

Vernon Hills Village Voice

People Planning with Pride

The Official Newsletter of the Village of Vernon Hills

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The designated Village Trick or Treat time is...

**Friday, October 31
4 p.m. to 8 p.m.**

If you'd like to participate, please turn on your porch light. Have fun and stay safe!

Cable Access Studio Relocates for Better Community Service

In early September, the Vernon Hills cable access studio relocated from its spot in the Laschen Community Center to the lower level of the Village Hall. Trustees approved this move in order to keep Village services conveniently centralized, and to provide the Park District with more space in the Laschen Center.



As background, Cable Channel 4 is available to all Vernon Hills residents who subscribe to Comcast cable

TV service. Programming is designed to inform and educate the community about items of local interest. The effort is supported through a contractual agreement between the Village and Comcast.

“Board meetings — including those for the schools, library, and Village — always generate a lot of interest,” notes Cable Access Coordinator Mike Storto, who has been with the Village since 1997. Station tours are also popular.

To schedule a tour, to provide programming suggestions, or to find out more about free public access training, contact Mike Storto at 847-918-3560 or mikes@vhills.org. You may also contact Mike if you belong to a non-profit organization and wish to have your messages displayed on the Channel 4 Bulletin Board.

Cable Access Schedule

The following is the general schedule of Channel 4 programs. Additional programs are inserted as time allows. Note that meetings sometimes run longer than expected, causing the programs that follow to start later. A more complete weekly schedule is posted at www.vernonhills.org/communityinformation/cable.

- Vernon Hills Village Board: Thursday at 6:30 p.m.; Saturday at 11 a.m.; Sunday at 8 p.m.
- Vernon Hills Park District: Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday at 2 p.m.
- District #73: Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.; Saturday at 4 p.m.
- District #128: Wednesday at 8 p.m.; Sunday at 2 p.m.
- District #76: Second Friday at 8 p.m.
- Cook Memorial Library: Thursday at 8:30 p.m.
- *Your Link to Springfield*: Monday & Friday at 6 p.m.
- *Vernon Hills Update*: Monday & Friday at 6:30 p.m.

Other programs include *A Word with Willard Helander*; *Lake County Clerk*; *You Me Us*; *Community Forum*; Vernon Hills High School events; and church services.

From the Mayor...

More trains from Metra: It's hard to believe that in only an eight-year span, Metra has obtained federal funding to add a second track and expand its North Central Service. The initial creation of this rail line took nearly 20 years and a lot of effort by the Mayors and Villages stretching from Antioch to Chicago. Commuter rail is vital as it allows our residents to get to jobs in the city and allows local businesses to recruit workers to come to Vernon Hills.

Metra expects to increase its daily schedule to as many as 22 trains. This expansion does not come without a price. Traffic backups at crossing gates and noise are valid concerns.

Our most important concern is safety. Please teach your children about railroad safety. Do not play near the tracks. Do not cross the tracks except where gates and warning devices are provided. Once a train passes, wait a few more seconds for the train to clear the area — then look both ways for more trains, which may now be arriving from either direction on either track. The same warning goes for motorists. Never go around the gates or over the crossing before the gates have fully raised — another train could be ready to cross. (The penalty for improper crossing is \$250 or \$500.)

What about vacant areas? I'm often asked what is going to be built on vacant sites along Routes 60, 21 and 45. Most of those properties are owned by private entities, so development depends on the owner's desires. The Village's interest is to assure that what does get built meets our standards and is in all of our best interests. We continually evaluate development proposals based on several factors, including impact on traffic and schools, as well as whether they make good economic sense. We'll keep you posted if and when things progress beyond the proposal stage.

Roger L. Byrne

Water Heater Permit Fees Eliminated

The Village Board recently passed an ordinance eliminating the permit fee for water heater replacement. However due to the health and safety concerns resulting from an improperly installed water heater, the Community Development Department will issue free permits and inspectors will still inspect water heaters to confirm proper and safe installations.

To ensure residents and contractors schedule inspections, a \$50 cash permit bond is required when the permit is issued. This amount is refunded when the project passes inspection.

Generally, water heater permits are issued instantly across the counter at the time of application. The Community Development Department is open from 8:30 to 5, Monday through Friday.

Should your water heater require emergency replacement when the Village Hall is not open for business (i.e., over the weekend), residents are directed to do what is necessary to remedy the problem, including installing a new unit, then contact the Village as soon as possible (Monday morning) to request a "post-repair permit" and schedule an inspection.

Staff Evaluating Village Hall Parking

The Village Hall and surrounding area has become quite a destination spot. The Village Hall, located at 290 Evergreen Drive, is usually busy tending to resident services and meetings. The Evergreen Interim Library and Vernon Hills Senior Center, located in the lower level of the building, also draw large crowds. Add in the people who visit next door at the Park

District's Laschen Community Center and the result can be a full parking lot.

Note that the parking lot on the east side of Evergreen and adjacent to the golf course generally has spaces available. In addition, Village staff is looking at ways to provide additional parking. In the meantime, thank you for your patience.

Time to File for March 16 Election

The Lake County Clerk reports that the next primary election will be held on March 16. Candidates seeking nomination for a county-level office may pick up petition packets at the Clerk's Office, 18 N. County Street, Waukegan. The last day to file petitions is December 15. Several county-level seats are up for election. No local seats or referendums are currently expected on the ballot.

The last day to register to vote in the next election is February 17. Registration is available at the Village Hall (8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday), as well as local

libraries. Lake County is also working with local businesses, including some Jewel food stores, to provide on-site registration. For details, check www.co.lake.il.us/entyclk/.



Thank you, Vernon Hills Symphony

Thank you to the more than 50 local musicians, as well as to director Jeremy Marino, Assistant Director Eric Garcia and Chairman Lisa Bordo, for offering your time and talent to the community.

Four Tips for Safer Fireplaces

by Mike McNally, Countryside Fire Protection District

During the past year, residents in the Deerpath subdivision have experienced several chimney fires in their prefabricated fireplaces. Fortunately, no one was injured and the fires were quickly extinguished by Countryside firefighters. These and thousands of other chimney fires that occur around the country each year could be prevented if people follow the prescribed operational and annual maintenance procedures. Countryside Fire offers these tips:

- Have your chimney inspected by a professional chimney sweep at least once a year, and cleaned if necessary. More frequent cleanings may be required, depending on the type of wood you burn, creosote build-up, the type of fireplace you have, and how often you use it.
- Inspect the chimney top, removing any obstructions from air inlets and guard screens. Be sure your chimney cap does-

n't have gaps that might allow birds to enter and build a nest.

- Inspect the firebox hearth and liner for deterioration. If your firebox has a steel liner, inspect for broken seams, burn through, rust or warpage. Closed-circuit video inspections are available for difficult-to-see areas.
- Follow the manufacturer's recommended operating procedures. Never burn construction materials, trash, plastics or other items, as they often contain chemicals that burn hotter than the fireplace can tolerate. Consult with the manufacturer, a licensed contractor, or a local building inspector before modifying your fireplace.

One final note — if you realize you have a chimney fire, get everyone out of the house and call 911 immediately. Homes can be replaced — lives cannot. For further information on fire prevention safety tips, contact Countryside Fire or visit www.countrysidefire.com.

Project Updates...

Trains, TIFs, Walking Trails...

Here are some project updates and other items discussed during recent Village Board meetings. The Board meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month at Village Hall. Meetings are also rebroadcast on Cable Channel 4 (*see page 1*).

- Construction is expected to begin this fall on a second train platform at the **Metra station**. Trustees have also been discussing plans to add parking, build restrooms, and make other station improvements.
- Work along **Milwaukee Avenue** was slowed by the need to relocate some previously undiscovered utility lines. The project should still finish by late fall.
- Construction is underway on **Fairway Drive** from the Arbortheater to Greenview Court, with delays expected through Thanksgiving. This is part of the

larger project to extend Fairway through the Nike site, linking Routes 45 and 60.

- Staff is working to coordinate a **bike/pedestrian path system** to connect major areas in our Village, as well as link to other communities. Submit your ideas online by completing the Suggestion Form found on the main page at www.vernonhills.org. A proposed map is also available for review at the Village Hall. Public hearings are expected to be scheduled for October or November.
- The Board continues discussion of the **TIF District** located at the north-west corner of Route 45 and Milwaukee Avenue. Known as "Town Center," planners are currently working with the College of Lake County to agree on stormwater detention configurations.

IN BUSINESS...

Here are a few business openings, as taken from recent permit requests to the Community Development Department:

- **Encore Dance Studio**, 50 Lakeview Parkway, Suite 116
- **Hooters Restaurant**, 545 Lakeview Parkway
- **Rand-Tec Insurance**, 977 Lakeview Parkway, Suite 105
- **The Vitamin Shoppe**, 325 Milwaukee Avenue, Suite 100
- **Weathervane**, 112 Hawthorn Center
- **Helzberg Diamonds**, 322 Hawthorn Ctr
- **Memories on Canvas**, 809 Hawthorn Ctr
- **Woody's**, 610 Hawthorn Center
- **Oakes Train Rides**, Hawthorn Center
- **New carts at Westfield Shoppingtown Hawthorn include:** Renaissance Nails, Moon Candles, and Picture Perfect

NEWS FROM WESTFIELD...

Current Westfield Shoppingtown Hawthorn renovations include replacing staircases with escalators, building restrooms near the play castle, and constructing a new family lounge, which includes private nursing rooms, bottle warmers, and children's videos. Check it out!

- Trustees heard a **report from retail consultants** Melaniphy & Associates, suggesting the Village continue to aggressively market to major retailers, car dealers and restaurants. Vernon Hills boasts \$1.136 billion in annual retail sales for 2002.
- The Board is also reviewing Lake County's restaurant oversight process, looking at development proposals, and working with Nike athletic company regarding approval for the "Nike Sports Complex" name.



A view of Fairway Drive from Greenview Court.

Notes from the PD...

Vernon Hills Earns 4th Tobacco Grant

• Tobacco Enforcement Grant

For the 4th consecutive year, the VHPD has received a grant from the Illinois Liquor Control Commission to continue the education and enforcement of laws pertaining to underage tobacco sales. With the \$2,530 grant, the department will conduct three "checks" at all village tobacco licensees, insuring that minors are unable to purchase tobacco.

Since the first grant in 2002, the department has conducted 179 checks. Of these, a tobacco sale was refused nearly 92 percent of the time. When a sale was made, the person responsible for it was charged with selling tobacco to a minor.

• Meet Officer Levicki

Officer Jim Levicki is the new D.A.R.E. officer at the Hawthorn Middle School. He will also be assuming the duties of Officer Friendly



in the elementary grades. Jim is a seven-year veteran who came to Vernon Hills in 2001 from the Mt. Prospect Police Department. He's looking forward to his new role, and we're sure the students will enjoy getting to know him!

• Explorer Scouts Among Best

Congratulations goes out to the members of our Law Enforcement Explorer Scout post for their outstanding job at the Illinois Training Conference. Scouts from more than thirty agencies participated in law enforcement-related competitions, with our Scouts earning four awards:

- Bomb Scene Search — 1st Place
- Traffic Stops — 3rd Place
- Firearms Training System (using laser weaponry) — 3rd Place
- Crisis Intervention — 4th Place

Learn more about the Explorer Scouts on our website — www.vhpd.com.

• Child Safety Seat Assistance

Due to the many types of child safety seats, as well as the variety of vehicle seat belts systems, it can be extremely difficult to properly install and use a child's car seat. In fact, it's estimated that between 80 and 90 percent of child safety seats are not used properly. The police department has several certified child seat inspectors available to answer questions and assist with installations. To schedule an appointment, call 847-362-4449, x4499 and leave a voice mail message. Your call will be returned as soon as possible. (*Coming next time: Information about new car seat regulations, which take effect in January.*)

Village Sponsors Senior Transportation

The Village continues its commitment to senior residents by providing free transportation on the Village-sponsored Senior Bus, available to all residents age 55 or over. The general schedule is 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., with door-to-door service arranged by calling the Village Hall (847-367-3700) 24 hours in advance. For complete route information, contact the Village Hall. In general, the bus follows this schedule:

Monday & Friday — Medical appointments (please schedule appointments between 9:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.; call for a list of facilities served)

Tuesday & Thursday — Vernon Hills shopping areas, Vernon Area Public Library, Evergreen Library/Senior Center

Wednesday — Vernon Hills shopping areas and Senior Center

Police Department Open House Sunday, October 5 from 1-4 p.m.

754 Lakeview Parkway

By the time you read this, the 2003 VHPD open house will be only days away. Make plans to stop in. We've planned lots of fun and educational activities, as well as refreshments. Since construction at the Deerpath fire station prohibits Countryside from holding their own open house, firemedics will be joining in the Police event — a great two-for-one deal! Call 847-247-4888 for details.

(*Countryside Fire will still hold an open house from 1 to 4 p.m. at the 26813 N. Midlothian Road station.*)

Halloween Highlights

- The Village has designated 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday, October 31 as official trick-or-treat time.
- Drivers, use extreme caution when driving during trick-or-treat hours. Kids, trick-or-treat with friends or an adult, and don't enter a home to get your treat.
- Please visit the Police Department website for a whole bunch of other important Halloween safety tips — www.vhpd.com.
- New this year — bike patrols! In addition to the regular high-priority Halloween patrols, a large number of police officers will be out and about on bicycles. This bike patrol is not a response to any past problem, but rather is another way to enhance safety and community in our neighborhoods.
- Whether it's on Halloween or any other day, always call 911 right away if you notice anything suspicious.



Fall Fest '03

Plan your costume and prepare for frightfully good family fun — **Max & Erma's Fall Fest** is set for **Friday, October 24** from 6 to 9 p.m. That's the night when the Sullivan Center, 635 N. Aspen Drive, will transform into a trick-or-treater's delight. Activities include games, a magic show, face painting, refreshments, and more. Visit the Haunted Panic Room, if you dare! Free tickets are available at the Sullivan Center.

Don't Blow It! Bag It!

Remember to put your leaves in yard waste containers or yard waste bags and place them at the curb for pickup. The last yard waste pickup is scheduled for **December 2**. Please don't blow or rake leaves to the gutter, as the leaves tend to clog the storm drains and cause flooding. (Citations may be issued for noncompliance.) If you have questions about waste collection, call Onyx Waste Service at 847-623-3870.

Pre-Snow Mailbox Check

Public Works will be checking mailboxes to make sure they can withstand the winter onslaught. If employees notice a problem, you'll receive a letter.

Hydrant Flushing

Lake County has announced the following hydrant flushing schedule:

Sept. 29-Oct. 3: Grosse Point, Emerald Point, Old Grove Farm

Oct. 6-10: Country Club Estates, Cts of Indian Creek, Hawthorn Club, Sugar Creek

Oct. 13-17: Stone Fence, Centennial Crossing, Sarah's Glen, Sanctuary Pt., Georgetown, Woodbine, Corp. Woods

Oct. 20-24: Deerpath, Plymouth Farms, Harvest Hills, Fashion Square, Rivertree

Oct. 27-31: Gregg's Landing, New Century, Hawthorn Center

Lend a Hand to the Shelter

The St. Marys of Vernon PADS shelter begins another season in October. This local effort to care for the homeless can always use juice boxes, cereal bars, lunch snacks, and paper products. Cash is always in good taste, as well! Contact Jim Wogan at 847-782-4126.

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 coverage. Services include health screenings, immunizations, and more. The next visits are set for 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. on the following Thursday afternoons — October 16, November 13 and December 11. Contact the Village Hall (847-367-3700) or the CareCoach (847-535-6709), or check www.lakeforesthospital.com/carecoach.

Seniors on Winter Schedule

The Vernon Hills Seniors will switch to afternoon meetings beginning in November. Meetings will be held at 1 p.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of the month in the Senior Center, located in the lower level of the Village Hall. All residents age 55 or older are invited to attend. To learn more, call Ed Sychta at 847-918-1723. (*Note: The Libertyville High School Senior Dinner and Holiday Music Fest is set for December 16. Check with the Senior Center for details.*)

Red Ribbon Classic

The Red Ribbon Classic will be held **October 5** at Libertyville High School. Sponsored by District 128, the 5K and 1 mile runs fund programs supporting drug-free living. For information, visit www.district128.org or call Mickie Kirschbaum at 847-327-7027.

GLMV Biz/Home/Health Expo

The GLMV Chamber will present a combined Business, Home and Health Expo on Thursday, **October 9** from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Libertyville Sports Complex located on Route 45. Admission is free. For details or to exhibit, contact the Chamber at 847-680-0750 or www.glmvchamber.org.

Enjoy These Plays...

- **"On the Razzle"** by Vernon Hills High School. October 23 to 25 (847-932-2000)
- **"Into the Woods"** by Libertyville High School. November 6 to 8 (847-327-7800)
- **"An Inspector Calls"** by Kirk Players. October 30 through November 23 at Cuneo Museum (847-362-3042)
- **"A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum"** by Vernon Hills Players. November 15, 16 and 21, 22, 23 at Sullivan Center (847-367-7270)

Holiday Spirit at Cuneo

Holiday finery, historic exhibits and a beautiful party setting mark the winter season at Cuneo Museum and Gardens, 1350 Milwaukee Avenue. Call 847-362-3042 now to find out about the very popular (and romantic) Valentine Wedding Packages.

Book Your Banquet Today!

The Vernon Hills 9-hole Public Golf Course offers full banquet facilities — perfect for holiday parties. To find out more, call 847-680-9310.

Light Show Starts November 28

The Winter Wonderland Holiday Light Show will sparkle from **November 28 through January 4**. Hours are 6 to 10 p.m. daily. The Village worked with residents and the Cuneo estate to lessen the impact of traffic, which will be alleviated by having cars exit onto Milwaukee Avenue. The entrance will remain on Lakeview Parkway. Hours have also been reduced.

Help Light the Tree

The switch will be flipped on the official Vernon Hills holiday tree on **Saturday, November 29** at 4:30 p.m. Enjoy complimentary hot chocolate and cookies. Special invited dignitaries include **Santa**, who is expected to arrive via fire truck. The tree is located on the Vernon Hills Golf Course, near the clubhouse.

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290 Evergreen Drive
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Resident or Business Customer
Vernon Hills, IL 60061

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Please send comments to the Editor:

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Elected Officials

President Roger Byrne
Trustees Richard Cashman, Richard Duros, Cindy Hebda,
Thom Koch, Stephanie Weil 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.



October/November 2003

It's Homecoming Season!

Here in town, Vernon Hills High School Homecoming is set for October 13 to 18

- Thursday, October 16
Parade, Pep Rally, Fireworks
Parade steps off at 6:30 p.m. from Cherokee Park, travels north up Deerpath to Phillip Drive, south to Lakeview Parkway, ending at the High School. Pep Rally and fireworks follow.
- Friday, October 17
Cougar Football vs. Wauconda

These local Homecoming celebrations are also coming up quickly...

- Stevenson High School: October 5 to 11
- Libertyville High School: October 7 to 11

Best wishes, everyone!

