

**Say "Yes" to ITS TIME FOR A CHANGE
Say 'Yes' to OPEN GOVERNMENT**

MY CONCERNS and NEW IDEAS – Candidate David Pautler, Election 2007

Public Trust places trustees in position of leadership. Trustees should be Committed at all times to maintain this trust with Ethical Behavior that is above reproach. Trustees should be Diligent and be held Accountable.

TRUSTEES of DEER PARK

At the end of the fiscal year, probably the most perceptive way to evaluate performance of the Board of Trustees of Deer Park is through an analysis of the current economic status of the Village. This status was brought about by their leadership. Saying this may seem unfair to our trustees, but the truth must be told. I have heard some saying that: " *The Village is financially sound. Current capital reserves are \$1.9 million.*"

I believe this statement is overly optimistic, because it doesn't take into account all the needs of the Village. Furthermore the capital reserves are projected to be \$1.5 million at the end of the 2006-2007 fiscal year.

I'm not a pessimist, I'm an objective realist, and I view the financial picture of Deer Park as quite disturbing. We all have seen the numbers in question. Bob Kellerman has taken the time to assemble, analyze and share this data with you. Although I wasn't personally involved in this process, I was given an opportunity to review the extensive financial data, and I find his analysis to be accurate. If the "financial information" appears too complex, the budget summaries are published on Village's web site.

In-order to form my own opinion, I have attended several Board meetings. I have witnessed firsthand how decisions are made – regarding large spending projects, preparing the budget, evaluating some of the services the Village uses, and on occasion – ignoring the symptoms of a contractors financial difficulties'. I have also witnessed the struggle and sacrifice some trustees face in order to create a workable budget. I have also seen some signs of indifference, irresponsibility and false confidence among some other trustees.

The final consensus reached at the last Board meeting regarding the proposed budget for 2007/2008 was to implement measures to cut costs. Ultimately the public will absorb the consequences – services we take for granted – drainage and road repairs for example were "put on the back burner". Let's hope that all the Village Board members will exercise the fiscal discipline to follow this plan. Let's hope that public will elect new trustees who can add needed strength. Only a strong and dedicated team that works together as one can succeed. Voters should decide that extravagant, irresponsible spending will not take place in the future; these are symptoms of a weak government, and a lack of diligence. This is a difficult task – changing old spending habits will not be easy.

How old are these spending habits? – take a look at historical Deer Park budgets. Within last six years our Capital Reserves have dropped from \$4.5 million (2001/2002) to \$2.2 million (2005/2006), to a projected \$1.5 million at the end of the 2006/2007 fiscal year, and a forecasted \$1.0 million for the 2007/2008 fiscal year. Let's hope that this trend will improve after completion of our biggest project - the Vehe Farm Center. Our highest income item – Sale Tax in the amount of \$1.25 million was about enough to pay for the Village's Police Service at \$1.28 million (2007 budget). The cost

for Police services in 2008 is \$1.37 million. What can we do about this? Could we renegotiate the contract with the Kildeer Police Department? Can we take advantage of the County Sheriff's service, already paid for but not currently used? If the County Sheriff's service was available we may be able to reduce a portion of the Kildeer Police cost.

If we blame the Vehe Farm project for Deer Park's financial status, shouldn't we conduct a proper investigation to find out the reasons and the responsible persons? We must understand why a relatively modest construction project (the smallest of all similar undertakings in the area) is two years behind schedule. A bad experience will hurt less, if we learn from it, and prevent it from happening again. Those found accountable, should not be given similar tasks in the future.

There are other opportunities to further trim spending. Trustees should be more careful when engaging consulting services. Significant funds were spent in the past to pay for studies that were never implemented.

We must also evaluate the services of consultants that have worked for the Village for 20 years or longer. How can we know if we're offered the best rates for their services? Changing our legal services provider turned out definitely to our advantage. Is this a lesson we are overlooking?

I support the development of the commercial area northwest corner of Long Grove and Rand Rd. Future projects such as the Hampton Hotel, and the proposed office condo project when approved and completed, will add to the Village's revenue stream

OPEN GOVERNMENT, PRIORITIZING, TWO-WAY COMMUNICATION = WORKING TOGETHER

- This is the recipe for all of us to become more efficient, successful and happy.

Our Trustees should improve their **prioritizing** skills. During the last few years, inadequate funds were allocated for drainage repairs and road maintenance. At the same time nothing was denied the Vehe Farm project – top quality, top price, extravagant ideas and desires were satisfied. Recreation & Park Development was allocated at disproportionate share of the budget. Because of these misplaced priorities our roads are in the worst condition than ever, and currently there are insufficient funds to correct the situation.

An example of poorly prioritized spending: Park & Recreation actual Expenses

	5/04-5/05	5/05-5/06	5/06 – 11/06(*)
Engineering & Consulting	\$ 2,543	\$ 22,423	\$ 10,714
Pond Treatment	\$ 6,600	\$ 5,400	\$ 7,500
Landscaping & Lawn Maint.	\$ 48,727	\$ 46,154	\$ 52,952
Park & Recreation Dev. & Maint	\$ 160,910	\$ 13,884	\$ 8,252
Homeowners Assoc. Reimb.	\$ 19,838	\$ 7,927	\$ 125
Total	\$ 238,618	\$ 95,788	\$ 79,543

(*) Only six months data was available

Setting good priorities should always take into account needs and wishes of residents. This requires a change in the way our Board of Trustees interacts with the residents.

Improving two-way communication, providing appropriate inputs to the board, partaking in shaping the future of our community, and giving our officials better understanding of our needs and concerns, so they can better serve the public - should be welcomed and appreciated, not rebuked.

Our lives, property values, the character of our neighborhoods are impacted by decisions of Deer Park Board of Trustees, yet our input and participation are ignored. Example: it has been established, that property values at Rue Royale Subdivision went down approximately \$100,000 per house, as a result of Quentin Rd project. Were these residents treated fairly?

RESPECT. Should be mutual and it is earned. Residents will respect those that are in a leadership role, but they expect the same in return.

This also applies to the Vehe Farm Foundation – a public organization supported by the public funds. Yet the public is not informed about the meeting schedule, agenda, budget, and financial planning. Public opinion should not be ignored when comes to decide how Vehe Farm facilities - Village Hall? - will be used in near future. The idea of Public Opinion Survey recently introduced in regard to park usage should have been put to work much earlier – in regard to best use of the Vehe Farm Center.

IMPROVING THE PATTERN of BUSINESS CONDUCT

ALL Trustees should be well prepared, read their material before the Board begins its working session. The Board should determine a specific time frame, as accurate as possible, for all their major goals, and the solution of various issues.

They should always study alternatives, remember to follow-up on the schedules and make a final determination if the chosen solution has worked.

Working list of pending issues should be updated at each Board meeting. This way nothing gets lost or forgotten

Trustees should publish reports listing their accomplishments and goals, so that the public can evaluate their performance and dedication.

Our Trustees “write the law” that protects our property and us and sets up the framework for their activities; they should **Uphold the law and Enforce it**, without prejudice. All residents and all subdivisions should be treated and helped equally. (see: Traffic issue on Deerpath Road, Rue Royale Subdivision, Ferndale Drainage).

Trustees must keep up-to-date with the Regulatory Requirements pertaining to the area under their supervision, so they can initiate proper adjustments to our Municipal Code, when needed,

Example - Children Safety in Parks Zone.

Per new State Law, children in park areas close to the streets with heavy traffic should be protected; 20 mile/Hr speed limit signs are to be posted in park zones. This should be implemented in Deer Park as soon as possible.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS - Financial Gains and Commercial Growth versus Environmental Adverse Effects

Much is being said about noble efforts and money spent on prairie and wild life preservation on Vehe Farm Park, including the small pond surrounded by wetland vegetation.

Why is this the only area is where the Village practices extensive environmental protection programs? Why aren't the same protective systems used in all the open spaces and ponds under Village ownership?

Why aren't 100%-safe alternatives for algae treatments applied to all Deer Park ponds instead of the use of the toxic material, copper sulfate?

Why isn't Village promoting the good example of limited use of fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides? If we do so, any additional costs can be supplemented by the grants that should be not too hard to obtain in view of such a great mission. More effective methods of controlling increased traffic, air pollution and noise as well – will help the environment. We should work out more restrictive conditions for authorized yard waste and prescribed burnings.

Village should set a positive example and become a leader in **prevention of water and air pollution in Deer Park**, consistently supporting preservation of the environment we live in.

Due to very rapid commercial growth in our area, this goal is not easy to achieve. By opening the door to big developments, we'll be facing a serious trade-off: increased income for the village versus increased environmental risks. It is impossible to eliminate these risks, but we can control the intensity of their adverse effects. Contradictions exist, only if we allow them. The decisions of the trustees can determine how the balance will tip – toward quality environment or economic gains. Compromises dictated by the costs involving healthy solution should be avoided.

Green Space, Clean Water and Air deserve all the help we can give them, so we can continue to live in harmony with nature. As stated in the original Deer Park's mission - "*preserve for posterity*".

Sport- and play-fields are not only what parks are about. It's time to start planting trees and adding picnic tables and benches to our parks. We should stop applying impervious surfaces on our walk paths. Walking, hiking-trails across the prairie and wild flowers fields should be kept as natural as possible.

Such choice can best justify our requests for governmental grants, and guarantee obtaining them.

Nature ≠ green manicured, fertilized lawns and blacktop pavements.

Nature = botanical gardens, woodlands, wildlife and trees

FUTURE USE of VEHE FARN COMMUNITY CENTER

How will this Community Center be used in near future should be determined by the Deer Park community and no one else. This is a publicly owned facility, and it is for public use before anything else.

If Foundation wishes to continue serving our community, it should do so on its own, and relieve the Village of a heavy financial burden. The Vehe Farm Foundation's Board should **reach out to the public and businesses for donations.**

Establishing **family and business memberships** (after forming Deer Park Historical Club or Group and Nature Preserving Club or Group) will secure sufficient income, while providing a valuable educational service. At present, the Vehe Farm Foundation appears as a separate, distant entity, we meet only when they come asking for money. This must stop. Found-rising is not easy, but it shouldn't be an option anymore. It should become the only available reality. The best example lies not far away - see how well Citizens for Conversation is fulfilling identical goals for many years. Unfortunately, Deer Park residents can't give the Vehe Farm Foundation Board nearly as good marks.

Unless Foundation proves it can function independently, its Board members should step down, and responsible, experienced and competent professionals should run the Vehe Farm Center.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (EMA) – Deer Park volunteer CERT programs

ARE WE READY? Does our local government have its own emergency or disaster plan for Deer Park community? The answer will not make you happy – we are the only community in the area that hasn't as yet setup this program, although there were some modest efforts made in the past. We hope that with our involvement, this issue will be addressed with the diligence it deserves, and we shall see results soon.

Several residents offered volunteer services in the past, but nothing resulted from it, those offers were ignored. Dave Pautler is one of them. His efforts to get involved, to gather information from Deer Park's EMA coordinator and Chief of Kildeer Police were left without response. He received prompt response from Barrington/Inverness EMA authority, educational and training materials and an application for training.

Deer Park has the Emergency (EMA) Ordinance, but no volunteer recruitment and training has been done. We depend entirely on other communities, but in a time of need they may have a hard time reaching us, they may chose to help their own residents first.

Will Deer Park residents be protected and helped in the event of a disaster such as tornado, thunderstorm, heat wave, winter storm, pandemic flu, or terrorist attack? At time like this, we can only rely on trained volunteers – our neighbors, and whatever emergency kits are prepared and within a short distance.

Emergency Management Agency must be formed within Deer Park village and run by our residents.

We should be self-reliant and develop our own volunteer-based EMA and CERT programs, start recruiting and training residents and start informing and teaching the public about readiness in the event of a disaster.

ELDERLY, HANDICAPPED and DISABLED RESIDENTS

There are many elderly and handicapped residents in Deer Park. Some are the original owners of the farmland our houses were built on. They are the ones who represent living history of our village. And yet, in Deer Park we pay little attention to their needs. We pass all responsibilities to the county and township. We do nothing to reach them, and to help them. I have talked to some, and found out that they are lonely, secluded, and feel separated from the rest of our community. They know very little or nothing at all about services available to them. For example – not a one knew about the **R.O.U.K. program** (helping seniors or homebound persons who live alone and might need assistance when an emergency arises), or various forms of voting assistance, etc.

I would like very much to see Vehe Farm Center serving our elderly, handicapped and disabled at the top on the priority list (along with local civic groups, clubs and associations), before other “clients”.

We are the seniors' closest line of help and defense. Therefore, we **need to develop a sound plan to protect them (especially during severe weather). They should know us well, so they can trust us. We should know where they live, so we can reach them without delay. Each should have emergency kits available for them. Our goals, ideas and their execution should be coordinated with county and township programs that are already in place.**

All the above concerns, view points, suggestions and ideas for improvements were dictated by common sense, my experience while meeting with residents and listening to them - my personal interactions with a fair representation of our community (different cultural and ethnic backgrounds, age groups, professions...), by observing our government at work and by reading pages and pages of related documents. It was tiring, but a very exiting, fascinating experience. Combining all these things together, I'm more aware of where the Villages' strengths and weakness lie, where help is needed, and how I can help. I desire to faithfully serve our community to the best of my ability in the capacity of their trustee.