

# **JOHN LAHR – Candidate for Village of Deer Park Trustee**

## **WHY ARE YOU RUNNING FOR OFFICE?**

I am running for the Office of Trustee in the Village of Deer Park. Many of the members of the existing Board of Trustees have become entrenched and responsive to the requests of developers as opposed to the wishes and desires of the residents. I am for Open Government, responsive to the needs of the residents. I Want Deer Park to be known as a friendly community that its residents are proud of. I adamantly advocate fiscal responsibility. Government must live within its means. The Village has produced a budget plan in deficit for the last 5 years. The result is the surplus built up by this Boards predecessors of \$5 million+ has been spent down to the point where it is verging on \$0 in the bank by the end of the year.

## **WHAT ARE YOUR QUALIFICATIONS FOR RUNNING FOR OFFICE?**

My wife Mary and I have been Deer Park Residents since 1977 (32 years). We raised 4 children here and have 2 grandchildren.

In 1979—1981 I was Trustee and Health and Sanitation Officer for this Village.

In 1987---1989 I was a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals for this Village.

In 1989—2004 I was a Plan Commissioner for this Village.

I have monitored this Village government since 2004 by regular attendance at Board of Trustee's Meetings and have seen the tide turn away from concern for the residents.

I have a Bachelor of Arts in Scholastic Philosophy and have worked as an engineer and manager in the corporate field since 1965. Venues have been: Honeywell Building Controls, Bell & Howell Documail, Chicago 911 Center, Highland Park Hospital, Evanston Northwestern Healthcare. I was a 2 term President of the Midwest Honeywell Computer Users Group. I am currently retired but am a Partner doing intellectual property work for Advanced Audio Devices.

## **IF NECESSARY, WHAT SERVICES OR PROGRAMS ARE YOU WILLING TO CUT IN ORDER TO MEET BUDGET?**

The Village has expended \$4M+ on the Vehe Farm/Barn and associated restoration. I assert that not another dime go into this project. If the Vehe Foundation can raise monies through donations, grants, etc. so be it. But no more Village money goes to Vehe, period!

## **WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON THE ROUTE 53 EXTENSION? PLEASE EXPLAIN WHY YOU SUPPORT OR DO NOT SUPPORT THIS PROJECT.**

Route #53 is a controversial issue. Some local communities oppose it because of its direct impact on them (Long Grove, Mundelein). It becomes a 'not in my back yard' issue. However, traffic on #12 Rand Road has reached a crescendo. Something has to be done to relieve it. I support #53 as a tollway North of Lake-Cook providing that 70% of the toll revenues go to public transportation on parallel passenger rail services and feeder bus

services to that rail. The East-West roads to the East of Deer Park in Lake County almost without exception, need significant upgrades. In addition there is no public transportation of any kind serving Deer Park heading East from the Village or to any Union Pacific Northwest Metra Station.

**WHAT SINGLE BUSINESS ISSUE DO YOU FEEL WILL BE THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE TO ADDRESS IF YOU ARE ELECTED?**

The Village's spend rate needs to be reviewed and revised to come in conformity with the current economic slow-down. However, the Road Maintenance issues cannot be piecemealed any longer. The Road Program must move forward.

**WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS TO FILL VACANT BUILDINGS AND PROPERTIES IN THE AREA?**

Both Deer Park Town Center and Praedium Shopping Centers have a number of vacant stores. The Village needs an active commission of residents whose function is to attract and recruit business to locate in these Deer Park facilities.

**WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO IN ORDER TO PROMOTE LOCAL BUSINESS?**

Deer Park occasionally participates in the Route #12 Corridor Planning Council. This needs to be stepped up dramatically and belongs in the purview of the active commission of residents described in #6 above.

**WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATIONS AND COOPERATION BETWEEN VILLAGES IN ORDER TO REACH AGREEMENT REGARDING FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS ON BORDERING PROPERTIES?**

Deer Park is near fully developed residentially. There is still opportunity in Research & Development areas of the #12-Quentin-Lake/Cook Triangle as well as Commercial along #12 SE of Deer Park Town Center Mall. The private property along #12 will need to be aggregated by prospective developers and proposals made that approximate the Village's existing Comprehensive Plan. I do not support Tax-Increment-Financing (TIF) for these areas. They will develop on their own in their own time.

**WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT IN DEER PARK, AND WHAT WILL YOU DO TO MAKE IT HAPPEN?**

The Village needs to provide easier resident access to the Village Office, staff, and Trustees. Office hours need to accommodate resident access and needs. In the spirit of full disclosure and avoidance of conflict-of-interest, Village financial information needs to be made available on the Village Web Site.