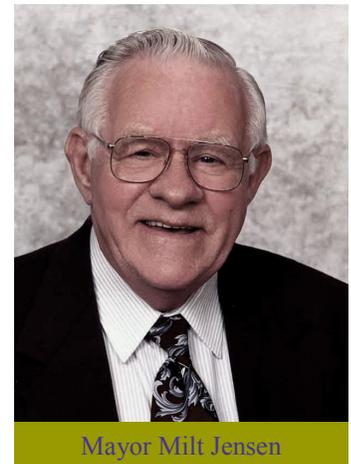




# The Village Link

## Success is spelled “BEACH PARK”



Mayor Milt Jensen

### A NOTE FROM PARKS & RECREATION

- **IF ANYONE IS INTERESTED IN USING THE GEOKARIS PARK SHELTER FOR PARTIES OR GET TOGETHERS, YOU MUST FIRST OBTAIN A PERMIT FROM THE VILLAGE OF BEACH PARK. PARTIES OF 20 PEOPLE OR MORE MUST CONTACT THE VILLAGE HALL AT 847-746-1770 FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF RULES & REGULATIONS.**

How do you do it? I don't believe it! That question and that statement are most commonly heard in conversations concerning Beach Park, Illinois. Why??? Because the Village levies NO tax upon real estate in the Village of Beach Park, a fact that sets us apart from most other communities.

This year, 2009, we will reach our 20th Anniversary without a property tax and we are a Village in excellent financial condition. At the time of our formation, we were determined that we would create our new Village without the need to heap more taxes upon our residents. Our judgment was challenged and the doubters forecast our demise or, in the alternative, a call for a referendum to implement a Village Real Estate Tax. That has NOT happened in 20 years and is not very likely to happen any time soon.

Residents of Beach Park have been heard to say, "What do you mean, no real estate tax? I receive a very hefty tax bill every year." That is a true statement, as all residents pay real estate taxes. Schools, Forest Preserve Districts, Fire Districts, Library Districts and other agencies tax us, but the Village of Beach Park, DOES NOT! Close scrutiny of your tax bill will show that no levy for the Village appears on your bill.

Our success is not a mystery or a secret but rather it is the result of prudent management and the use of existing services and facilities. One example of our use of established service is our contract with Lake County Sheriff as our law enforcement agency. The sheriff is supported financially by a tax levied by the County and therefore we are entitled to basic police coverage anywhere in Lake County. Beach Park

augments that basic coverage by contracting with the Sheriff for 2 full time shifts designated for Beach Park exclusively in addition to the normal Sheriff patrol in the district. The number of patrol officers we are able to provide in this manner is not limited by any restraints other than our ability to pay.

The savings for police protection is immediately obvious. We spend a p p r o x i m a t e l y \$400,00.00 a year for two shifts in the Village, and in addition we are served during the same period by the regular Sheriff patrol at no additional charge.



*Continued from front page.....*

Our police outlay is a minor expenditure when you consider that it is approximately ten percent of the initial cost of instituting our own police force. We eliminate the cost of automobiles, uniforms, repair, maintenance, insurance, communications, retirement, lockup and booking facilities as well as office administration. We have the prerogative of adding one or more officers as needed. Funds for a Beach Park police department are not available and will not be without approval, by referendum, to implement a property tax for police purposes. Our unique policing is only one example of the ways in which we contain costs.

Fire protection can be very costly, but we are fortunate to be under the umbrella of three separate Fire Protection Districts, which were in place long before the Village was incorporated. Their boundaries were not affected by our incorporation. Each of them levies a fire tax on Beach Park residents in their respective districts, as they always have in the past. Our fire protec-

tion is as good and quite possibly even better than it would be if we had a municipal department. These districts have established a very comprehensive mutual working system that triples our coverage without an additional tax burden to residents in any of the three districts. It is very doubtful that this service could be provided more economically.

Now comes the big question, "Where do you get funding for all of your municipal services and activities?" There are several sources, the largest being our portion of the Illinois State Sales Tax. A small percentage of the sales tax is returned to the community of origin. Another source of funding, however small, is a portion of the Illinois Income Tax that is returned to the Village on the basis of population. Our streets and roadways are built and maintained from Motor Fuel Tax collected by the state and returned to us on the basis of population. Therein lies the total of our income sources.

The only variable income source we have is

the sales tax. Consequently, your Village Board is very pro-business and we direct our efforts toward retail development in every way possible. We have had good results in attracting business by using innovative means such as, designated Business Districts and Tax Increment Finance Districts.

A Business Commission was established, as required under the law, to provide us with tools to help attract retail business. By taking advantage of the authority of the state statutes in this instance has given us more money & more options to aid us in assisting and encouraging the development of business. We have been successful in attracting new business and holding our sales tax income relatively steady. More retail establishments are presently working with us and initial probes have been made toward others. Our progress in this area looks bright for the future.

It should be pointed out that the success of our community to remain solvent, attract business

and grow has to be attributed to a Board of Trustees who are focused on that goal and work together seamlessly and look back with pride.

We are determined that we will continue to foster and promote a very strong and healthy community for years to come, and to do it without a real estate tax.

Your representation by this public body is, or should be, the envy of all our neighbors. We like our work and the results show how important your elected officials are to your community's vitality. Our board is EXEMPLARY and the voters should be proud of the work they have given and those in whom they have given their trust to manage their public business.

We look forward to our 20th birthday this year with great expectations!

*Mayor Milt Jensen*





## Be prepared for Severe Weather.....

There are a number of severe weather hazards that affect Illinois, including thunderstorms, tornadoes, lightning, flash flooding, damaging winds and large hail.

Tornadoes— Most tornadoes occur between April 1st and June 30th, but can occur in every month of the year. There is an average of 41 tornadoes per year in Illinois.

- 1) Tornado Watch: Tornadoes are possible, be prepared to take shelter. If you live in a mobile home, this is the time to move to a more substantial structure.
- 2) Tornado Warning: A

tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. Take shelter immediately. It is critical that someone is monitoring weather conditions using a NOAA weather radio.

### Severe Thunderstorms

- 1) Severe Thunderstorm Watch: Severe thunderstorms are possible. Be prepared to take shelter.
- 2) Severe Thunderstorm Warning: Severe thunderstorms are occurring. Take shelter and turn on your battery operated radios and monitor the weather.

Your Beach Park ESDA unit recommends that you purchase a NOAA Weather Radio. We also ask you to prepare and maintain your Emergency Supply Kit and Plan. This year we plan to increase the size of our Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) in the Village. To learn more about emergency preparedness, or to volunteer, please contact the Beach Park Village Hall and/or watch for special programs to be offered throughout the year. If you have any questions, please contact Chet Splitt, ESDA coordinator at 847-246-6060.



**“This year we plan to increase the size of our Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) in the Village.....”**

## Water Billing Changes

Please be aware that as of February 1, 2009, The Village of Beach Park will no longer be mailing reminder notices on delinquent water/sewer accounts. We ask that you please be sure to pay your bill on time. Regular bills are processed bi-monthly and will be due no later than on the first week of February, April, June, August, October

and December. You may contact Gloria Salazar at 847-246-6018 if you have any questions, or did not receive your bill.



Don't forget to sign up for girl's softball, boy's baseball, soccer and youth football this year. Nancy, in the Parks & Recreation Department, will have any information that you need for this.  
847-746-1770...



## Parks & Recreation Department



Make sure to check our website for upcoming events that are not listed here.....  
[www.villageofbeachpark.com](http://www.villageofbeachpark.com)

Think Spring and warm thoughts! It will be here before we know it. Again, we have a busy year ahead of us in the Parks & Recreation Department.

On March 17, 2009 we will host our annual Luck-O-Irish Party. This year the party will be held at Thunderhawk Golf Course and the seats are filling up fast. Make sure to call and reserve yours.

In May, 2009, our Village will be 20 years old. On the 22nd of May, 2009, the Village will host an 'Open House' at

the Village Hall with cake & coffee for our residents to come and enjoy. Make sure you stop in to help us celebrate. (9am to 4pm) The Parks & Recreation department is working hard on getting and putting together a Farmer's Market here in Beach Park. Be sure to keep an eye out for more information on this event coming in June, 2009.

In September, 2009, we will be hosting another senior trip to Atlantic City, Philadelphia and New York.

Call Nancy at 847-746-1770 for more information.

The Parks & Recreation Department is working very hard on bringing back the haunted Ghost Walk this year. For more information or to sign up to volunteer, please call the Village Hall at 847-746-1770.

We wish everyone a very happy and healthy New Year!

*Trustee Richard Gust,  
 Parks & Recreation  
 Chairman*

## COMING SOON TO BEACH PARK... "ANNA'S"

We are excited to inform you about a new business, "Anna's", which will be located on the NW corner of Beach and Sheridan Roads, in the heart of our Sheridan Road TIF District. Kalaco Oil Co., will soon begin construction of "Anna's", promised to be a state-of-the-art facility, consisting of a gas station, a car wash and a convenience center.

Groundbreaking for this new business is expected by May 15, 2009: how-

ever, Kalaco Oil wants to get their project up and running as quickly as possible, so you may see activity on that corner even earlier. "Anna's" will create at least 14 new jobs (full-time equivalent) not including management positions. This will provide much needed sales tax revenue for Beach Park. The construction of "Anna's" will also bring immediate improvements to that location with removal of ex-

isting dilapidated structures.

The Sheridan Road TIF District was created with two goals in mind. The first goal is to eliminate blighted conditions along Sheridan Rd. The second goal is to recruit new businesses that will enhance the tax base and create new jobs. Anna's achieves both criteria in what will be a precedent setting facility sure to be the standard for future development along the Sheridan Rd. corridor.

Anna's will clearly show that Sheridan Road is a great place to open a new business or grow an established one.

Watch for future news about the opening of the Village of Beach Park's newest business, Anna's, and additional new business on the horizon.

**Trustee Regina Miller**

**John McIntyre, Economic  
 Development Coordinator**



## Economic Development & the Façade Grant Program

The Village of Beach Park has implemented a Façade Improvement Grant Program to assist business owners with financing improvements to the façade's of their buildings. Upon completion and approval of the improvements, the Village reimburses business owners 50% of approved eligible costs, up to \$10,000.00, for structures on commercially zoned properties in Beach Park. The goal of this program is to help business owners keep the exterior of their buildings attractive, which in turn keeps the Village of Beach Park attractive.

All things being equal, customers prefer to shop in nice looking buildings.

At this point, funding is available for business located within the Sheridan Road Tax Increment Finance District. All others will be considered on a case-by-case business. Contact the Village for more details.

Improvements to building façade's are eligible for this program. This includes the outer fronts of buildings, windows, awnings and canopies, signage, decorative lighting, landscaping improvements and more.

The steps in applying to the Façade Improvement Grant Program are simple:

1. Fill out an application.
2. Consult with the Economic Development

Coordinator.

3. Receive a positive recommendation from the Economic Development Committee.
4. Receive preliminary approval from the Village Board **PRIOR TO BEGINNING ANY IMPROVEMENTS.**
5. Make the façade improvements.
6. Receive final approval from the Village Board.
7. Receive your check!

For more information, contact John A. McIntyre, Economic Development Coordinator, at the Village Hall, 11270 W. Wadsworth Rd. 847-746-1770.



**“Upon completion and approval of the improvements, the Village reimburses business owners 50% of approved eligible costs.....**

### Host Families are needed!

Zion Benton Township High School and the Rotary Club of Illinois Beach Sunrise will host an exchange student due to arrive in August 2009.

Hosting a Youth Exchange student can be as rewarding as being one. It's an opportunity to make a personal contribution to advancing world understanding while expanding your own horizons and those of your family. And, it's a chance to build a relationship with someone special, some-

one who will be a part of your life for a long time to come.

Host parents provide parental guidance and supervision for the student as well as room and board during their stay in your home. To facilitate the exchangee's assimilation into the culture and allow more families in the community to participate in the Youth Exchange experience, our club likes to have the student stay with 3-4 families (3-4 months with each family) during the

year.

What types of families open their doors to Youth Exchange? All Types! Rotarian and non-Rotarian families with young children, grown children and no children—all have shared the joy of hosting a new “son” or “daughter” from another land. All it takes is the willingness to care and a heart that's ready for a touch of adventure.

Rotary Youth Exchange, the

most successful exchange program in the world for high schools, began in 1972, the Central States Youth Exchange Program became the nucleus for major expansion. This year, about 9,000 young people will see the world the way it is best seen—from the inside out—through a Rotary Youth Exchange program.

If you would like more information on being a host family, Contact Debbie Kolb at 847-872-9257.





Benton Township  
Supervisor—Jan Suthard

## Benton Township News

**LOCATED AT THE CORNER OF 29TH & GREENBAY RD.**

Senior Resource Day: Wednesday, April 29th 8:30 am till noon at the Zion Park District Leisure Center. Over 30 exhibitors, door prizes, donuts, coffee and lunch provided.

Senior Free Ride Program: Senior citizens age 65 or over are eligible for free transit on fixed routes operated by the CTA, Metra & Pace. Call for appointment & bring your drivers license with you.

Senior Circle: Seniors 50+ pick up an application to join for activities, events & trips. Sponsored by Vista Health-System.

Meals on Wheels: volunteers needed for the Beach Park route. Mondays & Tuesdays.

Drop off non perishable food & health/beauty products for local food pantries at the township offices located at 40020 N. Greenbay Road at the northwest corner of 29th & Greenbay Rd.

Looking for career training and development assessment? Contact Zion Benton Workforce De-

velopment Training Center at 847-731-9143.

Services available for training & retraining workers.

CLC provides GED classes at Pearce Campus East. Call 847-731-9143 for more information.

To report odor complaints regarding Veolia landfill, please call 847-377-8096.

Dial-A-Ride Bus Service for Benton Township residents: Service hours are Tuesday & Thursdays from 8:30 am to 4 pm. This service takes you anywhere in Benton, Newport and Zion Townships. Also Villages of Beach Park, Winthrop Harbor, Wadsworth & Gurnee. The cost is \$1.60 one-way for adults and .80 cents for children ages 7 to 11. You can call up to a week in advance for scheduled medical appointments. To schedule a ride, call 1-800-201-6446 one day in advance.

Free Rules of the Road Booklets, Illinois Road Maps and Official Bicy-

cle maps available at the Township office as well.

Drop off used eye glasses and used cell phones for refurbishing at the township office.

Prescription Drug Cards for those without prescription insurance are available. Income nor age is a factor, the cards are free.

Benton Greenwood Cemetery: Cemetery plots are available. Call for more information, or if you know of a senior needing these services. 847-746-2100.

- *If you have any questions or concerns regarding any of the above listed services, please contact the Benton Township Offices at 847-746-2100.*

### Office Hours:

MONDAY THRU THURSDAY

7:30 am until 4 pm

Closed noon until 1 pm

FRIDAYS

7:30 am until 1 pm

Closed weekends and holidays

### Supervisor

Phone: 847-746-2100

Fax: 847-746-2881

### Highway Commissioner

Phone: 847-746-2100

Fax: 847-746-2881

### Assessor

Phone: 847-746-2069

Fax: 847-746-2116

## JOB FAIR COMING TO BEACH PARK

If you would, for just a moment, let your minds reflect back on a time not so long ago.....

It was hardly a year & a half ago that the American economy appeared to be riding high; the real estate & housing markets were booming, our stock portfolios soared, bank loans & credit was easily accessed and our employment status appeared reasonably stable. **THAT WAS THEN AND THIS IS NOW....**

Today we are experiencing record foreclosures in the housing & real estate markets, our stock portfolios have suffered dramatic losses, banks & credit markets have substantially tightened lending practices, companies are laying off employees by the thousands and consumer confidence has plunged to it's lowest point in recent memory. Not in our lifetime, have most of us experienced such dire economic straits, and despite Beach Park's sound economic position, many of our residents have not been spared by this economic crisis that has crippled our nation. I have per-

sonally encountered people on a daily basis with stories of varying hardships that have beset them or their families. I have heard the stories of people losing their homes, their jobs, their hopes & their dreams and despite our best efforts, there is very little, if anything, we can do to transform our nation's economy back to its days of prosperity & prominence. None the less, I am convinced that there is much we can do as Elected Officials & Village staff, to assist the residents of Beach Park & the County of Lake.

It is with this confidence that Mayor Jensen, the Village Board & staff have chosen to consult with numerous agencies, businesses & individuals in an effort to bring forth much needed expertise, direction & resources in the areas of finance, job training, foreclosures, loan modification, credit counseling, job opportunities & much more to the residents of Beach Park & to the County of Lake.

It is this effort which will allow the Village of Beach Park & Bridge-

view Bank to sponsor our first ever "Family Finance Job Fair & Business Assistance Expo." This forum will feature information as well as presentations & workshops by experts in the areas of family & personal finance, credit counseling, retirement planning, investments, job training & assistance interviewing, resume review, senior assist, military family assistance as well as most of other public service agencies to assist the public in a variety of different areas. In addition, we will be sponsoring a Job Fair for these individuals seeking employment. *\*Note: we anticipate this event will take place at the end of March or beginning of April. If you have questions, or suggestions regarding this event, or you know of employers that might be interested in participating in our job fair, please contact John McIntyre or myself @ the Village of Beach Park, 847-746-1770.*

Thank you, and

best wishes.....

Trustee Larry Wells



Trustee Larry D. Wells

**"Today we are experiencing record foreclosures in the housing & real estate markets, our stock portfolios have suffered dramatic losses, banks & credit markets have substantially tightened lending practices, companies are laying off employees by the thousands".....**



## VILLAGE OF BEACH PARK

11270 W. Wadsworth Rd.  
Beach Park, IL 60099  
847-746-1770 Phone

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THEIR FUTURE