



TOWN OF DEERPARK

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Karl A. Brabenec, MPA
Councilman

The Deerpark Monthly Update – July 2008 **By: Karl A. Brabenec, Councilman**

In July, I started to look over the town's personnel policy, especially the section that referred to overtime pay and compensatory time. We had a flawed policy in place that allowed a department head and the town supervisor to approve any overtime pay and comp time without town board approval. Furthermore, full-time salaried employees were receiving overtime and comp time, even though the town board approved a resolution back in January to suspend this practice. I am happy to announce that I was able to pass a resolution that eliminates overtime pay and/or compensatory time for any Deerpark elected officials, department heads, or salaried employees that do not have a collective bargaining agreement or other contract with the town. This new policy is a standard used by many government agencies and private entities in Orange County and will undoubtedly save the taxpayers some money. The board will be examining other sections of the personnel policy in the days and months to come.

The board has also given me permission to revive and chair the Deerpark Community Development Task Force. This committee was originally created as a think tank for the town board in reviewing and proposing economic development policies. The new committee will do the same and will help the town board to seek beneficial community development projects. In August, I will be reviewing resumes from town residents and community development officials and the board will select a group of individuals to serve. I look forward to convening the first meeting sometime in September and I will keep everyone updated on our progress.

I would like to thank the all of the volunteers that put together, in a very short period of time, the annual Deerpark Family Festival. The fireworks display was absolutely fantastic and the rides and food were great as well. Many people in the community, including my family, had a lot of fun and we look forward to next year's festivities.

Just an advisory that the highway department will be doing some improvements to the bridge on Peenpack Trail by Martins Road. This work will take place around August 18th and there may be some delays with traffic on that day. For more information, you can call the highway department at 845-856-1233.

Finally, Deerpark Town Clerk Flo Santini is organizing the annual September 11th Memorial Ceremony at Town Hall. This year's memorial will feature the Color Guard and Brass Quintet from United States Military Academy, a Bugler for TAPS, Firing Party for a 21 Gun Salute, and students from the Port Jervis School District. She is seeking donations for various items to be used at the ceremony. To find out more details or to donate, contact her at town hall at 845-856-2210 ext 2 or at flostc@aol.com.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and until next month, I wish you health and happiness!