

Sheriff Zaruba

Thank you for your email but we are confused about your email and the statement "It was the County's suggestion that they be placed there, not the Sheriff."

Here is your complete email (received 1/15) statement: "The Sheriff does not want nor is the Sheriff pursuing to place an impound lot or firing range in or near Greene Valley. Please stop this misconception. It was the County's suggestion that these facilities be placed there, not the Sheriff."

Sheriff John E. Zaruba

We have received emails from DuPage County Chairman Schillerstrom and the President/CEO of The Conservation Foundation that say The Sheriff selected the site. So the miscommunication is coming from the County. We are forwarding info from the info we receive from the County. Now we have two different stories.

With all due respect what are we supposed to believe? And more importantly to try and be proactive we have also been asking the questions if the Greene Valley forest preserve is not the site for these two facilities what other forest preserve or community may be impacted by them? The "finger pointing" between the DuPage County officials is unfortunate and very confusing for those of us concerned about the environmental quality of the forest preserves and their nearby communities.

Note we are not taking sides between the DuPage County officials on this matter. But we have to ask why was your staff person Mr. Janaes quoted in the 11/5/03 Chicago Tribune article as saying you/the Sheriff's Dept. selected the site? (Greene Valley). Here is the article reprinted below.

Sheriff likes Woodridge area for new firing range

By H. Gregory Meyer Tribune staff reporter Published November 5, 2003

After months of searching, the DuPage County sheriff is pitching a new location near Woodridge for an outdoor firing range. The county has offered the sheriff's office an undeveloped site at its county waste-water treatment plant west of Illinois Highway 53, south of 75th Street and near the east branch of the DuPage River. Greene Valley Forest Preserve abuts the site on three sides. For about 17 years, law enforcement has shot pistols and rifles into a dirt mound on land owned by DuPage Airport in West Chicago, but the budding DuPage Technology Park on the site near Fabyan Parkway has forced officials to look for a new outdoor range. About 30 law-enforcement agencies and police academies use the range, officials said. County officials offered several locations, said Chief Thomas Janaes of the sheriff's office. "We've picked what was the best," he said. "It's remote enough," he said, noting the wooded environs and distance from houses. According to a map unveiled at the committee meeting, a berm would be 25 feet high.

Construction would require the approval of the DuPage County Forest Preserve District, which owns the woods, and the DuPage County Board, Janaes said. He said he plans to discuss the proposal with Woodridge's village manager next week. "His police will be using that range," Janaes said.

How the idea will play among county residents remains to be seen. Some relatively new subdivisions have cropped up around the treatment plant. Janaes said "the amount of noise on an outdoor range is a lot less than you think." The proposed site is at the bottom of an incline, which would further dampen the sound of gunfire. The sheriff's office also introduced a proposal for a 250-space parking lot outside the waste-water treatment plant.

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Believe us when we say we hope there will be no gun and rifle shooting range (for the Sheriff or recreational purposes) or junkyard/impound lot in the middle of (like the Greene Valley forest preserve site) or next to any forest preserve in DuPage County. And we really do not care who makes the site selection as long as it is a good one.