

# **Germantown Hills Village 2017 Year End Report**

## **Report on the Progress of our 6 Village Goals**

On behalf of the Village Board, we have continued to invest in our commitment to make Germantown Hills a great place to live, work, and play. The purpose of this communication is to provide a summary of our Village goals, key activities, and results in 2017.

1. **Safety & Quality of Life** – There are several key reasons people choose to live in Germantown Hills. Our community is safe, quiet, provides excellent schools, and offers a high quality of life.

**Emergency Operations Plan** – We completed our first comprehensive Emergency Operations Plan in 2017. An ESDA Committee was formed that includes members from around the community and county who work together to ensure our Village is prepared and ready for an emergency. This year we were invited to be one of 14 communities that will be developing a Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan with the Tri County Regional Planning Commission.

**Police Services** – Our Village contracts police services from Woodford County. We are fortunate to have our primary deputies live in and around Germantown Hills. They are personally committed to making our Village a safe place to live.

**Sidewalks / Pathways** – Over the past several years we have continued to invest in improving safety and accessibility through sidewalks and pathways. This year we completed a walking trail around JR White Park through an IDNR grant. The Village has been awarded over \$650,000 in grants over the last several years.

**GT Hills Library** – Our new library opened in 2017 and we are pleased to work together with the Illinois Prairie District Public Library to provide increased hours of operation, available books, and programs across all age groups. We believe a quality library is an essential part of every thriving community.

**Germantown Hills to Metamora Trail** - Our Village has earned a grant that allows us to begin the planning for a Metamora to Germantown Hills Trail. We view this as an important step in providing a safe, multi-use trail for walkers, bikers, and runners. This will identify the most suitable path and begin the process for cost estimates. With this information we can work on obtaining potential grants for this trail.

2. **Economic Development** – Our Village is committed to economic development, while at the same time maintaining the character of our community.

**Comprehensive Plan** – The Village has steadily executed the 2014 Comprehensive plan as fiscally possible and are committed to continuing this important work.

**Germantown Crossing** is an important area of opportunity for improvement. We have developed a vision of a Village Square where we can come together as a community, host our numerous community events, and work with developers to fill vacancies and grow businesses. We are in the early stages of this vision and have communicated this to dozens of different groups, including our state legislators for their support. In late November, the Village submitted a grant request to the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program to begin phase 1 of our vision. Early in the second quarter, we will know if our grant request has been successful.

3. **Infrastructure Investment**

Our most significant infrastructure commitment remains our sewer system. The ongoing maintenance and development of our sewer system is part of a 20 Year Plan. We are in the process of investing over \$4.5 million that will increase our capacity to balance demand and serve as the foundation for a new housing development on Ten Mile Creek Road.

With the limited funds we receive from Motor Fuel Tax, we diligently prioritize the roads in greatest need of repair. The chip and seal process is our most used road repair process.

4. **Fiscal Responsibility**

The Village has been fiscally responsible and has a healthy positive reserve fund to allow prudent decisions to continually invest in our community. We closely manage our annual budget and utilize our reserve fund to invest in the community. Our annual audit can be viewed on the Village website.

5. **Regional Collaboration**

We view regional collaboration as an important responsibility of our Village Board. Today, over 90% of the people that live in Germantown Hills work outside of our County. The Greater Peoria region provides great career opportunities and its health directly impacts our families and in turn our Village, businesses, and schools.

We feel our voice is important and we are actively represented on the Greater Peoria Economic Development Council, Peoria-Pekin Urban Area Transportation System, and the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission. This provides us the opportunity to work alongside many professionals in the area and learn from them. We have also fostered exceptional working relationships with our State legislators as part of ensuring our community voice is clearly represented.

We recognize the importance of working together with Metamora. Though we are two separate Villages, we are united in sharing the same high school as “Redbirds”. Collectively we share many resources that make both our communities great places to live.

**6. Communication**

In 2018, we will begin more active communication through a variety of channels. We hope to share our Village work and provide additional avenues for people to express their ideas with the Village Board.

On behalf of our entire Village Board and staff, we thank you for the opportunity to serve you and our community. We are committed to continue working toward making our Village a better place to live, work, and play.

Mike Hinrichsen  
Village President  
Germantown Hills, IL