



THE VILLAGE LINK

THE VILLAGE OF RURAL SPIRIT
SPRING 2011



Mayor Milton C. Jensen

A FEW WORDS FROM OUR MAYOR.....

This winter has been one for the books! We have experienced one of the biggest blizzards that we've had in many years and hopefully it will be many more years before we repeat this act.

It was very difficult for our Public Works crews to work through the night of the blizzard attempting to keep the snow at a minimum so that roads would not be totally plugged by the next morning. They worked late into the evening then relaxed for three hours getting back on the roadways at about 2 AM and continuing until they had almost every road and every street open. There were times when the visibility for our drivers was just a few feet yet they were able to accomplish the almost impossible.

The following morning as soon as it was possible to get on the roads, I was out. I must say that comparing Beach Park streets and roadways to those of the State,

County and our neighboring communities we were really ahead of the game. Beach Park residents were able to navigate our village streets while it was impossible to use some of the main highways leaving town.

There were few incidents of cars blocking roadways hindering the removal of snow. Most citizens recognize the problem and cooperated fully making the job of removing such heavy snow a lot easier. Most everywhere you turned there were automobiles that had been left in the roadway and plowing was impossible with the exception of Beach Park. We had a few calls concerning mailboxes being struck and driveway openings being refilled.

I think that for those few who are not familiar with the mailbox situation, let me point out that the mailbox is private property located upon a public right-of-way. Try as we might, there are times when they will be struck particularly under the conditions experienced in this recent heavy snowfall. We have had a few calls demanding

that we repair the mailbox and I must say that we simply can't do that under these circumstances. No mailbox was deliberately hit and those that were are simply victims of a very adverse situation.

I want to use this space to Thank those Beach Park citizens that cooperated so fully in keeping their vehicles off the streets giving our road crews every opportunity to get the job done. I want to Thank our Public Works crew and other employees who helped in this most perplexing time. They did a great job!

On another front. New challenges for our Village Administration will be the impact of the new taxes and fees recently approved by our representatives in Springfield. A village such as Beach Park which is quite unique in the fact that it levies no real estate tax it is extremely vulnerable to the economic implications of these taxes and fees. Our fiscal survival rests on sales taxes and motor fuel taxes, of which a portion, is

rebated to the municipalities. Without question the buying powers of each of us in going to be more restricted, resulting in reduced income for the Village through the sales tax. We will simply have to do more with less.

Since our inception 20 years ago, we have faced many adversities as our new Village grew. There were tough times and there were good times and through prudent management of resources we survived very well. We will deal as best we can with the effects on the economy that Springfield's actions will very likely cause.

As we move into the summer of 2011 and in spite of the challenges of a shrinking economy we will continue to direct our efforts toward increasing retail business development in Beach Park. It is very slow at this time however you might say that we have hens on the nest that will likely be producing in the near future.

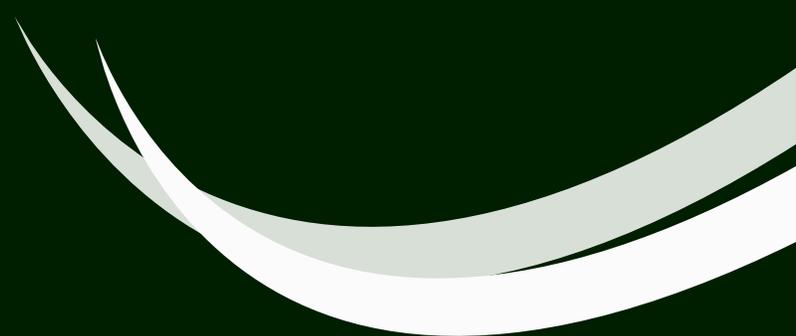
Now that we have put a very challenging winter behind us, for the most part, lets look forward to a summer that is as good as the winter was bad!!

ARE YOU A SWIFFER FLUSHER?

Dry/wet cleaning cloths, such as Swiffer and Lysol or any other cleaning cloth/rag are gaining popularity in the market place, especially with flu season upon us. When people flush these cloths down their toilets, they cause problems in the Village Sewer System.

First of all, the cloths are not biodegradable; they do not dissolve in the sewer pipes. They do, however, get caught on debris, such as roots, in the sewer lines especially the sewer laterals coming out of homes. One or two cloths may not stop the flow of sewage out of your residence, but the cloths could build up over time, necessitating a call to a plumber. Additionally, these cloths do not tear easily and will clog the sewage lift station pumps and cause backups in the sewer system.

The directions on the containers of these products state that the cloths are to be disposed of in the trash and are not to be flushed down the toilet. It is easy to "flush em and forget em," but they could cause you problems in the future. Please dispose of these cleaning and disinfecting cloths in the trash!



A BIG THANKS TO OUR PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

My name is Mark Ottersen and I am very proud to be the Chairman of the Public Works Committee. Although it should not take the worst blizzard in 40 years to prompt us to thank the hard working staff in our Public Works Department, we all just made it through the worst blizzard in 40 years!!! On behalf of our Mayor and the Village Board, Thank You all very much!!

With nearly 24" of snow, winds up to 60 MPH, and frigid temperatures, the crews worked non-stop to keep the roadways open enough for the emergency vehicles to reach people who were in need. When the snow finally started to slow down, the Village Staff and the contractors coordinated by Mr. Gene

Gross, started the very difficult task of making the roadways passable for our residents to get back to the normal work week. Sure, some streets took longer to clear than others, and a few items that were buried under large snow drifts were damaged, but I have heard overwhelmingly positive feedback from our residents for the fine job that was done by our staff.

So for the great job you did after the "Blizzard of 2011", the great job you continue to do on our Village Streets throughout the year, the great job you do on our water distribution and sewer collection systems and in our parks... Thanks again for being the best at making us all look good!!!



Trustee Mark Ottersen,



Trustee Richard Gust

FIRST OFF, LETS THINK ... "HAPPY SPRING"!!

This coming year we have a lot of recreation events scheduled for our residents. The dates are yet to be scheduled, so make sure to check with the Village Hall as to the date and times. Besides girls softball, boys baseball and the soccer programs at Geo-Karis Park, we will be hosting our Annual Senior Picnic, and the Holiday Egg Hunt. We have several more picnic tables in the budget to make more room for our growing participants as well. Don't forget about the St Patty's Day, Luck-O-Irish party on the 17th of March, and make sure to check back for our Movie Nights, Farmer's Market and our Senior Bus Trips. (this year we plan on going to Branson, MO in the fall).



Benton Township Offices.

Senior Resource

Day: April 20th,
8:30 am till noon
at the Zion Park

District Sports Arena. Exhibitors,
door prizes and lunch provided.

Mama's 5th Annual 5K Run: May
7th. Contact Deb Will (847) 731-
9475. All proceeds go to support
Coalition for Healthy Communities
& Community Resources for Educa-
tion & Wellness.

AARP Driving School: June 21st &
22nd from 10 am till 2 pm at the
Zion Benton Public Library. To sign
up call the Township Office at 847-
746-2100. Space is limited.

Farmers Market Coupons: Coupons
are available after June 1, 2011 for
seniors age 62+ (one coupon book
per household)

Free amplified Phone Application:
neither age nor income a require-
ment. Pick up applications at the
Township Office located at 40020
N. Greenbay Rd.

Drop off non perishable food &
health/beauty products at Town-
ship office for local food pantries.

Drop off used eye glasses for refur-
bishing at Township Office.

Dial-A-Ride Bus Service. For Ben-
ton Township residents. Service
hours: Tuesday & Thursdays from
8:30 till 4 PM. To schedule a ride,
call 1-800-201-6446 one day in
advance.

Meals on Wheels: Call (847) 546-
5733 ask for Meals on Wheels
program.

Free Rules of the Road Hand-
books, IL Bike Rte. Maps & IL
State Hwy Maps are available at
the Township Office

Potential Passport & Dash for
Cash Fair in May, call in April for
details.

Another big thanks

As the blizzard of 2011 passes through our Village leaving us with nothing but several feet of drifted snow and below zero temperatures, I feel a well deserved Thank You is in order, not only for our Public Works Team who worked diligently to plow our roadways making our streets a safe place to drive, but also to our residents who provided aide to their neighbors in a time of need. To me this was an excellent example of how a community comes together.

With Spring just around the corner, we have several Village events & activities organized.

Automated messages and commu-
nity reminders will be sent with
dates, times & locations. If you
have not yet signed up for our au-
tomated system and would like to,
please contact myself, the Village
Hall or via our website for assis-
tance.

Under other business, I am pleased
to announce that clean up efforts
are underway In our Sheridan Road
TIF District with the KZK proper-
ty being considered high priority.

Lastly, sales tax dollars are im-
portant. I encourage everyone to
support our local business owners
by "shopping Beach Park" and as
always, I welcome comments, ideas
and concerns. I can be reached at
847-746-1770 ext. 6052 or via email
linda.sittig@villageofbeachpark.com.

I look forward to hearing from you
and Thank You for the opportunity
to serve.



Trustee Linda Sittig

SHOP BEACH PARK.... THIS WEEKS FEATURED BUSINESSES

Emily's Pancake House

38730 N. Sheridan Rd.

Beach Park, IL

Open 7 Days a Week

Monday—Sunday 6am to 3pm

Family Owned and Operated by

Dino Maravelas

This family friendly establishment has been in Beach Park since 2005. A favorite by many for their ever popular pancakes, Emily's also boasts many other breakfast favorites including a Crepes Benedict, 4-egg Omelets, Biscuits and Gravy to name a few. Breakfasts are plentiful but if you're not craving breakfast, they have a large lunch selection ranging from hot meals to sandwiches to salads.

All meals are served quickly and with a smile from their very pleasant staff.

Reservations are taken Monday through Saturday, but Sundays are first come, first served.

You can reach them at 847-249-1170.

Beach Park Minimart

38357 N. Sheridan Rd.

Beach Park,

Open 7 Days a Week

24 Hours a Day

Owned and Operated by

The Parikh Family

Established in 2002, this minimart carries many household basics and car necessities including oil and windshield washer fluid. Phone cards, for a variety of phone carriers, are also available for purchase.

If you're in a hurry and need a quick snack, they serve hot dogs and nachos to get you on your way.

In addition to the spacious parking lot, their gas station offers all grades of gasoline including diesel, and to save time there is a vacuum and inflation area for your convenience.

They are conveniently located on the northeast corner of Sheridan Road & Beach Place.

For more information, call 847-249-8478

Village of Beach Park
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847-746-1770

www.villageofbeachpark.com

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Tom Pierson
President



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