

Vernon Hills Village Voice

People Planning with Pride

The Official Newsletter of the Village of Vernon Hills

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Jim Horsch of the Public Works Department has fabricated several of the Light Show displays, including the new snowflakes that will appear this year.

'Tis the Season...



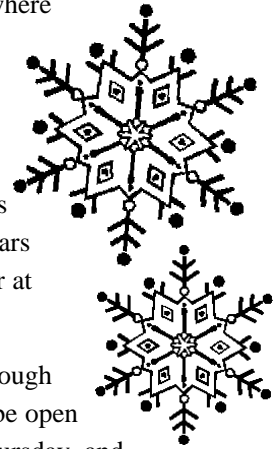
Holiday Kicks Off with Village Tree Lighting

It's a wonderful life in Vernon Hills, if you like sparkling lights, special events, and plenty of shopping opportunities. Vernon Hills will kick off the the season with the Village Tree Lighting Ceremony on **Saturday, November 27 at 4:30 p.m.** Join your neighbors at the Vernon Hills Golf Course (291 Evergreen Drive), where we'll flip the switch, enjoy refreshments, and visit with Santa.

Holiday Light Show Starts November 26

The Village's 10th Annual Winter Wonderland Holiday Light Show will shine starting the evening after Thanksgiving. This year, visitors will be encouraged to "follow the snowflakes" as new signs direct cars to the grounds, located at the Cuneo Museum & Gardens. Cars enter at Lakeview Parkway, north of Route 60.

Drive through the festival from 6 to 10 p.m. daily, November 26 through January 2. The light show will close December 24 and 25, but will be open over the New Year's holiday. Cost is \$5 per car Monday through Thursday, and \$10 per car Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Note that the route can't accommodate vehicles longer than 22 feet. *(There will be no New Year's fireworks display this year. Consider making the Light Show a new tradition.)*



Special Cuneo Museum Tours

On several Monday and Tuesday evenings, the Cuneo Museum will offer light show visitors the chance to walk through the beautifully decorated mansion. As you tour the light show, visitors interested in the self-directed mansion mini-tour will be directed to the parking area near the museum. The cost for the "Light Show" mansion tour is \$5 per person, and free for ages 15 and under. (You must also purchase a ticket for the light show.) When your side-trip is complete, you'll be directed back into the light show traffic to continue your drive. Mini-tours will be available on November 29 and 30, and December 6, 7, 13 and 14.

Lights Lend a Hand

On designated days, one dollar of every Light Show ticket will be donated to local charity efforts. Some organizations may provide matching funds, making your visit even more helpful.

- Monday, November 29 – Lions Club
- Tuesday, November 30 – Park District Scholarships
- Monday, December 6 – CDW/ Children's Memorial Hospital
- Tuesday, December 7 – Central Lake YMCA Scholarship Fund
- Monday, December 13 – American Hotel Register United Way Campaign
- Tuesday, December 14 – Vernon Hills Police Department's Blue Line for the Front Line



Cuneo Museum's Great Hall is decorated for the holidays.

From the Mayor... Happy Holidays

I am biased, but I believe Vernon Hills is the best place to raise a family and operate a business. We have something for everyone. What most people may not know is that the Village provides an extremely high level of service funded predominantly from our local share of sales taxes collected in town. The Village levies no property tax at all. So when you have a choice to purchase goods or services, please remember that keeping your sales tax dollars here in town helps provide village services such as police protection, snow plowing, recycling, and even family-friendly events such as Summer Celebration, the Holiday Light Show, and the Fourth of July parade.

Help the food pantries: A good measure of where we are as a community can be shown in how we help those less fortunate. The holidays are a time when we tend to reflect on this subject, but the need is evident all year round. For instance, our local food pantries need your help. They provide all types of food, household goods, and even school supplies. Your contributions will go right to those families in our community who really need the assistance. Collection boxes are available at the Village Hall. See page 5 for information.

Blue Line for the Front Line: Our Police Department has adopted two military units serving in Iraq. With the help of dozens of individuals and organizations, they've been sending care packages filled with items such as CDs, DVDs, magazines, hard candies, and other non-perishable items. Items can be dropped off at the police station and Village Hall. While the holiday shipment will go out in early November, the need will likely continue for some time. Items are also being collected for veterans living at the VA hospital in Waukegan. Thank you for your generosity.

With that, I join with the Village Board in wishing you and yours a healthy, safe, and happy holiday and a great new year.

Roger L. Byrne

Spring Election Packets Available



Petition packets for the April 5, 2005 consolidated election for the election of municipal officials are available at Village Hall, 290 Evergreen Drive.

The Village will have the following offices on the ballot: Village President; Village Clerk; three full-term Trustee positions (4 years); and two vacancy Trustee positions (2 years).

Any individual wishing to file a petition to appear on the ballot must submit nominating petitions containing signatures of qualified voters equaling not less than 5% (154) of the voters at the April 1, 2003 Consolidated Election, and not more than 8% (247) signatures.

Completed nominating forms must be filed with the Village Clerk's Office between 8:30 a.m. Monday, January 17 and 5 p.m. Tuesday, January 25, 2005. For further information, please contact the Village Clerk's Office at 367-3700.

Other organizations, including school boards, library boards, and park districts, are expected to have positions on the ballot. Contact each organization directly to find out about terms and requirements.

The last day to register to vote in the April 5 election is **March 8**. Registration is available at the Village Hall. Information is available at www.co.lake.il.us/cntyckl.

Census Takers to Visit This Winter

The Village has requested a **special census** for new developments that have experienced significant growth since the 2000 general census. Beginning in mid-January, census takers will go door-to-door in Gregg's Landing, The Park, and the area at Route 45 and 21 (Sanctuary Point, Sarah's Glen).

Workers will carry IDs, and will ask a limited number of questions pertaining to the number of people living at each residence. They will not ask for personal information. (Never give your social security number to a solicitor.)

This census is important as it will increase the Village's state-allocated funds, which is about \$100 per person per year until the year 2010. People wishing to work on the census should contact Evan Teich at 847-918-3558, or stop by the Village Hall for an application.

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.

- Another hurdle on the **Route 45/Prairie Road** improvement was cleared in November when that project went to bid. As soon as bids are accepted, site preparation will begin in anticipation of full-on construction next spring. Crews will also be working at the Port Clinton Road intersection.

- The Village received notice of the resignation of Trustee Rich Cashman, who moved. The vacancy will be filled by Mayoral appointment, with the advice and consent of the Village Board.

- The Public Works Department urges residents to **check mailboxes** to make sure they are ready for winter. If you need information, contact Public Works at 847-367-3726, or go to the website (www.vernonhills.org) for more information including USPS mailbox guidelines.

- The board recently updated the "**mailbox**" ordinance. If you believe your mailbox sustains damage from a Village snow-pow, contact the Public Works Department at 847-367-3726. The Department will provide you with a temporary box and, if necessary, a standard replacement. If you choose to repair the damage yourself, you could be reimbursed up to \$50. Please make your claim by April 15, 2005.

Village of Vernon Hills 2005 Meeting Schedule

All meetings are held at the Village Hall, 290 Evergreen Drive. For information, please call the Village Hall at 847-367-3700.

Village Board & Committee

The Village Board holds its regular meetings the first and third Tuesdays of each month unless cancelled by prior notice. The Committee of the Whole meetings immediately follow the regular Board meetings. Special meetings may be called, if needed. Notification will be given of any changes to the schedule provided below.

Time 7:00 p.m.

Dates: January 4, 18 July 5, 19
February 1, 15 August 2, 16
March 1, 15 September 6, 20
April 6*, 19 October 4, 18
May 3, 17 November 1, 15
June 7, 21 December 6, 20

* Due to the April 5 Consolidated Election, the Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 6.

Adjudication Hearings

Time: 5:30 p.m.
Dates: 3rd Tuesday of each month

Celebration & Events Committee

Time: 7:30 p.m.
Dates: 3rd Thursday each month or as needed

Environmental Advisory Committee

Time/Dates: To be determined.

Electrical Commission

Time/Dates: To be determined

Emergency Telephone System Board

Time/Dates: To be determined

Finance Planning Committee

Time/Dates: To be determined, as needed

Fire & Police Commission

Time: 7:00 p.m.
Dates: January 11, April 12,
July 12, October 11

Historical Society

Time/Dates: To be determined

Pageant Committee

Time/Place/Dates: To be determined

Parade Committee

Time: 7:00 p.m.
Dates: To be determined

Planning & Zoning Commission

Time: 7:30 p.m.
Dates: Wednesdays as needed
following public notice

Police Pension Board

Time: 3:00 p.m.
Dates: February 8, May 10,
August 9, November 8

Seniors Meetings

Time: 7 p.m. (or 1 p.m. during winter)
Dates: 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month

Symphonic Committee

Time/Dates: To be determined

Traffic Advisory Committee

Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: Vernon Hills Police Department
754 Lakeview Pkwy
Dates: 3rd Wednesday each month as needed

Zoning Board of Appeals

Time: 7:00 p.m.
Dates: 3rd Thursday as needed
following public notice

This motley crew is part of the Vernon Hills Seniors. To find out about their meetings and activities, call Ed Sychta at 847-918-1723.



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:

- **Cornerstone Wealth Management**, 10 Phillip Rd, #125
- **Calendar Club**, 406 Hawthorn Center
- **Cinnamonster**, 610 Hawthorn Center
- **New York & Co.**, 413 Hawthorn Ctr.
- **Rubynesque**, 512 Hawthorn Center
- **Sarku Japan**, 611 Hawthorn Center
- **Sterling Works**, 324 Hawthorn Center
- **Woody's**, 106 Hawthorn Center

New carts at Westfield Shoppingtown Hawthorn include:

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| @ Wireless | Motion Pictures |
| Crystal Magic | Nature's Creations |
| Cy Art & Gift | Oriental Gifts |
| Intel Gateway | Ornamentshop.com |
| Just Me Music | Virtual TV Games |
| Direct Communication | |

Watch for these soon-to-open spots:

- **Opa! Estiatorio**, 950 Lakeview (mid-November)
- **Bed Bath & Beyond**, Market Place (mid-November)
- **DSW Shoes**, Market Place (mid-December)
- **JoAnn**, Market Place (mid-February)

Why Shop in Town?

- Every dollar you spend in town helps fund our police protection, snow plowing, and more.
- Vernon Hills is one of the few communities that **does not** levy a property tax, but rather operates mainly through sales tax receipts and other allotments.



Thank You to Sam's Club!

On October 28, representatives of Sam's Club presented the Vernon Hills Police Department with a check for \$2,000. The donation was a part of the Wal-Mart Foundation Safe Neighborhood Heroes program. In fact, Sam's Club donated more than \$65,000 to law enforcement and safety professionals in the Chicago-area.

Sam's Club has asked that our local funds be used to support the DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program, which is taught at Hawthorn Middle School. We are happy to comply! In this photo, Chief Mark Fleischhauer (*far left*), Deputy Chief Bill Price (*second from left*), and DARE Officer Jim Levicki (*second from right*) accept the check from Sam's Club officials. *To everyone at Sam's Club, thank you!*

Nice Advice for Holiday Shoppers

About the time that this newsletter arrives at your home, well be ready to plunge into the heart of the holiday shopping season. Don't let the pace of the holidays keep you from using good judgment and common sense. For example:

- Try to park in well-lit areas.
- Always close the windows and lock your car, even if coming back "in a minute."
- Hide small valuables in the glove box or under the seat.
- Lock larger items in the trunk or cover them up. Regardless of what's in them, shopping bags are a giveaway to a thief. Even the smallest item is a temptation. Do not make your vehicle an attractive target.

- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
- Be alert to what's going on around you.
- Keep your purse close to your body, in front of you where you can see it, and cover it with your hand or forearm. Carry your wallet in an inside coat pocket or side pants pocket, rather than in the rear pants pocket.
- Never overburden yourself with packages. Doing so will make it difficult for you to keep track of your belongings and will also make it harder to react in an emergency.
- When shopping with children, hold their hand as much as possible. Teach them to go to a store clerk if you become separated. They should never go into the parking lot alone.

Finally – If you plan on going away over the holidays, give us a call and arrange for a **house watch**. It's fast and simple to do. Just call us at 847-362-4449.

The members of the Vernon Hills Police Department wish you a happy and safe holiday season!

Check www.vhpd.com

At the Police Department, we're always looking for ways to make our web site more helpful, educational, and interesting. To that end, we recently created an animal page. From this one location you can find pet information, tips on how to protect your home from wild animals, and a very informational coyote article written by Lonnie Paulausky, one of our own Community Service Officers. We've included some photos of coyotes, in case you have never seen one. Check it out the next time you're online and let us know what you think– www.vhpd.com.

Call of the Coyote

As long as we are on the subject... Over the past several weeks we have received numerous calls from residents who have seen a coyote running in the neighborhoods (mostly north of Rt. 60). While we appreciate the calls, please understand that we are limited as to what action we can take. Unless the animal is injured or is an immediate threat, we are normally limited to chasing it away. Please keep in mind that, for the most part, coyotes are not a threat to residents. In fact, as of this writing, we have not had a reported attack to a human or a pet. As mentioned above, information is posted on our website. We'll also be glad to provide printed information. Just call 847-362-4449.

Light Show By the Numbers

1994: The year of the first Holiday Light Show. Mayor Roger Byrne cut the red ribbon at 4 p.m. on November 25, 1994.

250: The number of displays prepared for this year's light show.

1328: The number of cars visiting on the Light Show's busiest day so far – December 19, 1998.

30: The height in feet of Frosty, who was first inflated at the corner of Route 60 and Milwaukee on November 3, 1997. He retired in January 2004.





Help Stock the Pantries

Lend a hand this holiday season – and all year long. Our local food pantries report that the need for their help is so great, it's been hard to keep the shelves stocked. All pantries are grateful for donations of non-perishable food items, paper products, toiletries, and cash. Donations are accepted during regular business hours all year long. During the holidays, there will also be a collection box at Village Hall. Here are just a few organizations that support our community:

- Libertyville Township Pantry, 359 Merrill Court, Libertyville (847-816-6800)
- Vernon Township Pantry, 3050 N. Main St., Buffalo Grove (847-634-4600)
- St. Mary of Vernon PADS Shelter & Pantry, 236 Hwy 45, Indian Creek (847-362-1005 or Jim Wogan at 847-782-4126)

Holiday Tree Collection

Mark your calendars for after the holidays, when the Public Works Department will pick up your holiday tree and turn it into mulch. Collection is expected to run the **week of January 10**. Remove all ornaments and place your tree (real trees only) at the curb. For a neighborhood schedule, check www.vernonhills.org, or call Public Works at 847-367-3726.

Yard Waste Reminder

The last yard waste collection of the season will be **November 30**. Please remember that leaves and grass clippings should not be raked into the gutter. Place landscape waste in containers marked with an "X" or paper bags. Call Onyx at 847-623-3870 with questions.

Onyx Service Change

During Thanksgiving week, waste collection days will shift. If your regular pickup is Thursday, it will occur on Friday. Friday collections will move to Saturday. Call Onyx at 847-623-3870 for details.

Free CareCoach Visits

The Lake Forest Hospital CareCoach will visit the Village Hall parking lot from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. on **December 16** and **January 13**. 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.

Give Blood January 22

The Village Blood Drive, sponsored by the Vernon Hills Lions Club, will be **Saturday, January 22** at Hawthorn Elementary North, 301 Hawthorn Parkway. Appointments can be scheduled through the Village Hall, 847-367-3700.

Christmas at Cuneo

Cuneo Museum & Gardens welcomes you to "ACuneo Christmas." The mansion, located at 1350 North Milwaukee Avenue, will be decorated with hundreds of poinsettias, garlands, vintage toys, handcrafted ornaments, and other scenes of the season. For information, call 847-362-3042 or check www.cuneomuseum.org.

Park District Programs

The Park District always offers a variety of programs, including fitness classes, child enrichment programs, school-vacation options, and teen dances. On November 13 through 21, the Vernon Hills Players will present *Nunsense*. For information on this or other programs, call 847-996-6800 or log on at www.vhparkdistrict.org.

Sunday Swimming at YMCA

Vernon Hills residents can enjoy free swimming each Sunday afternoon from 3 to 6 p.m. at Central Lake YMCA, 700 Lakeview Parkway. The pool fills up, so admittance is first come, first served. For details on this or any YMCA program, call 847-367-6797.

Post Your Message

The Village offers several places where your organization can post messages. To place your message on the sign outside Village Hall, complete a request form (found at www.vernonhills.org/forms). Requests will be filled first come, first served. Nonprofit organizations can also post messages on Cable Channel 4 by contacting Mike Storto, 847-918-3560 or MikeS@vhills.org.

Evergreen Library Hours

Here's the schedule for the Evergreen Interim Library, located in the lower level of the Village Hall. For more information, go to www.cooklib.org or call 847-362-2330.

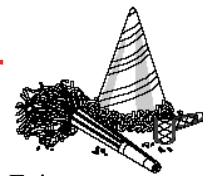
- Monday: 2 - 8:30 p.m.
- Tuesday: 10 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.
- Wednesday: 10 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.
- Thursday: 2 - 8:30 p.m.
- Friday/Saturday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Sunday: Closed

Keep the Wreath Red

Countryside Fire urges residents to keep the wreath at the station lit with red bulbs – which means no fires in the district. Let's all be extra careful with holiday candles and decorations. For suggestions on how to keep your family safe, and to sign up for CFPD's free Internet education program, log on at www.countrysidefire.com.

Ring In the New Year

The Vernon Hills New Year's Eve Party is set to start at 8 p.m. on Friday, December 31. Enjoy a great night close to home at the Vernon Hills Golf Course clubhouse. The package includes hors d'oeuvres, open bar, prime rib, favors, champagne toast, DJ, and dancing. Dress is casual. Cost is \$140 per couple. For reservations, call Jeanne at 847-680-9310.



See the VH Polar Express

While the movie by the same name may be getting lots of attention, our own Polar Express has been running through the Village Hall lobby for a couple of years. Dick Powers will once again set up his train scene. Stop by to check it out!

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Vernon Hills Village Voice

290 Evergreen Drive
Vernon Hills, IL 60061

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*Season's
Greetings*

Resident or Business Customer
Vernon Hills, IL 60061

Vernon Hills Village Voice

Please send comments to the Editor:

Evan Teich, 290 Evergreen Drive, Vernon Hills, IL 60061
Phone: 847-367-3700 • Fax: 847-367-0880
Email: evant@vhills.org

Elected Officials

President Roger Byrne
Trustees Richard Duros, Cindy Hebda, Thom Koch,
Michael Marquardt, 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.
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Winter 2004/2005



Snowplow Picassos

Once again, local artists have beautified our Village snowplows. Thanks to the students at Daniel Wright Middle School (*shown above*), as well as to West Oak Middle School, Diamond Lake School District 76, Hawthorn Junior High, Old Half Day School District 103, and the Countryside Fire Protection District for adding their artistic touches. A dozen snowplows now feature hand-painted murals. What a day brightener!