



# Village of Deer Park NEWSLETTER

Spring 2026

## Village Officials

Greg Rusteberg  
President

Paul Kreatsoulas  
Trustee

David Lemme  
Trustee

Michael Mann  
Trustee

James Oakley  
Trustee

Jimi Psarakis  
Trustee

Michael Reiser  
Trustee

## Village Staff

Beth McAndrews, CPA  
Administrator

Josie Doniec  
Director of Building & Zoning

Karen Kasregis  
Assistant to the Administrator

Kim Kelly, RMC, MMC  
Village Clerk

Cheryl Martire  
Administrative Assistant

Megan Roscoe  
Director of Finance

Village Hours  
Monday-Friday 8:00a.m.-4:00p.m.

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## Town Center Park nearing completion Stay tuned for a Grand opening Celebration this Spring!

**DEER PARK**  
*Town Center Park*

**A Fresh Chapter!**  
Exciting renovations are underway at Town Center Park to create a more welcoming, accessible, and connected destination for the whole community!

This project is made possible through significant Village investment and a \$600,000 state grant, bringing new life to one of Deer Park's treasured spaces.

Pavilion & Event Lawn

New Play Equipment

Four Pickleball Courts

Designed for Connection, Community, Play & Everyday Outdoor Joy!

Stay tuned for grand opening celebrations in 2026!

The Village is happy to announce that improvements to the Town Center Park are nearly complete. The project represents a significant investment in the community. Residents and visitors are encouraged to use the new walking trails which complete a walking trail system in the area, enjoy the new playgrounds for all ages of children, and gather and relax in the new pavilion and event lawn space.

While most of the work is finished, a few final items must be completed. These items include applying a topcoat to the pickleball courts, bringing electricity to the site, and installing four parking lot lights. Please be assured we are eagerly working to complete these items as soon as possible.

A grand opening celebration will take place as soon as the park's final improvements are complete. Once the few remaining items are complete, the Village will announce the date and details of the grand opening celebration. Stay tuned by visiting the Village website and our posts on Instagram and Facebook. The Village appreciates the community's patience and enthusiasm and look forward to celebrating with residents and visitors soon.

# President's Letter



Thank you for your SUPPORT of our Village Initiatives. Fellow residents, I want to begin this NEW YEAR by acknowledging both a few of our past 12 months accomplishments and also address our immediate future.

In previous newsletters we have highlighted our Park Improvement Projects...

- **Deer Path Park Renovation**...dredging and reshaping the park
- **Charlie Brown Improvement**...to expand the courts to include (3) pickleball and (2) refurbished tennis courts
- **The Town Center Park**, opening this Spring to include pickleball, playgrounds, entertainment pavilion, and extensive walking trails connecting the entire triangle campus. (Lake Cook Rd. – Rand Rd. – Quentin Rd. and Long Grove Rd.)

For calendar 2026, the Village is in the process of developing a Five-Year Park Plan 2027 - 2032 with the help of Hitchcock Design Group to determine upgrades in equipment and amenities to enhance resident usage.

In addition, the Village has remained committed to our Roads & Drainage schedule, and once again surpassed our goal of completing over (5400 cubic feet) or one mile of Roads & Drainage improvements in the Village, which keeps the Village on course for its 20-year road resurfacing cycle. The 2026 Roads & Drainage Program encompasses the Ferndale neighborhood.

In calendar year 2026, the Vehe Barn roof will be replaced. Upon its completion in Spring, the

Barn's final project will be the kitchen area and, once addressed and modified for catering style events, it will be available for resident functions.

Finally, on two completely different subjects...but equally important:

## SAFETY...

- **E-Bikes are NOT legally allowed on the Deer Park Roads, for children under the age of 18. Please, for the safety of our children and our motorists obey the rules. Lake County Sheriff will enforce the law.**
- **ROW...Right of Ways...** in our Village, (the area running parallel to our roads.) Lake County Department of Transportation, Ela Township and Deer Park want to remind our residents of their responsibility to remove shrubs, bushes and branches which impair visibility to pedestrians and motorists.

Also, the Village will host a Pond Meeting Tuesday, March 10th at 7pm in the Vehe Barn.

We will keep you updated on the Town Center Park "Opening" via the Village Website, Facebook and other social media outlets.

We welcome your attendance at our monthly Board of Trustee Meetings, every third Thursday, in the Vehe Barn at 7:00 PM.

Thank you for choosing Deer Park to live and raise your family.

*Greg Rusteberg*  
President, The Village of Deer Park

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## Spring Burning Season

Spring burning season is coming soon.  
April 1 – May 31 10am-6pm

Please practice safe burning techniques and being a courteous neighbor.

- Make sure you call the Fire Department prior to burning. (Information needs to be logged.)
- Evaluate the wind before you decide to call in a burn. (You will be rejected if the wind speed is under 5mph or over 15 mph.)
- Is it too dry to burn? (The State and or County may issue a Temporary No Burn Ordinance during a drought.)
- Proper extinguishment. (5 Gallon Bucket of Water, Garden Hose, Pump Can, Indian Pack.)
- Notify your neighbors prior to burning. (Especially if they have medical conditions such as asthma.)
- Make sure the area burned is completely extinguished. (Never leave the area unattended.)
- Dress appropriately.



See the Neighbor Reminders page 15 for burning suggestions.

## Our Parks

The Village has seen some damage to our parks this winter. Snow mobiles driven on park landscaping (which is not allowed). Breaking of locks to enter closed courts. We would appreciate when visiting any of our many parks that you please treat them with respect.

Flock cameras have been installed at Charlie Brown Park and will be installed at the new Town Center Park to deter vandalism and aid the Lake County Sherrif office in enforcing the law.

- If you observe vandalism, please report to the Village Office.
- Tennis and pickleball courts are for tennis and pickleball only. No bikes, soccer or other activities are allowed.
- If you see equipment that needs repair, please let Staff know. We try to walk the parks but rely on residents help to keep everyone safe.

Help us to keep Village parks looking nice and preserve their natural beauty for all residents to enjoy.

*Tennis and Pickleball courts at Charlie Brown, Dover, and Chapel Hill will be opened and nets installed on April 1st.*



Join in Saturday  
4/25/2026

HOA's, groups and individuals interested in keeping Deer Park BEAUTIFUL?

Earth Day Week is a great time for cleaning right of ways and entranceways.

Sign up your HOA with the Village bags and gloves will be provided





## LAKE COUNTY EARLY VOTING SITES

March 17, 2026, General Primary Election

### March 2 - March 14

Mon - Fri: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sat: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sun: Closed

<b>Deerspring Pool</b> 200 Deerfield Rd., Deerfield	<b>Lake Villa Township Office</b> 37908 N. Fairfield Rd., Lake Villa
<b>Fremont Township Center</b> 22385 IL Route 60, Mundelein	<b>Lake County Central Permit Facility</b> 500 W. Winchester Rd., Libertyville
<b>Grant Township Center</b> 26725 W. Molidor Rd., Ingleside	<b>Village of Deer Park Vehe Barn</b> 23570 W. Cuba Rd., Deer Park
<b>Gurnee Village Hall</b> 325 N. O'Plaine Rd., Gurnee	<b>Wauconda Township Office</b> 505 W. Bonner Rd., Wauconda
<b>History Center of Lake Forest-Lake Bluff</b> 509 E. Deerpath Rd., Lake Forest	<b>William E. Peterson Park</b> 16652 N. Buffalo Grove Rd., Prairie View
<b>Zion City Hall</b> 2828 Sheridan Rd., Zion	

### EARLY VOTING SITES WITH EXTENDED HOURS

<b>March 2 - March 8</b> Mon-Fri: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sat: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sun: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.	<b>March 9 - March 15</b> Mon-Fri: 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sat: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sun: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.	<b>March 16</b> Mon: 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
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<b>Diamond Lake Recreation Center</b> 1016 Diamond Lake Rd., Mundelein	<b>Lake County Main Courthouse Lobby</b> 18 N. County St., Waukegan
<b>Highwood Library &amp; Community Center</b> 102 Highwood Ave., Highwood	<b>Lilac Cottage at Bowen Park</b> 1911 N. Sheridan Rd., Waukegan
<b>Lake Barrington Village Hall</b> 23860 N. Old Barrington Rd., Lake Barrington	<b>North Chicago Public Library</b> 2100 Argonne Dr., North Chicago
<b>Round Lake Beach Village Hall</b> 1937 N. Municipal Wav, Round Lake Beach	

For additional election information, please visit [www.LakeCountyClerk.info](http://www.LakeCountyClerk.info), and [www.LakeVoterPower.info](http://www.LakeVoterPower.info) for all personalized voter information. Contact us by dialing 847-377-2410 or email [Elections@lakecountyil.gov](mailto:Elections@lakecountyil.gov).



## BACOG...Barrington Area Council of Government

President Greg Rusteberg

Deer Park is an active member of BACOG. Being a partner of BACOG serves the Village in many ways. The most recognizable topics are:

- **Well Water:** BACOG constantly monitors the condition and quantity of our water supply from our deep-water aquifer. Each year our residents have the ability to have their individual well water tested to confirm their well water is suitable.
- **Connectivity:** BACOG supports Deer Park's roads, trails and bike path issues. The strength of BACOG's (7 municipalities) standing together as a "strong voice" in influencing Lake County Dept. of Transportation in safer design and construction of roads and streets to include pedestrian bike paths, such as the intersection of Long Grove Road and Ela as well as reducing speed limits on our streets and roads where possible.
- **Legislative Influence:** As a member of BACOG, Deer Park has a stronger voice in community affairs. Our ability to access and influence our Elected Officials in Springfield has already benefitted Deer Park (as demonstrated in recent legislation which benefitted our Rand Road development).

Overall, the partnership that Deer Park has maintained with BACOG has been an overall mutually beneficial relationship for our Village and our residents.

## Resident Responsibility for Right-of-Way Maintenance

Building and Zoning

The Village would like to remind residents of their responsibility to help maintain the public right-of-way adjacent to their property. The right-of-way is the strip of land that typically extends from the edge of the street to the private property line. Although this area is publicly owned, routine upkeep is the responsibility of the property owner.

### What this means for residents:

#### Mowing and Weeding:

Grass and weeds within the right-of-way must be cut and maintained to prevent overgrowth and maintain a neat appearance.

#### Tree and Shrub Care:

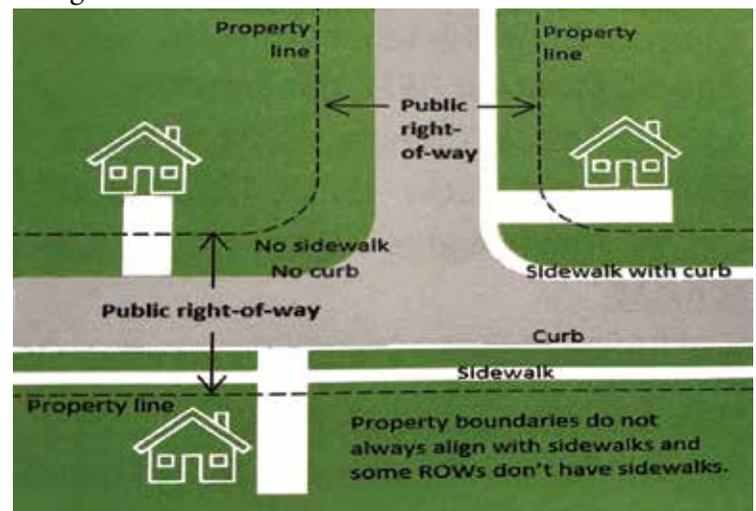
Residents should trim back branches and shrubs that may obstruct sidewalks, streets, signs, or driver visibility.

#### Drainage Ditches:

Where applicable, residents are asked to keep ditches or swales clear of obstructions to allow proper stormwater flow.

By working together to maintain these areas, residents help preserve the appearance, safety, and value of the community. The Village appreciates your partnership in keeping our neighborhoods safe and attractive.

If you have questions about right-of-way maintenance or need clarification on responsibilities, please contact the Village Hall.





## Spring Property Maintenance Reminders

Building & Zoning Department

*Maintaining our community's beauty and standards is important to us.*

The Village is enforcing the 2021 Edition of the **IPMC – International Property Maintenance Code**. By ensuring these standards are met, neighborhoods help guarantee quality of life and provide a safe and desirable living and working environment that also enhances property value.

### Common Property Maintenance Issues Reported

- **Grass and weeds** cannot be over 8"
- All **sidewalks, walkways, stairs, driveways, parking spaces, right of ways** and similar areas shall be kept in a proper state of repair and maintained free from hazardous conditions including mowing and weed control; to maintain ditches in a vegetated, neat, and mowed condition; and culverts clear of sediment and obstructions.
- **Improve Drainage:** Do not dispose of grass clippings or leaves into the right of way or ditches. Clearing out swales and culverts speed up drainage, ensuring the water is flowing where it should.
- **Unpermitted Work/Construction**
- **Off street parking** on grass is prohibited
- **Fences and Accessory Structures** shall be maintained in good condition to prevent deterioration.
- The **point of discharge** of any sump pump drain, downspout drain or any other conduit, pipe, impervious surface, or drain not connected to a septic system shall be set back at a minimum of not less than fifteen-feet (15') from any property line of the lot or parcel on which the structure or improvement is located unless an alternative point of discharge is otherwise approved in writing by the Village Engineer.

### Garbage Cans

Garbage cans should be stored out of sight, off the street and neighbors' view. Also please remember to bring your cans in from the street after garbage collection.

### Dumpsters

A permit is required to have a dumpster on private property for non-construction use - Code 50.06

<http://www.villageofdeerpark.com/DocumentCenter/View/73/Chapter-50---Garbage-Refuse-and-Dumpsters-PDF>

### Trees

Dead or diseased trees are a nuisance and dangerous and must be removed by the homeowner. Nuisance includes dead tree limbs, diseased and infected trees per Code 95.23.

<https://www.villageofdeerpark.com/DocumentCenter/View/89/Chapter-95---Trees-and-Shrubs-PDF>

### Prohibited Structures

Storage of commercial vehicles, boats, snowmobiles, jet skis, off-road vehicles, inoperable vehicles, unregistered vehicles, storage pods, recreational vehicles, campers or trailers outside a garage or building for any period of time are prohibited.

<https://www.villageofdeerpark.com/DocumentCenter/View/2414/Chapter-158---Zoning-Code-PDF>

### Construction

Construction hours are set per Village code 93.06- please be courteous to your neighbors.

<https://www.villageofdeerpark.com/DocumentCenter/View/87/Chapter-93---Nuisances-PDF>

**Residents Hours:** Monday-Friday 7:00am-7:00pm  
Saturday-Sunday 8:00am-7:00pm

**Contractor Hours:** Same as above but **no Sundays**

Did you know the Village Municipal Code is on the Village Website?

<https://www.villageofdeerpark.com/149/Municipal-Code>

Over 50 Chapters of rules and regulations, everything from Recycling to Animals to Swimming Pools. Building Regulations include permit application and process. If you should have any questions, please contact our Building and Zoning Department.

50+ newsletter link:

<https://elatownship.gov/ela-50-newsletter/>

### Ela Township Medical Equipment Lending Closet

Need a little extra support at home? Ela Township offers a Medical Equipment Lending Closet for residents — with items like walkers, wheelchairs, canes, crutches, shower benches, and more.

Call (847) 438-7823 or stop by to see how we can help. We're here for you when it matters most.



## SENIOR FREEZE UPDATE 2026 TAX YEAR



**Income Limit Increased  
to \$75,000 for 2026**

The Senior Freeze program freezes the assessed value of your property, ensuring tax stability for qualifying seniors, helping them manage their financial responsibilities during retirement.



The threshold will rise to \$77,000 in tax year 2027 and \$79,000 in tax year 2028. Please follow Ela Township for updates.



**1155 E. IL ROUTE 22  
LAKE ZURICH  
847-438-8370**

Qualifying seniors can benefit from this program. It is critical for maintaining affordable property taxes for our community's older residents.

Please come in to the Assessor's Office at Ela Township Hall to apply!

## New Property Tax Exemption Laws Provide More Tax Relief to Low-Income Senior Citizens

Lake County Township Assessor's Association is pleased to announce great news for our senior citizen homeowners! To provide additional property tax relief to homeowners on fixed incomes who are 65 years of age or older, the newly revised statute will increase the maximum household income eligibility requirements.

Beginning in 2026, the total maximum household income for the Low-Income Senior Citizen Assessment Freeze has been increased to \$75,000 with additional increases in future years!

### Updated Maximum Household Income

Tax Year	2025	2026	2027	2028
Max Household Income	\$65,000	\$75,000	\$77,000	\$79,000

### Benefits of Exemption

Property's assessed value is "frozen" at a "base year", meaning that the taxable value does not change, providing protection from increases in assessed value and resulting in a more stabilized property tax bill. Note: This exemption does not "freeze" your taxes, it only "freezes" your taxable assessed value.

### Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible the applicant must be 65 years of age or older; own and occupy the home as primary residence; and have a total household income of \$75,000 or less (2026).

### Required Documentation

The documentation required is a state-issued ID showing first Jan 1st ownership; 2025 Federal 1040 income tax forms for all people living in household; and trust documents proving beneficial interest (only applicable for those with homes owned in trust).

### How to Apply

This exemption must be renewed each year. Apply in-person at your local Township Assessor's Office (no appointment required), or apply online at [www.assessor.lakecountynil.gov](http://www.assessor.lakecountynil.gov) via Lake County's SmartFile E-Filing System.



To register or find more information, please visit [balibrary.org](http://balibrary.org) or call 847-382-1300

## McHenry County Library Lovers Expedition

February 1 – March 31

All ages

Get on the trail and explore the 15 participating libraries in the McHenry County area! Collect brag tags, check out books, attend programs, and enjoy fun activities, including a new mystery challenge, *The Case of the Missing Manuscript*. Visit at least 12 libraries to be eligible for gift card prize baskets. Ask for a brochure at our Customer Service desk or see our Events Calendar for more details. You do not need to live in McHenry County or have a library card to participate.

## Beyond Borders: Attending College Abroad

Tuesday, March 10, 7 PM

For adventure seekers (and their parents) looking for a unique college experience. Thomas Jaworski of Quest College Consulting discusses applying to international universities, exploring study abroad programs, or even attending an international campus of a U.S. university. Register. Meeting Room.

## Second Fridays: Derek Byrne and Paddygrass

Friday, March 13, 7 PM

Paddygrass plays Celtic, Bluegrass, and Gospel, with a collective of Wisconsin's best folk musicians. Paddygrass will move you to sing, dance, and forget all else—you'll even enjoy a live Irish dance performance! Register. Meeting Room.

## Travel Independence with the RTA

Thursday, March 19, 2 PM

With *Bacopa*

Learn how older adults and people with disabilities can save money on public transportation, and how to make sure your trip on public transit is accessible. The Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) shares accessible public transportation options and tips for traveling independently. Register. Meeting Room.

## Shady Characters: Nifty Plants for Shady Sites

Monday, March 23, 6 PM

Explore the colors and textures of shade-loving plants as we look at varieties and species for dry, moist, partial, and dense shade. Register. Meeting Room.

## Crosstown Exotics Bug and Reptile Show

All ages w/caregiver

Wednesday, March 25, 10 AM OR 11 AM

Learn about and explore amazing reptiles, amphibians, and bugs from around the world! This interactive show features fascinating creatures, fun facts, and safe, hands-on encounters. For families and animal lovers of all ages! Drop in.

## Legends of the Eagle

Thursday, March 26, 7 PM

Blending science and natural history with Native American legends and drumming songs, storyteller Brian "Fox" Ellis takes listeners into the world of the magnificent eagle. Informative and inspiring, Fox tells the story of the eagle's demise and glorious return from the brink of extinction. Register. Meeting Room.

## Family Trivia Night

Kindergarten and up w/family

Friday, March 27, 6:30 PM

Bring the whole family and join us for a night of trivia about Disney, dinosaurs, and more! Register as a family.

## Elgin Symphony Orchestra Presents Sounds of Spring

Sunday, March 29, 2 PM

Welcome spring with the Elgin Symphony Orchestra's string trio at this concert for all ages. Register. Walk-ins admitted as space allows. Meeting Room.

## CFC Community Ed: Secret Wildlife of Barrington

Sunday, April 12, 2 PM

In collaboration with *Citizens for Conservation*

Join us for this deep dive into the astonishing variety of local wildlife captured on day and infrared nighttime trail cameras: coyotes, foxes, beavers, opossums, newborn deer, owls, hawks, and more. Award-winning wildlife photographer, retired veterinarian, and longtime CFC volunteer Stephen Barten will provide insights into the behaviors exhibited in the wild world thriving right outside our doors.

This is a hybrid program, offered in-person and via Zoom. If you are attending in person, please register each individual. If you are attending via Zoom, one registration per household is best.

# Latex Paint Disposal



The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) conditionally approved PaintCare's program plan for Illinois.

As of December 2025, SWALCO accepts latex paint for free at Household Chemical Waste (HCW) collection events. Lake County residents can bring up to 20 gallons of leftover latex paint per drop-off to be recycled at no cost. Residents will still need to make an appointment to recycle latex paint at HCW events.

This change comes as Illinois launches the statewide Paint Stewardship Act P.A. 103-372 (SB 836), signed by Governor Pritzker in 2023. The program, managed by PaintCare, is funded by a fee on new paint sales and features hundreds of convenient drop-off locations across Illinois.

## Can't make it to a SWALCO HCW event?

Use PaintCare's Drop-Off Site Locator for a list of retailers who have partnered with PaintCare to accept leftover paint from the public.

## Listed below are optional methods of disposal:

- Donate or give the paint to someone. Local groups such as schools, small theaters, religious organizations, etc. might be willing to take unused paint.
- Keep painting. With another layer, the paint may be gone! Or, paint something else.
- Keep the paint to use again by covering the opening with plastic wrap, closing the lid tightly, and turning it upside-down. This creates a strong seal to keep the paint fresh for future touch-ups and projects.
- If your paint cans only hold remnants of paint or are empty, let them dry out completely and then recycle the cans.
- As a final option, you can prepare your latex paint for disposal through the regular trash cycle—we don't recommend this method for large quantities or as a continual solution. To prepare your latex paint, please complete the following steps:
  - Step 1.** Pick 2 to 3 cans of paint to prepare for disposal (depending on liquid volume). Haulers will not accept high volumes of paint from any household in Lake County. Please be considerate.
  - Step 2.** Remove the paint can lid.
  - Step 3.** Stir in Kitty litter, Oil Dry, Sand or Shredded Paper to the consistency of thick oatmeal. Preparing the cans the night before your regularly scheduled garbage pick-up will allow the mixture to solidify properly.
  - Step 4.** Put the lids back on.
  - Step 5.** Place the treated paint inside your garbage bin on your regular pick-up day. 2-3 cans per week max.Again, we don't recommend this method for large quantities or as continual solution.

# Powering a Sustainable Future, One Battery at a Time

Beginning January 1, 2026, all single-use and most rechargeable batteries will be accepted at retail and government locations throughout the state, thanks to the Illinois Battery Stewardship Law. The non-profit organization The Battery Network has been working to establish a network of collection sites to meet the requirements of the new law. To find a location near you, visit [www.batterynetwork.org](http://www.batterynetwork.org). As some retailers continue to adjust to the new regulations, please call locations before visiting to confirm they will accept your battery type. Home Depot is a local recycling center.

The following batteries are accepted at SWALCO's household chemical waste (HCW) collection events:

- **Single-Use Non-Rechargeable Alkaline and Primary Batteries:** AAA, AA, C, D, 9v & 6v, Lithium, Zinc-Air, Zinc-Carbon, Zinc Chloride, and button batteries labeled CR/SR/LR
- **Non-Automotive and Non-Marine Lead Acid Batteries:** Backup sump pump, riding lawn mower, and small sealed lead acid batteries
- **Rechargeable Batteries:** Lithium-ion (Li-Ion), Nickel Cadmium (Ni-Cd), Nickel Metal Hydride (Ni-MH)

SWALCO hosts Gurnee drop-off events. These events are free for all Illinois residents, and appointments are required. Schedule your appointment today: <https://app.acuityscheduling.com/schedule/ab9f2c49>





## Safety Bulletin

Lake County Sheriff

The Lake County Sheriff's Office is providing this safety bulletin to inform residents and business owners of crime trends currently impacting communities throughout the region. Public awareness and proactive prevention efforts are critical in reducing opportunities for criminal activity. Residents are encouraged to remain vigilant and report suspicious activity promptly.

### Ruse Burglary Trends

Law enforcement agencies continue to see incidents involving "ruse" or distraction burglaries. These crimes often involve suspects posing as utility workers, contractors, delivery drivers, or government employees in order to gain access to homes. Frequently, one individual distracts the resident while an accomplice enters the home to steal valuables, cash, or personal information.

Residents are reminded to:

- Request identification from any service worker or solicitor.
- Contact the company or agency directly to verify service appointments.
- Avoid allowing unknown individuals into your residence.
- Report suspicious door-to-door activity immediately.

### South American Theft Group (SATG) Burglary Activity

Organized burglary crews commonly referred to as South American Theft Groups (SATG) continue to operate in suburban and residential communities. These groups often conduct surveillance of neighborhoods, targeting homes that appear unoccupied. Entry is frequently gained through rear doors or windows, and homes are entered quickly with suspects focusing on jewelry, cash, safes, and small valuables that can be easily transported.

Preventative measures include:

- Installing exterior lighting and home security cameras.
- Utilizing alarm systems and ensuring doors and windows are secured.
- Arranging for mail and package pickup while away.
- Reporting suspicious vehicles or individuals loitering in neighborhoods.

### **Motor Vehicle Thefts – Unattended Running Vehicles**

Motor vehicle thefts continue to occur due to vehicles being left running unattended or unlocked with keys or key fobs left inside. Many incidents occur when drivers briefly leave vehicles running during cold weather or while making quick stops.

To reduce theft risk:

- Never leave a vehicle running unattended.
- Remove keys and lock doors at all times.
- Avoid leaving spare keys or key fobs inside vehicles.
- Park in well-lit, populated areas when possible.

### **Retail Theft at Popular Retail Stores**

Retail establishments continue to experience organized retail theft involving groups targeting high-value merchandise. These crimes impact businesses, employees, and ultimately consumers and patrons.

Community members should:

- Report suspicious or disruptive activity to store employees or security personnel.
- Avoid confronting suspects.
- Remain aware of surroundings while shopping.

### **Community Cooperation Requested**

Community awareness and cooperation are essential in preventing crime. Residents are encouraged to report suspicious persons, vehicles, or activities immediately. Prompt reporting allows law enforcement to respond quickly and deter criminal activity.

For non-emergency suspicious activity, contact 847-549-5200. In an emergency, dial 911.

The Lake County Sheriff's Office remains committed to working with the community to maintain public safety. Continued vigilance and cooperation are appreciated.

Stay alert, secure your property, and report suspicious activity.



# Fall Fest & Santa Bingo

The Village hosted Fall Festival on October 25th at Vehe Park. We had a petting zoo, bouncy house and a bouncy slide, Morkes donuts, coffee and juice. DJ Bob entertained families with music and many fun games. We had a costume contest and the judges had trouble picking a winner from all the fantastic costumes everyone wore! Lake County Sheriff was onsite performing car seat checks and collecting unused prescriptions for National Drug Take Back Day.

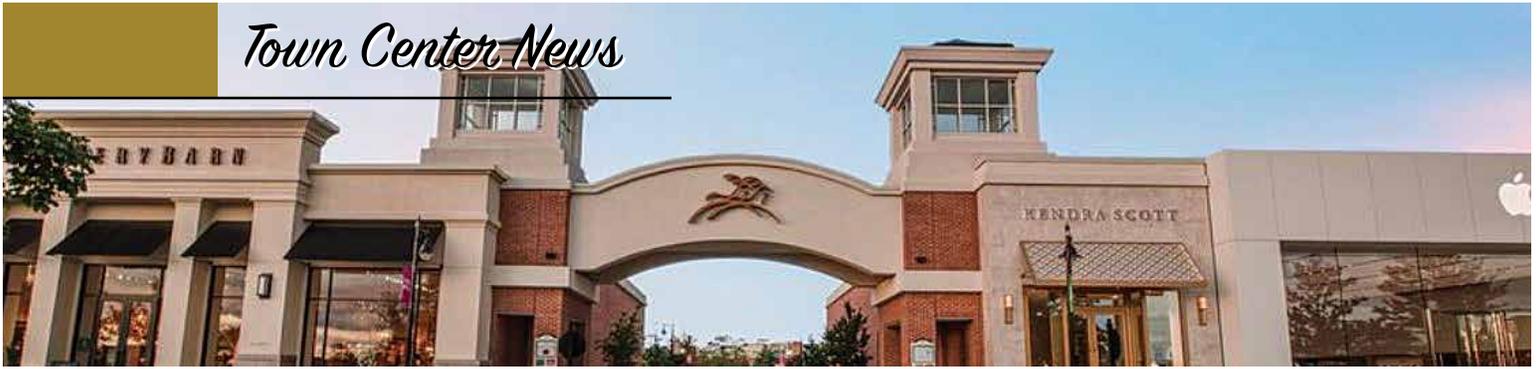
Santa Bingo was held on Friday December 5th at Vehe Barn. Santa was on hand to greet families and take photos. He was busy hearing what our little residents want from the North Pole. Pizza and snacks were available for attendees and our big grand prizes were fish and tanks. Bingo took place in the Board Room, and residents were able to sit with neighbors and share in the festivities. We want to thank our bingo caller Alan Czarnik, his helpers elf Keith Kasregis and elf Roxy Czarnik who worked the bingo board. We appreciate all our volunteers at all our events. We couldn't do it without you all.

A special shout out to Lake Zurich and Barrington High School National Honor Society volunteers, they are a hard-working bunch of teens!





# Town Center News



## New Store Announcement

Joybird, a modern furniture and home décor store is coming to Deer Park Town Center this summer. Joybird will help customers bring their own personal style to their spaces with a mix of retro and modern designs and a plethora of customization options. The store will open in suite 422, across from Brighton and Madison Reed.



## Events

### Deer Park St. Paddy's 5K & 10K Run/Walk

Sunday, March 15, 2026

Deer Park Town Center is excited to partner with All Community Events and host the 2026 St. Paddy's 5K & 10K run/walk and kids dash on Sunday, March 15.

Register today: <https://allcommunityevents.com/deerparkstpaddysrun>



## More Ways to Play & Gather



### DEER PARK Town Center Park

OPENING SPRING 2026

- Amphitheater
- Pickleball Courts
- Flexible Event Lawn
- Scenic Walking Trails
- Baseball & Soccer Fields
- State-of-the-Art Playground

Follow the Village of Deer Park for construction updates & opening day announcements!

[WWW.VILLAGEOFDEERPARK.COM](http://WWW.VILLAGEOFDEERPARK.COM)

📍 21880 W Field Parkway, Deer Park, Illinois

**Public Information Meeting**  
Tuesday, March 10th  
7pm at Vehe Barn

### Pond Maintenance Restoration and Health

Village Engineers and McCloud Aquatics will provide useful information on pond health and functionality.

## Lawns

Lawns should be mowed on a regular basis, height should not exceed 8 inches. Tall invasive weeds should be removed. In addition, please take care of your **dandelions** that pop up throughout the season as a courtesy to your neighbors. They are not only aesthetically unattractive, but also spread into adjacent yards and landscapes.

## Yard Waste

If you have limited volumes of yard waste you can purchase a sticker at the Deer Park Village Office or through Groot's website at [www.groot.com](http://www.groot.com). For 2025, the cost of the stickers is \$3.25 each.

If you generate a higher volume of yard waste, the subscription program allows up to six bag/34 gallon cans a week. Groot also provides a cart (similar to the regular waste and recycling carts) designated for yard waste. The service is available April 1 thru November 30. Contact **Groot Customer Service at (800) 244-1977** for more details or visit [www.groot.com](http://www.groot.com).

## Refuse

Please do not put garbage or yard waste out before 6:00 p.m. on the day prior to collection. Please remove your garbage carts from the curb as soon as possible after pick up and **place out of view from your front yard**. Refuse overage stickers are available at the Deer Park Village office for \$3.25 each.

A senior discount is available to those 65+ years old. Bring a copy of your driver's license to the Village Hall Monday-Friday 8:00a.m.-4:00p.m. and staff will coordinate discount with Groot.

## Burning Seasons

**Spring:** April 1 - May 31

**Fall:** October 15 - November 30

10:00am - 6:00pm

Please be a courteous neighbor and avoid excessively smokey fires.

Burning suggestions:

- burn small piles
- no construction debris
- avoid wet leaves
- mix leaves with brush for a better burn
- do not burn on windy days

**Citations will be served in cases of abuse.**

## Boats, Trailers, Motor Homes, Commercial or Inoperable Vehicles

The above must be kept in a garage, or stored off-site. They may not be parked in the driveway or anywhere else on your property except for loading and unloading.

## Building Permits

Most residential building alterations, from new houses and additions to small improvements such as decks, patios, fences, pools, re-roofs, including septic repairs, etc. require a permit. Permits are required for the protection of the property owner, neighbors and Village.

If you have any questions regarding permit application, process, inspections, or requirements, please contact Josie Doniec, Director of Building & Zoning at (847) 726-1648 or email at [JDoniec@vodp.net](mailto:JDoniec@vodp.net).

## Septic Systems

All septic systems must be maintained. In addition to the usual pumping required for the tank, homeowners with aerator systems are required to have their aerator inspected every six months. All permitting for septic systems goes through Lake County Health Department. Copy of approval needs to be submitted to Building Department.

## Animals

Animals on private property (dead or alive) are the responsibility of the property owner. The Village can provide assistance in removal of unwanted animals through cooperative programs with Lake County and Ela Township. However, property owners will be billed for removal of these animals.

## Vehicle Stickers

Vehicle stickers are not required by the Village. However, they are available to residents at the Village office during regular business hours. The cost for each sticker is \$5.00 with no expiration date.

## Power Outage

In the event of a power outage, residents are urged to contact ComEd directly at (800) 334-7661 with their electrical outage questions.





VILLAGE OF DEER PARK  
23680 W. CUBA ROAD  
DEER PARK, ILLINOIS 60010

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**IMPORTANT CONTACT  
INFORMATION**

**Lake County Sheriff**

Police Emergency: 911

Non-emergency (24 hour):  
847.549.5200

General Information:  
847.377.4000

**Lake Zurich Fire Department**

Emergency: 911

Office: 847.540.5070

**Commonwealth Edison**

800.334.7661

**Nicor**

888.642.6748

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