, and music. Special thanks to the Symphony Orchestra String Quartet from Vernon Hills High School, as well as to the Gus Stagg Duo. While the dedication was a truly historic event for the Village, residents are invited to visit the building for their own personal tour. The building is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please call the Village Hall at 847-367-3700 for information.



Trick or Treat!
Thursday, October 31
4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

From the Mayor...

Vernon Hills Deserves Adequate Library Access

The following letter, dated September 9, was recently sent to local newspapers.

Dear Editor:

Freedom of speech is a hallmark of our freedom as Americans. But sometimes people use this freedom for the wrong reasons. Jack Martin, a Libertyville resident and business owner, has recently published what he calls a Library Patrons Report. Instead of using this publication to educate and to illicit positive debate about an issue that affects over 50,000 area residents, he has chosen to use this freedom to further divide the communities of Libertyville, Green Oaks and Vernon Hills.

Instead of working together to build a library district ready for the challenges of a new age, we are stuck worrying and arguing over which community got what. How silly.

I am not alone in my belief that this issue transcends any one community. In fact the issue of library space is not a "Vernon Hills versus Libertyville" issue, but rather an issue of an aging undersized facility that is no longer serving the needs of its ENTIRE district.

Whatever other people think of the Village of Vernon Hills, we remain a legal part of the Cook Memorial Library District. We pay real estate taxes to the district and are entitled to fair representation and access to its services and are willing to work positively towards that solution.

Continued on page 6...

General Election is November 5

One of the easiest ways to show your patriotism is by voting. Mark your calendar for Tuesday, November 5, and plan to take part.

Voter Registration

To participate, voters must have their name and current address on file — that is, they must be registered. The last day to register for the November election was October 8. (Registration is available at the Village Hall, as well as at local libraries. You must provide two forms of ID, one of which shows your preprinted current address, such as a utility bill or pay stub.)

Absentee Voting

If it's difficult for you to vote on election day, consider absentee voting. Ballots

may be provided and returned via mail. Qualified voters may also cast an absentee ballot in person at the Lake County Clerk's office, and at most township offices, up to the day before the election. Call the Absentee Department of the Lake County Clerk's Office at 847-377-2406 to learn more or make arrangements.

More Information

More information on voting, including poll locations and sample ballots (once they're available), is available through the Lake County Clerk's Office, 847-377-2400 or www.co.lake.il.us/cntyclk/. Information on polling places is also available through the Village Hall by calling 847-367-3700 or online at www.vernonhills.org.

VH Evergreen Interim Library Expected to Open in January

Workers are now preparing a portion of the Village Hall for a collection of resources from the Cook Memorial Library. The new space, which was officially leased by the Village for \$1, is located in the lower level of the new building, situated at the corner of Evergreen Drive and Route 45.

The site will feature a variety of new resources, with particular focus on a

children's collection. In addition to providing a convenient location for residents in the southern part of the district, the expansion will also allow the library to get thousands of resources out of storage and back into circulation.

Preparation of the Village Hall space is expected to be completed around the first of the year. For details, contact the Cook Library at 847-362-2330.

Thanks to Volunteers Who Adopt Our Highways

Thanks to the members of the Ernie's Service Station and Towing crew for becoming Vernon Hills' newest organization to Adopt-A-Highway. Ernie's notes that having been at their current location on Milwaukee Avenue for more than 30 years, they wanted to do something to help show their pride in the community.

Ernie's joins St. Mary of Vernon Knights of Columbus, ZF Industries, Boy Scout Troop 273 of Christ Lutheran Church, and the Vernon Hills Lions Club in pledging to adopt stretches of our local roadways. Four times each year, the groups collect trash to help keep our community looking beautiful.
Thank you!

IN BUSINESS

Here are a few of the recent business openings around Vernon Hills, as taken from the latest permit requests received by the Village Building Division:

- **All You See on TV** offers a host of gadgets at their Westfield Shoppingtown location.
- **Fifth Third Bank** is open at 850 N. Milwaukee, Suite 100.
- **Derek Talbot, Chiropractor** is now practicing at 10 Phillip Road, Suite #114.
- **Memories** scrap books and supplies is in business in the Rivertree Court.
- **Woody's** is ready with holiday gifts and decorations in Westfield Shoppingtown.
- **Servicemaster** cleaning service now has a kiosk at Westfield.
- **Java Jim's** coffee kiosk is also new to Westfield Shoppingtown.
- **Express** is now open at 104 Westfield Shoppingtown.
- **U-Connect** cyber cafe is online at 701 N. Milwaukee Road, in Rivertree Court.
- **Kids 'R Us** has reopened following remodeling at 555 Townline Road.

Online Project Updates...

For updates on the progress of a variety of construction and development projects, check the Village website. Go to www.vernonhills.org, click on *Community Development*, then go to *Current Projects*.

Fairway Drive Projects Moving Forward

The extension of Fairway Drive is coming closer to reality, with actual construction expected to start early next year.

The effort is actually two projects — the first being the construction of Fairway Drive from Huron Street to Greenview Court, through the Nike Recreation Site. Some of the rough grading is already complete on this portion. The second portion involves the construction of the Prairie Road/Fairway Drive intersection at Route 45.

Part I: Fairway Drive Extension

As of October 1, 2003, the \$3.5 million project to extend the Fairway Drive roadway will be fully funded, with 70 percent of the funds coming from federal sources. The remaining funds have been raised locally through state, county, and Village commitments, as well as through more than \$500,000 provided by the Illinois First program. (Special thanks to State Senator Adeline Geo-Karis for securing the Illinois First funds, as well as to Senators Terry Link and William Peterson.)

Work will include building the new roadway through the Nike Site, as well as realigning existing roads to connect. The resulting new roadway will consist of one lane in each direction with a planted median between them. Each intersection will feature turn lanes for additional safety.

Project plans are currently being reviewed by the Illinois Department of Transportation. It is hoped this portion of the project can be released for construction bidding later this winter.

If this schedule is met, actual construction could begin as early as Spring 2003, and will require approximately one year to complete.

Part II: Route 45 Intersection

The construction of the intersection at Route 45 and Prairie Road/Fairway Drive will involve roadway realignment, as well as installation of traffic signals and turn lanes in all four quadrants of the intersection. Crews will work on Route 45 about a half mile on each side of the intersection.

This portion of the project, which is estimated to cost approximately \$4 million, is also fully funded, with 80 percent of the funds coming from the federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program. The remainder of the funding comes from local sources, including the Village, Lake County, and the state of Illinois.

The Illinois Department of Transportation is currently reviewing the project plans. Once IDOT approves the plan, the next step is to release the project for bids and prepare for actual construction, which is slated to start in 2003. Construction is expected to take a year to complete.

Impact and Outcome

Both portions of the Fairway Drive project will feature staged construction, requiring contractors to keep lanes open in each direction throughout the course of the project. When the entire effort is complete (tentatively in Fall 2004), the result will be a new north-south connector road that relieves traffic on surrounding roadways, including Deerpath Drive.

Questions?

If you have questions about this project, please contact Public Works Director Ed Laudenslager at 847-680-2260 or edl@vhills.org, or call the Public Works Department at 847-367-3726.

Fall Project Pointers...

Mailbox Installation Guidelines Available



If you are considering installing a new mailbox, please don't forget to obtain a copy of the Village's mailbox installation guidelines before you purchase your materials. These guidelines are available online at www.vernonhills.org in the Building Division section of the Community Development Department, or by contacting the Public Works or Community Development Departments (847-367-3726 or 847-367-3704, respectively).

It has been determined that by standardizing mailboxes and posts, aesthetics of our neighborhoods will be enhanced, as compared with allowing an array of unique or decorative mailboxes.

Garbage Service is Mandatory

According to Chapter 9 of the Village Code of Ordinances, weekly garbage collection service is mandatory for every residence. This is equally true for residences that are rented or otherwise non-owner occupied.

Failure to comply with this ordinance may result in fines ranging from \$25 to \$1000 per day.

If you need to initiate garbage service or make any service changes, please call Onyx Waste Services of Waukegan at 847-623-3870. If you have other questions, please contact the Village Hall at 847-367-3700.

Please note that excessive garbage (for instance, discarded carpeting or moving boxes) requires a special collection. Please contact Onyx for a price quote.

Treated-wood post supports are recommended over steel posts because they are unaffected by the road salt used to keep our streets clear of snow and ice during the winter. Other support structures, such as masonry or concrete columns and wood or steel decorative monuments, are expressly prohibited.

A standard, U.S. Postal Service-approved mailbox is preferred. The mailbox should be mounted 42 inches off the ground, with the mailbox face aligned behind the curb face 6 to 12 inches.

Mailbox Check

Note that Village employees will be checking mailboxes for those that may need attention before the coming snow season. The snow loads pushed by the Village plows are very heavy, and can topple less sturdy mailboxes. This check is an attempt to proactively ensure that you don't have problems once the snowy weather hits.

Please Report Damage

Should a mailbox become damaged during snow removal operations by a Vernon Hills snowplow, Village policy authorizes a maximum \$50 reimbursement. Please contact the Public Works Department at 847-367-3726 to report any damage as soon as it occurs.

Village Joins J.U.L.I.E. Digger's Hotline

Vernon Hills Public Works Department has teamed up with the J.U.L.I.E. one-call system for underground services locates.

Before you dig for that new mailbox post — or for any fall project requiring digging — call J.U.L.I.E. at 1-800-892-0123. Information is also available from J.U.L.I.E. online at www.julie1call.com. Please allow 48 hours for workers to locate and mark the underground utilities.

Board Meets Twice Each Month

Just a reminder that the Village Board of Trustees holds their regular meetings on the first and third Tuesdays of each month, with some adjustments for holidays.

Meeting notices and agendas are posted prior to the meetings on both Cable Channel 4, as well as online at www.vernonhills.org. Information is also available by calling the Village Hall at 847-367-3700.

All board meetings are televised on Cable Channel 4. Please check the Channel 4 bulletin board or the online cable schedule at www.vernonhills.org for broadcast times.

Note that the Trustees schedule time for comments from residents at the beginning of each meeting. If you have an interest in addressing the board, consider calling the Village Clerk's Office at 847-367-3700 to check on updated agenda items and time frames.

As always, the Village welcomes your input. Residents are encouraged to contact Trustees and staff in person, via telephone (847-367-3700) or via e-mail — check the Village website at www.vernonhills.org for e-mail links and other contact information.

A.M.B.E.R. Alert Plan Available Here

Over the past few months, you have probably heard about something called the A.M.B.E.R. Plan. Unfortunately, the name has come up many times due to national media coverage of several incidents of missing and abducted children. Because of this increased awareness, the Vernon Hills Police Department would like to share some information with you about this resource.

A.M.B.E.R. stands for America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response. Started during the summer

of 2001 by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, the plan is named after a 9-year old Texas child named Amber who was abducted and killed in 1996. In February of this year, an Illinois A.M.B.E.R. Plan went into effect and all Illinois police agencies received information about it.

A.M.B.E.R. enables police agencies to use area media outlets to quickly provide information pertaining to a child abduction, in hopes of generating information that can be used to resolve the situation. Like most police agencies, the Vernon Hills Police

Department has procedures in place in case this resource is ever needed.

The use of A.M.B.E.R. alerts follows strict guidelines. Basically, it is designed to be used in only the most serious cases, such as when the police believe that the missing child is in danger of serious harm or death.

Like everyone else, we hope that the A.M.B.E.R. Plan is never needed. Nevertheless, please feel some comfort in knowing this resource is available.

Trick or Treat Time...

13 Tips for a Safe Halloween Celebration

No Halloween preparations are complete without a discussion of some important trick or treating safety matters. The Vernon Hills Police Department encourages you to sit down with your children and make sure they understand what they should and shouldn't do on the big night. Here's a list of some common sense suggestions — some for the kids and some for the adults.

- 1 Children should not to accept rides with strangers or older children not known to them and their parents.
- 2 Adults should accompany young children.
- 3 Confine trick-or-treat visits to your own immediate neighborhood.
- 4 Do not enter any home unless it is one of a relative or known friend.
- 5 Do not invite trick-or-treaters into your home.
- 6 Children should be instructed to be courteous and respectful of the property of others.
- 7 When planning a costume, keep in mind that long costumes and high-heeled shoes may be unsafe when climbing stairs and crossing streets.
- 8 Consider using make-up instead of wearing a mask, which can obstruct vision.
- 9 Choose light-colored, non-flammable costumes and carry a flashlight in order to be seen after dark.
- 10 Children should use extra care around pets — halloween costumes tend to cause excitement around pets just as much as they do children.
- 11 Keep your porch light and/or driveway light on.
- 12 Children should watch out for traffic. Also, adults who are driving should exercise extreme caution during trick-or-treat hours.
- 13 Children should be instructed to wait until they return home before eating any of their treats. Parents, please check all candy and treats

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4 p.m. to 8 p.m.**

thoroughly. To be safe, throw away all unwrapped candy and fruit.

Finally, everyone is asked to call 911 immediately if they see anyone or anything that looks suspicious. It's always better to be safe than sorry.

If you would like a quick refresher before the big day, please call the Vernon Hills Police Department at 847-247-4888 or visit the Department's Halloween page on the Village website — www.vernonhills.org.



Happy Halloween!

Westfield Joins Cultural Partners

The Village gratefully acknowledges that Westfield Shoppingtown Hawthorn has pledged support to the Cultural Partners program.

Westfield joins CDW, American Hotel Register, Washington Mutual, Portofino, Fifth Third Bank and the future Vernon Hills National Bank in providing crucial economic support to our Village-sponsored activities — including the Holiday Light Show, Arbortheater Concerts, and Summer Celebration.

Please Consider Partnering

The Village encourages organizations interested in supporting the community while building visibility to consider becoming a Cultural Partner. For information about the program, please contact Jason Raidbard at 847-367-3700, ext. 3516 or JasonR@vhills.org.

Most importantly, thank you to all of our Village's current Cultural Partners, and to the many organizations that support Vernon Hills in other ways.



Library Access

Continued from page 2...

It is also very unfortunate that Mr. Martin has taken it upon himself to use his freedom of speech and his money to attack the dedicated persons who volunteer their time as members of the Cook Memorial Library Board, whose sole responsibility is to provide the best possible library services to their constituents. What is even more disturbing is that Mr. Martin has gone so far as to personalize the issue by singling out the district's President, John Keister, simply because he is a resident of Vernon Hills.

Mr. Martin is not an elected member of any public board or commission, yet he wishes to influence the outcomes of important public decisions by printing misleading documents, rallying divisiveness, and continuing to attack those who do not agree with him.

Question: Why does Mr. Martin not run for library board or any other elected position? He uses his personal "Report" to call on others to serve — why not himself?

Instead of electing three persons who only want to see one solution, I

encourage all persons of the entire district to get involved and seek district solutions. Serving on a board or commission is one of the best ways a person can give of themselves for the betterment of their community. It takes a great deal of time, commitment, and a willingness to do what is right. Do not leave these important issues to those who have the money to publish personal "Reports." See for yourself what the issues are and work to resolve them.

Mr. Martin has long been on the record as being a proponent for expansion of the Cook Memorial Library site at its current location. It is quite understandable that the citizens of Libertyville and the merchants of their downtown would like to keep the library facility where it is. However after twenty years of studies and debate, the fact remains that the demographics of the district have changed and so have the demands for library services.

Many can agree that it is long overdue for the elected library board to address these issues. Now that they are trying to do just that, Mr. Martin does not like their direction. Mr. Martin's solution is to have the voters decide. This, too, is a great American freedom and ideal. The only problem is that Mr. Martin

wants to stack the deck by defining the question (to suit his own end) and then push the elected board into a decision that does not reflect the needs of the entire district, inevitably delay any action, and keep our communities divided.

This is not the first time Jack Martin has sent one-sided information. In a 1999 letter, I commented on information sent out by Jack Martin. In that letter I stated, "Simply being negative and against issues will not 'promote programs of a civic, social, and cultural nature which are designed to increase the functional and aesthetic values of our communities.'"

Our communities share so much — including a high school district and a prosperous chamber of commerce. I am sure that many of our residents frequent the shops and restaurants of Libertyville as do many of Libertyville's citizens frequent our retail establishments and festivals. Why should we be working against each other when it comes to the library?

Let's not let the Jack Martins of the world use the freedoms that we hold so dear work against us and continue to divide us.

Sincerely yours,

Roger L. Byrne
Village President

Hydrant Flushing

- Grosse Point — Sept. 30 to Oct. 4
- Gregg's Landing, Centennial Crossing — Oct. 7-11
- Corporate Woods, Continental Executive Park, New Century Town — Oct. 14-18
- Deerpath, Plymouth Farms, Harvest Hills, Stone Fence — Oct. 21-25
- Villas by the Lake, Pebbleshire, Cambridge Heights, Olde Grove Farm, Hawthorn Club, Sugar Creek, Country Club Estates — Oct. 28 to Nov. 1

Park District Teen Dances

The next 7th and 8th grade dance is set for Friday, **October 11**, while 6th graders will be getting together on Friday, **December 6**. Dances are from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Sullivan Center. Call 847-367-7270.

Cross Town Hoop Shoot

On November 1, boys and girls from across the area will descend on the Libertyville Sports Complex (1950 N. Hwy 45) for the annual Cross Town Hoop Shoot. The basketball contest is open to kids age 8 to 14. For details, call the Park District, 847-367-7270.

Care Coach Here October 17

Local seniors should mark **October 17** on their calendars and plan to visit the Care Coach. The mobile clinic will be parked at the Village Hall from 2:30 to 4:30 to provide a variety of free health services, including flu shots, bone scans, and general health screenings. For details, contact Ed Sychta of the Vernon Hills Seniors at 847-918-1723. *The Seniors have moved to their new location in the lower level of the new Village Hall. Stop in for a visit.*

Cuneo Hosts...

Cuneo Museum and Gardens is "Celebrating the Artistry of John A. Mallin" from **October 5 through November 11**. Mr. Mallin is known for murals he created both at Cuneo and in more than 100 Chicago churches during the 1940s. The exhibit features a variety of pieces on loan from his family.

Also at Cuneo, the Kirk Players present "Blithe Spirit" from **October 25 to November 10**. And be sure to visit the

Facts About Hawthorn School District 73 Referendum

"The Village supports the upcoming referendum in November. We believe that our schools are an investment in the future and that these facilities will allow our children to meet the challenges of the 21st century. The investment we make today will reap untold benefits in the future. Your vote in favor of this Referendum will achieve these benefits."

— Roger L. Byrne, Village President, and Trustees R. Duros, C. Hebda, S. Henley, T. Koch, K. Ryg, and B. Williams

Date to Vote: Tuesday, November 5, 2002

Issues: Construct two new structures to house 800 students; remodel projects in the Middle, Elementary North and South buildings; and enhance learning opportunities.

Tax Rate: No increase. Current rate is 35.5¢ per \$100 of property valuation.

How does my tax rate stay the same? The District seeks to refinance and extend the bond debt over the next 20 years.

Original Bond: The original bond authority is due to expire in 2017. With this proposal it would expire in 2022/23.

For Information: Call Superintendent Youssef Yomtoob, PhD., at 847-990-4210.

Cuneo house during December to view the mansion in all of its holiday finery. Call the Museum at 847-361-3042 for information on all of these events.

"Les Mis" at VHHS

High School District 128 invites you to "Les Miserables," **November 1 to 9** at Vernon Hills High School. Tickets are available starting October 21 by calling the Fine Arts Department, 847-932-2283.

"Hello Dolly" at Sullivan Center

The Vernon Hills Players present "Hello Dolly." Performances are scheduled for **November 16 and 17**, and **November 22 through 24**. Call the Park District for times and tickets, 847-367-7270.

Village Club at New Locale

The women of the Village Club have just launched their new year with a new meeting location. The group now gathers in Meeting Room A of the Sullivan Center, 635 Aspen Drive. Meetings are held every third Monday at 7 p.m. For details about the Club's many activities and special interest groups, call Joyce Miller, 847-367-0229.

Look Ahead to the Holidays

- **Village Tree Lighting**
Vernon Hills Golf Course
Saturday, November 30 at 4:30 p.m.
- **Holiday Light Show**
Cuneo Museum & Gardens
November 29 to December 30
- **New Year's Eve Fireworks**
Tuesday, December 31 at 7:30 p.m.

Frightfully

Fun Fall Fest is October 25

The Halloween tradition continues with Fall Fest 2002, sponsored by the Vernon Hills Park District and Max & Erma's restaurant. On **Friday, October 25**, the Sullivan Center will be transformed into a spook-tacular setting, including indoor trick or treating, haunted hayrides, costume contests, and more. Refreshments will be available for purchase. The event runs from 6 to 9 p.m. Tickets are free and available now, however quantities are limited. For details, call the Park District at 847-367-7270. *Special note: The Lions Club will be on hand at Fall Fest to collect old eye - glasses in support of their better vision program. Please remember them.*

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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

Please send comments to the Editor:

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Email: evant@vhills.org

Elected Officials

President Roger Byrne
Trustees Richard Duros, Cindy Hebda, Steve Henley,
Thom Koch, Kathleen Ryg, and Barbara Williams
Clerk Jeanne Schwartz

Contact Information

Fire 911 (Non-emergency – 367-5511)
Police 911 (Non-emergency – 362-4449)
Village Hall 847-367-3700
Public Works 847-367-3726
Building Div. 847-367-3704
Engineering Div. 847-918-3565
Clerk's Office 847-367-3700
Village Mgr. 847-367-3700
Cable Studio 847-918-3560
Main Fax 847-367-0880
TDD 847-918-3597
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



October/November 2002



The first Varsity coin toss at VHHS/Rustoleum Stadium.

VHHS Homecoming History

On October 4, more than 2,700 people turned out to enjoy the Vernon Hills High School Homecoming football game — the first game ever played with a true home-field advantage. The game, which pitted the Cougars against Grant High School, included a stadium dedication ceremony. The Homecoming agenda also included a Thursday evening parade, a pep rally, fireworks, and a variety of special student activities and sports competitions.