

## Political Update March 2007

Peter N. Silvestri, 50, was elected to the Cook County Board of Commissioners on November 8, 1994 and is currently serving his fourth term. Silvestri has supported conservative spending and controlled tax policies and actions. He has consistently opposed new taxes, stressing a need to reform practices before imposing additional taxation. The recent reduction in county spending was inevitable, says Silvestri, as the board has deferred cuts in previous years. "Some of the cuts will make it a better and more efficient government." A Republican, Silvestri believes that good government reflects effectiveness and provides service without duplicity, unnecessary contracts or waste. "This isn't rocket science, you either raise revenue, which means taxes, or cut costs. I've been opposed to raising taxes and prefer to make government more efficient."

Silvestri supports greater access to public health, expansion of forest preserves, especially in Chicago and nearby suburbs, and greater cooperation between local and county governments. Silvestri has been recognized by the Cook County Police Memorial Foundation for his work towards building a monument to fallen police officers from throughout the county.

Silvestri serves as chairman of the Zoning and Building Committee and Litigation Subcommittee. He serves as vice-chairman of more committees than any other commissioner, serving on the Contract Compliance, Environmental Control, Provident Hospital, Stroger Hospital, Human Relations, Law Enforcement, Legislation and Intergovernmental Affairs, Building and Forest Preserve Real Estate Committees. He is a member of the Construction, Finance, Public Health, Health and Hospitals, Family Court, Roads and Bridges, Rules, Land Management, Forest Preserve Annexation and Brookfield Zoo Committees.

Silvestri was elected to the newly created ninth district which includes the far northwest side of the City of Chicago, the City of Park Ridge, the Villages of River Forest, Elmwood Park, River Grove, Rosemont, Norridge, Harwood Heights, and portions of Oak Park, Melrose Park, Nilens, Morton Grove, Schiller Park and unincorporated Norwood Park and Maine Townships

Peter N. Silvestri is president of the Village of Elmwood Park, serving since May 1, 1989. During his terms, Silvestri has stressed a progressive agenda with a conservative spending and tax policy. The Village has experienced record high property values, record low crime rates, economic development, new parks, increased recreation, a new pool, public safety center and library.

The village is working with Metra and IDOT in designing an underpass at 7600 west on Grand Ave. Public hearings have yielded several different concept plans, and Silvestri says he appreciates the diligence of everyone involved. A concept plan on Grand Ave. has also been approved, including storefronts with condos condominiums.

Other past service includes being a former village trustee, member and president of the Elmwood Park Board of Education, Elmwood Park Zoning Board, Elmwood Park Civic Foundation, Norwood Park Senior Home Board of Directors, chairman of the St. Vincent Ferrer Religious Education Advisory Board, and past president of the West Central Municipal Conference and Leyden Norwood Park Municipal League. He currently serves as a member of the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, an association of 128 communities.

A graduate of De Paul University and its Law School, Silvestri is a licensed attorney. Silvestri states that his most rewarding role is that of father to his son Christian, 12 years old. The Silvestris are members of St. Vincent Ferrer Parish in River Forest.

*The 9th Cook County District includes Elmwood Park, Harwood Heights, Norridge, River Forest, River Grove, Rosemont and portions of Glenview, Nilens, Oak Park, Park Ridge, Schiller Park and the northwest side of Chicago.*

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.