



Upcoming Events

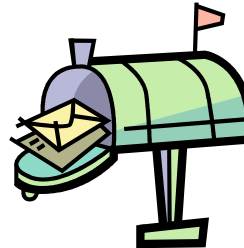
- 3/30 4-6pm
Celebrate one year since electing VMA slate of endorsed candidates and the 40-year anniversary of the Fair Housing Ordinance

Papaspiros
\$20
Public Invited

- 6/1
Day in Our Village

- 7/4
4th of July Parade

A Letter from the VMA President



As I sit in the gallery at Village Hall and contemplate this letter, a few items come to mind. First, several months have passed since I communicated with you, and for that I apologize. A few reasons exist for the pause, but primarily we did not want to bind our new Board, elected unanimously in November. We have transitioned well and now have identified our key issues for communications pieces. We issued a key piece in early March, attempting to dispel the myth that the Village Board had "belt-tightened" on road salt and instead engaged in unrestrained spending on "luxuries" like shoring up our Harrison Arts District. In addition, you may not be aware that over the past year we have been quietly encouraging and promoting the other taxing bodies in the District to televise their Board meetings. I am very pleased to report to you that, while I was not publicly given the credit, District 200 has embraced the idea and is moving forward. This is a wonderful achievement in transparency in government, and I applaud Eileen Fein in pushing the issue forward to our previous Board.

Second, I want to express the overwhelming sense of pride that I feel with the new Board. I am not only speaking of those that we helped to elect: Ray Johnson, Jan Pate, Jon Hale and John Hedges, but also our friends, David Pope and Ernest Moore. We now have a group of reality-based, civic-minded and reasonable individuals who possess neither a narrow agenda nor a lack of respect for those who hold different opinions. In April, I will be reporting on the first year anniversary of this exceptional new team.

That being said, the VMA Board is not only identifying key issues throughout the Village, but we are also planning events. Our first, as noted elsewhere in this newsletter, is a reception to honor the efforts of those who were instrumental in passage of Oak Park's Fair Housing Ordinance forty (40) years ago. We also will have a presence at "A Day in our Village" and the July 4th Parade.

Importantly, we also are looking forward to the upcoming elections in April 2009, where we will slate candidates for three trustee positions, President, and Village Clerk. To this end, we already have secured our venue for the all-important selection committee process that will begin in the fall. Prior to that, we are convening a candidate recruitment committee and urge you to become involved in some capacity - we will need your continued help and support as we move forward.

Sincerely,
Bob Kane
President, Village Managers Association

VMA Names to Know:

President:
Bob Kane
bob@vma-oakpark.org

Vice President:
Brad Bartels
brad@vma-oakpark.org

Vice President/Membership:
Gail Moran
gail@vma-oakpark.org

Vice President/Communications:
Michelle Major
michelle@vma-oakpark.org

Vice President/Technology
David McCammond-Watts
david@vma-oakpark.org

Vice President/Selections
Bob Tucker
bob@vma-oakpark.org

Vice President/Development
Linda Sahagian
linda@vma-oakpark.org

Secretary
Mary T. O'Grady
mary@vma-oakpark.org

Treasurer
Tom Gull
tom@vma-oakpark.org

Past President:
Gene Armstrong
gene@vma-oakpark.org

Directors:
Paul Beckwith
paul@vma-oakpark.org
Barbara Ebner
Barbara@vma-oakpark.org
Colette Lueck
Colette@vma-oakpark.org
Adele M. Morrison
adele@vma-oakpark.org
Ade Onayemi
ade@vma-oakpark.org
Steven Rouse
steven@vma-oakpark.org

P.O. Box 4046
Oak Park, IL 60303

www.vma-oakpark.org
email: info@vma-oakpark.org



Celebrate at Papaspiros Greek Taverna

Join us on Sunday, March 30, to celebrate two important milestones:

- the **one-year anniversary of the election** of the VMA-endorsed slate of candidates, Ray Johnson, Jon Hale, Jan Pate, and John Hedges; and
- the **40-year anniversary of the passage of the Fair Housing Ordinance.**

We will have tasty appetizers and wine, and a serious conversation about diversity in our Village. *Please invite your friends and neighbors who would like to be part of this important evening!*



Papaspiros Greek Taverna
733 Lake Street
Oak Park, IL
4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Cost: \$20.00 at the door

VMA Candidate Selection Committee: Looking Forward to April 2009

We are looking for enthusiastic participants in our upcoming candidate selection process. This is an important and fulfilling activity that will make a real difference in our ability to win the village government seats that will be up for election in April 2009. For more information, or to volunteer, please contact our Vice President of Selections, Bob Tucker, at bob@vma-oakpark.org



What's New?

Our new Vice President of Technology, David McCammond-Watts, has re-vamped the VMA website. Haven't seen it yet? Check us out at vma-oakpark.org!

Have you Forgotten?

If you have forgotten to send in your 2008 VMA membership renewal check, please take a moment to do so today! We need your support!

