

Vernon Hills Village Voice

People Planning with Pride

The Official Newsletter of the Village of Vernon Hills

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- Garbage Service
- Snow Rules
- Voter Registration
- 2002 Meeting Schedule
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From the Mayor...

A Look Back — and Ahead

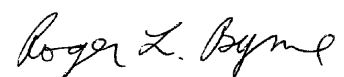
As 2001 comes to a close, let's take a quick walk down memory lane. We've accomplished so much. Several large retailers, including Home Expo, Babies 'R Us and Homemakers, have open their doors. New community amenities include a YMCA, C&M Auto repair, and Firststar Bank. We approved plans for AMLI to build nearly 300 rental units, and two new developments on Route 45 (Sarah's Glen and Sanctuary Point) are near completion. Construction has commenced at the Nike Site, which will be home to the Vernon Hills High School stadium.

We have begun to implement our 2001 Strategic Plan, including a review of our waste hauling process. We continued our road rehab program by resurfacing the "A" streets off Deerpath, and we worked on several detention basins around town. We're working with the Park District on the reuse of the existing Village Hall, the construction of the newly named Hawthorn Melody Park in Gregg's Landing, and the creation of new ball fields on the Nike site.

As a Board, we pride ourselves on listening to your concerns. In that vein, we continue to work with the state and county on the Prairie Road/Route 45 intersection, with improvements slated to begin next fall. We are investigating implementation of the Village's first Tax Increment Finance District in the area around Route 45 and Milwaukee Avenue; we believe that this "gateway" can become a vital component to our Village.

On a lighter note, we continue to provide residents with quality family-style entertainment through events like Summer Celebration, the Holiday Light Show, the New Year's Fireworks, and our Arbortheater concert series. Thanks to the hundreds of volunteers who make these events a success. Thank you, also, to our Village's Cultural Partners — CDW, American Hotel Register, and Washington Mutual. And a final thank you to the countless residents who serve on our Village's boards and commissions, who offer their comments and suggestions, and who simply get involved. That's what gives Vernon Hills its vitality.

Best wishes for a happy, healthy holiday and New Year,



Preparation for the Holiday Light Show begins in October as Public Works crews begin assembling more than 250 displays. The show runs from Thanksgiving through December 30.

**Holiday
Events Hotline
367-3725**

Moving Day...

Village Hall Open by Year End

The excitement is building as contractors quickly finish work on the new Village Hall. Village staff anticipate a late-December to early-January moving schedule.

All contact information — including phone numbers, fax lines, and mailing addresses — stays the same. In fact, it is hoped that the transition to the new building will be “transparent.” Residents needing to stop by the Village Hall may want to call ahead to find out which building to visit.

The new Hall, which is located beside the existing building at the intersection of Evergreen Drive and Highway 45, boasts more convenient resident service areas, an improved board room configuration, and expanded Senior Center.

Background on the project, including the development process behind the building’s “farm heritage” style, is included in the cable 4 show, *Inside the Village Hall*, airing during November and December.

A formal open house celebration is expected to be scheduled later this Spring. In the meantime, make sure you by your new Village Hall once things are settled in.



Garbage Contract on Dec. 4 Agenda

Efforts progress on the Village’s revamped garbage service. Contractor bids are expected to be presented during the December 4 Committee of the Whole Meeting.

General features of the program will include a single hauler, use of containers with wheels and lids, and a choice of three container sizes. Once or twice

weekly options are expected to continue.

The Village anticipates launching the new program in Spring 2002. Complete details will be provided as the program takes shape.

If you have questions or comments, consider attending the December 4 meeting (upstairs in the Village Hall; 7 p.m. start) or contact Eva Teich at 918-3558 or evant@vhills.org.

New Snow Rules Keep Streets Clear

Just in time for winter, a new ordinance is on the books designed to make snow removal more efficient for everyone. The full text is available online at www.vernonhills.org. Here’s a summary:

Municipal Ordinance #2001-164 makes it unlawful to dump snow or ice from private parking lots and driveways onto Village streets, sidewalks, or right of ways in such a manner as to decrease the width of the street or hamper Village snow removal efforts.

It is unlawful to pile snow so that it blocks the vision of motorists at any

intersections, prevents parking at a curb, covers fire hydrants, or blocks a sidewalk.

It is also unlawful to obstruct, harass, or interfere with an employee or Village contractor working to remove snow.

Fines range from \$25 to \$1,000, with violators responsible for payment of any damages. Citations may be issued to individuals and businesses, including property owners, management associations, and firms acting as an owner’s agent.

If you have questions, please call Public Works at 367-3726.

Take Part in Democracy... Register to Vote!

The last day to register to vote in the March election is February 19, 2002.

Have you moved? Changed your name? Are you a new U.S. citizen? Will you turn 18 by March 19, 2002? Then register (or re-register) so you can vote!

Voter registration is available at the Village Hall between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

To register, you must provide two forms of identification, with at least one showing your current address. Suitable ID include a driver’s license, Social Security card, library card, checkbook, etc.

Cook Memorial and Vernon Area Libraries offer evening and weekend hours, and have registrars on staff. To make sure a registrar is on duty, call 362-2330 (Cook) and 634-3650 (Vernon).

Polling Places, Election Judges

Note that the recent census prompted changes in district boundaries, which are still in flux. Lake County Clerk Willard Helander has announced that voters may be reporting to new polling places. Voters will also be receiving temporary voter registration cards. Details will become available as the March election approaches.

In addition, the County is looking for election judges. To learn more, contact the Lake County Clerk’s office at 377-2400.

Snow Facts

Here are a few tips and facts pertinent to the season...

- Remember, to aid in snow removal, there's no parking on Village streets after a snowfall of two inches or more. That means no overnight parking, even with a permit. If necessary, vehicles will be ticketed and towed.
- If you live near a fire hydrant, please take a few minutes to clear the area around the hydrant. This small task may greatly help the emergency services respond more quickly.

- When driving, stay back fifty feet from all snow removal equipment. If you can't see the trucks' side mirrors, they can't see you!
- State highways (that is, Routes 60, 21, 45) and county roads (Butterfield Road) are maintained by the respective agencies. Please



keep in mind that these agencies cover a large area; our roads are only a small part of their responsibility.

- Mailboxes are sometimes damaged by heavy snow rolling off the plow. If your mailbox is damaged, call the Public Works Department to assist with continued mail delivery. Also, the department has notified owners with mailboxes needing repairs in order to "weather" the winter onslaught.
- And remember, if you have any questions concerning snow removal procedures, please contact Public Works at 367-3726.



Village of Vernon Hills 2002 Meeting Schedule

All meetings are held at Village Hall, 290 Evergreen Drive, unless otherwise noted. Please also note the January Village Board Meetings will be held the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, due to the New Year's holiday.*

Village Board & Committee Meetings

Time	7:00 p.m.		
Dates:	January 8*, 22*	May 7, 21	September 3, 17
	February 5, 19	June 4, 18	October 1, 15
	March 5, 19	July 2, 16	November 5, 19
	April 2, 16	August 6, 20	December 3, 17

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 above schedule.

Adjudication Hearings

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

Celebration & Events Committee

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

Citizens Environmental Advisory Committee

Time: 7:00 p.m.
Dates: February 7, May 9, August 8, November 7

Electrical Commission

Time/Dates: To be determined

Emergency Telephone System Board

Time/Dates: To be determined

Finance Planning Committee

Time: 6:30 p.m.
Dates: 2nd Tuesday of each month or as needed

Fire and Police Commission

Time: 7:00 p.m.
Dates: January 8, April 9, July 9, October 8

Forestry Advisory Committee

Time/Dates: Evenings; Schedule to be determined

Historical Society

Time: 7:00 p.m.
Dates: 1st Monday of each month

Pageant Committee

Time/Place/Dates: To be determined

Parade Committee

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

Planning and Zoning Commission

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

Police Pension Board

Time: 4:00 p.m.
Dates: To be determined

Seniors Meetings

Time: 7:00 p.m.; or 1:00 p.m. during winter
Dates: 1st Monday & 3rd Thursday 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 of each month or as needed

Zoning Board of Appeals

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

Safety Advice to Keep the Holidays Nice

When out and about...

- Try to park in well-lit areas.
- Always close the windows and lock the car, even if “only for a minute.”
- Hide small valuables. Lock larger items in the trunk. Shopping bags are a dead giveaway to a thief, and even small items can be a temptation. In other words, don’t attract a problem!
- Try to avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
- Stay alert. Be aware of what’s going on around you.
- Keep your purse close to your body, in front 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, not the rear pocket.
- Don’t overburden yourself with packages. Doing so will make it harder to keep track of your belongings and harder to react in an emergency.
- Teach your children to go to a store clerk and ask for help should you become separated. Children should never go into the parking lot alone.

At home...

- Before going out, double check that doors and windows are locked.
- Leave lights on (or better yet, use a timer) to make it look like someone is home.

If you’re going out of town...

- Make sure that you have at least one timer installed.
- Ask a friend or relative to watch your home and bring in the newspapers and mail (or have the deliveries stopped).
- Make sure that snow gets shoveled.
- Call the police (362-4449) and request a vacation house watch. Not only will this give you peace of mind, but the call will only take a minute and the service is free.

These sage words of advice are brought to you by the Vernon Hills Police Department. If you have questions, please call the Crime Prevention Unit at 247-4888.

Shop Vernon Hills



Did you know that the money you spend with Vernon Hills merchants goes right back into our community?

Sales taxes generated by our retail partners form the backbone of our Village services — including our outstanding police and fire protection, snow plowing, road maintenance, park and open space upkeep, and other capital improvement projects. Sales taxes also help support some of our family friendly events — including the Arbortheater concerts and the Holiday Light Show.

Celebrate the Season

The Vernon Hills Building Division wishes you a safe and joy filled holiday. In celebration, residents are welcome to decorate the exterior of their property. At the risk of sounding like Scrooge, we remind you that Village ordinances state that decorations can be installed up to 30 days prior to the holiday and should be removed within 30 days following the event. Most importantly, please remember to use decorations and extension cords listed for outdoor use. *Happy Holidays!*



Jawthorn Junior High students designed and painted one of our Village snow plows. The scene, which includes the school’s eagle mascot, is shown here in its early stages. West Oak Middle School in Mundelein also participated in the project.

IN BUSINESS...

Here are a few of the recent business happenings around Vernon Hills. *Welcome business partners.*

- **C & M Auto** has opened shop at 600 Lakeview Parkway.
- Welcome **Danceport Center**, 426 Hawthorn Center.
- Check out **Bookids**, 208 Hawthorn Center.
- And visit **Fast Frame**, 700 N. Milwaukee Road.

Vernon Hills Holiday Events

• Winter Wonderland Holiday Light Show

November 23 through December 30

Friday and Saturday — 6 to 11 p.m.

Sunday through Thursday — 6 to 10 p.m.

\$5 per car Monday – Thursday; \$7 on Friday – Sunday

Enter at Lakeview Parkway, north of Hwy 60.

• New Year's Eve Fireworks

7:30 p.m. on Monday, December 31; Century Park



YMCA Programs

For details on the following YMCA programs, call 367-6797:

- The YMCA has scheduled Family Nights for December 14 and January 18, from 7 to 9 p.m. Nights include arts & crafts, games, food, and swimming. \$5 for members, \$10 for non-members.
- A Winter Swim Special features a three-class children's lesson package. Classes meet the weeks of December 24 and 31.
- A New Year's Eve "lock-in" is planned for K-5th graders — 7 p.m. to 7 a.m.
- "School's Out" holiday camp will be available December 26-28, January 2-4 and January 21. Call for reservations.
- Finally, a new session of winter fitness and swim classes begins on January 2.

Park District Sports Sunday

The Park District invites moms and young sons (K-3rd) for an afternoon of games, contests, and snacks on Sunday, January 13 at the Sullivan Center. Call 367-7270 or stop by the Center to register before January 7. In other news, the Sullivan Center Gym now hosts a morning "Tot Gym," allowing supervision for exercising parents. And finally, the Park District Preschool Open House is scheduled for February 3, from 1 to 3 p.m.

Keep the Wreath Red

Countryside Fire Station wishes you a safe and healthy holiday. Remember: do use UL approved lights, don't overload sockets, and never leave candles unattended. Help us keep the wreath on our station lit with red bulbs — which means no holiday-related fires in our community.

Landscape Waste

Reminder: The last landscape waste pick ups will be the week of December 9. Call Waste Management at 800-964-8988 with questions.

A Full Senior Schedule

- December 6 finds the Seniors' bus heading down Michigan Avenue to view the holiday lights, followed by lunch at Marshall Fields.
- The Seniors will celebrate with a Holiday Party on December 7 at Chevy Chase in Wheeling.
- On December 17, the group will enjoy the annual Libertyville High School Holiday Program and Dinner. Get tickets at the Center.
- Of course, the group will continue with their regular meetings (1 p.m. on the first Monday and third Thursday of each month), book clubs, card parties, and classes — including the new YMCA swim sessions. For details, contact Club President **Ed Sychta** at 918-1723.

Village Club House Walk

The Village Club's Holiday House Walk is set for December 17. The tour, which visits five beautifully decorated homes, will begin at 7 p.m., assembling at the lower level of the Village Hall. Proceeds benefit the group's scholarship award. For information, please contact Club President **Pia Van Auken**, 362-1520.

Holiday Tree Pick Ups

Don't know what to do with your old holiday tree? Public Works will recycle it into mulch! Put your tree at the curb by 7 a.m. on your neighborhood's scheduled day. Remove tinsel, garland, and ornaments. Cranberries and popcorn may remain for the birds to snack on. Note that snow, and snow removal operations, may alter the schedule.

- January 7 — North of Route 60
- January 8 — Deerpath, Stone Fence
- January 9 — Plymouth Farms, Westwood, Grosse Pointe Village
- January 10 — Hawthorn Club, Sugar Creek, Olde Grove Farms, Original Section

Blood Drive is January 19

The Village Blood Drive, sponsored by the Lions Club, will be held **January 19** at the Hawthorn (Elementary North) School, 301 Hawthorn Parkway. Appointments are every twenty minutes from 8:00 a.m. until 2:40 p.m., and can be scheduled through the Village Hall, 367-3700. Call LifeSource (298-9660) if you have questions about donating blood or scheduling a different time.

A New Year's Resolution That Everyone Should Live With

If you're like most people, New Year's resolutions are usually broken not too long into the new year. However, here's a resolution that fits everyone...

“ I will not drink and drive and will do my best to keep my family, friends, and others from doing the same. ”

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

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Vernon Hills Village Voice

290 Evergreen Drive
Vernon Hills, IL 60061

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Resident or Business Customer
Vernon Hills, IL 60061

Vernon Hills Village Voice

Please send comments to the Editor:

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Email: evant@vhills.org

Elected Officials

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

Contact Information

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

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in access to governmental services and programs. For assistance, call the Village's ADA Coordinator at 367-3700.

Printed on recycled paper 

December 2001/January 2002



**Congratulations,
Cougar Football!**

**And hats off to Vernon Hills High
School's 30 All-Academic honorees.**

**Best wishes for a great 2002
to all of our community's
outstanding schools and students!**