

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VILLAGE OF CAMPTON HILLS CELEBRATES ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY

April 17, 2008 marks a big milestone for the Village of Campton Hills, which is celebrating its one-year anniversary. "Creating a new municipality from the ground up is no easy task," said Village President Patsy Smith. In light of that, Smith and six Village Trustees, all appointed, created and now manage a municipality covering approximately 20 square miles with 10,504 residents, according to the 2000 Census.

On May 6th, three new elected trustees and a new village clerk will be sworn in at the Board meeting. Sue George and Laura Andersen, both residents of Fox Mill and John Strauss of Deer Creek, will replace outgoing Trustees, Bern Bertsche, Charles Cappell and Roy Pollack. "My sincere gratitude and thanks go to our outgoing trustees and clerk, who I have enjoyed working with in this formative year," said President Smith. "I invite all residents of the Village to join us on May 6th at 6:30p.m. for the Committee of the Whole Meeting or at 7:30p.m. for the Regular Village Board meeting to welcome in our new board. At the end of the Regular meeting, the new officers will be sworn in," Smith said.

One of the first major tasks after incorporation was to establish the Campton Hills Police Department. Smith, with board approval, hired an experienced officer as Police Chief, three full-time officers and six part-time officers. The fully functional department now handles all police related matters, offering Village residents 24-hour police protection, all at no additional cost to residents. "I think we have built an excellent department that offers a full complement of police services, staffed by highly experienced officers," Campton Hills Police Chief Greg Anderson said.

Another significant accomplishment, the Village enacted a Comprehensive Land Use Plan. This plan serves as a guide for how the Village will and can be developed. "The Plan is a living document, which will serve the Village in the future and is intended to be flexible, not static. A major purpose for incorporating the Village was to give residents a voice in the way our area is developed. In choosing incorporation, residents expressed their desire to participate in the development decisions of our community, work to preserve their semi-rural way of life, and help school districts better cope with the impact of new students generated from new developments. The community recognizes that the County cannot protect those in unincorporated areas against the negative impacts of annexation and rezoning by other municipalities," said Stan Walczynski, Chairman of the Village Plan Commission.

One of the most important ordinances passed by the founding board members that benefits not only Campton Hills residents, but all taxpayers in the three school districts in

Campton Hills, is the Land/Cash Ordinance that collects impact fees from new development for schools and parks. Jim Kopec, Village Trustee said, "This ordinance puts less of the burden of new development on the taxpayers by requiring area developers to contribute more than the county requires so taxpayers are not forced to subsidize as much of the impact of new development. The Land/Cash ordinance requires developers to donate land to the school district or pay a cash donation in lieu of donated land. Keeping our taxes low was one of our first priorities and this ordinance helps do just that."

This summer the Village has plans to host a weekly farmers market on Saturday mornings just as they did last summer during the first year of incorporation. A weekly "cruise" night is also scheduled to take place on Friday nights beginning May 2nd at the Campton Crossings Shopping Center on the east side of LaFox Rd. "Many of our residents own classic vehicles and cruise nights are fun for the whole family. Kids and grown-ups alike can see some really great old cars and trucks and enjoy the services of our many fine restaurants in our Village," said Smith. The Community Relations Committee is also work on the 2nd annual Heritage Farm Fest scheduled for September 6th.

Year two brings new challenges for the Village Board and lots of hard work is ahead as we respond to the various disconnection cases that have recently been filed and appeal the five disconnection rulings. It is important for residents to know that we will continue to work hard to be fiscally responsible and that they should not fear an increase in property taxes because of these disconnection cases. Because of the tax cap law, the Village cannot establish a municipal property tax without approval by the voters

We invite all residents to attend the Board meetings to see how municipal government works. Please come and share your ideas and concerns, and also consider volunteering for a Citizens Advisory Committee. Village Board meetings are normally held on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month. For more information on the Village and a schedule of all meetings, you can visit the Village web site at www.villageofcamptonhills.org.

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