

**Political Update**  
**August 2008**  
**By Nina Albano Vidmer**

In his 7th term as village president, Joseph T. Tamburino is the only mayor in the history of the Village of Hillside who has held office for 20 years or more. Before elected mayor in 1981, he served a four year term as Village Trustee and chairperson of the Finance Committee and the Community Affairs Committee.

Since assuming office, Mayor Tamburino has worked to rid the village of the landfill on Mannheim Road, an eyesore that was established just before he became mayor. The landfill is now closed and will remain dormant. The adjoining property that housed an asphalt business will include a 32-acre retail beginning March 2009, anchored by a Super Target a new Holiday Inn. "What it does is change the whole image of Hillside. When you come up the Eisenhower Expressway you're going to see a nice new development ... a change in the environment that impacts the whole community." Other stores will include a Michaels and Staples. "These retailers give us the opportunity to shop in town and lower our own taxes. Slowly but surely, Hillside has been working to redefining itself," says Tamborino.

Tamborino has also been instrumental in creating many programs for the senior citizens and the youth of the village. With his energy and commitment to Hillside, he was instrumental in putting together community events for the residents such as The Summer Job Program, Summer Camp Program, The Youth Athletic Parade, Project UFO, The Taste of Hillside and the Summer Concerts, and the Hillside Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Through his efforts, he has enhanced the Village growth by forming many committees such as Environmental, Intergovernmental Relations, the Human Relations Committee and the Economic Development Committee. He has been active in developing a beautification plan that continues to enhance The Village of Hillside and he takes an active part in growth of our business community.

Tamborino is a life-long resident of the Hillside-Berkeley area. Tamborino's grandfather, Pasquale, was the superintendent of public works in Berkley, sparking his interest in community service. As a boy, Tamborino takes pride that he worked alongside his father planting flowers in Queen of Heaven Cemetery. He notes that the Bishop's Hill mausoleum took nine years to build, was initially built in Italy, disassembled and brought to Hillside for reassembly.

Tamborino has three grown children and five grandchildren: granddaughters, Jenna and Sophia and grandsons, Nicholas, Massimo and Gianni: married daughter Theresa (Paul) and son Joseph (Shanda) and daughter Maria.

Tamburino was recently honored by the Italian American Political Coalition with the 2008 Paca Award. He is a member of the Broadview-Hillside American Legion Post; Fourth Degree member of Assumption Council, Knights of Columbus; Board of Governors, Elmhurst Hospital; past president and current secretary of the Proviso Municipal League; past president of The West Central Municipal Conference. He is a life-long parishioner of St. Domitilla Church.

Tamborino is an Army veteran, who served a tour of duty in Vietnam during 1969 with the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Brigade of the 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. During his term as mayor, he was very instrumental in bringing the Vietnam Wall to The Village of Hillside. Due to his efforts, Hillside's Veteran Memorial was built and he also created the annual Memorial Day Services and the annual Veterans Day Parade.

Tamborino is a graduate of St. Domitilla Grade School and Proviso West High School. He also attended Triton College and DePaul University.

This column is written by Nina Albano Vidmer, executive director of the Italian American Political Coalition. To submit information, please fax to 708-401-0360 by the first of each month for consideration in the following month's issue.