



12 South Center Street
Bensenville, IL 60106

Office: 630.350.3404
Fax: 630.350.3438
www.bensenville.il.us

VILLAGE BOARD

October 13, 2020

President

Frank DeSimone

Board of Trustees

Rosa Carmona

Ann Franz

Marie T. Frey

McLane Lomax

Nicholas Panicola Jr.

Armando Perez

Village Clerk

Nancy Quinn

Village Manager

Evan K. Summers

Mr. Paul De Michele
17W275 Rodeck Lane
Bensenville, Illinois 60106

Re: October 6, 2020 FOIA Request

Dear Mr. De Michele:

I am pleased to help you with your October 6, 2020 Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"). The Village of Bensenville received your request on October 6, 2020. You requested copies of the items indicated below:

"Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act I Request: Copies of any and All Correspondence Between the Village of Bensenville and or any Employees and the White Pines Community Alliance or any member. Limit the Documents to the period between February 5, 2020 and October 5, 2020."

After a search of Village files, the following information was found responsive to your request:

- 1) Village of Bensenville Email Correspondence with the White Pines Community Alliance from February 5, 2020 – October 5, 2020. (89 pgs.)

These are all the records found responsive to your request.


The attachment on an email dated September 27, 2020 is a video. If you would like a copy of the video, the Village charges \$5.00 to create a DVD. Please contact me should you require a copy.

Section 7(1)(b) of FOIA provided that "private information" is exempt from disclosure. "Private information" is defined in FOIA as, "unique identifiers, including a person's social security number, driver's license number, employee identification number, biometric identifiers, personal financial information, passwords, or other access codes, medical records, home or personal telephone numbers, and personal email addresses. Private information also includes home address and personal license plates, except as otherwise provided by law or when complied without possibility of attribution to any person." 5 ILCS 140/2(c-5). Consequently, certain identifiers have been redacted from the records being provided.

Pursuant to Section 9 of the FOIA, 5 ILCS 140/9, I am required to advise you that I, the undersigned Freedom of Information Officer, reviewed and made the foregoing determination to deny a portion of your FOIA Request as indicated. Should you believe that this Response constitutes an improper denial of your request, you may appeal such by filing a request for review within sixty (60) days of the date of this letter with the Public Access Counselor of the Illinois Attorney General's Office, Public Access Bureau, 500 South Second Street, Springfield, Illinois 62706; telephone 1-887-299-FOIA; e-mail: publicaccess@atg.state.il.us. You may also have a right of judicial review of the denial under Section 11 of the FOIA, 5 ILCS 140/11.

Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns in connection with this response.

Very truly yours,


Corey Williamsen
Freedom of Information Officer
Village of Bensenville

From: My White Pines <mywhitepines@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 7, 2020 11:37 AM
Subject: Water Main Project Update

Dear Residents,

Any you probably know, the White Pines Community Alliance has been dutifully tracking the progress of the Bensenville Water Main Project in our subdivision and its associated IEPA loan. As such, we have learned that you will shortly, if not today, be receiving a letter from the Village giving an update on the project. In this letter you will notice that there is a possibility that the IEPA loan amount can be reduced substantially by what is called "principle forgiveness". In addition the loan amount could also qualify for a reduced interest rate.

We have additionally learned that in order to qualify for the above reductions certain criteria must be met. One of the criteria is that the Village must determine which houses in our subdivision have lead service lines. As we all know by now, lead water service lines are a national problem contributing to multiple health issues in both the young and old. Determining which houses in our subdivision have lead service lines can be a win, win for our residents. It has the potential to reduce the amount of the loan for the project and promote the good health of our residents. As such, we ask that you heed any Village request in determining which houses in our subdivision have lead service lines. You will be doing a service to both yourself and our community.

Thank you,

Your **White Pines Community Alliance**

Chris Balog, Jim Brill, Marianne Faraone, Kelly Novello, Mark Shawaluk, Tony Saldana, Jim Novello and Debbie Brill.

From: My White Pines <mywhitepines@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2020 4:50 PM
Subject: BEWARE X 3!

Dear Residents,

A couple things to be aware of that are affecting residents of DuPage County:

1. The DuPage County Sheriff's Department has put out an alert stating that "The Social Security Administration has notified us that reported phone scams have greatly increased over the last year throughout the country". Please be aware that The Social Security Administration does not call individuals asking for money, personal information or social security numbers. Scammers pretend to be government employees and demand immediate payment to avoid arrest or other legal action. Do not fall for their demands. You can find further information about this scam at the following <https://www.facebook.com/133570666673451/posts/3007540455943110/?d=n>
2. The Village of Bensenville has put out an alert regarding a fake GoFundMe campaign for a person named Jayson that is targeting Bensenville area residents. This is a scam! Do not contribute should you receive such a request. More can be learned about this at the following link; <https://www.facebook.com/106986082673948/posts/2913988791973649/?d=n>
3. And it is once again that time of year when the next 4-6 weeks is peak mating season for coyotes. Please pay attention to your dogs or cats when outside. The outcome can be tragic as they can, and will attack your pets. Coyote breeding typically peaks in late February, and early March. Male coyotes can become more aggressive during this time of year. Keep your pets safe! Do not let your dogs out alone and don't allow your outdoor cats to roam. Although coyotes are prevalent in outlying and rural areas, they're also thriving in suburban and urban areas and smaller towns as well. A helpful website giving suggestions on how to keep your pets safe is at the following link; <https://sparkysteps.com/9-ways-to-keep-pets-safe-from-coyotes/>

Thank you,

Your **White Pines Community Alliance**

Chris Balog, Jim Brill, Marianne Faraone, Kelly Novello, Mark Shawaluk, Tony Saldana, Jim Novello and Debbie Brill.

From: My White Pines <mywhitepines@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 7, 2020 1:54 PM
Subject: Water Main Project Update!

Dear Residents,

As usual the White Pines Community Alliance has been closely following the progress of our new water main project. Recently we learned through the Bensenville website in the White Pines Water Main portal that on February 26, 2020 the State of Illinois has approved the construction permit for our new public water supply. This permit was issued under the plans submitted by Christopher Burke Engineering. Now that the permit has been approved, movement on the project should be developing quickly. According to the approved construction permit before any work is to start "A lead informational notice must be given to each potentially affected residence at least 14 days prior to the permitted water main work". Watch for it in your mailbox sometime in July.

On a related note, we have received information that Christopher Burke will put out the project for bid in the next couple weeks. After the deadline has been reached for bid submittals a construction company capable of completing the project will be chosen. The next step is the the funding of the IEPA loan. According to our research, the loan is tied to the State's fiscal calendar and will be approved shortly after July 1st. Construction will start soon afterward.

The process has been for our community to receive a new, safe and reliable water system a long, tedious and sometime tenacious one, but it seems the time has finally arrived for all of us to realize the project is finally going to happen. How you as homeowners and residents proceed in the future regarding the annexation issue and the resulting water rates is entirely a personal choice and only one that you can make after considering all the facts. The White Pines Community Alliance has accumulated a boat load of documents and information regarding this project. Should you have a question regarding it please don't hesitate to email to us or give us a call at (847) 957-8004.

Your White Pines Community Alliance

Chris Balog, Jim Brill, Marianne Faraone, Kelly Novello, Mark Shawaluk, Tony Saldana, Jim Novello and Debbie Brill.

From: My White Pines <mywhitepines@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2020 2:01 PM
Subject: Don't be Scammed!

Dear Residents,

Unfortunately during this serious coronavirus situation there are bad people trying to take advantage of vulnerable individuals. We have heard reports of creative "entrepreneurs" selling fake or inferior PPE kits, masks, hand sanitizers and the like online and even out of their cars and garages at extraordinary prices. The worst of these snake oil sellers are touting fake potions, medications and cures for the virus. Not only can these products be contaminated themselves but taking any substance not approved by the FDA can be dangerous in and of itself. While it might seem obvious to any reasonably minded person not to purchase such products, individuals that are scared or uninformed are actually buying these items. If they weren't buying them they wouldn't be made available by unscrupulous predators.

There are some good government websites that outline what you should and shouldn't be watching out for during these trying times. One is the FTC site at the following links: <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/features/coronavirus-scams-what-ftc-doing> and <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/2020/03/ftc-coronavirus-scams-part-2>.

The World Health Organization also has published some relevant information at <https://www.who.int/about/communications/cyber-security>.

Since we are all supposed to be staying in for the foreseeable future we should have enough time to check out the above sites. Now more than ever is a time to be cautious.

On another note, with our little community having a good number of senior citizens, which the CDC states are the most vulnerable to the virus, it should be noted that a number of "essential" stores have now put in place hours dedicated to seniors. The Dailey Herald has recently published the following online article related to the new store hours: <https://www.dailyherald.com/news/20200319/senior-shoppers-take-advantage-of-special-hours>.

The White Pines Community Alliance is constantly in touch with our County, Township and Village officials so if you or someone you know needs a little help with navigating the bureaucracy of any government agency during this time of need please let us know and we will see what we can do. We can be reached at MyWhitePines@gmail.com or (847) 957-8004.

Your **White Pines Community Alliance**

Chris Balog, Jim Brill, Marianne Faraone, Kelly Novello, Mark Shawaluk, Tony Saldana, Jim Novello and Debbie Brill.

From: My White Pines <mywhitepines@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 10:51 AM
Subject: A Quicky!
Attachments: Addison Update.pdf

Dear Residents,

Well it looks like we will be home-bound for a few more weeks, as such we have been asked by Addison Township Supervisor/Treasurer Dennis Reboletti to re-release the attached update. You can also find information about what we should and should not be doing from the DuPage County Health Department at: <http://www.addisontownship.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/cvpublicservice.pdf>.

On another note; the DuPage County Sheriff's Office has issued a community alert stating that they have had multiple car burglaries in several unincorporated communities recently. These burglaries are occurring during the overnight hours. They ask that everyone be diligent in removing valuables from their vehicles, securely locking them and leaving outside lights on overnight. If you have any video of suspicious people on your property you can forward it to us at MyWhitePines@gmail.com and we will post it for our residents.

Lastly, DuPage County Officials has asked that you complete your census online or by phone. Completing the census by our residents is imperative as the number of people living in a designated area determines the resources and financial assistance available to that community.

Your **White Pines Community Alliance**

Chris Balog, Jim Brill, Marianne Faraone, Kelly Novello, Mark Shawaluk, Tony Saldana, Jim Novello and Debbie Brill.



TOWNSHIP OF ADDISON

COUNTY OF DU PAGE

DENNIS REBOLETTI
Supervisor/Treasurer

March 16, 2020

Dear Resident:

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic Addison Township has put a plan in place to continue to care about the well being of all our residents, clients, staff and volunteers.

Effective immediately the township building and the highway department will be shut down for 2 weeks and closed to the general public. Phone calls and emails will be responded to during this closure.

Our food pantry operation will remain on Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 A.M. to 11:00 A. M., but with significant changes. Please carefully read below the instructions which need to be adhered to.

We are asking everyone to remain in your vehicles for food, which is pre-bagged. Each vehicle will be given the same amount of food. Staff will directly place pre-bagged food in your vehicle.

This will also assist with the "social distancing" that has been recommended by the CDC.

Again, this is for the safety of everyone. I urge you to check our website for any further updates or developments. You can also check the Addison Township Food Pantry Facebook page or www.atcares.org for additional information.

Stay Safe!

Dennis Reboletti
Supervisor/Treasurer

From: My White Pines <mywhitepines@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 11:28 AM
Subject: Oops!
Attachments: New Pantry hours.jpg

Dear Residents,

The attached new Addison Food Pantry hours should have been included in the last email as well as the following link to a posting on the Neighbors app concerning a scam by people impersonating Red Cross workers going door-to-door: <https://neighbors.ring.com/n/qlzqyv89z4>. Please take a look at both as they are important.

Your **White Pines Community Alliance**

Chris Balog, Jim Brill, Marianne Faraone, Kelly Novello, Mark Shawaluk, Tony Saldana, Jim Novello and Debbie Brill.

APRIL FOOD PANTRY

PANTRY TIMES HAVE CHANGED!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		3rd	1	2	3	4
		8:00 AM to 9:00 AM Residents 60 & Older 9:00 AM to Noon All Residents	8:00 AM to 9:00 AM Residents 60 & Older 9:00 AM to Noon All Residents	8:00 AM to 9:00 AM Residents 60 & Older 9:00 AM to Noon All Residents	8:00 AM to 9:00 AM Residents 60 & Older 9:00 AM to Noon All Residents	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
		8:00 AM to 9:00 AM Residents 60 & Older 9:00 AM to Noon All Residents	8:00 AM to 9:00 AM Residents 60 & Older 9:00 AM to Noon All Residents	8:00 AM to 9:00 AM Residents 60 & Older 9:00 AM to Noon All Residents	8:00 AM to 9:00 AM Residents 60 & Older 9:00 AM to Noon All Residents	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
		8:00 AM to 9:00 AM Residents 60 & Older 9:00 AM to Noon All Residents	8:00 AM to 9:00 AM Residents 60 & Older 9:00 AM to Noon All Residents	8:00 AM to 9:00 AM Residents 60 & Older 9:00 AM to Noon All Residents	8:00 AM to 9:00 AM Residents 60 & Older 9:00 AM to Noon All Residents	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
		8:00 AM to 9:00 AM Residents 60 & Older 9:00 AM to Noon All Residents	8:00 AM to 9:00 AM Residents 60 & Older 9:00 AM to Noon All Residents	8:00 AM to 9:00 AM Residents 60 & Older 9:00 AM to Noon All Residents	8:00 AM to 9:00 AM Residents 60 & Older 9:00 AM to Noon All Residents	
26	27	28	29	30		
		8:00 AM to 9:00 AM Residents 60 & Older 9:00 AM to Noon All Residents	8:00 AM to 9:00 AM Residents 60 & Older 9:00 AM to Noon All Residents	8:00 AM to 9:00 AM Residents 60 & Older 9:00 AM to Noon All Residents		

From: My White Pines <mywhitepines@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 9:32 PM
Subject: Important News!

Dear Residents,

We're sorry that it's been a few weeks since we last posted an email but our crew is just adjusting to new schedules, work environments, jobs and kids being home. We do however have some important updates that we need to get out.

First and foremost, it has been reported to us by several residents and the Wood Dale authorities that at about 2:45 am this morning many vehicles in our subdivision and subdivisions in Wood Dale were broken into. A vehicle in our subdivision on Ridgewood was actually stolen. The individuals that stole the vehicle also severely damaged another vehicle in their getaway.

We have been asked to request from our residents any surveillance videos from cameras that you might have of suspicious vehicles in front of your homes at the above time. We do know that there were at least two male subjects wearing hoodies and backpacks that were involved. Any information we receive will be forwarded to the DuPage County Sheriff's Department without any identification as to whom it came from unless you tell us to provide it.

Once again we must state the obvious, please do not leave your vehicles unlocked, leave keys in them or leave expensive items in them! Also, while we all would like to keep the rural ambiance of our neighborhood, lighting up your property at night is the best deterrent against those looking to relieve you of your hard earned items.

Next on our list is some updated information from our county government. One of the most beneficial to our residents is that late fees will be waived for property taxpayers impacted by COVID-19. DuPage has stated that "interest penalties for late payments of the first installment of property taxes, which are due June 1, will be postponed until September 1st for property owners who meet certain criteria. The requirements and application for relief can be found at the following link: <https://www.dupageco.org/Content.aspx?id=62764>.

DuPage has also initiated a "small Business Relief Grant Program". As many of our residents are small business owners and independent contractors this program would seem to be extremely beneficial to our subdivision. Information about this program can be seen at <https://www.choosedupage.com/recap-small-business-relief-grant-webinar/>.

With the Memorial Day Holiday coming up and our country being in this most unique situation DuPage has launched an "Interactive Memorial Day Portal" to honor the memories of our fallen heroes. Please create your own honor post at the following link: www.dupageco.org/memorial.

Water, water everywhere! Between the May 14th and May 17th our area received twice the average amount of rainfall we usually expect. As many of our residents have reported flooding was a huge problem. Unfortunately, the management of our subdivision's storm water is a combination of the county and the village. The county is responsible for the ditches and the village for the sewers. Much of the flooding was a result of blocked ditches, culverts and sewer covers. It should be obvious to any homeowner that the ditches and culverts must be cleared regularly of leaves, branches and trash. If the homeowner is unable to do it, the DuPage County Public Works Department can be contacted at 630-407-6800 or the DuPage County Department of Stormwater Management can be contacted at 630-407-6673.

During the extreme rainfall of the past few days the Village's underground system became inundated with water and their detention basins full. The Village's Public Work Crews responded to more than 100 calls for flooding and worked around the clock. Pumping systems throughout the Village operated at full capacity and we have been told they will continue to do so until conditions improve. The Village's public Works Department can be contacted at 630-350-3435.

Finally and sadly, we have been informed that the due to Governor Pritzker's "Restore Illinois" plan the Village has cancelled Music in the Park and Liberty Fest until further notice. We know that many of our residents enjoy attending these events and look forward to the day we can say we are good to go.

Thank you,

Your **White Pines Community Alliance**

Chris Balog, Jim Brill, Marianne Faraone, Kelly Novello, Mark Shawaluk, Tony Saldana, Jim Novello and Debbie Brill.

From: My White Pines <mywhitepines@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 9:49 PM
Subject: Very Important Update!

Dear Residents,

This is an important update regarding our email yesterday about vehicle burglaries in our subdivision. We have been informed that there might be as many as five individuals involved. And that they are reportedly driving a stolen vehicle other than the one they stole yesterday on Ridgewood.

But the most important update is that they are to be considered armed and dangerous. It has been reported that they actually fired a handgun at a person who confronted them on his property. It has been additionally reported that they stole another weapon and a wallet from inside the entryway of a residence and quickly used one of the credit cards from the wallet.

People, we **MUST** emphasize that locking your doors, lighting your property and keeping your valuable items from plain view is essential to your safety. Additionally, **IMMEDIATELY CALL THE SHERIFF** if you see a suspicious vehicle in the neighborhood. You are not bothering them by calling and you just might be saving yourself or a neighbor from hardship. Use 911, not the non-emergency number as a quick response is required. **DO NOT CONFRONT THESE INDIVIDUALS YOURSELF!**

On another note, we have been informed that Chief Spain of Bensenville Fire Protect District #2, the actual district that responds to our subdivision's emergencies, has officially retired as of April 30th. Our new Fire Chief is Scott Walker. He is currently the Fire Chief for Addison Fire Protection District and will be working as a part time chief for the Bensenville Fire Protection District. We welcome Chief Walker.

Thank you,

Your **White Pines Community Alliance**

Chris Balog, Jim Brill, Marianne Faraone, Kelly Novello, Mark Shawaluk, Tony Saldana, Jim Novello and Debbie Brill.

From: My White Pines <mywhitepines@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2020 7:14 PM
Subject: FOUND!

Dear Residents,

One of our eagle eyed neighbors found a key on Pine Grove and turned it over to us to try and find the unlucky person who lost it. If you're that person, let us know so we can turn it over to you. For safety reasons you will have to let us know what kind of keys it was and what was attached to it. We'll watch for your reply to this email.

--

Your **White Pines Community Alliance**

Chris Balog, Jim Brill, Marianne Faraone, Kelly Novello, Mark Shawaluk, Tony Saldana, Jim Novello and Debbie Brill.

From: My White Pines <mywhitepines@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 25, 2020 9:41 AM
Subject: Wanted!

Dear Neighbors,

We have been asked by one of our readers if anyone in White Pines is making cotton washable masks? If you know anybody, please forward their information to us so we can pass it on.

Thank you,

--

Your **White Pines Community Alliance**

Chris Balog, Jim Brill, Marianne Faraone, Kelly Novello, Mark Shawaluk, Tony Saldana, Jim Novello and Debbie Brill.

From: My White Pines <mywhitelines@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 7:02 PM
Subject: Wow! Thank You!

Dear Neighbors,

Our request for cotton washable masks got a very good response from our residents. Many were duplicates so we will just list them here.

* It seems many people are getting their masks from Zion Concord Church at 865 S. Church Rd. While the masks are free, it suggested that a donation of \$5 be given for each mask. The office phone number is 630-766-1039.

* Many suggested the Ace hardware in Addison at 30 W. Lake. They are selling homemade washable masks at the checkout. Their phone number is 630-543-8882.

* Bill Brunner said that he and his wife are working with a group who is making them. Their Facebook page is <https://www.facebook.com/ElmhurstAreaMasketeers/>. Bill was kind enough to say he would drop masks off if a person has a problem getting out. Let us know and we will let Bill know.

* Nicole Windsor, who humbly said she is not a professional seamstress, also was kind enough to say that she would happily make a few for someone in need at no charge. If you are that person please contact us and we will forward Nicole's contact info to you.

* Richard Duzinkas said he is 3D printing face shields. If you need one, send us your contact info and we will forward it to Richard.

* Geri Richter let us know that her daughter is making beautiful masks and selling them for \$12. Her contact info is Susielynn24@gmail.com.

Your **White Pines Community Alliance**

Chris Balog, Jim Brill, Marianne Faraone, Kelly Novello, Mark Shawaluk, Tony Saldana, Jim Novello and Debbie Brill.

From: Brill Jim and Debbie <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 7:13 PM
To: Evan Summers
Subject: RE: DuPage County Zoning Notification - Z20-004 Zappen

Evan,

I can tell you that there isn't a resident in this neighborhood that has a problem with RVs, trailers or commercial vehicles parked in the drive forward of the house. That is one of their main contentions against annexation. Zappen actually told me that he was going to apply for this revision and everyone I talked to had no problem with it.

Jim

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [Evan Summers](#)
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 4:02 PM
To: [Brill Jim and Debbie](#)
Subject: FW: DuPage County Zoning Notification - Z20-004 Zappen

Jim,

I know you were involved with the Zappen's RV last time. This is their revised plan. You usually have your finger on the pulse of the neighborhood. Do the residents support or oppose this?

Evan K. Summers
Village Manager



12 South Center Street, Bensenville, IL 60106
P: 630.350.3420 F: 630.350.1105

From: Corey Williamsen <CWilliamsen@bensenville.il.us>
Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 3:47 PM
To: Scott Viger <SViger@bensenville.il.us>; Kurtis Pozsgay <KPozsgay@bensenville.il.us>; Kelsey Fawell <KFawell@bensenville.il.us>
Cc: Evan Summers <ESummers@bensenville.il.us>
Subject: FW: DuPage County Zoning Notification - Z20-004 Zappen

Corey Williamsen
Deputy Village Clerk



12 South Center Street, Bensenville, IL 60106
P: 630 350 3404 F: 630 350 3438



From: Infelise, Jessica <Jessica.Infelise@dupageco.org>

Sent: Wednesday, May 27, 2020 3:46 PM

To: Stran, Jim <Jim.Stran@dupageco.org>; Buga, Edward <Edward.Buga@dupageco.org>; Winklebleck, David <David.Winklebleck@dupageco.org>; Heffter, Clayton <Clayton.Heffter@dupageco.org>; Furey, David <David.Furey@dupageco.org>; Michael J. DeSmedt <mjdesmedt@dupagehealth.org>; 'Kevin Stough' <kstough@dupageforest.org>; Jennifer Meyer <jmeyer@dupageforest.org>; Donald Holod (Addison Twsp. Highway) <RichK@AddisonTownship.com>; Sandy B. (Addison Twsp) <sandyb@addisontownship.com>; chiefspain@bensenvillefpd.org; jstelter@bsd2.org; csnyder@bsd2.org; Ed Cage (Comm. Dev. Director) <ecage@wooddale.com>; Jeff Mermuys (Wood Dale Manager) <jmermuys@wooddale.com>; Mayor Nunzio Pulice <npulice@wooddale.com>; Shirley Siebert (Wood Dale Clerk) <ssiebert@wooddale.com>; Addison Mayor Rich Veenstra <Mayor@addison-il.org>; Lucille Zuccherro (Addison Clerk) <LZuccherro@addison-il.org>; Mike Crandall <MCrandall@addison-il.org>; Mary Ribando <MRibando@bensenville.il.us>; Nancy Quinn <NQuinn@bensenville.il.us>; Village President <VPresident@bensenville.il.us>; Scott Viger <SViger@bensenville.il.us>; Eileen Franz (Elmhurst Planner) <eileen.franz@elmhurst.org>; James Grabowski (Elmhurst Manager) <cityadmin@elmhurst.org>; Mayor Steve Morley <steve.morley@elmhurst.org>
Cc: Infelise, Jessica <Jessica.Infelise@dupageco.org>; Hoss, Paul <Paul.Hoss@dupageco.org>; Schwalm, Eileen <Eileen.Schwalm@dupageco.org>
Subject: DuPage County Zoning Notification - Z20-004 Zappen

DuPage County Zoning Notification -

In an effort to reduce paperwork the DuPage County Board approved an amendment to the County Zoning Ordinance providing that public notice for County zoning public hearings be sent via electronic mail to government agencies required to receive notice and other governmental organizations which may have some jurisdiction with a property. To that end the attached public notice and comment form is your organization's official notice that a public hearing will be held for the matter herein.

Please find attached the intergovernmental notification and comment form for the DuPage County **Zoning Petition Z20-004 Zappen**. Please return the comment form to our office via e-mail to Jessica Infelise at Jessica.Infelise@dupageco.org. If you wish to send the comment form by other means than email please send via fax to 630-407-6702, or via regular mail. Please feel free to contact Paul Hoss or myself if you have any questions, or need anything else in addition (630-407-6756 or 630-407-6752). Thank you.

Jessica Infelise
Zoning Administration Coordinator
DuPage County Building & Zoning Dept.
421 N. County Farm Road
Wheaton, IL 60187
Ph: (630) 407-6752
Jessica.Infelise@dupageco.org



[Click here](#) to learn more about
the 2020 Census in DuPage County!

From: My White Pines <mywhitepines@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 2, 2020 11:02 AM
Subject: Real News!

Dear Neighbors,

Now for a newsletter with some actual news in it, from your community organization that will never solicit donations from our residents or ask you to purchase bogus vehicle stickers that are not recognized by any government agency.

Remember when we reported last week about the recent rash of vehicle burglaries in our area and surrounding suburbs, well the Naperville Police Department has reported that they have arrest two individuals for burglary to a motor vehicle. The arrests occurred at 4:30 am Friday and the individuals are reported to be 15 and 16 years old. Whether these two individuals are responsible for or connected to other car burglaries or thefts in DuPage is being investigated. We do know that at least 5 individuals are involved with the car burglaries and thefts in our area and that they have been reportedly seen driving a stolen black pickup truck. Once again, remove valuable items from your vehicles, lock your car and home doors and light your properties in the evening. Some of our residents have provided us with descriptions of suspicious vehicles which we have forwarded to the DuPage County Sherriff's office.

As many of you know, flooding was rampant in our area due to the recent heavy rains. **The White Pines Community Alliance** now has a direct contact person with DuPage County's Storm Water Management Department. Though it would be prudent for our residents to try and keep ditches, culverts and sewer covers free of debris, it is actually the responsibility of DuPage County's Stormwater Management and Public Works departments. If you choose to contact them yourself through email you can do so at StormWaterMgmt@dupageco.org or publicworks@dupageco.org or you can provide your information to us with an brief description of the problem and we will forward it to our contact.

With the temps now in the 90s, HVAC systems are running at maximum capacity and electric bills will be going through the roof . . . and then there is winter with its high gas bills. There is still a chance for those in need to apply for the County's Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIFEAP) as they have extended the deadline for applications until June 30. With our large number of seniors and many residents who have been out of a job do to the pandemic it should be a no brainer to apply for this assistance. Information about this program can be found at <https://www.dupageco.org/LIHEAP/>.

If you have been watching the news you know that violence and looting have spread to the suburbs, including areas around us. As a result many stores have been damaged or have reduced hours to protect employees. If you intend on going out, make sure that you call the retail location to find out what their particular location's situation is. At this point we wouldn't recommend venturing out to the stores after dark.

Lastly, we are certainly looking forward to the celebration a certain civic association is planning for the 75th anniversary of our White Pines. Hopefully it will be as exciting as the Christmas Party they boastfully said that they were planning for the residents that NEVER HAPPENED! We must ask, what exactly is the civic association spending the solicited donations on that they receive?

Stay safe.

Your **White Pines Community Alliance**

Chris Balog, Jim Brill, Marianne Faraone, Kelly Novello, Mark Shawaluk, Tony Saldana, Jim Novello and Debbie Brill.

From: My White Pines <mywhitepines@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 3, 2020 12:29 PM
Subject: Services Needed

Dear Neighbors,

We have gotten some requests from residents about services they need.

The first is from a homeowner that is seeking a reliable and reasonably priced company that can do a survey of his property for a new fence.

The second is from a homeowner that is looking for some free or very inexpensive firewood.

Should you have an answer for either of these neighbors please provide it to us so that we can forward it to them.

As always, should you know someone that would like to join our ever growing list of subscribers please tell them to simply send an "Add Me" email to MyWhitePines@gmail.com

Thank you,

Your **White Pines Community Alliance**

Chris Balog, Jim Brill, Marianne Faraone, Kelly Novello, Mark Shawaluk, Tony Saldana, Jim Novello and Debbie Brill.

From: My White Pines <mywhitepines@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 4, 2020 8:38 AM
Subject: More Services Needed

Dear Neighbors,

We have a couple more homeowners in our area requesting recommendations for service providers.

A homeowner is seeking a recommendation of someone who knows how to work stucco. He needs the Southern exposure of his residence redone.

Another is looking for a reliable and reasonably priced gutter installer.

Please forward your recommendation to us at MyWhitePines@gmail.com.

Thank you,

Your **White Pines Community Alliance**

Chris Balog, Jim Brill, Marianne Faraone, Kelly Novello, Mark Shawaluk, Tony Saldana, Jim Novello and Debbie Brill.

From: My White Pines <mywhitepines@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2020 7:36 PM
Subject: FYI!

We have been informed that there are two Black Lives Matter protest marches scheduled for tomorrow, Saturday, in our area.

The first march starts at the Wood Dale train station and proceeds to Fenton High School down Irving Park. Step off is reportedly at 2pm. Bensenville Police have been in contact with the organizers and they have stated that it is anticipated to be peaceful. Avoiding this area might be your best bet.

We have gotten additional word that another protest march is scheduled for Elmhurst, although the details of this one are sketchy at best. Last week Elmhurst did close down the business district and exits from the expressway were blocked in anticipation of protests. if you were planning on doing any business in Elmhurst tomorrow it would probably be wise to call ahead to find out if your destination is open

Stay safe,

--

Your **White Pines Community Alliance**

Chris Balog, Jim Brill, Marianne Faraone, Kelly Novello, Mark Shawaluk, Tony Saldana, Jim Novello and Debbie Brill.

From: Brill Jim and Debbie <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, June 19, 2020 9:02 AM
To: Evan Summers
Subject: Re: 18 CH 01065 (Mellenthin, et al. v. Village of Bensenville)



On Jun 19, 2020, at 8:25 AM, Evan Summers <ESummers@bensenville.il.us> wrote:

FYI

From: Richard Bruen, Jr. <rbruen@montanawelch.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2020 12:08 PM
To: Evan Summers <ESummers@bensenville.il.us>
Cc: Joe Montana <jmontana@montanawelch.com>
Subject: FW: 18 CH 01065 (Mellenthin, et al. v. Village of Bensenville)

Evan,

Good afternoon. Per my voicemail, see below. As you will see, Mellenthin's attorney wants to have an in-person hearing, which will not be possible on Monday. He is proposing July 15 or July 18.

Please contact me to briefly discuss. Thanks in advance.

Richard F. Bruen, Jr.
Montana & Welch, LLC
192 N. York Rd.
Elmhurst, Illinois 60126
(630) 501-0624 Main
(630) 609-0694 Fax
rbruen@montanawelch.com

From: My White Pines <mywhitepines@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 20, 2020 11:00 AM
Subject: News you can use!

Dear Neighbors,

Looking for Help!

One of our homeowners is looking for someone to help her with yard work which includes some weeding and trimming. If you're looking for some side work or are just bored out of your mind at home, send us your information and we will pass it on to her. She will discuss the details with you.

Free COVID19 Testing! Today, June 20 at the DuPage County Complex! No appointment, symptoms or insurance required. Open 7 am – 3 pm (all cars must arrive before 2 pm to be tested) or until the daily 400 test limit is reached. Learn more at <http://dupagehealth.org/covid19testing>

Water Main Update!

Last week the Village of Bensenville received a letter from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency approving the new consumer water rate structure for our unincorporated residents. The new rate structure will cover the cost of the new water main project. We have also received information that the water main project bid opening is scheduled for July 30th. It is anticipated that the project will be awarded and begun sometime in August and that is when the new rate structure starts. Recent updates can be found on the Bensenville White Pines Water Main Portal at <https://www.bensenville.il.us/984/Documents-Agreements>.

We Are Heading West!

Last year we were asked by residents of Oakdale Woods to include them in our newsletters and now we have been asked by some of the unincorporated homeowners in the subdivisions west of 83 to include them. Should you know anyone else that is looking for real information related to our area of DuPage County please tell them to simply send a short "Add Me" email to MyWhitePines@gmail.com or call our number at 847-957-8004.

--

Your **White Pines Community Alliance**

Chris Balog, Jim Brill, Marianne Faraone, Kelly Novello, Mark Shawaluk, Tony Saldana, Jim Novello and Debbie Brill.

From: Brill Jim and Debbie <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, June 26, 2020 5:43 PM
To: Evan Summers
Subject: Re: DuPage County Zoning Notification - Z20-015 Saldana

Evan,

No one seems to have a problem with either of the zoning changes. What's funny is that Saldana's garage has already been built and approved by the county weeks ago. The only issue was a small garden shed that was already on the property put him slightly over the square footage requirement.

Jim

On Jun 23, 2020, at 4:45 PM, Evan Summers <ESummers@bensenville.il.us> wrote:

Do you have any objections? Unless you say otherwise, the Village will not object.

From: Corey Williamsen <CWilliamsen@bensenville.il.us>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 4:37 PM
To: Scott Viger <SViger@bensenville.il.us>; Kurtis Pozsgay <KPozsgay@bensenville.il.us>; Kelsey Fawell <KFawell@bensenville.il.us>
Cc: Evan Summers <ESummers@bensenville.il.us>
Subject: FW: DuPage County Zoning Notification - Z20-015 Saldana

Corey Williamsen
Deputy Village Clerk
<image002.jpg>

12 South Center Street, Bensenville, IL 60106
P: 630 350 3404 F: 630 350 3438

<image003.png>

<image004.png>

<image005.png>

From: Infelise, Jessica <Jessica.Infelise@dupageco.org>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 4:36 PM
To: Stran, Jim <Jim.Stran@dupageco.org>; Buga, Edward <Edward.Buga@dupageco.org>; Winklebleck, David <David.Winklebleck@dupageco.org>; Heffter, Clayton <Clayton.Heffter@dupageco.org>; Furey, David <David.Furey@dupageco.org>; Michael J. DeSmedt <mdesmedt@dupagehealth.org>; 'Kevin Stough' <kstough@dupageforest.org>; Jennifer Meyer <jmeyer@dupageforest.org>; chiefsplain@bensenvillefpd.org; jstelter@bsd2.org; Eileen Franz (Elmhurst Planner) <eileen.franz@elmhurst.org>; James Grabowski (Elmhurst Manager) <cityadmin@elmhurst.org>; Mayor

Steve Morley <steve.morley@elmhurst.org>; Ed Cage (Comm. Dev. Director) <ecage@wooddale.com>; Jeff Mermuys (Wood Dale Manager) <jmermuys@wooddale.com>; Mayor Nunzio Pulice <npulice@wooddale.com>; Shirley Siebert (Wood Dale Clerk) <ssiebert@wooddale.com>; Addison Mayor Rich Veenstra <Mayor@addison-il.org>; Lucille Zuccherro (Addison Clerk) <LZuccherro@addison-il.org>; Mike Crandall <MCrandall@addison-il.org>; Mary Ribando <MRibando@bensenville.il.us>; Nancy Quinn <NQuinn@bensenville.il.us>; Village President <VPresident@bensenville.il.us>; Scott Viger <SViger@bensenville.il.us>; Donald Holod (Addison Twsp. Highway) <RichK@AddisonTownship.com>; Sandy B. (Addison Twsp) <sandyb@addisontownship.com>
Cc: Infelise, Jessica <Jessica.Infelise@dupageco.org>; Hoss, Paul <Paul.Hoss@dupageco.org>; Schwalm, Eileen <Eileen.Schwalm@dupageco.org>
Subject: DuPage County Zoning Notification - Z20-015 Saldana

DuPage County Zoning Notification -

In an effort to reduce paperwork the DuPage County Board approved an amendment to the County Zoning Ordinance providing that public notice for County zoning public hearings be sent via electronic mail to government agencies required to receive notice and other governmental organizations which may have some jurisdiction with a property. To that end the attached public notice and comment form is your organization's official notice that a public hearing will be held for the matter herein.

Please find attached the intergovernmental notification and comment form for the DuPage County **Zoning Petition Z20-015 Saldana**. Please return the comment form to our office via e-mail to Jessica Infelise at Jessica.Infelise@dupageco.org. If you wish to send the comment form by other means than email please send via fax to 630-407-6702, or via regular mail. Please feel free to contact Paul Hoss or myself if you have any questions, or need anything else in addition (630-407-6756 or 630-407-6752). Thank you.

Jessica Infelise
Zoning Administration Coordinator
DuPage County Building & Zoning Dept.
421 N. County Farm Road
Wheaton, IL 60187
Ph: (630) 407-6752
Jessica.Infelise@dupageco.org

<image001.png>

[Click here](#) to learn more about
the 2020 Census in DuPage County!

<Z20-015 Saldana ZHO Legal and Staff.doc>

From: My White Pines <mywhitepines@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2020 10:41 AM
Subject: Beware!
Attachments: M&M Roofing.jpg

Dear Neighbors,

We have received information that an individual in a luxury SUV has been going around our area and approaching individual homeowners with asphalt drives offering to "seal" them. This individual hands out a very simplistic flyer (See attached image) that states the name of his business is M&M Roofing from Skokie Illinois. The **White Pines Community Alliance** has done a little bit of research and has found that there is no M&M Roofing from Skokie Illinois registered with the Illinois Secretary of State. We also checked with the Better Business Bureau and again no M&M Roofing from Skokie Illinois. In our opinion these two facts are major red flags and this company should be avoided for these reasons alone.

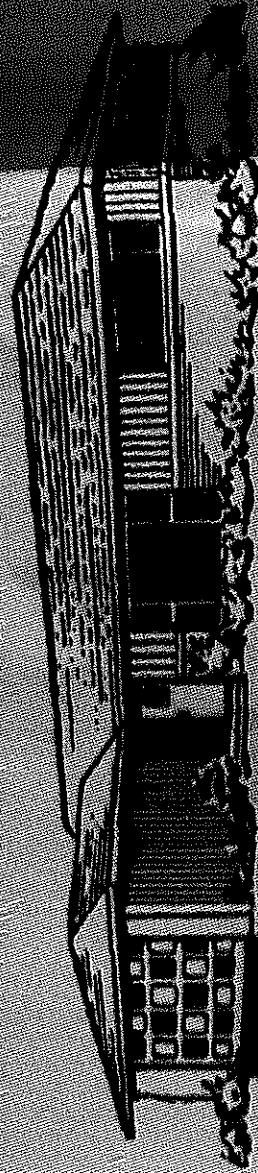
Yet another red flag is that we have been told that the individual handing out this flyer would not give a total price for sealing any specific driveway. He would only quote a per gallon sealer price of \$79. A professional contractor would know approximately how much a gallon of his sealer would cover and would be able to give you a total price for the job based on the drive's square footage. Again, with a little research we have found that even the best asphalt sealers on the market run less than \$50 per gallon retail. So if he is using the best sealer on the market he is making \$29 per gallon. A gallon of sealer takes less than a couple minutes to spread; so on an average driveway this "business" is making several hundred dollars per hour and possibly many thousands on the total project, but he won't quote you a total price.

As with any contractor it is best to check with the Secretary of State to see if the business is in good standing, check with the Better Business Bureau for complaints and resolutions and check online reviews from past customers. We did all of the above for M&M Roofing and the results were not favorable. In our opinion this business should be avoided.

--

Your **White Pines Community Alliance**

Chris Balog, Jim Brill, Marianne Faraone, Kelly Novello, Mark Shawaluk, Tony Saldana, Jim Novello and Debbie Brill.



Contractor

M & M Roofing

1800 Blacktopping - 312-254-6104
Slovak, IL

BLACKTOP SEALER

FREE ESTIMATES

Retards Cracks • Beautifies • Waterproofs • Replaces Weathered Asphalt

Unlike Emulsion Sealers, which are surface coatings, solvent base sealers actually become part of the existing pavement by dissolving the old asphalt and replenishing the weathered asphalt with a new flexible hard asphalt film. Solvent sealers also will flow into minor cracks and fissures thus preventing water penetration and raveling from frost.

Total Estimate

7999 PER GALLON

From: My White Pines <mywhitepines@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 1:27 PM
Subject: Dead Trees!
Attachments: Tree Service.jpg

Dear Neighbors,

We have received a few phone calls asking if we know how to get in touch with the tree cutting service that is currently working in our area. As a matter of fact we do because we went and got a flyer from them for some future work.

The name of the company is R&D TREE SERVICE and their phone is (630) 449-2765. Please see the attached flyer that we picked up. We have been told that their prices are very competitive and from what we have seen their work is very professional.

For some reason our area had a lot of trees that just didn't seem to make it through the winter. Now might be a good time to get a quote from these guys to take care of those dead trees.

--

Your White Pines Community Alliance

Chris Balog, Jim Brill, Marianne Faraone, Kelly Novello, Mark Shawaluk, Tony Saldana, Jim Novello and Debbie Brill.



**BEST PRICES
FULL INSURANCE**



**Roel Gomez
630.449.2765**

FREE ESTIMATES

10% DISCOUNT

COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL

From: My White Pines <mywhitepines@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 4, 2020 9:39 PM
Subject: Lost Dog Found!
Attachments: lost dog.jpg

Dear Neighbors,

The attached picture is of a lost dog that one of our residents has found wandering around. If you know who this dog belongs to please let us know as soon as possible. It is currently being held safely by one of our homeowners.

--

Your **White Pines Community Alliance**

Chris Balog, Jim Brill, Marianne Faraone, Kelly Novello, Mark Shawaluk, Tony Saldana, Jim Novello and Debbie Brill.



From: My White Pines <mywhitepines@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 10:53 AM
Subject: Community Updates!

Dear Neighbors,

The following is just some information we received from our residents:

A resident from Oakdale Woods responded to our email about the tree service working in our area. She said that several homeowners in her area used MDL Tree Service Inc from Addison, 630-627-9186. We've been told that not only are they local but their service and prices are unbeatable. Thanks Karolina for that info.

We have been contacted by a woman who is looking for a resident of our subdivision that works through DuPage County providing equipment such as wheelchairs, walkers, etc to those in need. She relayed that her husband received some equipment from this person when he was debilitated. Her husband has since passed and she would like to return the equipment but she doesn't have any contact information to do so. If anyone knows of an individual who works with this county program can you please forward their contact information to us so that we can pass it on.

The owner of the lost dog has been found and they have been happily reunited! Speaking of dogs; the **White Pines Community Alliance** is planning a Dog Days of Summer get together for all our four legged friends and companions. We are going to wait until the weather cools down a bit but look for a date, time and place announcement in the next few weeks.

We sincerely hope that everyone enjoyed their holiday weekend and look forward to our community enjoying a safe and comfortable rest of summer.

--

Your **White Pines Community Alliance**

Chris Balog, Jim Brill, Marianne Faraone, Kelly Novello, Mark Shawaluk, Tony Saldana, Jim Novello and Debbie Brill.

Corey Williamsen

From: Corey Williamsen
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2020 8:46 AM
To: 'My White Pines'
Cc: Nancy Quinn
Subject: Bensenville FOIA Response - July 23, 2020 - White Pines Community Alliance #7885
Attachments: 7885_White_Pines_Community_Alliance_FOIA_Complete.pdf

Tracking:	Recipient	Delivery
	'My White Pines'	
	Nancy Quinn	Delivered: 7/23/2020 8:46 AM

Good Morning White Pines Community Alliance-

Please see the attached FOIA response dated July 23, 2020 in regards to your FOIA request dated July 22, 2020.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks!

Corey Williamsen

Deputy Village Clerk



12 South Center Street, Bensenville, IL 60106
P: 630.350.3404 F: 630.350.3438



From: My White Pines <mywhitepines@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 10:13 AM
To: Corey Williamsen <CWilliamsen@bensenville.il.us>
Cc: Nancy Quinn <NQuinn@bensenville.il.us>
Subject: Mellenthin lawsuit FOIA request

Corey,

We would like to request the most recent documents regarding the determination by Judge Wheaton on the Mellenthin vs Bensenville lawsuit.

Thank you,

Your White Pines Community Alliance

Chris Balog, Jim Brill, Marianne Faraone, Kelly Novello, Mark Shawaluk, Tony Saldana, Jim Novello and Debbie Brill.

On Jan 21, 2020, at 3:11 PM, Corey Williamsen <CWilliamsen@bensenville.il.us> wrote:

Good Afternoon Mr. Brill-

Please see the attached FOIA response dated January 21, 2020 in regards to your FOIA request dated January 21, 2020.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks!

Corey Williamsen
Deputy Village Clerk
<image001.jpg>

12 South Center Street, Bensenville, IL 60106
P: 630.350.3404 F: 630.350.3438

From: mywhitepines@gmail.com <mywhitepines@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2020 1:55 PM
To: Corey Williamsen <CWilliamsen@bensenville.il.us>
Subject: 01.21.20 FOIA request

Corey,

Please find attached our most recent FOIA request.

Thank you

Jim Brill

The **White Pines Community Alliance**

Chris Balog, Jim Brill, Marianne Faraone, Kelly Novello, Mark Shawaluk, Tony Saldana, Jim Novello and Debbie Brill.

<6946_James_Brill_FOIA_Complete.pdf>



12 South Center Street
Bensenville, IL 60006

Office: 630.550.3400
Fax: 630.550.3402
www.bensenville.il.us

VILLAGE BOARD

President
David R. Coleman

Board of Trustees
Cathy Caporaso
Ann Frang
Michael J. Fox
Michael J. Gaskin
Nicholas Panofsky, Jr.
Joseph P. Pappalardo

Village Clerk
Kathleen G. Jones

Village Manager
David R. Coleman

July 23, 2020

White Pines Community Alliance

Re: July 22, 2020 FOIA Request

Dear White Pines Community Alliance:

I am pleased to help you with your July 22, 2020 Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"). The Village of Bensenville received your request on July 22, 2020. You requested copies of the items indicated below:

"We would like to request the most recent documents regarding the determination by Judge Wheaton on the Mellenthin vs. Bensenville lawsuit."


After a search of Village files, the following information was found responsive to your request:

- 1) Case Number 18 CH 001065 Order. (3 pgs.)

These are all the records found responsive to your request.

Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns in connection with this response.

Very truly yours,


Corey Williamsen
Freedom of Information Officer
Village of Bensenville

Corey Williamsen

From: My White Pines <mywhitepines@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 10:13 AM
To: Corey Williamsen
Cc: Nancy Quinn
Subject: Mellenthin lawsuit FOIA request

7885

Corey,

We would like to request the most recent documents regarding the determination by Judge Wheaton on the Mellenthin vs Bensenville lawsuit.

Thank you,

Your White Pines Community Alliance

Chris Balog, Jim Brill, Marianne Faraone, Kelly Novello, Mark Shawaluk, Tony Saldana, Jim Novello and Debbie Brill.

On Jan 21, 2020, at 3:11 PM, Corey Williamsen <CWilliamsen@bensenville.il.us> wrote:

Good Afternoon Mr. Brill-

Please see the attached FOIA response dated January 21, 2020 in regards to your FOIA request dated January 21, 2020.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks!

Corey Williamsen

Deputy Village Clerk

<image001.jpg>

12 South Center Street, Bensenville IL 60106
P: 630.350.3404 F: 630.350.3438

From: mywhitepines@gmail.com <mywhitepines@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2020 1:55 PM
To: Corey Williamsen <CWilliamsen@bensenville.il.us>
Subject: 01.21.20 FOIA request

Corey,

Please find attached our most recent FOIA request.

Thank you

STATE OF ILLINOIS **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA** **COUNTY OF DU PAGE**
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

Gina Mellenthin, et al.,

VS

Village of Bensenville

18 CH 001065**CASE NUMBER**

File Stamp Here

ORDER

This cause coming before the Court; the Court being fully advised in the premises, and having jurisdiction of the subject matter, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:**

1. Plaintiffs' Motion to Reconsider the Order entered December 18, 2019 is denied;
2. This Order is Final and Appealable.

Name: Matton and Werwas, P.C. ☐ PRO SE

ENTER:

DuPage Attorney Number: 328992Attorney for: PlaintiffsAddress: 134 N. LaSalle Street, Suite 1040City/State/Zip: Chicago, IL 60602Telephone Number: 312-236-6800Email: kwerwas@mattonandwerwas.com_____
Judge

Date: _____

Richard Bruen, Jr.

From: Keith Werwas <kwerwas@mattonandwerwas.com>
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2020 1:23 PM
To: Jackson, Becki
Cc: Richard Bruen, Jr.
Subject: Re: 18 CH 01065 (Mellenthin, et al. v. Village of Bensenville)

Thanks.

Keith H. Werwas
Matton and Werwas, P.C.
134 N. LaSalle Street
Suite 1040
Chicago, IL 60602
Direct: (312)236-6800
Facsimile: (312)372-8456
Website: www.mattonandwerwas.com
E-Mail: kwerwas@mattonandwerwas.com

Matton and Werwas, P.C. -- This transmission, along with any documents, files or attachments to it, may be: 1. Subject to the Attorney/Client Privilege, 2. An attorney work product, or 3. Strictly confidential. If you are not the intended recipient of this message, you may not disclose, print, copy or otherwise disseminate this information. If you have received this in error, please reply and notify the sender and delete this message. Unauthorized interception of this e-mail is a violation of federal and Illinois state criminal law.

On Jul 20, 2020, at 1:14 PM, Jackson, Becki <Becki.Jackson@18thjudicial.org> wrote:

I see that Judge Wheaton signed the Order stating that "1. Plaintiffs' Motion to Reconsider the Order entered December 18, 2019 is denied.
2. This Order is Final and Appealable."

*Hannah (subbing for Becki)
Secretary to Judge Wheaton, Judge Gibson and Judge McCluskey
Chancery Division
630-407-8738*

From: Keith Werwas <kwerwas@mattonandwerwas.com>
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2020 8:42 AM
To: Jackson, Becki <Becki.Jackson@18thjudicial.org>
Cc: Richard Bruen, Jr. <rbruen@montanawelch.com>
Subject: Re: 18 CH 01065 (Mellenthin, et al. v. Village of Bensenville)

Ms. Jackson,

Good Morning. We submitted the Order on this matter shortly after Friday's hearing. Just checking on the status of the signed copy.

Thank you.

Keith H. Werwas
Matton and Werwas, P.C.
134 N. LaSalle Street
Suite 1040
Chicago, IL 60602
Direct: (312)236-6800
Facsimile: (312)372-8456
Website: www.mattonandwerwas.com
E-Mail: kwerwas@mattonandwerwas.com

Matton and Werwas, P.C. -- This transmission, along with any documents, files or attachments to it, may be: 1. Subject to the Attorney/Client Privilege, 2. An attorney work product, or 3. Strictly confidential. If you are not the intended recipient of this message, you may not disclose, print, copy or otherwise disseminate this information. If you have received this in error, please reply and notify the sender and delete this message. Unauthorized interception of this e-mail is a violation of federal and Illinois state criminal law.

Corey Williamsen

From: Corey Williamsen
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2020 1:55 PM
To: 'mywhitepines'
Cc: Nancy Quinn
Subject: Bensenville FOIA Response - July 23, 2020 - White Pines Community Alliance #7890
Attachments: 7890_White_Pines_Community_Alliance_FOIA_Complete.pdf

Tracking:	Recipient	Delivery
	'mywhitepines'	
	Nancy Quinn	Delivered: 7/23/2020 1:55 PM

Good Afternoon White Pines Community Alliance-

Please see the attached FOIA response dated July 23, 2020 in regards to your FOIA request dated July 23, 2020.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks!

Corey Williamsen

Deputy Village Clerk



12 South Center Street, Bensenville, IL 60106
P: 630.350.3404 F: 630.350.3438



From: mywhitepines <mywhitepines@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2020 11:33 AM
To: Corey Williamsen <CWilliamsen@bensenville.il.us>
Cc: Nancy Quinn <NQuinn@bensenville.il.us>
Subject: RE: New FOIA request.

Thank you Corey. Can you now send us a copy of any correspondence the village is in possession of from the "White Pines Compliance Committee".

Thank you

Jim Brill

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

----- Original message -----

From: Corey Williamsen <CWilliamsen@bensenville.il.us>

Date: 7/23/20 8:46 AM (GMT-06:00)

To: My White Pines <mywhitepines@gmail.com>

Cc: Nancy Quinn <NQuinn@bensenville.il.us>

Subject: Bensenville FOIA Response - July 23, 2020 - White Pines Community Alliance #7885

Good Morning White Pines Community Alliance-

Please see the attached FOIA response dated July 23, 2020 in regards to your FOIA request dated July 22, 2020.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks!

Corey Williamsen

Deputy Village Clerk



12 South Center Street, Bensenville, IL 60106
P: 630.350.3404 F: 630.350.3438



From: My White Pines <mywhitepines@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 10:13 AM

To: Corey Williamsen <CWilliamsen@bensenville.il.us>

Cc: Nancy Quinn <NQuinn@bensenville.il.us>

Subject: Mellenthin lawsuit FOIA request

Corey,

We would like to request the most recent documents regarding the determination by Judge Wheaton on the Mellenthin vs Bensenville lawsuit.

Thank you,

Your White Pines Community Alliance

Chris Balog, Jim Brill, Marianne Faraone, Kelly Novello, Mark Shawaluk, Tony Saldana, Jim Novello and Debbie Brill.

On Jan 21, 2020, at 3:11 PM, Corey Williamsen <CWilliamsen@bensenville.il.us> wrote:

Good Afternoon Mr. Brill-

Please see the attached FOIA response dated January 21, 2020 in regards to your FOIA request dated January 21, 2020.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks!

Corey Williamsen

Deputy Village Clerk

<image001.jpg>

12 South Center Street, Bensenville, IL 60106
P: 630.350.3404 F: 630.350.3438

From: mywhitepines@gmail.com <mywhitepines@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2020 1:55 PM
To: Corey Williamsen <CWilliamsen@bensenville.il.us>
Subject: 01.21.20 FOIA request

Corey,

Please find attached our most recent FOIA request.

Thank you

Jim Brill

The White Pines Community Alliance

Chris Balog, Jim Brill, Marianne Faraone, Kelly Novello, Mark Shawaluk, Tony Saldana, Jim Novello and Debbie Brill.

<6946_James_Brill_FOIA_Complete.pdf>



12 South Center Street
Bensenville, IL 60006

Office: 630.350.3404
Fax: 630.350.3408
www.bensenville.il.us

VILLAGE BOARD

President

Frank DeSimone

Board of Trustees

Rosa Garman

Joe Leone

Wayne J. Fox

Michael Egan

Archieley Parnell, Jr.

Armando Perez

Village Clerk

Nancy Bates

Village Manager

Frank DeSimone

July 23, 2020

White Pines Community Alliance

Re: July 23, 2020 FOIA Request

Dear White Pines Community Alliance:

I am pleased to help you with your July 23, 2020 Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"). The Village of Bensenville received your request on July 23, 2020. You requested copies of the items indicated below:

"A copy of any correspondence the village is in possession of from the "White Pines Compliance Committee."

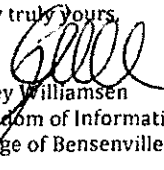
After a search of Village files, the following information was found responsive to your request:

- 1) July 22, 2020 E-Mail Sent from WPComplianceCommittee@protonmail.com (1 pg.)

These are all the records found responsive to your request.

Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns in connection with this response.

Very truly yours,


Corey Williamsen
Freedom of Information Officer
Village of Bensenville

Corey Williamsen

From: mywhitepines <mywhitepines@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2020 11:33 AM
To: Corey Williamsen
Cc: Nancy Quinn
Subject: RE: New FOIA request.

7885

Thank you Corey. Can you now send us a copy of any correspondence the village is in possession of from the "White Pines Compliance Committee".

Thank you

Jim Brill

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

----- Original message -----

From: Corey Williamsen <CWilliamsen@bensenville.il.us>
Date: 7/23/20 8:46 AM (GMT-06:00)
To: My White Pines <mywhitepines@gmail.com>
Cc: Nancy Quinn <NQuinn@bensenville.il.us>
Subject: Bensenville FOIA Response - July 23, 2020 - White Pines Community Alliance #7885

Good Morning White Pines Community Alliance-

Please see the attached FOIA response dated July 23, 2020 in regards to your FOIA request dated July 22, 2020.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks!

Corey Williamsen

Deputy Village Clerk

7/23/2020

Gmail - RE: White Pines Compliance Committee, Addendum WP1



nina Pelsi <tjpelsi@gmail.com>

RE: White Pines Compliance Committee, Addendum WP1

1 message

WPCC <WPComplianceCommittee@protonmail.com>

Wed, Jul 22, 2020 at 4:03 PM

Reply-To: WPCC <WPComplianceCommittee@protonmail.com>

To: "Gerardi Sewer & Water Co." <Gerardisewer-water@sbcglobal.net>, "Martam Construction, Inc." <jerry@martam.com>, Swallow Construction <sandy@swallowconstruction.net>, DeMichele Construction <demicheleconstruction@gmail.com>, "Pan-Oceanic Engineering Co., Inc." <dpatel@panoceanicinc.com>, Performance Construction and Engineering <cpamellpce@gmail.com>, Berger Excavating Contractors <kberger@bergerexcavating.com>, Copenhaver Construction <livia@copenhaverconstruction.com>, "PirTano Construction Co." <jim.davis@pirtano.com>, "Campanella & Sons, Inc." <mary@campanellaandsons.com>, Joel Kennedy Constructing Corp <mike.patti@jkcchicago.com>, Bolder Contractors <bobgwiasda@aol.com>, "J. Congdon Sewer Service" <vgerardi@jcongdonsewerservice.com>, Austin Tyler Construction <tpelsi@austin-tyler.com>, Orange Crush <jbehrends@orangeocrushllc.com>, Benchmark Construction <dominickf@bmk8.com>, "H. Linden & Sons Sewer and Water" <admin@hlindensons.com>, "John Neri Construction Co." <nneri@johnnericonstruction.com>, "J.S. Riemer" <estimating@jsriemer.com>

The White Pines Water Project is funded 100% by the residents of White Pines. No Village of Bensenville Funds are used. Residents are the stakeholders and enforcers of the contracts, providing oversight and review.

This includes but is not limited to prevailing wage and affirmative action goals, as well as contract review with progress and invoice payment.

We Look forward to working with the successful bidder.

WPCC

From: My White Pines <mywhitepines@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 10:51 AM
Subject: Long but Important!
Attachments: WPCC email.png

Dear Neighbors,

In prior announcements we have informed residents that the White Pines Civic Association (Civic Association) and its self-appointed president lost their lawsuit against the Village of Bensenville. This lawsuit was filed by the Civic Association regarding \$350K that the Village used towards water and sewer infrastructure and operating costs in and around White Pines. In short, the judge decided against the Civic Association. As a result and in its infinite wisdom, the Civic Association asked the Honorable Judge Wheaton to reconsider her decision, implying that the judge had poor judgement. Probably never a good idea.

Through a recent FOIA, as well as reviewing information acquired from the DuPage County Court records, the **White Pines Community Alliance** received information that the Civic Association's "*Motion to Reconsider*" was denied last week by Judge Wheaton. This appears to be because Judge Wheaton once again did not agree with the Civic Association's argument and also due to the fact that the "*Motion to Reconsider*" was filed improperly. Judge Wheaton entered her order with the stipulation that the Civic Association could file an appeal of her decision within 30 days with the Illinois Appellate Court if they choose to do so.

We are not sure who is being held responsible to pay the bill from the attorney representing the Civic Association. These repeated attempts have wasted money and have been fruitless since Judge Wheaton's original ruling against the Civic Association's arguments. We must ask, if whatever money in the Civic Association accounts is being used to pay for the lawyer representing them how is that just or fair for our entire community? Not all residents support the Civic Association's argument presented to the judge. This would mean that these residents were improperly represented by the Civic Association. If someone else is footing the bill for these ill-advised repeated court filings we can only assume that they are regretting their decision to fund this fiasco.

We will point out once again, that the Civic Association is NOT a Home-Owners Association. They are a civic association and do not have any legal authority to represent our homeowners. They may provide recommendations to government entities, as we the **White Pines Community Alliance** often do, but they must represent all residents affected by such decisions. Rallying against annexation is not a full representation of the opinions of ALL White Pines residents; therefore, White Pines residents (even if it is the minority) are being misrepresented.

We know for a fact that the bylaws of the Civic Association state that they are to be APOLITICAL. All sides and information are to be shared by the Civic Association to all residents regardless of the personal opinions of their board members. That is why those of us in the **White Pines Community Alliance** left the association a few years ago. The information that is presented by the Civic Association is completely biased and limited to the personal beliefs of the current self-appointed president Gina Mellenthin and her other board members that are against annexation. Simply said, there was not a fair and true representation of all options and details, therefore we resigned and created the **White Pines Community Alliance** to do just that.

We, the **White Pines Community Alliance**, would like to point out AGAIN that not all of its members are in support of annexation. However, the **White Pines Community Alliance** members are 100% in agreement that each individual resident should have ALL pertinent and truthful information, good or bad, so they can make their own choices.

Those of us in the Alliance have first-hand knowledge that the current Civic Association has hidden and/or provided misleading information, provided unsubstantiated figures and generally have been untruthful in their one-sided narrative to our residents. They have created quite a passionate group of supporters using false information.

One such supporter of the Civic Association, Andrea Lee Caragher of Briar Ln, and a very close friend of its self-appointed president Gina Mellenthin, has been vilifying the members of our **White Pines Community Alliance** on Facebook. Given misinformation, half-truths, and biased communications one might be inclined to understand why residents like Caragher blindly follow Mellenthin. Being that she is a steadfast supporter of her long-time friend, one can also understand how Caragher would whole-heartedly believe that what the Civic Association spews out is the absolute truth. Rather than doing her own research, contacting the Village itself, analyzing all the information herself or even speaking with the members of the White Pines Community Alliance, Caragher and others like her have adopted the beliefs of the Civic Association without question or hesitation. Sometimes it is much easier to accept the one side of an argument when questioning that argument can be extremely time-consuming, require objectivity and the ability to closely analyze and draw conclusions from various resources. In our opinion Caragher is simply an uninformed, angry and self-entitled individual who follows the lead of the Civic Association's president out of a sense of loyalty. Because of this she appears to us and other residents as just plain rude and obnoxious.

The BOTTOM LINE for ALL residents (Pro or Anti Annexation):

- The only viable option in replacing and repairing our water system is the Village of Bensenville. DuPage County would require a petition of a huge majority of residents that would sign selecting the county proposal and agreeing to pay, at

a minimum, \$11 million in comparison to the Village's proposal of approximately \$7 million.

- DuPage County told Mellenthin and Rick Medina (a former Civic Association board member) in a meeting a couple of years ago that whatever monies were collected by the Village of Bensenville on behalf of White Pines and unincorporated Bensenville residents in the past was evidently spent by previous administrations. DuPage officials told both Mellenthin and Medina that the monies would not be recovered and to move forward.
- There have been ZERO water companies willing or able to take on our subdivision due to the lack of ownership documentation and legal hurdles.
- Wooddale would require annexation as well to take on our water system as well as requiring all residents to pay the total cost of repairs, replacement and new infrastructure including a new water tank.
- Research has shown that residents who benefit from the improvements are normally held accountable to pay for these types of community projects, not the city or town governments.
- There are NO grants available to help subsidize the cost of a new system. We have looked into this extensively and came up empty handed.
- The last house fire off of Route 83 proved to be a horrific truth that our system as it currently stands could not be utilized to fight that fire. The attempt to use the system by the fire department created several main breaks/explosions leaving no availability of water to fight the fire. Water had to be transported in from other towns and cities. Leaving the system "AS IS" puts every family at risk.
- It was presented to residents that this project would cost more, not less, to do the repair/replacement in stages. Therefore, the Village President decided that the project in its entirety would be done at one time. He also stated that, for the safety of all residents, the project would begin as soon as possible. The option for our residents to "do nothing" and let time roll by is no longer a choice.

Folks, these are the facts—love them or hate them, they are the reality of the situation. Nothing has changed in the last 6-7 years and nothing is likely to change.

In regards to the water main replacement project, but completely new to us, we'd like to report an "interesting development" that has occurred in the bidding process of the water main project. As we stated in the past, we have obtained information that the new water main project for our subdivision will more than likely start August 2020. The Village has put the project out for bid and it is expected to choose a contractor in the next few weeks. From information obtained through another FOIA to the Village, we have obtained a copy of an email from a group claiming to be the "White Pines Compliance Committee" which was written to all the potential contractors who might submit a bid for the water main project. We have attached a copy of this document to this email. This "White Pines Compliance Committee" implies to the contractors that

they and the residents will be the "*enforcers of the contracts, providing oversight and review*". As residents of this community, we have never given any such committee the authorization to represent us and, due to the enormous liability involved, we would never agree to any such oversight. We can unequivocally say that if this "White Pines Compliance Committee" continues to state that they will have the oversight of the water main project, each member of this newly introduced group will be held personally responsible and liable for any mistakes, accidents, injuries or financial inequities that are bound to happen. We sincerely hope they have adequate insurance to cover the massive lawsuit judgements that would undoubtedly be headed their way should any of the above occur.

Ironically, the email sent to the contractors from this so called "White Pines Compliance Committee" doesn't state who its members are and it comes from an untraceable email server. Furthermore, we cannot find a record with the Illinois Secretary of State listing them as a legal entity. Is this a ploy or a childish game being played by the Civic Association, its self-proclaimed president or one of her lackeys to undermine the bidding process? The wording of the email sounds quite reminiscent of language used by a prior Civic Association board member. Could it be coincidence? Sure, however there is someone or a group of people embarking on a plan that could very well put them in legal troubles and their assets on the line for the inevitable lawsuit.

Folks, neither the Civic Association nor this "White Pines Compliance Committee" have the legal authority or power to put you, our residents and homeowners into a trick bag of financial liability should an unfortunate incident occur with a resulting mandated court judgement. The new water mains are the Village's project and they are the only ones that have the resources, insurance and legal backing to cover any missteps by the contractors. Only the Village will and should be the enforcers of the contracts and provide oversight and review.

In closing, the **White Pines Community Alliance** will always keep you, our friends and neighbors, informed of important details and facts, good or bad, that are needed by all our residents to make rational decisions. Our residents can send us information, ask us for help or just simply state their opinion by emailing us at MyWhitePines@gmail.com or calling us at (847) 957-8004.

Stay safe.

--

Your **White Pines Community Alliance**

Chris Balog, Jim Brill, Marianne Faraone, Kelly Novello, Mark Shawaluk, Tony Saldana, Jim Novello and Debbie Brill.

RE: White Pines Compliance Committee, Addendum WP1

1 message

WPCC <WPComplianceCommittee@protonmail.com>

Wed, Jul 22, 2020 at 4:03 PM

Reply-To: WPCC <WPComplianceCommittee@protonmail.com>

To: "Gerardi Sewer & Water Co." <GerardiSewer-Water@siglobal.net>, "Marlam Construction, Inc." <jerry@marlam.com>, Swallow Construction <sandy@swallowconstruction.net>, DeMichele Construction <demicheleconstruction@gmail.com>, "Pan-Oceanic Engineering Co., Inc." <dpatel@panoceanicinc.com>, Performance Construction and Engineering <cpamel@pcenr.com>, Berger Excavating Contractors <berger@bergerexcavating.com>, Campanella & Sons, Inc. <ivie@copenhaverconstruction.com>, "Pi Tano Construction Co." <jm.davis@pitano.com>, Copenhaver Construction <many@campanellaandsons.com>, Joel Kennedy Constructing Corp <mike.patti@jkchicago.com>, Boulder Contractors <bobgwissda@aol.com>, "J. Congdon Sewer Service" <vgierardi@jcongdonsewerservice.com>, Austin Tyler Construction <tpet@autin-tyler.com>, Orange Crush <betrends@orangecrushllc.com>, Benchmark Construction <dominick@bmkll.com>, "H. Linden & Sons Sewer and Water" <admin@hlindensons.com>, "John Neri Construction Co." <neri@johnnericonstruction.com>, "J.S. Riemer" <estimating@jriemer.com>

The White Pines Water Project is funded 100% by the residents of White Pines. No Village of Bensenville Funds are used. Residents are the stakeholders and enforcers of the contracts, providing oversight and review.

This includes but is not limited to prevailing wage and affirmative action goals, as well as contract review with progress and invoice payment.

We Look forward to working with the successful bidder.

From: My White Pines <mywhitepines@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 26, 2020 11:11 AM
Subject: Informational Tidbits!

Dear Neighbors,

Just some informational tidbits:

DuPage County Community Services will accept applications for the annual Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) beginning July 27 until June 30, 2021, or until funds are depleted. With so many individuals being out of work as a result of the pandemic shutdowns it would be wise to apply as early as possible. Our seniors on a limited income should also strive to be first in line. More information can be found at the following link <https://www.dupageco.org/Content.aspx?id=63185>.

For those interested in voting by mail for the November elections you can apply to receive your ballot at the following link <https://www.elections.il.gov/ElectionOperations/VotingByMailAgreement.aspx>. Please note that you must already be a registered voter and advise them of county in which you will be voting. They will also ask where you want your ballot mailed to. It does not have to be the address that you used for your registration so if you are a snow bird or on vacation it can be sent to that address.

If you haven't registered to vote you can actually do it three ways: online; go to <https://ova.elections.il.gov/>, by mail; print, complete and mail the form from this link <https://www.dupageco.org/Election/Voting/37059/>, or finally you can find a walk in registration location here <https://www.dupageco.org/Election/Voting/37044/>.

One of our residents is looking for a person willing to give guitar lessons to her son. If you know anyone that might be interested please forward their information to us.

Lastly, please remember to check on our seniors neighbors as the temperature reaches record highs this weekend. Annually more than 600 people in the United States die from extreme heat related issues according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Because of limited incomes many of our residents may choose to go without air conditioning this summer. This could be extremely dangerous to those staying at home because of the pandemic. A simply well-being check could be the difference between life and death.

Stay safe.

--

Your **White Pines Community Alliance**

Chris Balog, Jim Brill, Marianne Faraone, Kelly Novello, Mark Shawaluk, Tony Saldana, Jim Novello and Debbie Brill.

Corey Williamsen

From: Corey Williamsen
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 9:30 AM
To: 'mywhitepines@gmail.com'
Cc: Nancy Quinn
Subject: Bensenville FOIA Response - August 6, 2020 - White Pines Community Alliance #7955
Attachments: 7955_White_Pines_Community_Alliance_FOIA_Complete.pdf

Tracking:	Recipient	Delivery
	'mywhitepines@gmail.com'	
	Nancy Quinn	Delivered: 8/6/2020 9:30 AM

Good Morning White Pines Community Alliance-

Please see the attached FOIA response dated August 6, 2020 in regards to your FOIA request dated July 30, 2020.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks!

Corey Williamsen

Deputy Village Clerk



12 South Center Street, Bensenville, IL 60106
P: 630.350.3404 F: 630.350.3438



From: mywhitepines@gmail.com <mywhitepines@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2020 7:01 PM
To: Corey Williamsen <CWilliamsen@bensenville.il.us>
Cc: Nancy Quinn <NQuinn@bensenville.il.us>
Subject: FOIA: White Pines Water Project Bids

Corey,

We are requesting a copy of the bid tabulations for the White Pines water main project.

Thank you,

The White Pines Community Alliance

Chris Balog, Jim Brill, Marianne Faraone, Kelly Novello, Mark Shawaluk, Tony Saldana, Jim Novello and Debbie Brill.

From: My White Pines
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 10:12 AM
To: Corey Williamsen
Cc: Nancy Quinn
Subject: Mellenthin lawsuit FOIA request

Corey,

We would like to request the most recent documents regarding the determination by Judge Wheaton on the Mellenthin vs Bensenville lawsuit.

Thank you,

Your White Pines Community Alliance

Chris Balog, Jim Brill, Marianne Faraone, Kelly Novello, Mark Shawaluk, Tony Saldana, Jim Novello and Debbie Brill.

On Jan 21, 2020, at 3:11 PM, Corey Williamsen <CWilliamsen@bensenville.il.us> wrote:

Good Afternoon Mr. Brill-

Please see the attached FOIA response dated January 21, 2020 in regards to your FOIA request dated January 21, 2020.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks!

Corey Williamsen
Deputy Village Clerk
<image001.jpg>

12 South Center Street, Bensenville, IL 60106
P: 630.350.3404 F: 630.350.3438

From: mywhitepines@gmail.com <mywhitepines@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2020 1:55 PM
To: Corey Williamsen <CWilliamsen@bensenville.il.us>
Subject: 01.21.20 FOIA request

Corey,

Please find attached our most recent FOIA request.

Thank you

Jim Brill

The White Pines Community Alliance

Chris Balog, Jim Brill, Marianne Faraone, Kelly Novello, Mark Shawaluk, Tony Saldana, Jim Novello and Debbie Brill.

<6946_James_Brill_FOIA_Complete.pdf>



12 South Center Street
Bensenville, IL 60006

Office: 630.350.3404
Fax: 630.350.3436
www.bensenville.il.us

VILLAGE BOARD

President
Frank LaRocca

Board of Trustees
Emma Carmona
Ann Frapp
Maura E. Tracy
William Roman
Nicholas Fanchella, Jr.
Fernando Perez

Village Clerk
Nancy Korman

Village Manager
Cynthia Summers

August 6, 2020

The White Pines Community Alliance

Re: July 30, 2020 FOIA Request

Dear White Pines Community Alliance:

I am pleased to help you with your July 30, 2020 Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"). The Village of Bensenville received your request on July 30, 2020. You requested copies of the items indicated below:

"We are requesting a copy of the bid tabulations for the White Pines water main project."

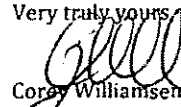
After a search of Village files, the following information was found responsive to your request:

- 1) Village of Bensenville White Pines Water Main Replacement as Read Bid Opening Results from July 30, 2020. (1 pg.)

These are all the records found responsive to your request.

Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns in connection with this response.

Very truly yours,


Corey Williamson
Freedom of Information Officer
Village of Bensenville

Corey Williamsen

From: mywhitepines@gmail.com
Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2020 7:01 PM
To: Corey Williamsen
Cc: Nancy Quinn
Subject: FOIA: White Pines Water Project Bids

7955

Corey,

We are requesting a copy of the bid tabulations for the White Pines water main project.

Thank you,

The **White Pines Community Alliance**

Chris Balog, Jim Brill, Marianne Faraone, Kelly Novello, Mark Shawaluk, Tony Saldana, Jim Novello and Debbie Brill.

From: My White Pines
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 10:12 AM
To: Corey Williamsen
Cc: Nancy Quinn
Subject: Mellenthin lawsuit FOIA request

Corey,

We would like to request the most recent documents regarding the determination by Judge Wheaton on the Mellenthin vs Bensenville lawsuit.

Thank you,

Your White Pines Community Alliance

Chris Balog, Jim Brill, Marianne Faraone, Kelly Novello, Mark Shawaluk, Tony Saldana, Jim Novello and Debbie Brill.

On Jan 21, 2020, at 3:11 PM, Corey Williamsen <CWilliamsen@bensenville.il.us> wrote:

Good Afternoon Mr. Brill-

Please see the attached FOIA response dated January 21, 2020 in regards to your FOIA request dated January 21, 2020.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks!

WHITE PINES WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT BID OPENING

JULY 30, 2020 (11:00 AM)

Contractor	As-Read Bid	Bid Bond (Y/N)	Addenda #1 (Y/N)	Addenda #2 (Y/N)	Addenda #3 (Y/N)	Rank
Demichele Construction	- No Bid -	N	N	N	N	12
John Neri Construction	\$ 5,786,921.25	Y	Y	Y	Y	1
Martam Construction	\$ 6,898,287.65	Y	Y	Y	Y	5
J. Cogdon Sewer Service	\$ 7,122,833.55	Y	Y	Y	Y	7
Austin Tyler Construction	\$ 6,395,068.07	Y	Y	Y	Y	2
Campanella & Sons Construction	\$ 9,403,539.59	Y	Y	Y	Y	11
H. Linden & Sons	\$ 7,024,899.00	Y	Y	Y	Y	6
Gerardi Sewer & Water	\$ 6,890,398.35	Y	Y	Y	Y	4
DiMeo Construction	\$ 6,544,509.00	Y	Y	Y	Y	3
Bolder Construction	\$ 7,482,588.00	Y	Y	Y	Y	9
Pan-Oceanic Construction	\$ 7,857,434.00	Y	Y	Y	Y	10
Swallow Construction	\$ 7,352,383.00	Y	Y	Y	Y	8

From: My White Pines <mywhitepines@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 2, 2020 11:04 AM
Subject: A Thank You and a LOL!

Dear Neighbors,

First and foremost we would like to thank all those that respond positively to our emails. We genuinely appreciate the support and confirmation that what we do for the White Pines community, Oak Dale Woods Community, Massel Court residents and others is valued. On that note, we also have to LOL at the childish phone calls and messages we receive from what we assume to be members or supporters of the so called "civic association". We are archiving those calls, messages and Facebook posts to publish at a later date. You too will get a kick out of just how ridiculous, crazy and immature such individuals can be.

On to important matters; we receive numerous calls and emails requesting help or information regarding all types of services. With our subdivision's 280+ homes and properties there is always some project or service needed. We have found a very valuable resource, which is available to all residents, to help us answer a wide variety of questions. This is the *DuPage County Guide to Government Services*. This guide can answer questions on any of the following topics: Building Permit Applications, Animal Services, Senior and Disabled Services, New Business Services, County Job Opportunities, Volunteer Positions, Property Title Services, All Types of Licenses, Taxes, Veterans Services and many, many more. The link to this guide is available on the DuPage County website at <https://www.dupageco.org/?mode=full> under the *Quick Links* heading on the left of the page. Take a minute to look at it and you will be amazed at how many topics it covers. Of course we, the **White Pines Community Alliance**, will still always be available to help.

And lastly, we have received information relating to what appears to be a very ominous situation. A resident on Red Oak reported to us on Jul 29th that he was out on his driveway at 11pm when a gunshot was heard and he believes he sensed a bullet wiz past him. Considering that we have had another report of a local resident being shot at during a vehicle burglary we are taking this seriously. A sheriff's police report was made and the resident has told us his security cameras did pick up and record the event. No individual suspect was identified or seen. Once again, keep your doors and windows locked, add some night time lighting to your property, don't leave valuable items in your car, don't go out in the neighborhood alone after dusk, report suspicious vehicles to the Sheriff immediately and always be aware of what's happening in your surroundings.

Stay safe!

--

Your **White Pines Community Alliance**

Chris Balog, Jim Brill, Marianne Faraone, Kelly Novello, Mark Shawaluk, Tony Saldana, Jim Novello and Debbie Brill.

From: My White Pines <mywhitepines@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 10:06 AM
Subject: New Water System Bids are in!
Attachments: Watermain Bids.jpg

Dear Neighbors,

All the bids for our community's new water system have now come in and have been tabulated by the Village. You will find that tabulation attached to this email. Once the Village has reviewed the details of each bid they will award the project. Please note that just because a bidder has submitted the lowest price does not mean that they will automatically be awarded the project. The Village must consider the qualifications of the bidders, the adherence to the Village engineer's plans, time frames, etc.. It is still anticipated that the project will be awarded this month and construction will start shortly after.

--

Your **White Pines Community Alliance**

Chris Balog, Jim Brill, Marianne Faraone, Kelly Novello, Mark Shawaluk, Tony Saldana, Jim Novello and Debbie Brill.

WHITE PINES WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT BID OPENING

JULY 30, 2020 (11:00 AM)

Contractor	As-Read Bid	Bid Bond (Y/N)	Addenda #1 (Y/N)	Addenda #2 (Y/N)	Addenda #3 (Y/N)	Rank
Demichie Construction	- No Bid -	N	N	N	N	12
John Neri Construction	\$ 5,786,921.25	Y	Y	Y	Y	1
Martam Construction	\$ 6,898,287.65	Y	Y	Y	Y	5
J. Cogdon Sewer Service	\$ 7,122,833.55	Y	Y	Y	Y	7
Austin Tyler Construction	\$ 6,395,068.07	Y	Y	Y	Y	2
Campanella & Sons Construction	\$ 9,403,539.59	Y	Y	Y	Y	11
H. Linden & Sons	\$ 7,024,899.00	Y	Y	Y	Y	6
Gerardi Sewer & Water	\$ 6,890,398.35	Y	Y	Y	Y	4
Dillmo Construction	\$ 6,544,509.00	Y	Y	Y	Y	3
Bolder Construction	\$ 7,482,588.00	Y	Y	Y	Y	9
Pan-Oceanic Construction	\$ 7,857,434.00	Y	Y	Y	Y	10
Swallow Construction	\$ 7,352,383.00	Y	Y	Y	Y	8

From: My White Pines <mywhitepines@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2020 2:15 PM
Subject: Don't be deceived!

Dear Neighbors,

Yesterday you probably received in your mailbox a bit of propaganda for the so called "civic association". This one-sided letter was orchestrated by three disgruntled, failed, political wannabees and their minions: Gina Mellenthin, Paul DeMichele and Dave Lux. How do we know you ask? Mellenthin can't have anything put out without her advertising her self-appointed position as the president of the civic association, which is the only position it seems she can hold. DeMichele is a paid "consultant" for Bensenville Fire Protection District #1 even though he has no qualifications to be one. Additionally, the Bensenville Fire Protection District only exists on paper . . . more on that issue in a future email. DeMichele is also a failed candidate for the DuPage County Board and someone who likes to harass any individual, group or Village that doesn't agree with his views. Finally, Lux, the guy who we saw actually delivering the letter, has tried to insert himself into political positions multiple times without success.

Folks, as we have routinely stated in the past, the "civic association" **ONLY** puts out what is supportive of their own beliefs—anti-annexation. While the figures they stated for the future water rates were somewhat accurate, what they didn't tell you was that they were providing only one of two rate structures. There is a rate structure for those that choose to stay unincorporated and one for those that choose to annex into the Village. And honestly, if all of our **White Pines Community Alliance** members were for annexation, which we are not, we couldn't have put together a more supportive argument for annexation than the "civic association" unintentionally just did.

If you truly are interested in the truth and want to make your own informed decision, instead of listening to the ramblings of some biased wannabees, go to the Village of Bensenville's White Pines Water Main Replacement Portal at <https://www.bensenville.il.us/973/White-Pines-Water-Main-Replacement-Portal> and review the TWO funding options they have available for our residents. You will immediately notice that those future water and sewer rates are substantially lower for those that want to annex into the Village. We also recommend making an appointment for a one-on-one meeting with Evan Summers (Village Manager) and/or Frank DeSimone (Village President). Financials for each White Pines residence were generated and shared at a public meeting in July 2018. The cost for each of the options was broken down by the Village financial analyst for each residence based on each family's financial standings. Evan Summers and/or Frank DeSimone were more than happy to meet with residents, answer questions, go over financial plans, etc.

The propaganda that you received in your mailbox also encourages you to "call or email the elected officials below". We must tell you that ALL of these officials have been contacted numerous times and they know that the White Pines new water main project is something that must and will be done. They do not want to be held responsible for situations like the ones that have arisen in hundreds of small communities across the nation. Simply Google "*small town deteriorating water systems*" and read a couple of the stories that pop up. We are not unique with our water problems, but we do have a solution on the horizon. However, if you would like to ask the individuals responsible for the propaganda in your mailbox why they do not provide ALL the facts, they can be reached at the following: Mellenthin (630) 202-5738 ginawpca@gmail.com, DeMichele (630) 279-6528 DeMicheleConstruction@gmail.com and Lux (847) 409-9670 dave@dluxfamily.com. As residents, what possible argument can they provide for staying unincorporated? What are the actual benefits of being an unincorporated resident in Illinois? We know that their argument that property taxes would skyrocket was unfounded and we know that their argument that we would have to follow Village municipal codes was also not true as the Village agreed to let County codes govern for many years to come. So what exactly is their

argument?? And if we, the **White Pines Community Alliance**, said anything in our emails that wasn't true why haven't they refuted what we wrote? Because they can't, we provide all the facts, good or bad.

Let's move on to the post card from the Bensenville Fire Protection District #1 (BFPD#1). We find it strange that this card was supposedly only delivered to White Pines residents (without return postage we might add). There are many other homes that this fire district supposedly represents that are outside of White Pines, yet they did not receive a post card. Could it be that this request for information was not properly sanctioned by any governing board and will be used for other reasons? We will be looking into that.

Unfortunately we don't find it strange though. Paul DeMichele, a paid "consultant" from BFPD#1 and NON-White Pines resident, doesn't like the Village of Bensenville's administration so he routinely harasses and tries to stop any project they propose. DeMichele is a personal friend of both Mellenthin and Lux. In this instance, that little post card you received is nothing more than a mining attempt to get resident phone numbers and email addresses. How do we know this? There is already a "data base" of all residences in BFPD#1's district publically available from DuPage County. We **STRONGLY** advise you **NOT** to provide your email address or phone number to BFPD#1 if you value your privacy.

BFPD#1 **DOES NOT** service our area as they are nothing more than a paper district that collects our taxes but provides **NO** fire protection. They have no fire equipment, no offices, no fireman and don't even have a publically available phone number! Yet, they have paid "consultants" and three paid board members. There is absolutely no reason they should have your phone number and email and we can assure you it will only be shared and used to send you more propaganda.

Bensenville Fire Protection District #2 is the one that provides our emergency fire and ambulance services and they are not asking for this information. If you are intent on filling out that card make sure you write on the bottom of it that it is *"only to be used for governmental services"*. If this is done, you will have a cause of action against those responsible if the information is distributed to any other individual or group.

Have a safe week!

--

Your **White Pines Community Alliance**

Chris Balog, Jim Brill, Marianne Faraone, Kelly Novello, Mark Shawaluk, Tony Saldana, Jim Novello and Debbie Brill.

From: My White Pines <mywhitepines@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2020 6:37 PM
Subject: Construction To Start Soon!

Dear Neighbors,

The Village of Bensenville held their regular board meeting this past Tuesday and on the agenda was the approval of the contract for our new water system. After their due diligence the Village did in fact find that the lowest bidder, John Nerl Construction, was qualified and capable of completing the project at the company's submitted bid cost of \$5,785,985. In addition to the construction contract, the Village board approved a contract for an on-sight engineer, Civiltech Engineering, at a cost of \$672,687. For those not in the municipal construction business, it is common practice to have an on-sight engineering company during the project to make sure that the contract is being followed, the proper materials are being used and industry standard construction practices are maintained. The Village stated at the meeting that with the letting of these contracts it is projected that groundbreaking will start at the end of the month or in early September.

On that note we must comment on a public statement sent in to the Village board from Michele Eichhorn that lives on Third Avenue and which was read by the Village during the public comments section of the meeting. In Eichhorn's statement she accused the Village of "providing false information to the IEPA for review" on their loan application as to the number of residents that live in the White Pines community. Eichhorn stated that the Village told the IEPA that the White Pines community had 19,000+ residents and in essence they were trying to deceive the IEPA. After hearing this statement we, the **White Pines Community Alliance**, did some research and it became very apparent to us that Eichhorn DID NOT read all the documents carefully or fully and made generalized assumptions that the Village was being disingenuous.

Had Eichhorn carefully and fully read all the documents submitted to IEPA she might have realized that they were NOT asking in that particular section of the application for the number of White Pines residents to be served by the project but for the total number of people the LOAN APPLICANT currently serves. In fact, it is CLEARLY stated on page 5 in the Preliminary Environmental Impacts Determination (PEID) that was sent to the Village by the IEPA and posted on the Village's website that they understood that *"The Bensenville water distribution system serves approximately 18,500 people within the Village corporate limits and approximately 750 people in the White Pines unincorporated area, for a total population of 19,250"* and *"There are 267 billed customers located in the White Pines area"*.

We will not go into the other misconceptions Eichhorn had in her statement as they are simply not worth our time. But we must say that what we found even sadder than Eichhorn's inaccurate public statement is that the self-appointed "civic association" president gave Eichhorn's comments an endorsement and applauded her publically on social media. As Neil DeGrasse Tyson often says; "Some people learn just enough to think they are right, but not enough to know when they are wrong."

You can view the entire recent Village meeting at this link: <https://www.bensenville.il.us/785/Bensenville-Village-Board-Meetings>.

--

Your **White Pines Community Alliance**

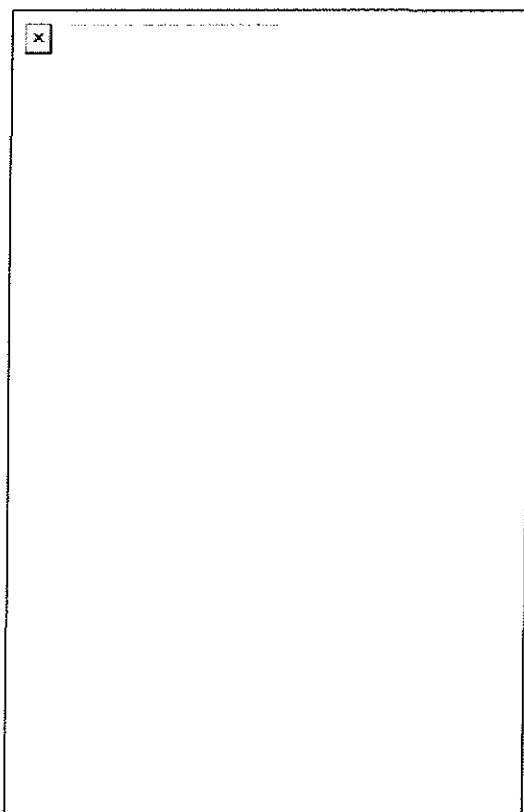
Chris Balog, Jim Brill, Marianne Faraone, Kelly Novello, Mark Shawaluk, Tony Saldana, Jim Novello and Debbie Brill.

From: My White Pines <mywhitepines@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2020 5:10 PM
Subject: INEXCUSABLE!

Dear Neighbors,

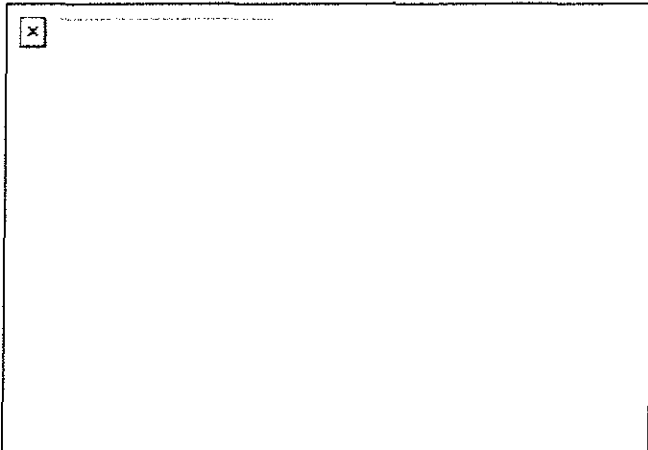
What we are about to tell you would be almost unbelievable if it hadn't come from a government entity that has been ripping off unincorporated residents for years!

Below is a published notice from Bensenville Fire Protection District #1:



Bensenville Fire Protection District #1 (BFPD#1) is a fire district that "supposedly" serves the residents of unincorporated Bensenville and others. We say "supposedly" because this is a paper district that has no fire station, no fire equipment, no fireman, no offices and not even a phone that residents can call for service. What they do have are three board members that receive thousands of dollars per year but, from what we can determine, do absolutely nothing. They also pay a "consultant", Mr. Paul DeMichele, \$250 per month for his "consulting" services. Now you might

ask what exactly does Mr. DeMichele consult on and what are his qualifications? We wish we could tell you but, though we have tried numerous times, BFPD#1 refuses to tell us and a review of the invoices that DeMichele sends to the district doesn't give us any indication as they appear to be written by a child with a crayon or marker. Below is a picture of one of DeMichele's monthly "invoices":



Yes folks, that is what we taxpayers pay for monthly to a "consultant" with questionable qualifications at best. But the mismanagement and resulting questions don't stop there. BFPD#1 pays thousands to the law firm of Bond, Dickson and Associates to take care of business that the paid board members and the "consultant" should be doing themselves. They also pay thousands to individuals to take care of their website, their reports, their basic accounting, filings and more. They pay all this money to themselves and associates and yet they don't do any actual fire or emergency services. Not surprisingly it seems they don't do anything themselves. Are you asking yourself how this is possible? Well here, in its simplest form, is what happens. BFPD#1 collects our taxes, they skim some of the money off the top to pay themselves and others and then they contract with Bensenville Fire Protection District #2 and the Elmhurst Fire Department to do the actual firefighting and emergency services. The funny thing about this is that we have been told that they seldom pay all of the money owed to those departments for the services rendered despite having more than enough money to do so. This has put a strain on those departments which is a subject for another day.

So after reading the above public notice in which BFPD#1 asks for a 52.4% increase in taxes over the previous year you are probably asking what they need the money for. It's pretty clear in the notice that they don't have any increase in major costs so what could it be? Well we, the **White Pines Community Alliance**, did some research. What we found was that they were asked that question in a public meeting back in September of 2019. Attorney Pat Bond answered that question by stating that "We had to levy to the max to get any new construction". What? They have no station and no equipment or firemen to put in a station so what construction are they doing? And in reality, what could they possibly build for an additional \$127,000 in taxes? We have reviewed their meeting minutes for the past year and there is no indication that a construction

project was ever contemplated or discussed. Are they just padding their pockets a bit more on the taxpayer's dime??

Trust us when we say that there is so much more to this story. We have found evidence of unaudited books, unreported income to service providers, cronyism, nepotism, undocumented "expenses" paid to board members and the list goes on and on. We will be reporting on these in a later email. Currently we are filing a review with the Illinois Attorney General Public Access Counselor for BFPD#1's refusal to provide all the documents requested in two of our recent FOIA's sent to them. You must ask yourself, why would a public government entity that is nothing more than a paper fire district not want to provide the public with documents? Hmmmm. Maybe we should also be asking the Addison Township board some hard questions since they are the ones who appoint BFPD#1's board and have the ultimate responsibility for their actions.

We strongly suggest that unincorporated homeowners come up with questions or comments and present them at BFPD#1's September 16th public meeting. This mismanagement has got to stop!

--

Your White Pines Community Alliance

Chris Balog, Jim Brill, Marianne Faraone, Kelly Novello, Mark Shawaluk, Tony Saldana, Jim Novello and Debbie Brill.

From: My White Pines <mywhitepines@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2020 5:48 PM
Subject: IMAGES!
Attachments: BFPD#1 Tax Hike (2).jpg; DeMichele invoice.jpg

--

Your **White Pines Community Alliance**

Chris Balog, Jim Brill, Marianne Faraone, Kelly Novello, Mark Shawaluk, Tony Saldana, Jim Novello and Debbie Brill.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX INCREASE FOR THE BENSENVILLE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO.1

A Public Hearing to approve a proposed property Tax levy increase for the Bensenville Fire Protection District No. 1 for 2020 will be held on September 16, 2020 at 6:45 p.m. at the Bensenville Park District 1000 W. Wood Street, Bensenville, Illinois. Any person desiring appear at the Public Hearing and present testimony to the District may contact George Jeffries, Treasurer, P.O. Box 75, Bensenville, IL 60106, (630) 595-1909. The corporate and special purpose property taxes extended for 2019 were \$242,905.00. The proposed corporate and special purpose property taxes to be levied for 2020 are \$370,336.00. This represents 52.4% increase over the previous year. The property taxes extended for debt service and public building commission leases for 2019 were \$0 (Zero). The estimated property taxes to be levied for debt service and public building commission leases for 2020 are \$0 (Zero). This represents no change over the previous year. The total taxes for 2019 were \$242,905.00. The estimated total property taxes to be levied for 2020 are \$370,336.00.

Published by Order of the
Board of Trustees of Said
District. (Published in the
Bensenville Independent)

(Published in the Elmhurst Independent, Addison Independent,
Bensenville Independent & Villa Park Review Sept. 3, 2020)

Bensenville Fire Protection Dist. 1
P. O. Box 225
Bensenville, IL 60106

TO BILL YOU FOR 250
JULY 20 20 SERVICE

PAUL DE MICHELE
17W275 RODECK LN.
BENSENVILLE, IL 60106
PH 630-279-6528
FAX 630-834-7536

From: My White Pines <mywhitepines@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2020 10:53 AM
Subject: Lost Owner!
Attachments: 20200915_103947.jpg

Dear Neighbors,

Yes, once again we have a pup looking for its lost owner. It appears to be a black lab and has been seen in the vicinity of Red Oak and Briar for several days now. Please see the attached picture. If you recognize the pup or know its owner please give us a call at 847-957-8004 or email us at MyWhitePines@gmail.com.

--

Your **White Pines Community Alliance**

Chris Balog, Jim Brill, Marianne Faraone, Kelly Novello, Mark Shawaluk, Tony Saldana, Jim Novello and Debbie Brill.



From: My White Pines <mywhitepines@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2020 12:18 PM
Subject: The Sky is Falling . . . again!

Dear Neighbors,

No the sky isn't falling! It is just Paul DeMichele once again NOT doing his homework before placing a poorly written "Newsletter" in your mailboxes. Or maybe it was intentional that he didn't give you all the facts. Hmmm, that sounds more like it. You see DeMichele made it sound like the Village of Bensenville came up with some new ordinance stating that the Village has a right to lien your property for unpaid water bills. The fact is the Village already had the right for a lien to be placed upon a property for unpaid water bills for many years now. The ordinance DeMichele cited merely clarified some wording of an ordinance already in effect.

It is common practice for cities, towns and villages to have ordinances giving them the ability to place liens on properties for unpaid debts to them. It really is no different than the County having the right to place a lien on your property for unpaid property taxes, or a contractor being able to place a Mechanics Lien on a property for his unpaid services, or a utility placing a lien on a property for unpaid bills, or a mortgage company being able to place a lien on your home for delinquent payments, and the big daddy of them all . . . a Federal Tax Lien placed on your property for unpaid income taxes and fines. All of these entities have the same right that the Village has had for unpaid monies owed to it. In fact, the Illinois Municipal League provides all city, town and village attorneys a how-to-guide titled "Municipal Liens: Procedures for filing, Perfecting, and Collecting". Additionally, the State of Illinois has a statute on the books, 65 ILCS 5/11-139-8, that specifically states "*Water and sewer rates are liens upon real estate they serve*".

A lien placed on your property for an unpaid water bill isn't going to automatically result in you losing your home. There are specific procedures a municipality has to follow and the courts have allowed for reasonable amounts of time for a debt to be paid. Typically a city, town or village is just guaranteeing that a debt will be paid should the property owner put the home up for sale as all liens would need to be paid upon the transfer to a new owner. Now that is not to say that if your bills are long overdue and you owe thousands of dollars the village wouldn't step up their actions against you. Hopefully at that point you would seek out a reputable debt advocate.

So no one should be putting on their helmets, hiding under a bed or running to the storm cellar because, once again, Chicken Little, our Pct. 13 Committeeman, just can't get it right.

--

Your White Pines Community Alliance

Chris Balog, Jim Brill, Marianne Faraone, Kelly Novello, Mark Shawaluk, Tony Saldana, Jim Novello and Debbie Brill.

From: My White Pines <mywhitepines@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2020 10:45 AM
Subject: Wow, Just Wow!
Attachments: smiley facepalm.gif

Dear Neighbors,

A couple of our group attended the Bensenville Fire Protection District #1 (BFPD1) public meeting last night and we are speechless . . . no, we are obviously never speechless. This is the meeting where BFPD1 gave notice that they were seeking a 52% increase in the taxes they receive from residents in their boundaries. Yes, that district that has no fire equipment, no fireman, no firehouse, no office and no phone. Yes, that district that also refuses to provide the public with a complete set of financial documents requested by our FOIAs. We, the **White Pines Community Alliance**, currently have a FOIA review request before the Illinois Attorney General's PAC officer asking that BFPD1 be required to provide the requested documents.

So what did we observe at the meeting that lasted a little over a half hour: well to start off, they had to educate one of its three board members what the tax increase request was all about. Yes folks, notice of this requested tax increase was published a month ago and one of the three BFPD1 board members didn't know the specifics of what he was voting on! But lo and behold, he still voted yes for the tax increase. One of the three board members did vote no but the tax increase still passed 2 to 1.

So what other important issues were on the agenda of a meeting that they were paying their attorney hundreds of dollars per hour to attend including his drive time to and from the meeting? Well, one was whether they should have to pay for new address signs to replace the BFPD1 provided ones for those 8 residents that have already annexed to the village and are requesting new ones because the post office changed their address. The new signs are only \$60 each but all three board members voted not to pay for them despite the fact that the address change was not the homeowner's choice and the properties are still within BFPD1's boundaries and covered by them! Unbelievable, they pay an attorney hundreds of dollars per hour to attend their farce of a meeting and also pay an unqualified "consultant" \$250 per month to do who knows what, because he won't give a detailed invoice, and yet they won't pay to replace a \$60 address sign of a few residents in their district.

And then we got to witness an argument between the three board members as to who is the "president" of the board. This went on for several minutes until they decided to table the issue pending a conference with Addison Township Officials. This was definitely a facepalm moment for us.

So that was the extent of BFPD1's meeting. A meeting that lasted just a bit more than 30 minutes and in which they undoubtedly paid their unusually quiet attorney several hundred dollars to be there. Previous bills from their attorney for attending similar meetings were between \$400 and \$500. Hopefully some ambitious politician with a true concern for residents within their district will put an end to this nonsense.

Any finally, guess who didn't attend this meeting where BFPD1 passed a resolution to request a 52% increase in its base tax rate to White Pine residents . . . yep, not one member of the so called "civic association".

--

Your **White Pines Community Alliance**

Chris Balog, Jim Brill, Marianne Faraone, Kelly Novello, Mark Shawaluk, Tony Saldana, Jim Novello and Debbie Brill.



From: My White Pines <mywhitepines@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 19, 2020 7:16 PM
Subject: The Crazy Train!

Dear Neighbors,

Stephen King once wrote; *"There has never been a shortage of fools in the world"*. In this instance that quote couldn't be truer. You see the "civic association" and its self-appointed president, Gina Mellenthin, recently put out an "URGENT" notice to attend a rally next week at a residence on Ridgewood Ave. This "civic association" intends to hold a rally at the home of one of our very senior residents during a nationwide pandemic in which such seniors are the most vulnerable! We assume that they are simply using this resident as a prop to bolster their ridiculous agenda. Now, not only is this incredibly stupid on its face but this planned rally is actually based on misinformation and outright lies.

In this urgent notice the civic association stated that they are being told that "If we do not accept the conditions set by Bensenville President, Frank DeSimone, he will come after our homes with foreclosure". Folks, hopefully by now you have realized that we, the **White Pines Community Alliance**, follow every move made by associations, villages, politicians and the like that would affect our community. We report the facts, not propaganda BS, not hyperbole, not rumors and definitely not falsehoods. DeSimone NEVER said he would be coming after our homes with foreclosure if we do not accept the conditions of the village. The simple fact is that the village made some straightforward changes to the wording of an ordinance that already existed to make that ordinance more understandable to anyone who reads it. They did not just make up some new law out of thin air. As we stated in a previous email, the Illinois legislature gave all municipalities the right to lien properties for unpaid debts. If the debts are large enough the legislature also granted the municipalities the right to foreclose on a property. Our research produced not one single case where a municipality foreclosed on a resident's home for a water bill that was 45 days late, 60 days late, 90 days late or even 120 days late. Foreclosures do not happen overnight as there are very specific procedures that must be followed by a municipality and often taking such legal action is cost prohibitive for a couple hundred dollar water bill.

Lastly, this "civic association" reportedly invited a U.S. Senate Candidate to their urgent rally. We have contacted this candidate and requested that he not attend as this "civic association" does not represent the whole of our community. Any reasonably minded individual should also stay away from this event so as not to come into contact with the idiot gene.

--

Your **White Pines Community Alliance**

Chris Balog, Jim Brill, Marianne Faraone, Kelly Novello, Mark Shawaluk, Tony Saldana, Jim Novello and Debbie Brill.

From: My White Pines <mywhitepines@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2020 4:23 PM
Subject: Project Update!

Dear Neighbors,

Checking on the Bensenville website under the White Pines Water Main Replacement Portal, at <https://www.bensenville.il.us/984/Documents-Agreements>, we can see that both the IEPA Water Main Loan and the IEPA Lead Service Loan have both been approved by the state and signed by the Village President. Given this information our residents can anticipate that construction will begin very shortly. Where in our subdivision the first shovel will hit the ground hasn't been revealed yet but as soon as we find out we will let everyone know.

As we have discussed before, our residents can expect some traffic disruptions and street blockages as well as some undermining of yards for those people who gave the village permission to install new lead free service lines to their homes. If you haven't signed and provided your temporary construction easement to the Village for a new service line now would be the time to talk to them to see if you can still do it. A template of the temporary construction easement can also be viewed on the Bensenville White Pines Water Main Replacement Portal.

Whether you are for or against this project planning ahead will keep the headaches to a minimum.

--

Your White Pines Community Alliance

Chris Balog, Jim Brill, Marianne Faraone, Kelly Novello, Mark Shawaluk, Tony Saldana, Jim Novello and Debbie Brill.

From: My White Pines <mywhitepines@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2020 2:23 PM
Subject: The Crazy Train Just Derailed!

Dear Neighbors,

So the self appointed president of the “civic association”, Gina Mellenthin, has either sunk to a new low or has lost her mind. Either one may likely fit the bill. You see she seems to have organized her little rally this weekend with the help of Chicago resident and self proclaimed Democratic activist Frank Coconate. For those unfamiliar with Coconate he is a political gadfly. The 62 year old Coconate is another politically failed associate of Mellenthin. By now we all know who the other one is . . . cough cough, DeMichele, cough cough. Coconate has run for four Democratic positions and lost four times. He once had his nominating petitions declared invalid by the Cook County Board of Elections, hmmm. He is a friend and past backer of Jesse Jackson Jr’s and Willie Wilson’s political adventures. He has been fired from the City of Chicago for loafing on the job. He was let go from his Bensenville job, though his MyLife page still says he works there . . . yes folks, his “MyLife” page! He is a pathetic liar, an insistent self-entitled whiner and serial lawsuit filer who has been sued himself for defamation. And finally, he basks in the glory of being a friend of convicted mobster Frank Calabrese and his family. Now that’s something to put on your resume. Coconate is nothing more than a self aggrandizing attention seeker.

What is truly ironic about Mellenthin working with this democratic nitwit activist who has openly criticized GOP politicians in the past is that they have invited a Republican US Senate candidate to their little rally. Either he doesn’t know what he is about to walk into or he is really desperate for votes. Either way you would think that any Republican politician currently serving and backing this US Senate candidate would ask him “what are you thinking?”.

Lastly, we must also give a shout out to Andrea Caragher who has once again posted nasty things on Facebook about the White Pines Community Alliance. We, as well as many of her neighbors, are elated to see that she is trying to sell her house. Maybe now our home values will go up.

Below is a repost of our Sept 21st email titled “*Crazy Train*” as just a reminder:

Dear Neighbors,

Stephen King once wrote; “There has never been a shortage of fools in the world”. In this instance that quote couldn’t be truer. You see the “civic association” and its self-appointed president, Gina Mellenthin, recently put out an “URGENT” notice to attend a rally next week at a residence on Ridgewood Ave. This “civic

association” intends to hold a rally at the home of one of our very senior residents during a nationwide pandemic in which such seniors are the most vulnerable! We assume that they are simply using this resident as a prop to bolster their ridiculous agenda. Now, not only is this incredibly stupid on its face but this planned rally is actually based on misinformation and outright lies.

In this urgent notice the civic association stated that they are being told that “If we do not accept the conditions set by Bensenville President, Frank DeSimone, he will come after our homes with foreclosure”. Folks, hopefully by now you have realized that we, the White Pines Community Alliance, follow every move made by associations, villages, politicians and the like that would affect our community. We report the facts, not propaganda BS, not hyperbole, not rumors and definitely not falsehoods. DeSimone NEVER said he would be coming after our homes with foreclosure if we do not accept the conditions of the village. The simple fact is that the village made some straightforward changes to the wording of an ordinance that already existed to make that ordinance more understandable to anyone who reads it. They did not just make up some new law out of thin air. As we stated in a previous email, the Illinois legislature gave all municipalities the right to lien properties for unpaid debts. If the debts are large enough the legislature also granted the municipalities the right to foreclose on a property. Our research produced not one single case where a municipality foreclosed on a resident’s home for a water bill that was 45 days late, 60 days late, 90 days late or even 120 days late. Foreclosures do not happen overnight as there are very specific procedures that must be followed by a municipality and often taking such legal action is cost prohibitive for a couple hundred dollar water bill.

Lastly, this “civic association” reportedly invited a U.S. Senate Candidate to their urgent rally. We have contacted this candidate and requested that he not attend as this “civic association” does not represent the whole of our community. Any reasonably minded individual should also stay away from this event so as not to come into contact with the idiot gene.

--

Your White Pines Community Alliance

Chris Balog, Jim Brill, Marianne Faraone, Kelly Novello, Mark Shawaluk, Tony Saldana, Jim Novello and Debbie Brill.

From: My White Pines <mywhitepines@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2020 2:56 PM
Subject: Liar, Liar, Pants on Fire!

Dear White Pines Residents

This is a personal email written by me and not the White Pines Community Alliance as a whole. Some of my friends and neighbors have sent me screenshots of facebook posts reportedly written by Gina Mellenthin's new best friend and cohort Frank Coconate. As you probably gathered from the White Pines Community Alliance's most recent email, Coconate is nothing but a weasel and attention whore. And like any other such person he loves to stir up controversy by distributing BS and outright lies.

So Coconate has posted that I am a Chicago cop and that I have been working with Village President Frank DeSimone to extort and push out the seniors of our subdivision in exchange for a high position on the Village Police Department when I retire. He went as far as to call out Chicago Police Superintendent Brown asking why a Chicago cop was living in the suburbs when his department has a residency requirement. But like many of Mellenthin's henchman, who hang around her like flies on sh*t, he didn't do his homework and decided to throw that crap against the wall to see what sticks, but low and behold, none of it did.

You see, I was a Chicago Police Officer who proudly served for 22 years. But what Coconate failed to find out was that I retired eight months ago and started living full time at our home in White Pines instead of the home we have in Chicago. He could have probably determined this by asking any of the residents that attended my wonderful retirement party. I'm sorry; I guess Mellenthin's invitation got lost in the mail. Regardless, I was never offered any position of any kind with the Village of Bensenville. And a position with the Village Police Department is almost laughable as I would never want to be a police officer again in this current national and political climate. Besides, I really don't need another job as I receive a decent pension and am currently running two semi successful businesses. If you're a follower of Coconate why don't you ask him or Mellenthin where they got this misinformation? Try not to laugh at the stupid look on their face. And why in the world would I want to extort and push out the seniors in our subdivision when my wife and I will also officially qualify as seniors in just a few short months?

Speaking of followers, it appears a Thomas Rowley is a disciple of Coconate as he likes to post comments to Coconate's Facebook page asking similar stupid uninformed questions. He asks how I can be Chairman of a White Pines Association when I don't pay taxes at this location? Ummm, first, both my wife's name and mine are on our house and we do pay taxes. This could have been easily verified by looking at the DuPage County GIS map, but that was probably too complicated for him. Second, I am not the Chairman of any association. I am a member of the White Pines Community Alliance but we do not have titles in our group. We are all on equal footing and no one has self appointed themselves as Chairman or President as a certain "civic association" member has.

The ignorance of the contemptible individuals Mellenthin has brought on to fight her losing battles is astounding and sad. From her attorney who lost all four times in court to her wretched gal pal Andrea and now these professional idiots. Hopefully now our residents can see why members of our group walked away from her years ago.

I will give Coconate one bit of praise; he did post one of my better Googled pictures . ☺

Enjoy your weekend,

Jim Brill

From: My White Pines <mywhitepines@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2020 10:41 PM
Subject: A Response!

Dear Neighbors,

So we received a response to our last emails from Coconate himself. In his response he shows us just how uninformed he really is about an issue he is going to rally against. Coconate now says that the rally isn't about DeSimone or Brill but about keeping the "neighborhood free from Bensenville's code Nazis". That is strange since he went on and on about those individuals in his Facebook post. Maybe he realized he was getting very close to being hit with another defamation lawsuit, but that possibility isn't off the table.

It is clear Coconate obviously doesn't know that the Village has put in writing that those homeowners who annex will still follow County codes for the next twenty years. Additionally, he doesn't know that the county regularly asks the Village if they have a problem with a code variance when a White Pines homeowner asks for one. We have not found one instance where the Village has disagreed with a White Pines resident's request for a code variance.

Just food for thought.

--

Your **White Pines Community Alliance**

Chris Balog, Jim Brill, Marianne Faraone, Kelly Novello, Mark Shawaluk, Tony Saldana, Jim Novello and Debbie Brill.

From: My White Pines <mywhitepines@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 27, 2020 8:54 PM
To: Frank DeSimone; Evan Summers
Cc: My White Pines
Subject: Fwd: Recording
Attachments: Rally 9-27.m4a

Thank you,

Your White Pines Community Alliance

Chris Balog, Jim Brill, Marianne Faraone, Kelly Novello, Mark Shawaluk, Tony Saldana, Jim Novello and Debbie Brill.

Begin forwarded message:

From: Marge Ricke <margericke@gmail.com>
Date: September 27, 2020 at 3:53:18 PM CDT
To: JimWPCA@gmail.com
Subject: Recording

My granddaughter recorded the meeting. Not sure how well it came out.

From: My White Pines <mywhitepines@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 2, 2020 11:59 AM
Subject: Rally, What Rally?

Dear Neighbors,

We weren't going to bring up last Sunday's "civic association's" rally as we felt that we would be beating a dead horse. Besides that, we thought the organizers of the rally were probably feeling bad enough that only a few dozen people showed up representing about 8 – 10 houses in our subdivision of 280+ properties. But so many of our residents have asked if we knew what happened at the rally we thought it was our obligation to keep everyone informed. As such, we have reviewed a couple videos and an audio of the rally and would like to point out the following:

- Yes the organizers of the rally did in fact use one of our very senior residents, in front of whose house the rally was held, as a prop. Pointing the camera towards her several times as she sat stoically on her walkway.
- They brought in senate candidate Mark Curran to speak at the rally but it was very obvious he was only there to campaign and knew virtually nothing about the issue he was there for. At one point he can be heard saying "I was told the Daily Herald would be here, but they're not" and seemed dejected that they didn't show up to capture all his pie in the sky promises that he made to the few people that were there . . . assuming he gets elected.
- To prove that Curran didn't know what the water issue at hand was, he brought to the rally a woman who once lived in Crestwood whose family she says got cancer from Crestwood's 40 year old contaminated water system. Now we have to ask; why in the world would you bring a cancer victim of an old contaminated water system to a rally and have her speak where you are fighting a plan to have a new safe and clean water system installed? Weird to say the least.
- Something else is a bit strange, Curran posted a video and pictures on Facebook of a rally he was at later that day in Kane County but not one short video or picture of the rally he attended in White Pines. Maybe because the Kane County rally was much bigger or maybe because he realized the people at Mellenthin's rally weren't the type he wanted to be associated with.
- It still baffles us why Mellenthin has to bring in outsiders to fight her losing battles. Speakers at the rally; Mark Curran (non-resident), Frank Coconate (non-resident), Paul DeMichele (non-resident), Raul Montes (non-resident) and the woman from Crestwood (non-resident). We know Mellenthin has lost almost all of her support base in the subdivision but does she really think outsiders care about her views or the subdivision's issues?
- We found it funny that Andrea Caragher, who's house is up for sale because she is moving to an another suburb, was there at the rally supporting people who insist on staying unincorporated yet the suburb she is moving to isn't on the list of unincorporated communities in Illinois. Hmmm.

- Mellenthin once again can be heard telling people at the rally that Bensenville used a grant that she got over two decades ago. We have asked Mellenthin before to show us the grant request and application that was written for that money so that we can determine if she is telling the truth. To this date she has not provided it yet she keeps demanding a “forensic” audit of the Village finances for an administration that is long gone. And how many times have we told you that Mellenthin and the “civic association” was not telling our residents the full truth about the need for a new water system and the monies required to pick a provider other than Bensenville? There always seemed to be those sceptics that didn’t believe us. Well listen to the recording at this link; <https://www.dropbox.com/s/vh5ducejia9y5a1/water%20meeting.MP3?dl=0> and you will not believe what you’re hearing. The recording is very long but well worth listening to. You can skip the first few minutes of muffled sound to get to the meat of it. It is a recording of a private meeting between Mellenthin and DuPage County officials a couple years ago. We have made a copy of it here if you can’t open the original link or if it mysteriously disappears; <https://www.dropbox.com/home?preview=water+meeting.MP3> In this meeting, which was supposedly secretly recorded by Mellenthin, you will hear County officials tell Mellenthin that the best and most fiscally reasonable option the White Pines residents have for their water system is Bensenville. This is for several reasons but specifically because any other option would cost the residents an additional four to five million dollars more than the offer put on the table by the Village. County officials will also tell Mellenthin, as the Judge did in one of her lawsuits against the Village, that she has absolutely no authority to represent the whole of the community. In fact, County Board member and attorney Sam Tornatore tells Mellenthin that she is putting herself in a precarious legal position by claiming she represents the whole community. Nick Kottmeyer, County Director of Public Works and Operations, also tells Mellenthin that there isn’t any money available for grants at either the State or County level and that they highly doubt that there is any money left over from projects in other suburbs like she insists there are. (Update: The leftover money Mellenthin stated was setting out there to be used was never found by county officials) They will go on to tell Mellenthin that if she is dead set on moving forward with a plan to eliminate Bensenville as the subdivision’s water provider that she is going to need two things: become a legal entity such as a homeowners association and get 50%+1 of the homeowners to agree to a plan that will cost them approximately four million dollars more than that offered by Bensenville. They even offered to help her write the petition necessary for her to do that, but they also told her that it would probably be political and social suicide for themselves and her to push a plan which cost that much more than the Village’s.

We would also like to ask Mellenthin a further question about that grant she says she obtained that the Village supposedly took two decades ago; weren’t you a member of the “civic association” at that time and if so why didn’t you complain about it then. Could it be that you didn’t want to rock the boat because you were looking for some quid pro quo? Isn’t that also why you donated money to and worked on making posters for DeSimone’s Village President campaign and now are angry that it didn’t get you the results you wanted. We know of another “civic association” associate who also worked the campaign for the same reason but also turned up empty handed. Good to know the Village President didn’t buy into their pay-to-play game.

- We find it hilarious yet again that “civic association” member Gary Gardner was seen on the video complaining about money taken from a fund THAT HE HAS NEVER CONTRIBUTED TO because he once told us that he gets his water from a well he shares with his neighbor, which by the way we believe is in violation of county codes.
- Lastly, we can also hear someone saying in the audio that people are getting backdoor deals. We assume that they were talking about us, members of the **White Pines Community Alliance**. You have to love people who open their mouth without any evidence of the BS that they regurgitate. We ask the “civic association” or

any of their lemmings to publicly show our residents what evidence they have of backdoor dealings. There is none because there are none! Mellenthin and DeMichele have sent numerous FOIA requests to the Village looking for evidence of collusion between the White Pines Community Alliance and Village officials and always came up with nothing!

Folks, we would like to reiterate that the **White Pines Community Alliance** broke away from Mellenthin and her "civic association" for the sole reason that we wanted the residents of our community to know the truth, good or bad, about anything that goes on in our community. We simply couldn't trust those remaining individuals on the "civic association" to give you as residents and homeowners all the facts as we personally know them to withhold information. Bensenville does not write our emails and has absolutely no input into our emails. We have a group of dedicated people with good research skills and long memories. We don't need outside individuals or senate candidates to hold our hand to cross the information street and point us in the right direction.

Stay Safe,

Your **White Pines Community Alliance**

Chris Balog, Jim Brill, Marianne Faraone, Kelly Novello, Mark Shawaluk, Tony Saldana, Jim Novello and Debbie Brill.