



**KARL A. BRABENEC, MPA**

**DEERPARK TOWN SUPERVISOR**



**“The Supervisor’s Corner: News from Deer Park”**

**April/May 2010 Monthly Report**

The months of April and May have been quite busy for the Town Board. We have started negotiations with our Highway Department Bargaining Unit for renewal of their contract and are also continuing negotiations with the Deer Park PBA.

In April, we were able to install the energy audit recommendations to start saving money for the taxpayers. These annual costs savings on our electricity bills are estimated to be at \$4,700, which is almost \$25,000 in a five year period. We also had representatives from the New York Municipal Insurance Reciprocal visit us to do an insurance/liability audit of all town facilities. They reported that there were serious deficiencies at the town’s Highway Garage and with various playground equipment at our town parks. These deficiencies have been caused by a lack of maintenance and must be addressed as soon as possible. I will be updating all of you on the progress of our improvements in the coming months.

We have passed an Emergency Preparedness Local Law, which better clarifies what town officials need to do in a crisis situation and sets up a clear chain of command. In addition, this law incorporates FEMA standards which will help us to obtain future funding when state of emergency is declared in the town. In the coming month, the town board will be setting up Reserve Fund Accounts in order to save and plan for future projects.

The board also passed a local law which will put a question on the ballot for the voters in this November’s election. We are asking whether the residents would like to see the Town Clerk’s term of office go from a two year term to a four year term, starting after the next general election. There are many advantages for our town clerk’s position to go to a four year term. The person in the position can just focus on the doing a good job for the residents rather than worrying about running for re-election every two years. In addition, the elected official will have more time to adapt and learn about the complexities of the position. I hope that the voters will consider supporting this proposal in November.

I have signed a contract with Frontier Communications which will save an estimated \$1000 a month on the town’s municipal phone bill. This amounts to a \$12,000 savings per year! Special thanks to Councilman Gary Spears who spearheaded this effort. I would also like to thank Noel Malsberg for his extensive work in updating and redesigning our town’s official web site. The new site is more interactive and opens up the lines of communication to our residents by giving more information about our local government. I urge you to visit and to sign up for our e-mail list. The address is [www.townofdeerpark.org](http://www.townofdeerpark.org).

Over 95 people attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Deer Park Community Development Lunch on May 25<sup>th</sup> at the Jack Champions Steakhouse. Guest Speakers Maureen Halahan from the Orange County Partnership and Thomas Lane from Orange County Community Development spoke about stabilizing the town’s tax base through community and economic development.

Two major announcements were made by town officials. First, that a proposed zoning law change will be up for consideration in June which will ease certain regulations that mandate proposed businesses to obtain temporary special use permits from the town's planning board. This change will only apply to the Interchange Business Zone located at the Route 6/Route 84 Corridor. The second announcement was that the Deerpark Exchange construction project, a 24,000 square foot facility located off of Exit 1 on Route 6, will commence in mid-July.

I would like to recognize the following individuals who have stepped up to the plate to volunteer on various boards for the town. Planning Board: Willard Schadt, BAR: Don Dods , Cable Commission: Mike Worden, Alternate Planning Board: Mike Hunter, Alternate Police Commission: Joann Vicaretti, Alternate Zoning Board of Appeals: James Harrington. We have also appointed David Hoovler, Fred Witt, Ann Keller, Julie Witherow, and Bill Onofry to our new Ethics Board. There are alternate positions still available on the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals and Police Commission and positions on the Recreation Committee. If you are interested, please send a letter of interest to Flo Santini at [fsantini@townofdeerpark.org](mailto:fsantini@townofdeerpark.org).

Until next month, I wish you and your family health and happiness.