

Lake Zurich Chamber of Commerce  
Richard Chay's Opening Comments

My thanks to the Lake Zurich Chamber of Commerce for holding this event and to all of you for coming here this evening.

There are three things that distinguish me from the other candidates for Village Trustee:

- 1) I will be a full time village trustee. I am retired from a career of helping companies like Procter & Gamble, Johnson Wax and Walt Disney World grow in size and stature. I have the time and experience to drill down on important issues facing Deer Park.
- 2) I am completely independent. I am not part of any slate. I have not accepted financial contributions from any person, business or developer and I am not beholden to any special interests in the community. I will not owe anyone any "favors" if elected.
- 3) I have personally spoken with the residents in over 400 homes in Deer Park. They were vocal about their concerns and happy to finally have someone willing to listen to them.

The issues the residents want addressed are:

The deplorable condition of the roads.

The massive amount of money being spent on the Vehe barn.

The state of the village financials.

The residents are right to be concerned about these issues.

Village funds have been diverted to land for a park in the triangle and to the Vehe Farm property. This decision was at the expense of roads. The road repair program is now years behind schedule. Residents in virtually all the subdivisions experience the thump, thump of their tires as they drive their washboard roads.

Even the Daily Herald scolded the village last week: "while we agree with the need for decent park facilities, putting aside needed road and drainage repairs for park improvements is not a wise decision."

Not only repair and resurfacing is effected, the village cannot afford to fulfill a commitment to residents on Deerpath Road to add a second speed hump.

And sadly it is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Deer Park Village. Why sadly? Because the financial situation is such that we cannot afford flags, banners, signs, fireworks, a village party, nothing of substance to celebrate this milestone event.

Therefore, the first priority for the village is generating revenue from commercial and retail businesses to fund the needs of our dynamic village.

I will focus my attention on stewardship of the area known as the triangle...the economic engine of the village. I would form an economic development commission to attract businesses to Deer Park. Yes, it is the responsibility of the elected village officials to be active in attracting businesses here.

Then consider a "Shop Deer Park First" Campaign so residents spend here before they go to adjacent villages.

The Vehe Farm property has thus far been a drain on village resources. My goal is to change that. I will prepare a business plan for the Barn to ensure the property provides a return on the large investment made on the project.

I have done this kind of work for dozens of businesses over the years. I know how to prepare a business plan and I know how to execute it.

If you entrust me with your vote, I will address the issues that concern you now and I will continue to listen to you. I will have regular office hours for village residents. You have expressed frustration by the unresponsiveness of the current board...my goal is to change that too.

And most important, I will only vote for things that benefit residents and make sense financially.

Please remember, I am the only candidate who can devote my full time to you.