



The Village Link

“ STATE OF THE VILLAGE REPORT ”



Mayor John Hucker

The Village of Beach Park will be sending out a “Citizens Satisfaction” survey.

Please let us know the best way to get the survey to you, internet, post card mailing or via telephone!

Please call

847-746-1770 to submit your vote!

The Village Link is also available on our website!

I am excited to submit my first “State of the Village” report this issue! It has been just short of one year since Mayor Milt passed away and since the Village Board appointed me Mayor. I am happy to report that this year, although challenging, has been a very successful year. The Village remains financially sound, we have a strong capable Staff and our Village Board is working together to conduct the business of the Village.

Our Staff and I have been able to implement many needed changes and improvements to the Village operations during the transition from Milt’s administration to mine. This last year we have documented and refined many standard operating procedures, developed a new Employee Handbook and job descriptions and created an Elected Officials Handbook. In January we hired Jon Kindseth to be our Administrative Services Director. His responsibilities in-

clude management of all Staff members as well as being the liaison between the Staff and the Board. I am pleased to tell you that Jon has hit the ground running and has already begun to reduce spending and implement systems that will increase productivity.

Another priority for my first year as Mayor was to increase the transparency of information to residents, Staff members and Board members. We have posted our Budget and Audit reports on the Village website. The Village Board meetings continue to be streamed live on our website as well as being archived there too. Our new website, which is in development, will provide more capability to pass additional information to the public. Soon we will be posting the Board meeting packets to our website so that the public can see the same information as the Board. Trustee Regina Miller and the Public Re-

lations Committee are working together with Staff on the new website project.

Throughout this year of transition, I have to say our Staff performed admirably. We have redistributed responsibilities to many Staff members, and they have been trained to perform many new tasks all without missing a beat. We have been actively cross-training Staff members to back each other up so our small Staff never comes up short. I challenge anyone to find a harder working, more willing and friendlier group of people anywhere! What a pleasure it is for me to spend time working with these professionals.

One premise our Village has always subscribed to is using partnerships with others to get things done. This year we have partnered with consultants to administer our Building & Zoning Department, perform inspections and advise our

C O N T I N U E D F R O M F R O N T P A G E . . .

Staff on day-to-day issues. This has kept the full-time employee count lower and we only use these consultants as needed, which saves the Village money.

Financially speaking, the Village is as strong as ever, we have continued to spend less than we bring in and we diligently adhere to our budget. This fiscal year we project another surplus in the budget that will soon be approved. Remember all that we do in Beach Park is accomplished without any Village Property Tax! I recently created a new Finance Committee and appointed our newest Trustee, Don Jensen, as its chairman. This committee works closely with our Budget Director and monitors our monthly finances and reports on financial matters to the Board which is instrumental in the Budget Process currently underway. The Finance Committee and Staff will also be seeking the availability of any grant money that will aid in funding projects from Public Works, to energy efficient upgrades, to our Village buildings.

This last year I have spent quite a bit of time in my other role as Liquor Commissioner, on liquor license matters including hearings on under-age liquor sales, closing Cruiser's

Bar and revising the liquor license application and renewal process. We want to support our business people that sell liquor, but I must insist that they conduct their business responsibly. Through communication with the license holders that have had violations (along with fines and suspensions) we have made significant progress in preventing the illegal sale of liquor to minors. In the next few months the Board will undertake a comprehensive review of our Liquor Ordinances and review issues like universal carding of purchasers, hours of operation and training of employees of the licenses.

We continue to enjoy a great relationship with the Lake County Sheriff's Department who has served as our Police Force since the beginning of Beach Park. Through regular meetings between the leadership from the Sheriff's Department and myself, along with our Staff, we have been able to increase communication and improve the amount of information that is exchanged both ways. We have a dedicated patrol car in the Village for the first and second shifts each day, and we have other district cars available to us 24-hours every day. In addition to the patrols, we have every tool the Sheriff's Department utilizes: Detectives, Crimi-

nal Investigation, SWAT, Gang and Drug units and so much more. The decision to partner with the Sheriff's Department has always been a good one and continues to be an excellent choice for our community.

Our **Public Safety Committee** Chaired by Trustee Linda Sittig, has been busy encouraging our residents to participate in a Neighborhood Watch program. Trustee Larry Wells has been working hard over the last several months strengthening Beach Park's Community Policing initiatives by hosting several informational meetings to help new groups form and old groups re-engage to look out for their neighbors and assist the Sheriff's Department in reducing crime throughout the Village. These efforts have been paying off, resulting in reduced overall crime throughout Beach Park for the last five years.

Code Enforcement is an ongoing and ever present activity in every Village and Beach Park is no exception. We have had significant success getting many troubled properties cleaned up this year. Code Enforcement responds to hundreds of complaints every year regarding property maintenance.

Continued on next page.....

Many times property owners clean up their property with only a conversation from our Code Enforcement Officer. Sometimes it is not that easy. The process of going through the courts is time consuming and expensive, but when we cannot get a property owner to comply voluntarily, we have to take them to court. Sometimes it takes more than a year to get decisions through the court. You may have noticed that we recently had over one hundred illegal business signs removed from several locations throughout the Village. Through our Code Enforcement efforts the Village is seeking to improve the aesthetics in the business districts as well as residential neighborhoods. Also, this year we had trash removed from our main roadways using a couple people serving Community Service sentences. This costs the Village nothing and really helped to improve the appearance of these areas.

The reconstruction of Beach Road began last year and the major work is now complete. In the spring we will have final paving of the roadway and the bicycle/walking path. Also, final restoration of the road shoulders will be completed at that time. The majority of this work was funded by grant money from the State. Our Public Works Committee, Chaired by Trustee Mark Ottersen, has

been working on several significant projects including plans to resolve some drainage issues in a couple of neighborhoods that are prone to storm water flooding. Also the intersection of North Avenue & Wadsworth Road will be widened this summer after school is out. We had planned on having this project completed last summer, but we were held up by a delay in receiving the grant money that we had secured to partially fund the project. The Public Works Committee has also been planning which roads will be re-paved this coming year. It is extremely important here, that it is made clear, that many of these projects are made possible through state and federal grants. The Village has leveraged local funds to match the \$1.5 million we received in grant monies this past year. This summer Wadsworth Road & Greenbay Road to Cambridge Boulevard will also be reconstructed, complete with permanent traffic lights at the Cambridge intersection. This project is to be funded primarily through state and federal grants, thus lowering the burden on Beach Park residents.

I have to stop a minute here to give credit to the hardest working, most dedicated **Public Works Department** in Lake County! They work hard all year doing everything from mowing grass to digging ditch-

es, keeping the water system operating and the sewers working. But during the winter, our 70 plus miles of streets are always cleared of snow and drivable well before most other communities. WAY TO GO GUYS! You make us proud!

The **Parks & Recreation Committee**, Chaired by Trustee Richard Gust, has been hard at work with our Staff planning events and park improvements. From senior trips and parties to the annual Luck-O-Irish Party and the Easter Egg hunt, they have everything well-in-hand. Soon they will begin the process of determining whether a new Community Center should be built. We will embark on a needs analysis and possibly a community-wide survey to hear what our residents think. Also, coming soon is the second annual Memorial Day Celebration at Founder's Park. Next year will be the Village's 25th birthday celebration. You can bet there will be a lot going on then!

Our Board just completed our second annual **Priority Planning Session**, where we work with our Staff to plan for coming years, setting goals for the coming year and also looking ahead to the next three years. These priorities form the foundation for our Capital Improvement Budget and allow the Staff to focus on implementing

C O N T I N U E D

the Board's wishes. This worked very well last year and I am pleased to say that a majority of all of the priorities identified a year ago are either completed or well in process.

At the April 9th election, there will be a referendum question on the ballot asking whether the Village should negotiate lower rates for our electricity for our residents. The principle behind this is bulk purchasing of electricity. If the referendum passes the Village will bid out for the lowest rate for our residents and small businesses. This program would have an "Opt-Out" process to allow residents to choose their own electricity provider if they wish. More information

is available on the Village's website at www.villageofbeachpark.com regarding this important question.

I believe our Village is well positioned for new Economic Development to come when the time is right. We have several areas in Beach Park that are ripe for development or redevelopment. These areas will be promoted to developers at every opportunity. We also recently revised our TIF application and review processes to make them more efficient and to qualify an applicant quicker. The revenues created by our share of the Retail Sales Tax will continue to be important to our future. We need to continue to encourage new business to locate here and support our

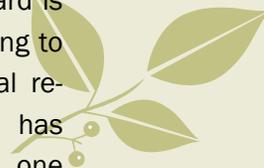
existing businesses in Beach Park.

In closing I would like to say I have truly enjoyed the past year as Mayor of Beach Park. I have had the privilege to serve you with a very high performing Board of Trustees. Every one of our Trustees serves countless hours in Committee meetings, meeting with our Staff and working directly with our residents. Our Board is committed to holding to our course of fiscal responsibility that has made Beach Park one of the few area communities not in financial distress.

Thank you for your trust in your Village Board. We are working hard to keep Beach Park a place you are proud to call home.

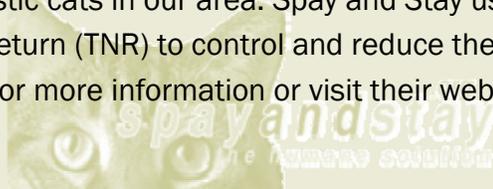
John Hucker, Mayor

This program would have an "opt-out" process to allow residents to choose their own.....



WHERE DID THAT CAT COME FROM?

The Village of Beach Park recommends contacting Spay and Stay for free-roaming and/or abandoned domestic cats in our area. Spay and Stay uses a humane technique called Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) to control and reduce the population of unaltered cats. Call 847-289-4557 for more information or visit their website at www.spayandstay.org



FINANCE DEPARTMENT



I want to express my appreciation for the confidence that the Mayor and Board of Trustees showed in appointing me to serve out the Mayor's unexpired Trustee term.

The four months since my appointment have been busy ones, as my father would say; it has been "like taking a drink from a fire hose". There has been a good deal to learn and the Board's ambitious schedule

has allowed for little time to "settle in".

For the second year, along with Village Staff, your Board has developed a detailed list of priorities which provide a planning framework for budget and chart a course for the future. This was a lengthy and rigorous task, sorting through many needed and desired projects and assigning them relative priorities based on need and budget limits.

I have been appointed to three committees; Finance, Public Works and Public Relations, all of which have been busy.

As Chairman of the Finance Committee, I have had the

pleasure to work with our most capable Finance Director and newly appointed Administrative Services Director. They have taken on the challenge of overhauling the monthly finance reports and warrant lists (bills submitted for approval) to make them easier to read and understand with the goal of posting them on the Village's soon to be upgraded website, in keeping with the Mayor's efforts to increase the "transparency" of the operation of your Village government.

The Finance Director is also feverishly working on the final touches of the FY 13-14 budget which starts May 1st.

Any questions/comments? Email Don.Jensen@villageofbeachpark.com

**Trustee Don Jensen, Chairman
Finance Committee**

PUBLIC SAFETY

As your Chairperson of Public Safety.... I am proud to report that recent data provided by the Lake County Sheriff's Office indicates that crime is down in Beach Park!

Our neighborhood watch groups play a significant role by taking a proactive approach in deterring crime from our neighborhoods. This is exactly what the program was designed to do. A huge thank you to the groups that keep Beach Park a safe place to live! For information on starting a neighborhood watch group in your community please contact the Village Hall at 847-746-1770.

The Public Safety Committee along with Staff are also actively working on strengthening our current solicitation ordinance, which will be adopted in the near future and will be available for public review.

On another note, mark your calendars now! The Lake County Sheriff's Office will be conducting a Seniors Internet Safety Class on March 18, 2013 at 6pm at the Village Hall in the Lower Level. We will be discussing various internet scams, keeping your personal information safe, safeguarding your computer, and actions to take if you get scammed. We will also

include phone scams. There is no cost associated with this class. Please call the Village Hall to reserve your spot at 847-746-1770.



As always, I welcome your comments as it is my pleasure to serve. I can be reached at 847-246-6052 or linda.sittig@villageofbeachpark.com

**Trustee Linda Sittig, Chairperson,
Public Safety Committee**



TIME TO PREPARE FOR SEASONS CHANGE

Winter has again come and gone and we rapidly approach that time of the season when the masses will once again come out of winter's hibernation, shedding their layers, and increasing their outdoor activity levels. It is a time when people are out cruising, jogging, walking, planting and so on... It is time when blaring boom boxes light up the summer winds! It is also a time for us as residents and homeowners to continue to strengthen our bond with law enforcement through various community policing initiatives, including expanding neighborhood watch groups throughout the Village. It has been demonstrated on count-

less occasions that when residents come together and start neighborhood watch groups they understand the principle of strength in numbers, as well as an appreciation for partnering together to safeguard some of the most prized possessions they have; their homes, property and communities. Your assistance in helping the Village of Beach Park and the Lake County Sheriff's Department maintain safe and stable neighborhoods is greatly appreciated.

Those residents interested in starting a neighborhood watch group in your area may contact Trustee Larry Wells at 847-246-6053 or contact the Village at 847-746-1770.

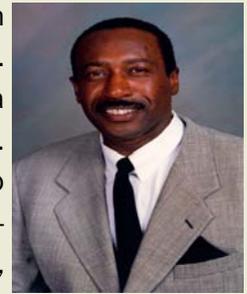
The Village of Beach Park will be hosting two unified

neighborhood watch meetings this year. One in the Spring and a second in the Fall. Those are designed to promote new neighborhood watch groups, recruit new members, and to update existing neighborhood watch rosters and to keep our existing neighborhood watch groups (which currently number over 12) united, active and involved.

Also, let us remember to keep in our prayers the ones that have, or continue to serve in the protection of our nation and our freedom, as well, as those impacted by recent violence or other natural disasters.

Wishing you the very best always,

**Trustee Larry Wells, Chairman
Building & Zoning Committee**



THANK YOU!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the residents of Beach Park for electing me to the office of Beach Park Village Clerk for the past 24 years! I became the first Clerk of Beach Park in 1989 and have been re-elected to that position for 6 consecutive

terms. While in office, Beach park has grown from 8000 to 13000 and I have made many friends of which I cherish.

My husband and I have lived in Beach Park for nearly 51 years and we have no plans to leave, Beach Park is our home.

We do plan on traveling some and spending part of our summers up north near Appleton, Wisconsin where we have a seasonal home.

Thank you again,
**Laurie Cvengros,
Village Clerk**





Over the years, the Village of Beach Park has noticed an increase in our Village

website usage. The Village has responded by expanding the services provided on the website, such as electronic water bill payments, applications for

building permits and live streaming of the Village Board meetings.

Recently, the Board approved a project to refresh and update the Village website, expected to be completed by early summer, 2013. Our enhanced website will be more user-friendly, easier to navigate and contain key information on some Village services that can be accessed 24/7.

If you have any unique photographs of Beach Park, or Beach Park event's that you would like to contribute for the website, feel free to contact Tracy at 847-746-1770 or via email at;

tracy.miracle@villageofbeachpark.com

Trustee Regina Miller
Chairperson, Public Relations Committee

** In addition to a new and improved website, the Village plans to add other services in a continued effort to save our residents time and money. The Village is currently setting up direct debit payments for our residents in the near future. Direct debit will allow the resident to set up automatic payment of their water & sewer bill from their checking account at the time the bill is due. The Village is also looking to expand the EPAY system to facilitate online payment of more than just a resident's utility bill. We plan to add business licenses and other fees to the EPAY link on our website as we continue to strive for better customer service for our residents. The Village currently absorbs the fees associated with EPAY processing, so there is no cost for the residents associated with these new services.*

Parks & Recreation

With the cold weather outside and winter almost behind us make sure to mark your calendars for the upcoming Spring/Summer Parks & Recreation events;

March 15th—Annual Luck-O-Irish Party from 12 to 3pm at the IL Beach State Resort.

March 23rd—Special Needs Movie (TBA)

March 30th—Annual Egg Hunt at Founder's Park, 9 AM—**SHARP**

May 20th & 21st—AARP at Village Hall from 9 to 1 PM.

May 27th—2nd Annual Memorial Day Celebration at Founders Park (Time TBA)

In **June** we will hold the annual Village Wide Garage Sale and Movie in the Park (date & time TBA).

We have several other events, such as, a "Medicaid for the middle Class" course, scheduled throughout the summer months, so check back often to find out what else is in store! I sure hope every-

one had a great winter season, and we look forward to you coming out and enjoying the recreation events.



Trustee Richard Gust
Chairman, Parks & Recreation Committee

**BENTON TOWNSHIP OFFICE
WWW.BENTONTOWNSHIP.COM
OFFICE IS LOCATED ON THE NW CORNER OF
29TH ST. & GREENBAY RD.**

Early Voting begins March 25th thru April 6th at Township Office for Consolidated elections. Hours are Monday thru Friday from 9 am till 4:30 pm; Saturday from 9 am till 2 pm.

Senior Resource Day— Wednesday, April 24th from 8:30 am till 12:30 pm at the Zion Park District Sports Arena. Continental breakfast, visit resource booths, lunch plus prizes! (must be present to win) Event is FREE, but call the Township Office to register.

Farmers Market Coupons are available after June 1st for seniors age 62+ (one coupon per household, while quantities last)

AARP Driving School— June 17th & 18th, 10 am till 2 pm at the Zion Benton Public Library. To sign up call the Township Office as space is limited.

FREE Rules of the

Road and Illinois Highway Maps are also available at the Township Office.

Plans are being made to host a Diabetic Clinic and Passport Fair during the month of May. Call the Township Office in April for the exact date and to sign up.

Save Money with FREE discount prescription drug cards. Pick up card at the Township Office or go to www.coast2coastrx.com to print a card. This card allows all Township residents regardless of income, age or health status to save on the cost of medications.

Prescription Disposal is available at the Zion Police Department on a continual basis.

Dial-A-Ride Expansion for ALL Benton Township residents. Service is available Monday thru Friday from 8:30 am till 5:30 pm. Must call 1-800-201-6446

one (1) day in advance to secure a seat. Area served: anywhere in Benton or Zion Township. For medical appointments, you can call up to one (1) week in advance to reserve a seat for Tuesday or Thursday appointments only. Hours are 8:30 am till 3:30 pm Medical appointments include Waukegan & Gurnee locations.

FREE Amplified Phone Application: neither age nor income are a requirement. Pick up at the Township Office. Accepting non-perishable food, health/beauty products & used eye glasses.

Meals on Wheels, call 847-546-5733 and ask for the Meals on Wheels program.

Benton Greenwood Cemetery plots available. Call 847-746-2100 for more information.



Jan Suthard

SPRING CLEAN-UP

The Village of Beach Park is again planning our annual Spring Clean-Up event. If all goes well, the project will include residential & commercial "Spring Clean-Up" for the following dates;

Saturday, May 4th—all Beach Park residential & commercial areas WEST of Lewis Avenue including the Cambridge Subdivision

Saturday, May 11th—All Beach Park residential & commercial areas NORTH of Beach Road and EAST of Lewis Avenue (including the Mobile Home Parks)

Saturday, May 18th—all Beach Park residential & commercial

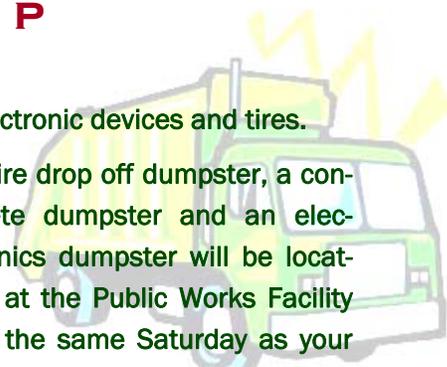
areas SOUTH of Beach Road and EAST of Lewis Avenue (including the Mobile Home Parks).

Please make sure materials are ready for roadside pickup by 7AM. All items must be manageable by two persons and no longer than five (5) feet in length. Examples are: furniture, appliances, etc. Please NOTE: Refrigerators MUST be drained of the FREON or they will not be picked up.

Items that will not be collected are; automotive batteries, oils, liquids, hazardous material, concrete, yard wastes and insecticides, construction debris in excess of one cubic yard,

electronic devices and tires.

A tire drop off dumpster, a concrete dumpster and an electronics dumpster will be located at the Public Works Facility on the same Saturday as your pick up date. All rims must be removed from the tires before placing in the dumpster. A valid Village of Beach Park vehicle sticker is required to use the drop off dumpster. No dumping at the yard unless gate is open and you have access to the dumpsters. Free vehicle stickers are available to Beach Park residents at the Village Hall. For more information, please call 847-746-1770.



April 9, 2013 Referendum Question?

On Wednesday, January 16, 2013 the Village of Beach Park Board approved a referendum question to be placed on the April 9th, 2013 ballots for local election. The Board has chosen to let the Beach Park residents vote on determining whether the Village of Beach Park should join those communities which have already aggregated their electricity to save residents money through Opt-out programs. Electric aggregation is essen-

tially buying in bulk to lower per unit, or Kilowatt hour, cost for all participants. Electric aggregation combines the retail electric loads of customers, in this case, more than four thousand customers. By combining the electrical loads, the Village of Beach Park can leverage its buying power for Village residents and small businesses. Collectively the Village could save over a million dollars every year in electricity costs. The referendum

question does not mean that you cannot still choose your own supplier. Rather, if the referendum passes and the Village of Beach Park does select an alternative supplier, you will still be given an opportunity to opt-out of the program. You will be able to stay with ComEd or select your own alternative supplier outside of the Village program.



Building & Zoning Department reminders.....

Spring means home improvement season is getting ready to bloom! Did you know that many projects require building permits? A good rule of thumb is that if the electrical, plumbing, structural, or lot coverage will be affected in any way by your project, you will need a permit AND the subsequent inspections. Some examples of common projects that require building permits are: water heaters, fur-

naces, air conditioners, generators, sheds, fences, decks, patios, roofs, swimming pools, driveways, and other flatwork. Of course, large projects such as demolition, new construction, remodeling (including basements or drywall replacement), or additions also require permits and possibly a plan review prior to issuance. The Building Department can guide you through the permit process, so when in doubt,

give the Building Department a call at 847.246.6006. Is your Contractor securing your permit but doesn't have the job card to display in the window, you can call the Building Department to verify. Visit our website, www.villageofbeachpark.com for more helpful information.



A FULL WEEK OF EARTH DAY

Join the Lake County Forest Preserve District in a full week of free nature programs in honor of Earth Day (April 22). Celebrate Spring, learn about ecology, join a nature walk or lend a hand by joining a special volunteer. The program runs from Saturday, April 20th through Friday, April 26th and includes the following programs:

Saturday 20 – Volunteer Workday

Sunday 21 – “Spring Celebration” & “Water-shed Cleanup Benefits All”

Monday 22 – Rainwater: Flushing for the Future

Tuesday 23 – Beaver Cove Exploration

Wednesday 24 – Buck-thorn Busters & Dragon-fly Discovery

Thursday 25 – Water Play & Pond Scooping

Friday 26 – A Fishy Scavenger Hunt



See the full schedule and a more thorough description of these free activities at www.lcfpd.org.

Pet Vaccination and Microchip Clinic

The Lake County Health Department/Community Health Center's Animal Care and Control Program, together with the Village of Beach Park, will offer a low-cost pet vaccination and microchip clinic.



Clinic Details

Saturday, March 23
9:00 a.m.- Noon
Beach Park Public Works
40185 Glendale, Beach Park

For Pets Spayed/Neutered

One-year rabies vaccination and Lake County tag: \$20.00
One-year rabies vaccination, tag and distemper: \$25.00
Distemper complex only: \$10.00
Microchip: \$15.00

For Pets Not Spayed/Neutered

One-year rabies vaccination and Lake County tag: \$60.00
One-year rabies vaccination, tag and distemper: \$65.00
Distemper complex only: \$10.00
Microchip: \$15.00

All animals brought to the clinic should be at least four months old. In addition, dogs must be leashed and cats placed in carriers. Cash payment is required at the time of vaccination. **Cash only.**

For additional information, contact the Lake County Health Department's Animal Care and Control facility at (847) 949-9925.



Irene T. Pierce, MSN
Executive Director

Village of Beach Park
11270 W. Wadsworth Rd.
Beach Park, IL 60099
847-446-1770 Phone

The Village of Rural Spirit

www.villageofbeachpark.com

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Steve Goglin, LUTCF, CLU®
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steve.goglin@countryfinancial.com



3575 Grand Ave
Suite G
Gurnee, IL 60031

www.countryfinancial.com/steve.goglin

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