

Library to host fifth annual hot dog roast

by ERIKA CARLSON
Intern

Hot dogs, Italian sausage and condiments are making their way to the Orchard Park Public Library for Legislator John Mills' fifth annual Orchard Park Hot Dog Roast.

When he first became minority leader in 2007, Mills decided to host these fundraisers for each of the libraries in the five towns he represented.

"Minority and majority leaders in the Legislature get a stipend of \$5,000. I said to myself, that's kind of outrageous," said Mills.

"I wanted to find some way of using that \$5,000 without returning it back to the Legislature."

Mills said he thought of selling hot dogs to raise money because of his work in the food distributing business at his company, J. Mills Distributing.

Using his stipend money, Mills supplies the hot dogs, Italian sausage, buns, condiments and bottled water for each of the five events every year.

"We sell it for \$1 for the bottle of water and a hot dog and \$2 for the Italian sausage and a bottle of water, and all the proceeds we take in go directly to the library that we're doing the hot dog roast at," Mills said.



Legislator John Mills hands out a hot dog last year at the annual Hot Dog Roast, a fundraiser he began doing for libraries five years ago. This year's will be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, Aug. 19, at the Orchard Park Public Library, 4750 South Buffalo St., Orchard Park.

Joe Sahlens of Sahlens Packing Company Inc. helps every year by providing mobile grills and tents for each event. Mills and other elected officials help cook and sell the food.

"What's nice is that the elected officials, whether they be Democrats or Republicans, come out and help cook hot dogs with us, so we get the community

involved," Mills said.

During the last five years, Mills has raised a total of almost \$20,000 for the five libraries in his district.

"The money goes back to the libraries, and that's where it should be," Mills said.

Dawn Peters, director of the library, said the fundraiser has significantly helped the library

during the last five years.

"On behalf of the trustees and staff, we are very grateful that Legislator Mills takes time out of his busy schedule to help raise funds for the library. That means a lot to us, and we're very appreciative of that," Peters said.

The money that is raised is used in various ways to help improve the library. Peters said the library has yet to allocate the money that will be raised this year.

"We are under some renovations right now, and it may either be applied to replacement furniture or some shelving," Peters said.

"In the past with the donations we've received, we've purchased books for the collection, put it towards furniture for inside the library, and purchased shelving. We've used it for things that we need, minor things that we don't otherwise have in our budget."

Along with providing the food, Mills works with a librarian from each library to bring entertainment and activities to the library.

"There are a variety of different things that libraries do, including book sales, that bring people to the library, so we can sell more hot dogs and Italian sausage," Mills said.

This year, local musician Glenn

Colton will be performing at 12:30 p.m. outside the library.

Colton is an energetic, kid-friendly performer who uses his songs to teach children about making good, healthy choices.

Mills said the fundraiser is quite popular with the residents in each community, and attendance has increased yearly.

"They look forward to it every year," Mills said. "They're really happy to see us here, and it's a good way to raise money for the libraries in my district, especially since the libraries are very popular."

The towns that Mills represents are located in rural areas, so libraries are very important to the community, according to the legislator.

"Not only do the libraries provide books and magazines, but also a computer that can be used by senior citizens, young children, really people of all ages that may not be able to access a computer at home," Mills said.

"So it's really kind of a hub of activity for the residents of those communities."

The Orchard Park Hot Dog Roast will be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, Aug. 19, at the Orchard Park Public Library, 4750 South Buffalo St., Orchard Park.

Village looking to 'put the brakes on the noise'

by NAOMI SPENCER
Editor

When truck drivers pass through the Village of Orchard Park, they slow to its speed limit, often using their "Jake brakes."

The name commonly refers to a type of brake — a compression release engine brake — installed in some diesel engines.

They're not quiet.

Members of the Village Board are considering outlawing the use of Jake brakes in the village, preventing what some describe as a loud "rumble" or even a "chattering" or "machine gun" noise.

"Especially in the summertime with the windows open, it's disturbing for people late at night or in the wee hours of the morning," said Mayor John Wilson at the

board meeting on Monday.

The noise is especially bad in the eastern portion of the village, said Wilson, on the east/west corridor of Route 20A, as trucks approach the village.

If the law is passed, it will be in effect for the whole village.

Many communities in the United States have already created such local laws, posting signs around the municipalities warning truck drivers.

"Hopefully we'll put the brakes on the noise," said Wilson.

The board scheduled a public hearing, where residents may give their opinions on the proposed law, for 8 p.m. Monday, Sept. 12, in the courtroom at the Municipal Center, 4295 S. Buffalo St.

email: nspencer@beenews.com

Freeman Road might see large water-retention area

by NAOMI SPENCER
Editor

A roughly 30-acre retention area might be created next year on the east side of Freeman Road just outside the village, to hold storm water runoff.

At the Village Board meeting Monday night, Mayor John Wilson reported the efforts of developer Dominic Piestrak to create such an area. If created, it would benefit the residents downstream from Smokes Creek who are affected by the flooding.

It would be created alongside Birdsong Parklands, an extension of it, and would be donated by Piestrak to the town, said Town Engineer Wayne Bieler.

"It would temporarily flood some wetlands," said Wilson, "and then over the course of a day or so would allow the water normally coming down the creek at a great rate to come down slower as it discharged from this detention area."

The area has been plagued by flooding issues, and officials hope this would alleviate them.

A number of Westview Place residents — the

ones who have been affected by the flooding — met recently with Piestrak, who answered their questions about the proposed lake project.

"They presented things in a very informative way, without getting bogged down in the technicalities," said Wilson. "They did it in a way that people could understand what was to be done for the village residents."

Piestrak is working with a number of agencies right now to get approval for the project, among them the state Department of Environmental Conservation and the town's Planning Board.

The start date for the project — if approved — would possibly be as soon as next summer.

Wilson seemed impressed by the work that Piestrak has done so far in proposing the project.

"It seems as if he's done his homework."

The Village Board has canceled its regular second meeting for the month of August.

Its next regular meeting will be held at 8 p.m. Monday, Sept. 12, in the courtroom of the Municipal Center, 4295 S. Buffalo St.

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