



Spring 2006

Vernon Hills Village Voice

The Official Newsletter of the Village of Vernon Hills

Inside...

- Summer Cel Banners
- Vote on March 21
- Broadband Survey
- Tree Sale is May 13
- Decaying Decks
- Vernon Hills Pageant
- PD Open House: May 7
- Self Defense Class
- Yard Waste Options
- ACS Relay for Life

Interested in Adopting a Highway?

Vernon Hills extends sincere thanks to the volunteers who beautify our Village by picking up trash through the Adopt a Highway Program. Special thanks to the Heinz family, who took care of Oakwood Road for many years.

Oakwood is now available for adoption. All it takes is a little time and good walking shoes — Public Works will provide the supplies and training. Call 847-367-3726 to find out more.

Adopt a Highway Partners:

- ZF Sales & Service North America
- Ernie's Wrecker Service, Inc.
- St. Marys of Vernon Knights of Columbus
- Boy Scout Troop 273
- Vernon Hills Lions Club
- Boy Scout Troop 44 and Cub Scout Pack 44

Village Board Reviewing 2006/07 Budget

by Larry Nakrin, Director of Finance

Beginning in January, the Village Board began reviewing portions of the 2006/07 Village budget. By mid-March, a complete budget document will be compiled, and is expected to be available online (www.vernonhills.org) as well as at the Village Hall. Public hearings on the budget are tentatively set for April 4. (The Village's fiscal year begins on May 1.)

The budget proposed by staff is approximately \$30.1 million, which includes \$17 million for operations, \$8.3 million for permanent improvements, \$1.3 million for debt service, \$3 million for cash reserves (primarily for equipment replacement), and \$0.5 million for inter-fund-transfers.

Keep in mind that the Village collects no property tax, but rather relies on sales tax for the bulk of our revenues. This budget is being developed in an environment in which that primary revenue source, sales tax, has not grown in almost five years. In response, the Village has reduced staff from 127 full time positions (2003/04 budget) to 113 full time positions (2006/07 budget).

The Village has maintained strong fund balances (currently equal to about one year of operations and debt service) because, as a sales tax-based municipality, Vernon Hills revenues are less dependable than those of a municipality that relies on property tax. Another important reason to maintain this fund balance is so that funds are available for important capital needs, even during periods like this one when our key revenue source is not keeping up with inflation. For this reason, staff has proposed a budget that draws down the fund balance by \$2.15 million for key capital improvement projects including Deerpath roads, the purchase of land for a library/park, improvements at VHAC and more (*see article at right*). It is important to note that cost savings and, hopefully, improved revenues during the year will reduce the proposed draw down. In future years, planned upgrades to Hawthorn Mall, as well as proposed retail projects along Milwaukee Avenue should strengthen the Vernon Hills retail sector, and stimulate growth in the Village's sales tax receipts.

Capital Improvements Include Roads and Waterways

Each year, a key portion of the Village budget is devoted to capital improvements -- that is, projects to upgrade or maintain Village infra-structures such as roads, sidewalks, municipal facilities, etc. The proposed 2006/07 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) includes the following projects:

- Completion of lighting, landscaping and parking lots for the Vernon Hills Athletic Complex.
- Efforts to stabilize the Seavey Ditch, a major portion of which has been funded through grants from the Army Corps of Engineers and EPA. This effort is hoped to begin as early as March.

continued on page 3

From the Mayor... Get Involved!

I've said it before, and I'll say it again — I truly love this community. I never cease to be amazed by the generosity of our residents, both in terms of our charitable giving and our sharing of time and expertise.

Our Sister City: One example of our tremendous community spirit is our outreach to sister city Ocean Springs, Mississippi, which was devastated by Hurricane Katrina. Ocean Springs Mayor Connie Moran says, "I want to thank you and everyone who made your most generous donation of \$50,806.60 possible. I speak for everyone when I tell you that we are all very grateful for the kindness you have shown us." Thanks, again, Oktoberfest supporters.

Helping at Home: Here in Vernon Hills there are many opportunities to give back to your community. I encourage you to get involved in one of our many local service groups. Special events such as the Fourth of July Parade and Summer Celebration require the effort of many volunteers, and more are always welcomed.

Summer Soccer: During the second week of July, Vernon Hills will be the site of the AYSO National Youth Soccer Tournament, hosting teams from across the nation. This event will require lots of helping hands. If you are interested, call the Village Hall at 847-367-3700.

See Your Name in Lights — or at least on a Summer Celebration Banner: If you or your organization would like to support Summer Celebration, consider reserving a banner in the Refreshment Tent. Banners are available in various sizes. Great for businesses, service organizations, and neighborhood groups. Find out more at www.vernonhills.org or call Monica Lundeen at 847-367-3700 by May 15. *Mark your calendar for Summer Celebration — July 13-16!*

Roger L. Byrne

Election Day is Tuesday, March 21



Election Day is Tuesday, March 21. This is the first election that includes a new type of voting, called "early voting." Early voting differs from absentee voting in that you don't need to provide a reason for voting ahead of election day. ("Absentee voters" are those people who are away from their local polls because they are travelling, away at college or some other reason.)

Both early and absentee voting is available at Village Hall.

Sample ballots, as well as information about voter registration, early voting, absentee voting, poll locations, and more is available online through the Lake County Clerk's Office, www.co.lake.il.us/cntyclk. Assistance is also available through the Village of Vernon Hills, 847-367-3700.

Broadband Committee Reconvenes

On January 30, the Village Broadband Committee met to begin evaluating current Internet service options in the Village, as well as investigating alternatives.

Chairperson John Sonnenberg noted that technology has changed significantly since the committee last worked together in 2002. Then, broadband Internet access was a fairly new concept. Today, ideas such as community-wide Wi-Fi and Wi-Max will draw the attention of the committee, which includes Dan Allen, Dave Taylor, Doug Richter, Greg Ladden, Hasit Patel, Jim Dunning, John Keister, John Mundt, Paul Boidy, Eddie Margules, Fred Pfammatter, Peggy Rumsfield, Tom McGuiggan, and Winston Tsao.

Efforts will include a resident survey, which is expected to be available in late March at www.vernonhills.org or through the Village Hall. The committee meets on the last Monday evening of each month. For information, contact John Sonnenberg at JohnSonnen@aol.com.

Village Tree Sale – May 13

8 to noon at Public Works

Hardy trees! Great prices!

Order ahead — trees sell out!

Tree list and pre-sale order forms available online in late March (www.vernonhills.org) or at Village Hall and Public Works. Call 847-367-3726 for details.

Commuting, Shopping, Smoking...

On January 30, Metra began expanded service to Vernon Hills, made possible by the addition of a second railroad track. Metra officials plan to meet in April to review both the expanded schedule and activity on the North Central line. While Metra always reviews changes, this plan has been accelerated because a number of commuters have expressed disappointment in the revised schedule. If you have input, contact Village Manager Mike Allison at mikea@vhills.org or 847-367-3700.

In the News...

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

• Trustees have heard preliminary concept plans for options related to the vacant com-

mercial property at Milwaukee Avenue adjacent to Gregg's Landing. Developers presented ideas for a **Lowe's Home Center**, bank, restaurant, and other multi-use options.

• The Board heard preliminary plans for an **Ethan Allen** furniture store, being considered for a vacant lot near Showplace 8 Theaters.

• The Village is considering establishing a **smoke-free** environment for public places, similar to other communities. Discussions will begin at the March 7 board meeting.

• The board formally adjusted some of the Village standing **committees**, in keeping with actual practice and activity.

• If you believe you have **mailbox damage** due to snow plows, please report it to Public Works at 847-367-2700 by April 15.

• The Village **yard waste** program has been announced for this year. *See page 5.*

Check Your Wooden Decks and Balconies for Safety

by *Vernon Gerth, Building Commissioner*

For decades, wood decks and balconies have become a popular amenity for many homes. Unfortunately, Vernon Hills Building Inspectors are finding that the structural members on an increasing number of older wood decks and balconies are showing signs of deterioration. Since it is the responsibility of every building owner to maintain their property and to keep it safe, the following checklist is provided to assist our residents in evaluating the condition of their deck or balcony to determine if a thorough inspection, by a qualified building professional, is necessary.

If you notice any of the following problems, please refrain from using the deck or balcony and contact the Community Development Department immediately for a free inspection and further instructions.

- Loose guardrails.

- Loose or decaying deck boards, beams, or floor joists.
- Deck or balcony pulling away from building wall (it should be bolted to dwelling).
- Sinking or rotting support posts.
- Loose or decaying stairs or handrails.
- Rusted, loose, or missing joist hangers, screws, or nails.

Architects, structural engineers, and building contractors can also assist residents with evaluating the condition of decks and balconies and with needed repairs. Remember, work performed on decks and balconies requires a building permit before construction begins. Building Inspectors review drawings before a permit is issued and perform on-site inspections during construction.

For more information concerning deck and balcony safety, contact the Community Development Department at 847-367-3704 or visit www.vernonhills.org.

Calling All Royalty...

Are you looking to meet new friends, become more confident, and have fun?

Applications are now available for 2006 Vernon Hills Pageant!

Little Miss (Ages 6-9) • Junior Miss (Ages 10-15) • Miss (Ages 16-22)

Applications are available at www.vernonhills.org and at Village Hall. Completed applications must be returned to the Village Hall by 5 p.m. on May 15. This year's Pageant will be held on Friday, June 16 at the Hawthorn Middle School South. If you have questions, please contact Pageant Director Debbie Bond at 847-680-6033.

CIP Projects

Continued from page 1...

General street enhancements and sidewalk repairs are always a big portion of the Capital Improvement Plan. On this year's construction schedule:

- The extension of Port Clinton Road between Route 45 and 21 to provide better traffic flow to the expanded College of Lake County and the Towne Center TIF District. This work is expected to begin in spring and be complete by fall.
- Road repairs in portions of the Deerpath

Neighborhood will commence on May 1. Affected residents have been notified. Specific work locations are available online at www.vernonhills.org.

- Engineering design to modify Fairway Drive and Lakeview Parkway north of Route 60, to better feed into the completed Fairway/Bufalo Grove corridor.
- Continued study of railway intersections and options to create safe Quiet Zones for trains within the Village limits.

For information on these projects, contact Village Engineer David Brown at 847-918-3544 or daveb@vhills.org

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. That said, here are a few business openings, as taken from recent permit requests to the Community Development Department. Details are also posted at www.vernonhills.org:

- **Love Nail Spa**, 274 Hawthorn Village Commons
- **Arbor Hills Dental Care**, 175 N. Milwaukee
- **Chicago Title and Trust**, 175 Hawthorn Parkway
- **Carolyn Reeder, Ph.D.**, 10 Phillip Rd
- **Physician Center**, 565 Lakeview Pkwy
Includes: Prevention Specialist; Mark Trelka MD; Hematology & Oncology; Sleep & Behavior Institute; North Suburban Family Healthcare; Deerbrook Medical Associates; and Vernon Hills Shared Services

New stores and carts at Westfield Mall:

Love Sac
NYS

The following commercial projects are under, or preparing for, construction:

- **Aspen Pointe**: Walgreens, Buffalo Wild Wings, American Chartered Bank, Starbucks, Hair Cuttery
- **Aaron's Enterprise/Peacock Mobil**: service station, mini-mart, oil/lube station
- **College of Lake County** Southlake campus expansion
- **Tsukasa of Tokyo** restaurant new construction near Home Expo
- **Walter E. Smithe Furniture** new construction near American Hotel Register
- **Learning Resources** expansion on Fairway Drive
- **Lakeview Center Office Condos**, located on the northeast corner of Lakeview Parkway and Center Drive

The following residential projects are also in the works:

Writer Estates, Aspen Pointe Rowhomes, Greenleaf Townhomes, Rivers Edge Condominiums, Rivers Glen Townhomes, and Town Center Townhomes/Condominiums.

Best Wishes to Deputy Chief Kincaid

On February 3, Deputy Chief John Kincaid retired after more than 29 years of dedicated service to the Village of Vernon Hills.

John was sworn in as a police officer on October 19, 1976. He was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in 1988, Commander in 1992, and Deputy Chief in 1997. Of his many achievements throughout his career, John was most proud of being a member of the N.I.P.A.S. Emergency Services Team, guiding the Department through the initial Accreditation process in 1995, and attending the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia in 2002.

John has accepted a position as the Superintendent-Project Security Manager of Bechtel Corporation in Oak Creek, Wisconsin, so more changes are ahead for him.



On behalf of the entire VHPD and the community as a whole, congratulations and best of luck to John Kincaid for his decorated service to the Village!

Newly promoted Commander Bruce Blair (left) and Sergeant Pat Zimmerman (right) were sworn-in on February 10 to fill vacancies left by Kincaid's departure.



Free Women's Self Defense Class

Each year for more than a decade, the Vernon Hills Police Department has offered a free two-hour women's self-defense class. VHPD plans to offer this class again this spring, which is provided as a service to residents of Vernon Hills age 14 and up.

Taught by a former officer and self-defense expert, topics include basic awareness and survival principles; vulnerable areas of the body; psychology of fear and how to make

it work for you; and the basic principles of self-defense.

While we will publicize the date as soon as it becomes official, we encourage you to contact us now if you think you may be interested. (There is no obligation on your part.) This event is always well attended, so act now by calling the Crime Prevention Unit at 847-247-4888, or visiting www.VHPD.com.

New DUI Laws Get Tougher

Effective January 1 – If you are arrested for DUI, your charge can be upgraded from a Class A Misdemeanor to a Class 4 Felony if (a) you are an unlicensed driver (including a suspended, revoked, or cancelled drivers license), or (b) your vehicle is not currently insured.

In plain English, if you drink and drive, your potential for fines and/or imprison-

ment just went up considerably:

Class A Misdemeanor: Maximum of \$2,500 in fines and 364 days in jail.

Class 4 Felony: Maximum of \$10,000 in fines and 1-3 years in prison.

The Bottom Line: If you drink, please do not drive. Can a cab ride potentially cost you \$10,000?

Open House is May 7

This year's VHPD Open House will be held on Sunday, May 7 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Police Department, 754 Lakeview Parkway. The event has been permanently rescheduled from October to May to coincide with National Police Week, which will be later in the month. Come out and see K-9 demonstrations, take a turn on the F.A.T.S. firearms simulator, visit the jail cells (the only good way to do it!), enjoy refreshments, and more. A special addition to this year's event will be our "Ask A Cop" display, where you can video record a question to be answered on our quarterly *Cop Topics* cable TV show. Come join us on May 7!

Night Out is August 1

On the first Tuesday of August, millions of people from more than 10,000 communities nationwide gather with their local police department to celebrate National Night Out (NNO). In Vernon Hills, we have participated in NNO for the past ten years, and we'll do so again on August 1 with our NNO Sand Volleyball Tournament. Six neighborhood teams will take on one of two Police Department teams. The rules are relaxed, and so is the mood of the event. (Last year's event included a live radio remote from 102.3 FM, barbeque, and even a snow cone machine to help keep us cool.) Though the warm weather seems a long way off, teams are already forming. Gather your players and give us a call at 847-247-4888. Experience not required — this tourney is just for fun!

Citizen's Police Academy

Each spring and fall, the VHPD hosts a Citizen's Police Academy, where ten residents get to learn the ins and outs of Vernon Hills law enforcement. The ten-week program meets each Wednesday night for two and a half hours. Although there is a waiting list, registration is always open. Call Officer Jim Levicki at 847-247-4888 for information.

Onyx Announces Yard Waste Options

It's time for residents of Vernon Hills to start thinking spring — or at least thinking about how you want your yard waste handled. Onyx Waste Services will begin yard waste collection on April 1, and provide this service through the end of November. The schedule will be the same as last year, with grass clippings and other yard refuse collected on your primary garbage collection day. (This is generally Monday or Tuesday.) Once again, you will have two options:

Subscription Service: Each subscriber household is allowed six bags/containers of landscape waste per week from April 1 through the end of November. The cost is \$5 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 (or cancel), call Onyx at 847-623-3870 by April 20.** Note: If you subscribed last year, you are automatically resubscribed, unless you call to cancel.

Sticker Program: Residents may purchase collection stickers for \$1.85 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 the local Dominick's and Home Depot.

For more information or to verify your service, call Onyx at 847-623-3870.

New Evergreen Hours in April

Starting April 1, Evergreen Library will expand hours to be open from 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. from Monday through Thursday. (Prior to April 1, the library will still open at 2 p.m. on Monday and Thursday.) Friday and Saturday hours will remain at 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., with the library closed on Sunday. Evergreen is located in the lower level of the Village Hall. For more information, including details about the "One Book, One District" reading event, go to www.cooklib.org or call 847-362-2330.

Passes, Leagues and Tee Times

Thinking golf? How about setting up a standing tee time at the Vernon Hills Golf Course? To find out about this and more, call the Pro Shop at 847-680-9310.

SWALCO Collection on May 6

The Solid Waste Agency of Lake County will hold a household chemical waste collection on May 6 from 8 to 2:30 at the Vernon Hills Train Station. Information about other collection sites and accepted materials is available at www.swalco.org or 847-336-9340.

Free CareCoach Visits

The Lake Forest Hospital CareCoach will visit the Village Hall parking lot from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. on **March 16, April 13, and May 11**. No appointments are needed for this free wellness service. Staff can't treat illness or injury, and no flu shots are available. Check www.lake-foresthospital.com or call the Village Hall (847-367-3700) for details.

Blood Drive at Laschen Center

The Village Blood Drive, sponsored by the Vernon Hills Lions Club, will be **Saturday, April 15** at the Laschen Center, 294 Evergreen Drive. To schedule an appointment, call LifeSource at 847-803-7943. Information is also available online at www.lifesource.org. Thanks for your participation!

Looking for Summer Work?

The Public Works Department has several summertime work positions available, paying \$8.50 per hour. For details or an application, call the Village's Karen Brooks at 847-918-3542.

Cuneo Gardens Fine Art Fest

Stroll among the artisans and their wares during the first Cuneo Gardens Fine Art Festival, **May 20 and 21** from 10 to 5 at Cuneo Museum and Gardens, 1350 N. Milwaukee Avenue. This new event will include a children's art area, refreshments and music. Other items on the calendar include Cuneo Cabaret on **March 18**. On **March 26**, author John Wasik will discuss his book about Sam Insull, the first owner of the estate. Old time radio shows come to life on **April 2 and 9** during a special stage production. And of course, now is the time to make your reservations for the Springtime Brunch on **April 16** and the Mother's Day Brunch on **May 14**. For details, call 847-362-3042 or check www.cuneomuseum.org.

Summer Sign Ups...

Summer day camps, swimming lessons, sports and more are available through a number of local organizations, including: Vernon Hills Park District, 847-996-6800, www.vhparkdistrict.org. Central Lake YMCA, 847-367-6797, centrallakeymca.org

ASC Relay for Life of GLMV June 3-4 Mundelein High School

Join with your community in mobilizing against cancer. To find out how to participate, or to support teams from our area, contact Kelli Burke at 847-317-0025 or kelli.burke@cancer.org.

2nd Village of Vernon Hills Relay for Life Luncheon Wednesday, May 24 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Vernon Hills Arboretum

Proceeds support the American Cancer Society. Includes lunch and entertainment. Thanks to Zanie's Comedy Club for providing the laughter, and Gus Stagg & Tuff Enuff for the music. For details, call Monica Lundeen at the Village Hall, 847-367-3700.



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290 Evergreen Drive
Vernon Hills, IL 60061

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Inside...

- **Village Budget and CIP**
- **Adopt a Highway**
- **Vote on March 21**
- **Broadband Survey**
- **Tree Sale is May 13**
- **VH Pageant Deadline**
- **PD Open House: May 7**
- **Yard Waste Options**
- **And More**

Resident or Business Customer
Vernon Hills, IL 60061

Vernon Hills Village Voice

Please send comments to the Editor:

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Elected Officials

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

Contact Information

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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. 847-918-3562
 John Kalmar, Assist. Village Manager: 847-918-3550

Building Div. 847-367-3704
 Vernon Gerth, Building Commissioner: 847-918-3548

Engineering Div. 847-918-3562
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Spring 2006



Now Arriving on Track #2...

On January 30, State Representative Kathy Ryg held a Train Safety Conference at the Village Hall, which included Senator Terry Link, Metra officials, public safety officers and members of the community. This discussion, held in conjunction with the recently completed second railroad track through our community, was designed to raise awareness for the safety issues surrounding increased rail traffic. Drivers and pedestrians are urged to be alert for fast moving express trains, or the possibility of two trains running at the same time. Please, talk with your children about the dangers around the tracks, and set a good example by being patient and alert.