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Saturday, Feb. 4, 2006

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All public servants should aspire to be like Mike (Rea)

By **Amy Mack**
Daily Herald Columnist

Posted Sunday, January 29, 2006

Those who know me have heard me gripe once or twice about public servants who aren't so tuned into public service. Today I have a far different tale.

I would like to nominate Dundee Township Park District park services Superintendent Mike Rea for the most responsive public servant ever. Many public employees balk a bit when taxpayers challenge why or how they do their jobs.

Not Mike.

I fielded a request from a couple of readers concerned about snow blocking their children's path to Liberty Elementary School in Carpentersville after last week's heavy snowfall. One of their neighbors had fallen on the slick, blocked walkway through Liberty Park worried someone would soon get hurt.

I called Mike, who jumped right on it.

No balking. No finger-pointing. No quibbling. No delay. "We must have missed it," Mike said. "I'll get someone out there right away. Thanks for letting me know."

Within the hour workers were clearing the way. Mike urges any park district resident facing similar concerns to give him a call at (847) 551-4310.

Thanks, Mike, from some happy readers and one impressed columnist. Now that's public service.

Facts that bite

That was far smoother service than the initial experience of Algonquin neighbors concerned about McHenry County Animal Control's response to their worry about a neighbor's pit bull.

As you might recall, they were initially told to submit signed, notarized statements to get a response.

However, they happily report they have now heard from a responsive Animal Control and hope to find some resolve to make sure their children are safe.

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Animal Control's Jerry Rivard said the situation has prompted some review of several things, including how his facility gets information from local police departments, especially during off hours. Several public officials have also told me they also hope to find quicker and smoother ways to address concerns about aggressive dogs. It's good to hear.

I'll have six!

Don't forget today is the last day to order your Super Hoagie from West Dundee's First Congregational Church. Call (847) 426-2161 to order one of the \$5 sandwiches made with a "secret" ingredient just in time for Super Bowl Sunday. Pickup is at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at the church on the corner of Main and Fifth streets in West Dundee.

D-300 questions

To .org or to .com is the question. Folks involved with Advance 300, the group of parents, students, teachers, etc., backing the Community Unit District 300 referendums, have asked me to let you know their primary Web site is www.advance300yes.com. In the darnedest twist, you can also reach it at www.advance300yes.org.

A big thank you to those who have already submitted questions about District 300's referendum. You have until 5 p.m. Monday to add to what's turning into a fairly long list. I'll relay to D-300 folks as well as do a little homework of my own and get those answers to you in the next few weeks.

Chewing on nails?

I'd say I was going to be working my fingers to the bone to set up this next item, but that would be totally cheesy.

Cindy Heidemann of Lake in the Hills asked me to let you know the ABC School of Nail Technology is celebrating its first anniversary with plenty of specials. You can get \$5 manicures and \$15 pedicures at the school. Call (847) 337-3144 to nail down an appointment.

Amy Mack's column appears Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays. She can be reached at (847) 931-5725; by fax (847) 608-0849; via mail at 385 Airport Road, Suite A, Elgin, IL 60123-9341; or by e-mail: amack@dailyherald.com.

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