

A Message from the Mayor

Libertyville is fortunate to have many residents who volunteer throughout our Village. In these trying economic times, with staff cutbacks and lower Village revenues, these volunteer efforts benefit all of us both directly and indirectly. I encourage all of you to volunteer however you can — as an individual or with a group, on an ongoing project or a single event.

Neighbors often join forces to volunteer. A group from Kenwood Avenue recently began a prairie restoration project near the Des Plaines River that will improve the area for years to come.

Other neighborhood groups such as residents of Blueberry Hill often help clean up our parks, as do many scout troops and school groups. This past summer members of the Libertyville High School football team, for example, pitched in to clear out overgrown areas of Adler Park. In fact, all of us can assist with cleanup efforts at the annual Keep Libertyville Beautiful Fall Park Cleanup on November 7. (Please see article on page 3 for details.)

MainStreet Libertyville, the Civic Center and Brainerd Center

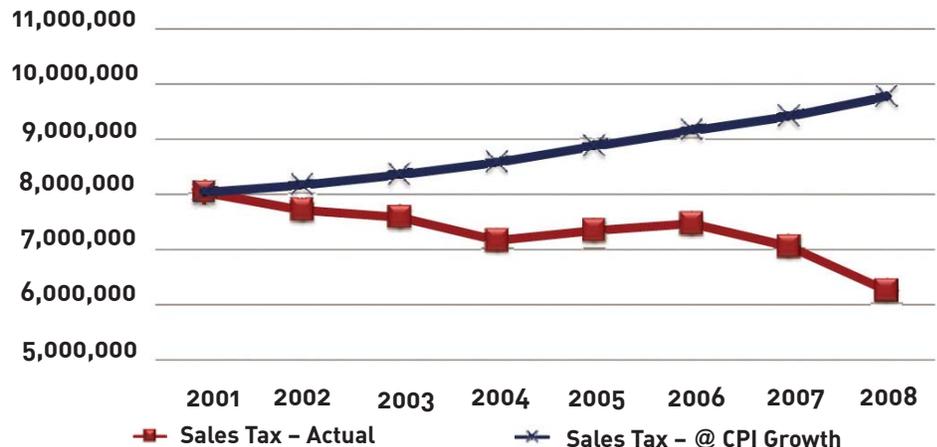
*Please see **Mayor** on page 2*

Village Finances

Village Revenues

The Village receives the majority of its sales tax revenue from the sale of automobiles, and sales tax revenue has helped support Village operations for many years without the need for other taxes. Since 2001, the Village has experienced a significant reduction in various revenues including its largest revenue source, sales tax (see sales tax history). The past two years have seen an even more dramatic decline in sales tax revenue, with calendar year 2008 being \$1.8 Million below the amount of sales tax received in 2001. While sales tax from certain categories such as restaurants has increased, it is not nearly enough to offset the large decline in auto-related sales tax. The current economic situation has created a serious revenue problem for many governments throughout the county, and the Village of Libertyville is no exception.

Sales Tax History



What Actions Have Been Taken?

As sales tax has declined, the Village Board and Staff have responded over the last several years by aggressively cutting expenses from the Village budget. These cuts have equaled approximately \$2.5 Million (12.5% of the General Fund) and have included reductions in full and part time employees (five full-time positions eliminated and eight full time positions unfilled), reductions in employee training, reductions in capital improvements and maintenance of Village facilities, elimination of the Fire Department Paid on Call program, reductions in the number of Village Views newsletters and deferral of the annual tree pruning and 50/50

*Please see **Village Finances** on page 2*

Mayor

Continued from page 1

Foundations, Rotary Clubs, Village Commissions and the Libertyville Foundation are just a few of the many organizations that help maintain Village parks and buildings.

As for the economy, one of the best ways you can help improve it is to shop Libertyville. On the back page, several new retail establishments are described. Please give them a try along with the many long-standing businesses in town.



Terry Weppeler, Mayor



Town and Country Garden Club of Libertyville is one of the many volunteer organizations in the Village. Each spring, club members plant gardens throughout Libertyville, including plantings at the Civic Center, top, and the David Adler Cultural Center., bottom.

Village Finances

Continued from page 1

parkway tree replacement program. The Village has also reduced other services, such as mowing of Village parks, less salt during snow plowing operations and contracted with private services when cost savings could be realized. Village employees have been cross trained to perform multiple functions in an effort to try to maintain existing Village services. All of these actions have been taken in an effort to be fiscally responsible while continuing to maintain essential services.

Libertyville Sports Complex

In addition to the significant declines in sales tax revenue, the Village has also been faced with ongoing debt associated with the operation of the Libertyville Sports Complex (LSC). While the LSC was to be a self-supporting operation, and while it has generated revenue in excess of operating expenses, those revenues have not been enough to cover all the debt associated with the bonds that were issued to build the facility. The LSC has suffered the effects of the downturn in the economy and the golf industry. The Village Board and Staff realized several years ago that several components of the LSC were not meeting original revenue projections, and authorized the sale of the Family Entertainment Center (miniature golf, batting cages) and Golf Learning Center (driving range) portions of the property. While there has been considerable interest in the properties, specific offers have not materialized due to the downturn in the commercial real estate market. In order to generate additional interest the Village Board has authorized the auction of the properties scheduled for November (the Village Board can accept, negotiate or reject the offers). If the two LSC parcels are sold, the Village plans to pay down and refinance the existing debt and continue to operate the Indoor Sports Complex portion of the property.

Why the Need for New Revenues?

In addition to budget cuts and the potential reduction in debt service from the sale of portions of the LSC, the Village Board must also consider increasing Village revenues. The Village has very limited options to increase revenue, and property taxes are capped to no more than the Consumer Price Index (CPI). A greater than anticipated decline in sales tax revenues in the current fiscal year has created a situation in which General Fund reserves could be depleted by early 2010. While the Village Board and Staff have continued to explore further budget cuts (possible furloughing of employees, evaluation of other Village owned properties to sell, etc.), few cuts are left to make after

*Please see **Village Finances** on page 3*

Brainerd Center Update

The Brainerd Center Foundation invites you to visit its new website at www.savebrainerd.org. The Foundation's goal is to preserve and restore the Brainerd Building as a gathering place for all and the heart of the community. Volunteers are always welcome!

Park Cleanup Set

The 17th Annual Keep Libertyville Beautiful Commission's annual Fall Park Cleanup will be on Saturday, November 7. Participants and group leaders will meet at Nicholas Dowden Park at 9 AM to receive park assignments and trash bags. The cleanup lasts approximately two hours and all participants receive T-shirts. For more information, please call 847-362-2430.

Village Finances

Continued from page 2

all of the reductions made over the last several years without jeopardizing critical services and would not cover the anticipated deficit. As a result, the Mayor and Village Board have reluctantly adopted an increase in the current telecommunications tax (from 3.5% to 6%), enacted a per kilowatt tax on electric consumption (approximately 5%) and a 5% gross receipt tax on natural gas. The Village Board adopted ordinances to implement each of these new revenue sources, and those ordinances include a sunset provision which will require the Village Board to review the need for the taxes on an annual basis. In the event that the LSC parcels are sold and the economy and sales tax revenue improves, the Village will review the new taxes on an annual basis to determine if they are able to be reduced or eliminated.

Moving Forward

The chart below provides an estimate of what these additional taxes will cost a Libertyville homeowner. Furthermore, the Mayor and Village Board explained at the time of enacting the new revenue sources that overall taxes in the Village of Libertyville are still significantly less than most other area communities (most of which have already had all of these additional taxes in place.) While no one wants to increase taxes, the comparison chart shows that the total tax burden for a Libertyville homeowner (and business) is significantly less than other area communities. The Mayor, Village Board and Staff are determined to maintain the high quality of life and high quality of Village services for Libertyville.

COMPARISON OF VILLAGE TAXES & CHARGES

	Property Tax on \$400,000 home ⁽¹⁾	Telecommunications Tax ⁽²⁾	Electric Utility Tax ⁽³⁾	Gas Utility Tax ⁽⁴⁾	Total	# Full Time Employees ⁽⁵⁾
Deerfield	\$ 1,557.00	\$ 9.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,566.00	205
Grayslake	\$ 1,588.00	\$ 45.00	\$ 67.68	\$ 35.28	\$ 1,735.96	145
Gurnee	\$ 467.00	\$ 9.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 476.00	249
Highland Park	\$ 1,192.00	\$ 54.00	\$ 65.52	\$ 60.00	\$ 1,371.52	307
Lake Bluff	\$ 1,086.00	\$ 45.00	\$ 66.36	\$ 60.00	\$ 1,257.36	137
Lake Forest	\$ 1,134.00	\$ 54.00	\$ 64.32	\$ 60.00	\$ 1,312.32	254
Libertyville	\$ 572.00	\$ 54.00	\$ 73.20	\$ 60.00	\$ 759.20	172
Mundelein	\$ 1,975.00	\$ 40.50	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,015.50	216
Vernon Hills	\$ 977.00	\$ 40.50	\$ 68.88	\$ 60.00	\$ 1,146.38	194

(1) Includes Village, Fire District and Park/ Recreation Taxes
 (2) Amount of tax paid/year—Monthly Bill Average \$75
 (3) Amount of tax paid/year—Monthly Bill Average \$100
 (4) Amount of tax paid/year—Monthly Average \$100
 (5) Full Time Employees—counts have been adjusted to add park/recreation, waste water and/or fire department employees
 Telecommunications, Electric & Gas Tax rates based on survey taken in 2008.

Preventing home and car burglaries

Home and auto burglaries are a serious concern for residents and the Village alike. "When people's homes or cars are burglarized, they feel violated. While no amount of burglaries is acceptable, we want people to know burglaries are not a daily occurrence in the Village and that there are simple steps people can take to prevent them," Police Chief Patrick Carey said.

In 2007, there were 58 burglaries/thefts from motor vehicles and 23 home burglaries. These numbers increased significantly in 2008 with 88 auto and 31 home burglaries. This year is on pace with the 2008 occurrences.

"Some residents believe burglary numbers are up significantly this year, but with today's instant messaging and the Village's Code Red calls to residents, it may be the communication about the burglaries that is most on the rise," Chief Carey explained.

Preventing a car burglary

- **To prevent auto theft, do not leave a GPS device or purse in the car.**
Portable navigation devices are the number one item taken from cars, probably because they can be taken and resold easily. The second most common item is a purse. Please hide them before leaving your car.

Preventing a home burglary

- **Sign up for "House Watch" with the Police Department.**
In this program, an officer physically checks daily the homes of residents who are gone more than one day. Residents may sign up by stopping by the Police Department at 200 East Cook Street or calling 847-362-8310. Because of security issues, sign-up is not available on the Internet.
- **Immediately report a suspicious person or vehicle near your home.**
Even if you are not sure if the person or car is suspicious, call the Police Department and let the department make the determination.
- **Ask a trusted neighbor to collect your mail and newspapers as opposed to stopping those services.**
There is no guarantee how the various services will maintain confidentiality in your absence.
- **User timers to operate lights in your home and set them a manner similar to how the lights are used when you are home.**
- **Consider using automatic burglar and fire alarms for your home.**

Lastly, residents are encouraged to contact Crime Prevention Officer Andrea DiGiacinto with any questions regarding home or auto security. She is happy to assist residents and may be reached at 847-362-8310.

Blue Star Memorial



Town and Country Garden Club of Libertyville members, Sandy Schroeder, left, and Melissa Jensen help dedicate a Blue Star Memorial marker in the southeast section of Cook Park. Installed by the garden club in cooperation with the Village, American Legion Post 329, and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8741, the marker honors all men and women who have served, are serving and will serve in the Armed Forces. Schroeder's son Scott, a Major in the Army Special Services, recently completed his fourth tour of duty in Iraq and will return to the Middle East in November. Jensen's son Brian completed a tour of duty in Iraq with the Army in May. We thank them for their service.

*Shop
Libertyville*

*for all your
fall needs!*

Mile of Cars success

More than 600 new car buyers and lessors reaped an extra benefit on Libertyville's Mile of Cars last summer. The first 50 new car buyers at each participating dealership received \$100 Libertyville Rewards certificates to purchase food, goods and services at more than 125 Village businesses.

The program encouraged people to make Libertyville their car buying destination and to support Libertyville businesses. Auto-related businesses account for 60 percent of all Village sales tax receipts, which in turn support Village services.

The program also fostered the formation of the Libertyville Automobile Dealers Association to promote sales in Libertyville. Links to each dealer's website may be found at www.libertyvillemileofcars.com.

Destination Libertyville



Cecilia St. Martin, left won the Libertyville Ultimate Traveler prize package in the latest Destination Libertyville promotion: Shop, Dine, Explore Libertyville... and Win! The promotion

rewarded shoppers for making Libertyville their destination. Other winners included Judy Zemeske, Monica Zamost, Peggy Becker, Sue Hogland, Barb Brantigan, Ron Gerberi, and Letty Lindley.

Keep Libertyville Beautiful Winners

Four Libertyville homes won recognition in the annual Keep Libertyville Beautiful contest. Homeowners will be honored at a Village Board meeting.



First place winners in the contest were the home of Geary and Nancy Grange, top right, at 502 Garfield Avenue and the home of John and Marge Molitor, right, at 127 North Third Street.



Awarded honorable mention in the KLB contest were the homes of Dave and Ruth Arendson, left, at 431 East Austin Street and the home of Howard and Lyn Weber, bottom right, at 205 West Cook Street.

The Keep Libertyville Beautiful Commission encourages quality landscaping, stimulates civic pride and provides recognition for improving the appearance of our community.





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The Village Views is published four times a year by the Village of Libertyville, Illinois, in the belief that interested and informed citizens are the safe-guard of good government.

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Shop Libertyville

Open for Business

Several new businesses opened recently in the Village. Their products and services are varied but their owners all have one thing in common: they believe Libertyville is a great place to operate their businesses.

“Libertyville’s downtown has a main street, family feeling and that is just what we want for our restaurant,” said Chris Cabano, manager of Egg Harbor.

Bernadette Adams, her daughter Alicia Patterson, and granddaughter Jessica Patterson not only wanted a hometown feel, they wanted to be in “their” hometown and add to its diversity of dining choices. The three generations believe so strongly in the potential of Casa Bonita here that Adams closed her long-successful namesake restaurant in a nearby community.

Please support all local merchants, including these new businesses:

- **Belmonti Carpets**, 737 N. Milwaukee Avenue, sells and installs carpet and laminated products.
- **Casa Bonita**, 633 N. Milwaukee Avenue, promises authentic Mexican cuisine with a flair, a Tequila bar, table-side guacamole, and hand-shaken margaritas.
- **Egg Harbor**, 125 Lake Street, offers gourmet breakfast and lunch items in a quaint country setting.
- **Hampton Inn**, 2061 Shell Drive, Route 45 and Peterson Road, has premier accommodations, free Internet, breakfast, an exercise room and indoor pool.
- **Lindsey’s Interiors and Gifts**, 608 N. Milwaukee Avenue, features Vera Bradley, Brighton, small furniture pieces and gift items.
- **Main Street Smokehouse**, 536 N. Milwaukee Avenue, serves unique regional barbecue.
- **The Music Store**, 227 W. Peterson Road, across from Grand Appliance, sells music related items, including instruments, posters, T-shirts, and amplifiers.
- **S. and S. Wine and Spirit Warehouse**, 830 S. Milwaukee Avenue, offers 800 value-priced wines, 120 spirits, 75 beers and a wine tasting station.
- **Sweet Tooth Bakery**, 518 N. Milwaukee Avenue, is a specialty bakery with all handmade items.
- **Tropik Sun Fruit and Nut**, 524 N. Milwaukee Avenue, sells candy, popcorn, ice cream and delicious munchies.