



TOWN OF DEERPARK

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Karl A. Brabenec, MPA
Councilman

The Deerpark Monthly Update – September 2008

By: Karl A. Brabenec, Councilman

As the fall months have arrived, the 2009 Budget process has begun and this year will be one of the most challenging to put together a fair and equitable budget for the residents of the town. In previous columns, I have written about our major financial woes due to bad budgeting practices of the past. We will have to gradually fix these financial problems in the coming years. In addition to these problems, we are now facing a downturn in the economy which has lowered town revenue that, in previous years, we had depended on. Our board is going to have to make some tough decisions in the next month when putting together next year's budget. I know all of you are feeling the effects of the bad economy and that it will be tough to manage any type of major tax increase next year. Please be assured that I will do everything that I can to keep property taxes stable. I will update you next month as to specific proposals in which I may be forced to introduce for consideration as to minimize any potential tax impact.

There was a public hearing in September regarding the proposed Bashakill Development in Westbrookville. This proposal calls for the building of a 354 housing complex on a big portion of undeveloped land near the Bashakill River, Route 211, County Route 61, Port Orange Road, and Deerpark Manor. While I support and try to keep an open mind on any efforts for economic development in our town, I do have major concerns with this particular project as it is proposed. If built, it will be the largest housing development in the Town of Deerpark and considering the town's financial condition, I do not believe that we have the resources to accommodate this new development and to properly maintain it as well. In addition, there are various aspects of the project that disturb me, such as the location of the proposed sewer treatment facility. We shall see how this proposal develops, however, I am not looking at it favorably at this point.

The town's recreation committee will be holding a Jack O'Lantern and Costume Contest, on Saturday, October 25th, 7 PM at Deerpark Town Hall. All ages are welcome and prizes will be given. For more information, contact Town Hall at 845-856-2210.

The last presentation of our "Stories about Deerpark" series will be October 19, 3:00 PM at the town museum (school house) on Grange Road. The focus will be "Deerpark today" and admission to the event is free. I want to thank our historian Norma Schadt for putting together this series throughout this past year. For more information, please contact her at 845-856-2702 or 845-754-8070.

Finally, County Route 61 will be out of service until Spring of 2009. They are fixing the rock wall and bridge on the upper part of the road near Route 211.

Until next month, wishing you health, happiness and a very safe Halloween!