

Vernon Hills Village Voice

People Planning with Pride

The Official Newsletter of the Village of Vernon Hills

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Conservative Revenue Forecast Prompts Another Trim Budget

Village officials and staff continue to work through the budget being prepared for the 2005/06 fiscal year, which begins May 1. As has been the case for the past several years, revenues available to the Village have been projected to be flat. For this reason, the Village will continue to hold down expenses.

Background on Revenue Trends

Vernon Hills has always relied heavily on sales tax. In a typical year, it represents more than half of the Village's revenue. As early as 2001, local sales tax revenue showed signs of stalling. State income tax, which is distributed based on population, fell significantly during that same time. By late 2002, the Village determined that it was time to adjust to long-term revenue reduction.

A key to expense reduction has been personnel expenses. Although the Village had been reorganizing functions to reduce personnel since 2000, a policy of not filling vacancies unless absolutely necessary began in November 2002. This has brought the Village's full-time staffing budget down from 127 to 115. The result is an annual savings of about \$1 million in personnel costs for the FY2005/06 budget.

Continuing Last Year's Efforts

Because of the revenue crunch, last year's FY2004/05 budget was prepared with a large number of cuts and deferrals, including cuts in training, outside services, equipment purchases, grants to other agencies, and even the deferral of the annual road program.

It was also decided that the Village could no longer afford to subsidize yard waste pick-up, beginning this spring. Considering that this benefit was not equally used by all residents, and was also expensive (costing about \$80,000 for the 2004 collection season, and anticipated to increase dramatically), Trustees thought it prudent to move to a pay-for-service system commonly used in neighboring communities. (See right.) The Village will continue to subsidize recycling at a cost of \$41.40 per household.

Continued on page 4

New Yard Waste Program Starts April 1

Landscape waste collection resumes again on April 1. Your landscape collection day will not change (generally, your primary refuse collection day), however please note that **the Village will no longer subsidize our resident's landscape waste collection.** Instead, we will implement a new two-option purchase system.

Subscription Service: The first option is subscription service, through which residents are allowed six bags/containers of landscape waste per week from April 1 through the end of November. The cost is \$4.50 per month. If you need additional bags collected over your six-bag allotment, you can then purchase a landscape sticker (see below). **To sign up, call Onyx at 847-623-3870 before April 1.**

Sticker Program: Residents may purchase collection stickers for \$1.80 each. Attach a sticker to each landscape bag or approved container and place it at the curb. Stickers will be available by mid-March through Onyx, and at Village Hall, Sullivan Center, and local retailers.

More information about participating retailers as well as the program in general will be provided directly from Onyx. If you have questions, call Onyx at 847-623-3870.

By the Numbers

18,850: The number of vehicles passing through this season's Holiday Light Show. It was one of the best years in its 10-year run.

Thanks, Students

Thank you to students at Hawthorn District 73 and Vernon Hills High School for creating some of the new painted Light Show characters. Your talent was appreciated by all.

Share Your Thoughts

Do you have suggestions for next year's Light Show? Or ideas about anything else going on in town? Share your thoughts online at www.vernonhills.org.

From the Mayor...

Lake County Sales Tax Referendum:

April 5 is Election Day. Village President, Board Trustees, and Clerk positions are on the ballot, as well as several referendums. Take, for instance, Lake County's request for a half-cent sales tax on some purchases. The County would use the generated funds to address specific local transportation issues, such as a potential railroad overpass at Route 60 (*see item at right*). More information is posted at www.lakegov.info.

Countryside Fire Request: Another item on the ballot is a request for funding to replace Countryside Fire's deteriorating Midlothian Station. Background on this important request is available at www.countrysidefire.com or by calling Fire Chief Jim Spiegel at 847-367-5511. Please take the time to be informed, and to vote on April 5.

Village Budget: Staff has presented the 2005/06 Village budget. Like last year, the Board faces tough decisions based upon revenue projections. As many of you know, the Village does not levy a property tax. Rather, 70% of our revenue comes from local sales tax and state income tax. Unfortunately, these revenue sources have not been increasing at the same rate as expenses. In response, the Village has cut staff through attrition, reduced or eliminated non-essential services, eliminated events such as the New Years Eve Fireworks, and suspended the landscape yard waste subsidy (*see page 1*). It is our hope that as several new retail projects come on line, we will be able to review future projects in more positive financial light.

Improvements Mean Delays — for a While: Construction projects on local roads are a mark of progress. It's true that this summer we may experience some traffic delays, but the results will be worth it. Have patience. This, too, shall pass!

Roger L. Byrne

Road Closures Start in April

Metra has announced its work schedule in preparation for double tracking. Expect delays and plan for detours as roads will be closed at the following crossings.

- **Route 45 crossing — Closed April 11 to 22***
- **Route 60 crossing — Closed May 3 to 16***
- **Butterfield Road crossing — Closed June 1 to 22***

* Note that while these schedules sometimes change, Metra has pledged to keep the Village updated. To keep you informed, we encourage residents and local businesses to sign up for free **Broadcast Email Alerts** at www.vernonhills.org. Metra users are also reminded that work will begin this spring to expand the station parking lot by more than 400 spaces. While most work will occur east of the current lot, please be cautious (and patient) as crews work in the area.

From the Boardroom...

Train Tie-ups, Waste Hauling & More

Vernon Hills, Mundelein, Lake County and the Illinois Department of Transportation have agreed to study the best way to separate trains from motor vehicles, thereby decreasing traffic tie ups relating to the Canadian National Railroad crossing at Route 60 near Butterfield Road. Each participant will provide about \$61,000 to fund a feasibility study, which will take about a year to complete.

Given that rail traffic will increase greatly with the addition of a second track, and that motor vehicle traffic is expected to continue to increase at a rate of 4 percent annually, this effort will be key to alleviating congestion in our Village. The estimated total cost for a grade separation (i.e., overpass) is estimated at \$36.2 million. It would be among the efforts funded through the proposed county sales tax increase being deliberated on the April 5 ballot.

In Other News...

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

• The board voted to extend the **waste services contract** with Onyx. The contract includes a price increase for refuse and recycling collection. The Village will continue to subsidize recycling at an annual cost of \$41.40 per residential unit. Due to

budget constraints, the Village will no longer be able to cover the cost of landscape collection. Residents are encouraged to call Onyx to sign up for subscription landscape collection or to purchase stickers. (*See page 1.*)

• Lincolnshire reports intermittent daytime **lane closures on Milwaukee Avenue** between Aptakisic and Tower Road as crews install turn lanes. Work is expected to end June 1.

• Trustees are in the process of selling a **two-acre parcel** at Route 60 and Aspen Drive. The land, which had been reserved for a potential Cook Library site, is expected to bring \$960,000. The Board is exploring other options for a potential library location.

• **Jared Jewelry** has proposed putting in a store on the site of the former Chili's restaurant.

• **Tree trimmers** are working in Hawthorn Club, Olde Grove, Grosse Pointe Circle, and Deerpath.

• If your **mailbox was damaged** due to snowplowing, please call Public Works at 847-367-3726 before May 15.

• **Jeanne Schwartz** was named to the vacant Trustee position formerly held by Rich Cashman, who moved out of the Village. Trustees named **Holly Udesky** to the Clerk position, previously held by Jeanne Schwartz.

• **Debbie Bond** was appointed as the new director of the Vernon Hills Pageant. She steps in for **Pam Adams**, who has handled those duties for the past several years.

• **Evan Teich**, Vernon Hills' Assistant to the Village Manager for the past seven years, is the new Village Manager for Sussex, Wisconsin.

IN BUSINESS...

It's always a great idea to shop in town – a percent of all sales tax collected from local businesses stays in town to support Village services. Here are a few business openings, as taken from recent permit requests to the Community Development Department:

- **Bed Bath & Beyond**, 413 Milwaukee
- **DSW Shoes**, 413 Milwaukee
- **First American Title**, 3 Hawthorn Pkwy
- **Granite Gallery**, 111 Townline Rd.
- **Home Depot Tool Rental**, 493 Milwaukee, in Home Depot
- **JoAnn Superstore**, Market Place
- **Liberty Tax Service**, 117 Townline Rd.
- **Moho Grill**, Hawthorn Village Commons
- **Office of State Rep. Kathy Ryg**, 50 Lakeview Parkway
- **Opa Estiatorio**, 950 Lakeview Pkwy.
- **Petco**, 555 Townline Rd.
- **True Health**, 830 West End Ct.
- **Yummy's**, 279 Evergreen Dr.

Watch for these soon-to-open projects:

- **Aaron's Enterprise**, Milwaukee Avenue (new gas station & quick lube)
- **Ashley Furniture**, Market Place
- **College of Lake County**, Milwaukee Avenue (expansion)
- **Old Navy**, Market Place
- **Potbelly Sandwiches**, Hawthorn Hills
- **Sam's Club**, Market Place (remodel)
- **Target**, Townline Rd. (expanding)

At Westfield Shoppingtown Hawthorn:

- **Claire's**, relocated to 619 Hawthorn Ctr.
- **Dollar Market**, 204 Hawthorn Ctr.
- **Great Wraps**, 905 Hawthorn Ctr.
- **Limited Too**, 808 Hawthorn Ctr.
- **Painted Penguin**, relocated to 632 Hawthorn Ctr.
- **Russian Gifts & Collectibles**, relocated to 423 Hawthorn Ctr.
- **Southwest Gallery**, relocated to 228 Hawthorn Ctr.

New carts at Westfield:

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Airbrush Express | Line Chaserz |
| Asian American Trading | Motion Pictures |
| Caribou Coffee | Otaku Takeout |
| Chicago Tribune | Perfect Gifts |
| Creative Engraving | Perfumes Place |
| Frame It | Super Team |
| Lindt Chocolate | |

Work Starts at New Intersection: Route 45 & Fairway/Prairie

A key transportation project that will greatly impact traffic is the long-awaited connection of Fairway Drive to Route 45 and Prairie Road. This project, which has been in the works for more than a decade, will result in a north-south artery that will connect Route 60 all the way to Lake Cook Road.

The Lake County Department of Transportation is coordinating the project, including the recent removal of trees and ongoing work to move utilities in preparation for construction of this new intersection. A temporary traffic signal will also be installed and operational until permanent lights are put in place.

Heavy grading equipment is expected to roll in as soon as weather and utility work is completed, possibly as soon as April.

In order to accommodate appropriate turn and through lanes in each direction, the new pavement will be five-lanes wide at the intersection. These extra lanes will

taper back away from the intersection, based on an engineering formula that takes into account the speed of travel on the road, resulting in the need to remove trees and begin the lane expansion a distance back from the corners.

More than 80 percent of this \$3.3 million intersection project is federally funded, with the rest contributed by the Village, County and State.

Also in the works is the redirection of Buffalo Grove and Port Clinton Roads just south of Prairie Road. That project, which is also expected to start in April, will involve pavement adjustments to allow those roads to feed into the new Route 45 intersection smoothly and safely.

Updates will be posted at www.lakegov.info and at www.vernonhills.org. Information is also available by calling Vernon Hills Public Works Director Ed Laudenslager at 847-680-2260.



Fairway Drive at Route 45 will become increasingly busy as crews move utilities, install temporary traffic signals, and construct this new intersection. Most of the work is expected to be finished by Thanksgiving.

Want to stay informed about all of this roadwork?

- Sign up for Village's Broadcast Email service at www.vernonhills.org.
- Check www.vernonhills.org for updates and explanations
- Watch Cable Access 4. A program schedule is posted at www.vernonhills.org/communityinformation/cable
- Call the Village Hall at 847-367-3700

Vote April 5



Sample ballots as well as information on polling places and absentee voting is available by contacting the Lake County Clerk at 847-377-2400 or online at www.co.lake.il.us/cntyclk. Information is also available through the Village Hall at 847-367-3700.

Village Budget

Continued from page 1

Trend Toward Improvement

As we go into the FY2005/06, the picture has improved a bit. Sales tax is slowly growing by over 1% and new stores are opening at the redeveloped Marketplace. Later will come the expansion of Target and Westfield Shoppingtown Hawthorn, as well as plans to develop the Tax Increment Finance District at Route 45 and Milwaukee Avenue. The Illinois Municipal League projects that income tax during the coming fiscal year will almost reach levels of five years ago.

Shifting to Fairer Tax

Although the Village has many reasons to be optimistic about its revenue base in the long-term, all of this would be considered speculative by the bond rating agencies. As the Village prepared to issue debt for the TIF District, we needed to increase revenues, but we wanted to do so in such a way that will have minimal impact on the residents.

The board decided that on July 1, the Village will **eliminate the Gas Utility Tax**, which generates about \$450,000 a year. We targeted its elimination because deregulation has allowed most businesses to bypass this tax. Although North Shore Gas could not give us specific numbers

for Vernon Hills, across the system, 85% of the tax comes from residential customers. Therefore, assuming that 85% of the Village's Gas Tax falls on residents, the average resident has been paying about \$48 a year in Gas Utility Tax (which equates to 5 percent of twelve bills averaging \$80 a month).

In place of a 5% Gas Utility Tax, we have **increased the Telecommunications Tax** by 3.5%, from 1% to 4.5%, effective July 1. This 3.5% increase results in about \$1,050,000 in new revenues, or about \$600,000 more than the 5% Gas Utility Tax provided. Although we cannot get specific numbers from our largest telecommunications provider, this tax does a better job of

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Capital Plan Includes Grosse Pointe Road Rehab

This year's capital budget includes the re-instatement of the **road rehabilitation project**, designed to systematically repair Village streets to ensure that they last as long as possible.

While this year's budget does include general pavement patching and sealing, the bulk of the effort will focus on **roads in Grosse Pointe Village, Carriages of Grosse Pointe, and Court of Shorewood**, with work to include curb, gutter, and sidewalk repairs; drainage improvements; and grinding/overlaying of new pavement. The project is expected to begin in June, with updates available through the Construction Hotline at 847-918-3575.

Arboretheater Expands

Arboretheater: Landscaping project is set to begin this spring for Arboretheater South, located just inside the Vernon Hills Athletic Complex. When complete, the expanded Arboretheater should flow seamlessly from the existing area to the new parcel. Site design will emphasize low maintenance native plants, as well as some of the same general design components and amenities. When completed, the new portion of the Arboretheater will include lighting, benches,

a gazebo, and a historical marker explaining the significance of the former Nike missile site upon which the complex is built.

Grants for "Green" Projects

Seavey Drainage Ditch: An Environmental Protection Agency/Stormwater Management Commission-sponsored STAG Grant for \$138,632 has been awarded for the Seavey Drainage Ditch Stream Corridor Restoration Project. The Seavey was originally excavated with near vertical banks, which are highly erodible. This grant will assist in stabilizing the banks using bioengineering techniques and native plantings. The project, which will extend from the Arboretheater to Route 45, is expected to start in October. Staff will be scheduling meetings with nearby residents in May or June.

Harvey Lake: The Army Corps has committed \$260,000 for improvements to Harvey Lake. As background, the Village obtained the deed to the lake and surrounding property as part of the Gregg's Landing development. In 2000, Lake County performed tests to determine the health of the lake. The Army Corps project



Crews will begin placing trees, benches, lights and more in the new portion of the Memorial Arboretheater, which adjoins the southern edge of the current site.

objectives are consistent with this study, including mitigating shoreline erosion, removing invasive plants, reintroducing beneficial native plants, and enhancing water quality. Staff will meet with area residents in June. The project is expected to start in October.

The Village offers sincere thanks to the Army Corps, EPA, Stormwater Management Commission, and Lake County for their continued assistance in improving Vernon Hills. More information on all of these projects is available at www.vernonhills.org, or by contacting Village Engineer Dave Brown at 847-918-3565 or DaveB@vhills.org.

Construction Hotline
847-918-3575



Budget — continued from page 4

placing a fairer share of the tax burden on businesses. Accordingly, for a resident with an average monthly phone bill of \$120 a month, the annual cost of this 3.5% increase would be about \$50 a year, which is not much more than the \$48 savings generated by eliminating the Gas Utility Tax.

Conservative Capital Plan

Based on the improving economic picture, the Village has decided to restore a more normal capital plan. The current long-term plan calls for \$24 million in capital expenses over the next seven years, including \$13.2 million for a road resurfacing program needed to stay ahead of deterioration.

The plan includes rebuilding many roads in the Deerpath subdivision, which were made with material that has been found to completely decompose over time. It also includes \$2.84 million for sidewalk and bike path improvements, \$1.74 million for traffic and street lights, \$1.35 million for future improvements at the Vernon Hills Athletic Complex, and \$960,000 for storm water management.

In order to fund this conservative plan, it was decided that the capital fund balance could be drawn down by \$1.6 million in order to support a \$3.6 million capital program. Over the following three years the village plans to take the fund balance down another \$3.7 million to about \$13.7

million, before projected revenue growth stabilizes the situation.

This long-view projection is based on a number of assumptions, the most important being what happens to our volatile sales tax revenue source. For this reason, staff and officials remain conservative in our plans. If and when things improve, we can then investigate moving down a long list of capital demands that would benefit the Village.

For More Information...

Budget discussions are incorporated into Village Board Meetings, held the first and third Tuesday of each month. For information, contact Larry Nakrin at 847-367-3700 or LarryN@vhills.org.

Tips for Thoughtful Landscaping

As we anticipate the arrival of spring, our thoughts often turn to landscaping projects. Here are some questions to consider when planning your garden or landscape project, courtesy of the Community Development and Public Works Departments.

What is the size of my project, and what is the best location?

Consider sunlight, drainage, available space, and even the views it creates from inside your home and around your yard.

Is the soil adequate? Typically, most plants like a well drained, slightly acidic

soil. Unfortunately, our soils are generally heavier, contain quite a bit of clay, and are slightly alkaline. You may need to add compost or other amendments.

Will this project impact drainage? If you are planning to add or amend soil, make sure your changes don't negatively impact drainage in your own yard or your neighbors' yards.

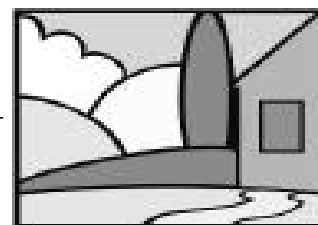
Will the plants outgrow the area? Much of the plant material we find at local nurseries comes in small sizes that fit in our vehicles. Verify how large a plant

will be at maturity. Will it then still fit the space you have planned? Will it grow too close to your home? Or will it overgrow into a sidewalk and create problems for pedestrians, or block drivers' sight lines?

Dial before you dig! Before you start, call JULIE (Joint Utilities Locating Information for Excavators) at 800-892-0123. Representatives will mark underground utilities. The service free – and required by law.

Need assistance? The Village does not require a permit for most homeowner landscape projects. However, if you are not sure how your project will affect drainage or sight lines, please contact Tom Brettmann at 847-918-3591 or at tomb@vhills.org.

A word on home improvements... Many home improvement projects such as driveways, decks, sheds, and siding require a permit. While several types of permits are available over the counter, others require up to 15 business days to process. Information about the permit and inspection process is available online at www.vernonhills.org (go to "forms"). Construction specialists are also available to answer questions and offer assistance. Contact the Building Department at 847-367-3704.



Westfield Plans Extensive Remodel

Westfield Shoppingtown Hawthorn recently presented concept plans for a major expansion and remodel, which could include a multi-screen theater, parking decks, and "lifestyle center" elements. Plans are preliminary, and include no discussion of actual tenants. Information is posted at www.vernonhills.org. Residents can view Westfield's plan by visiting Village Hall.

Fate, Teamwork Save Life

When Investigator Jesse Goldsmith and Officer Ken Maier stood outside the south door of the police station on December 17, neither realized that their choice of spots would help save the life of a Vernon Hills resident. While driving on north Lakeview Parkway shortly after 5 p.m., Mario Maculan passed out behind the wheel from a heart attack. His vehicle jumped the curb, struck a sign, crossed the roadway, and came to rest on the front lawn of the police department.

As Officer Maier ran inside to get an AED (Automated External Defibrillator), Officer Mike Katzenstein joined Inv. Goldsmith in starting CPR. They were quickly joined by Countryside Fire personnel who were nearby. (How fortunate is that?) Even more fortunate is that even though it was rush hour, no other vehicles were struck nor anyone else injured.

In addition to Jesse Goldsmith, Ken Maier, and Mike Katzenstein, Mr. Maculan was assisted by members of Countryside Fire Protection District, including Jim Pogachnik, Bill Wolff, Todd Diercks, Kevin Wodrich, and Tony Rodkey. We can all join with the Maculan family in our appreciation for these and all the other fine public servants working to keep us safe.



Officer Ken Maier



Investigator Jesse Goldsmith



Officer Mike Katzenstein

Glacier Helps CAP Youth Program

On January 9, more than 240 people took part in a fun-filled family skating event at Glacier Ice Arena. The event, sponsored by the Vernon Hills Community Alliance Project (CAP), raised \$1,080 to help fund community youth programs.

CAP is a coalition of business and community leaders formed to network, sponsor, and coordinate youth and family programs. CAP was started in 1988 as a way for local groups to receive funding for youth-related programs. Funding is accomplished through an application process.

CAP membership includes representatives from approximately ten organizations, including the Village of Vernon Hills, Hawthorn School District #73, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, the Vernon Hills Park District, and Vernon Hills High School.

The entire event could not have happened without the assistance of everyone at Glacier. Special thanks to Karen Kay Lavris, Figure Skating Director and Public Relations Coordinator. To learn more about CAP, call Chairperson Tom Ritter of the Park District, 847-996-6802.

Better than Ever:
www.vhpd.com

The Police Department website was recently reorganized to make it easier for you to navigate. We moved all traffic-related information into a new traffic section, where you'll find information on DUI, speeding, parking, our Traffic Unit, and lots more (including some great bike safety stuff for all ages). We've also added a traffic Tip-of-the-Month that's sure to get you thinking. You can find it all on the police home page – www.vhpd.com.

Register Your Bike



While you're online, consider registering your bike. Registering your

bicycle is more than just placing a sticker on it. It also provides you and the police with a written record of key information, including the serial number. Having this information enables the police to enter the bike in the state computer system, should it ever be stolen.

Register as many bikes as you please, absolutely free. Best of all, you can do it online. What can be easier than that? For more information, check www.vhpd.com, or call Officer Kim Christenson at 847-247-4888.



Experts Say Replace Your Smoke Detectors

From the Community Development Division and Countryside Fire Protection District

Seventy percent of all home fire fatalities occur in homes where there are no working smoke detectors. This is despite the dramatic increase in the installation of home smoke detectors. In fact, over the last 25 years, near-

ly one-quarter of home smoke detectors in reported fires did not work. (*NFPA Journal, January/February 2005*)

We all understand the need to replace smoke detector batteries at least twice a year, but it equally important to **replace older smoke detectors**. If your smoke detectors are 10 years old or older they should be replaced with

newer detectors. These devices are inexpensive, easy to change out, and powerful in their ability to protect your family.

Note that state and local law requires working smoke detectors in all residences. For more information, visit the Countryside Fire Protection District website at www.countrysidefire.com, or call Countryside at 847-367-5511.

Free CareCoach Visits

The Lake Forest Hospital CareCoach will visit Village Hall from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. on **March 10, April 14, and May 12**. No appointments are needed for this free wellness service. See www.lakeforesthospital.com or call the Village Hall, 847-367-3700.

Give Blood April 16

The Village Blood Drive, sponsored by the Lions Club, will be **Saturday, April 16** at Hawthorn Elementary North, 301 Hawthorn Parkway. Appointments can be scheduled through the Village Hall, 847-367-3700.

Hawthorn House Walk

Hawthorn PTO House Walk is set for **May 15** from noon until 4. Tickets will be available at the Sullivan Center and other locations, with proceeds supporting District 73. For information, call 847-275-9775 or email jflym@sbcglobal.net.

Pageant Applications Due

The Vernon Hills Pageant will be held in June at Vernon Hills High School, with the schedule yet to be determined. The event is open to Little Miss (age 6-8), Junior Miss (age 11-13), and Miss (age 16-21). Applications are available at Village Hall or www.vernonhills.org, and are due in early May. For details, call coordinator Debbie Bond at 847-680-6033.



Special Census

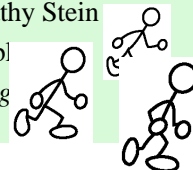
The Village encourages residents in Gregg's Landing, The Park, and Route 45/21 neighborhoods to take part in the **Special Census**, being conducted through March. This census is important as it will increase the Village's state-allocated funds by about \$100 per person.

Trained census workers will go door to door, and will carry IDs. They will ask a limited number of questions pertaining to the people living at each residence, and will not ask for personal data such as social security numbers.

For more information, call the Village Hall at 847-367-3700. Remember: If you are ever uncomfortable about a person at your door, call 911 immediately.

American Cancer Society Relay For Life of GLMV — June 4 & 5

Please join your fellow community members in signing up your team For the 11th annual American Cancer Society Relay for Life of GLMV. The Relay is a fun-filled overnight activity that mobilizes communities across the country to celebrate survivorship, remember those who lost their lives to cancer, and raise money for the fight against cancer. This year's local event will be held at Mundelein High School on June 4 and 5. For more information, call Kathy Stein at 847-317-0025. Information is also available through the Chamber, www.glmvchamber.org



Last year, the GLMV Relay raised more than \$375,000, making it the highest grossing event in the state. Help us add to that success by sending a team, or supporting those who do.

Cuneo Calendar

Cuneo Museum & Gardens presents "Swing with Sinatra" on **March 19**. And it's almost time to enjoy Cuneo's famous Easter Springtime and Mother's Day Brunches. For brunch reservations, call 312-226-7611. For museum details, call 847-362-3042 or check www.cuneomuseum.org.

Park District Pool Passes

Pool passes for the Aquatic Center go on sale in early March. Sign up by May 14 for a 10 percent discount. For information on any Park District program, call 847-996-6800 or check www.vhparkdistrict.org.

Golf Course Passes On Sale

Passes for the Vernon Hills 9-Hole Golf are on sale now. For information, call the Clubhouse at 847-680-9310. And consider the Clubhouse for your next graduation, family reunion, or other celebration.

Join the Independence Parade

Sign up for this year's July 4th Parade. Participation is free. Registration forms are available at www.vernonhills.org or at the Village Hall. If you'd like to get more involved in your community, consider volunteering for the Parade or other special event committees. Call the Village Hall at 847-367-3700 to find out more.

Stay Tuned for Farmers Market

At press time, details are still being worked out on this summer's Farmers Market. Watch for information later this spring. Thanks for your support last year.

Legion Collects Worn Flags

American Legion Post 1247 urges you to bring your unserviceable flags to the Village Hall. Legion members will then properly dispose of them. Veterans thank you for flying the flag proudly.

Seniors at New Time

The Vernon Hills Seniors have moved their meetings to 1 p.m. on the first and third Monday of each month. They'll stick with this schedule all year long. The group meets in the lower level of the Village Hall. For details, call Ed Sychta at 847-918-1723.

Seniors & Tax Exemption

Lake County reminds senior citizens that starting this year, Homestead Exemptions will be automatically renewed. Recipients will no longer receive a renewal form. Also, the exemption increases to \$3000. To apply for senior Homestead Exemption, or to learn about Assessment Freezes, contact the Chief County Assessment Office at 847-377-2100.

Drug Cards at Village Hall

Lake County has provided Village Hall with NACo (National Association of Counties) Prescription Discount Cards, which are free to any Lake County resident, regardless of age, income, or health coverage. The cards are accepted at more than 54,000 participating pharmacies, and offer savings averaging 20 percent. For details, call the NACo hotline at 1-877-321-2652 or go online to naco.advancercx.com.



PRSR STD

US POSTAGE

PAID

Vernon Hills, IL 60061

PERMIT #198

ECRWSS

Vernon Hills Village Voice

290 Evergreen Drive
Vernon Hills, IL 60061

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- **And More**

Resident or Business Customer
Vernon Hills, IL 60061

Vernon Hills Village Voice

Please send comments to the Editor:

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Phone: 847-367-3700 • Fax: 847-367-0880
Email: mikea@vhills.org

Elected Officials

President Roger Byrne
Trustees Richard Duros, Cindy Hebda, Thom Koch,
Michael Marquardt, 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

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

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Spring 2005

Arbor Day Tree Sale is May 14

Back by popular demand — the Public Works Arbor Day Tree Sale. Several hardy species will be available in sizes you can easily transport and plant. Cost is always rock bottom. **It's a good idea to**

pre-order, as the supply usually runs out before the May 14 pick-up date. Details and an order form will be posted soon at www.vernonhills.org, or call Public Works at 847-367-3726.



PW Open House is May 22



When it comes to family fun, the Public Works Open House is the place to be. This free event is set for Sunday, May 22, from 1 to 3 p.m. The PW crews always prepare lots of great demonstrations – and it's a fantastic opportunity for our youngest residents to get up close and personal with some cool equipment. See you at Public Works, 490 Greenleaf Drive.