



TOWN OF DEERPARK

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Councilman

The Deerpark Monthly Update – January 2008

By: Karl A. Brabenec, Councilman

When I ran for town councilman, one of the major points in my Contract for Deerpark platform was to expand efforts for better communication between the town board and the residents of our town. To fulfill this pledge, I will be writing a monthly column to inform everyone about local issues, events, and updates. This column will be published on our town's web site and in The Gazette.

As my first month in office comes to an end, I have come to realize the enormous challenges that our town has in front of it. One of the major issues facing us is our 2008 town budget. This budget, put together by the former town supervisor and passed by the previous town board, is filled with over-estimations on certain revenue line items. According to the town's accountant, if we were to follow this budget until the end of the year, the town government would have a deficit close to one million dollars. The current town board has taken steps to correct this problem, like suspending overtime and comp time for most town employees, freezing all purchases unless there is town board approval, and canceling our Association of Towns training in New York City. We have also contacted the New York State Comptroller's office to request an independent audit. This is the first of many actions that we will be taking in the coming months to correct this budgetary problem. Please be assured that this town board and the fine employees of our town government will do all we can to control costs and get us through this financial storm. Please stay tuned for further updates.

There are many projects that I will be working on with the town board during my term that will enhance our web site, establish a community development effort, and improve public safety and awareness. I will update you in future columns as to the progress of these efforts, but I do ask for your patience because there are so many important things to accomplish and time moves very fast. I am truly honored to be a member of your town board and I am

energized to tackle the challenges ahead and to improve our town for the better. If you have any suggestions, ideas, or questions, please contact me.

Until next month, I wish you health and happiness.