

Dear Neighbor:

As we turn to the final week before the April 7 election, I am writing to clearly state: I am in this election to win and to serve my four-year term on the Village Board.

Until the polls close on April 7, I will be available to answer any questions you may have about my campaign. I have very definite plans about moving the Village forward. However, you do not have to wait for me. Please call me on my cell phone (847-922-2716) and email me (mdalesands@aol.com). I will set a time to meet with you and our neighbors to discuss your concerns. I do return all phone calls! I do answer all emails! I do want your vote!

I am in this election because I am deeply concerned about what has happened in Deer Park (my home for almost 16 years) under the current leadership.

The continued practice of deficit spending has eroded the Village financial surplus since 2004—the year Scott Gifford became president, as a political appointee. In just five years, the Village financial surplus has dwindled. Gifford started with \$3,400,000 in February, 2004. By January 2009, that surplus had decreased to \$1.6M. The Gifford administration has over spent revenues by \$1,800,000 since he became President – this is during a time of unprecedented growth in Village revenues from the Deer Park Mall. The Pioneer Press reports

that, under current leadership, you will see even more “dip into reserves” in the coming year. <http://www.pioneerlocal.com/barrington/news/1495964,ba-dpbudget-032609-s1.article>

As a business executive, I am shocked at this pattern of deficit spending. If a Gifford administration cannot operate within a balanced budget in the good economic times, what will happen in a severe recession?

You deserve to know what happens at the Village Board level. I am also in this election to restore transparency in the Village Board decision-making practices. For far too long, special interests dominated the Board. No-bid contracts and sub-par accounting practices are just the tip of the iceberg in terms of what has gone wrong. We should have complete confidence in the Village decision-making process and we should have access to the same information as the Village Board. There should be no secrets!

I want to re-focus Deer Park’s energy on our community--to create forums to receive your input, to address your questions (without a stopwatch), and to have a consistent plan to make Deer Park a neighborhood that we are all proud to call our home.

We lack a master plan, and hence a consistent direction to guide us. Our future should include plans to retrain our open space, to maintain our parks and recreational centers, to rebuild our roads so they are safe, to re-engineer drainage systems to protect our homes, and to have a vision and action plan to create a sustainable community with green initiatives that make a difference to our generation, and the next.

I am part of a team: Trustee Bob Kellermann as President, with Keith Olson and me as new trustees. Together when elected, we will bring change with accountability and hold ourselves accountable to you, the stakeholders of Deer Park.

Simply put: The citizens of Deer Park cannot afford another four years of a Scott Gifford administration and his political allies. This election is about taking responsibility for our treasury, our public lands, our safety and security, and our future. We must restore fiscal responsibility, openness in governing and put the community's interest ahead of special interest groups.

I encourage you to make a difference with your vote on April 7th! **Vote for the team of Bob Kellermann, Keith Olson and Dale Sands!**

Very sincerely,

Dale Sands