

# Sheriff faces battle for gun range, parking lot

By Tona Kunz Daily Herald Staff Writer

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Options are dwindling for a shooting range and impound lot run by the DuPage County sheriff's department.

County officials Tuesday said the sheriff will have to put the facilities somewhere other than on public land.

"The sheriff will have to look elsewhere," said Roger Jenisch, chairman of the county's public works committee.

That came as a shock to law enforcement officials.

"The sheriff's office can't buy land," said Carol Roegner, spokeswoman for the sheriff's office. "The county buys land."

The sheriff's office needs to move the pistol and rifle target range used by 35 law enforcement agencies from DuPage Airport Authority-owned land in West Chicago to make way for a high-tech park.

In the wake of public outcry, Sheriff John Zaruba last month gave up plans to put the range at a vacant wastewater treatment plant next to Greene Valley Forest Preserve near Naperville, but still had hoped to put the range on other county land. He sent a letter to county board Chairman Robert Schillerstrom Dec. 2 asking where else he could site a range and impound yard.

"There has been no communication," Roegner said.

An answer was given, though, to gun range opponents at Tuesday's county board meeting.

"We have looked at all the county-owned sites," said Greg Wilcox, county chief operations officer. "We don't think any of them are suitable."

Also, Jenisch said, the county isn't required to find a place for law enforcement officials' target practice.

The sheriff fared slightly better on his request to create a second parking lot for impounded cars. The current lot on County Farm Road in Wheaton is always full, Roegner said. By law, the county must have a lot where people can retrieve impounded vehicles.

Wilcox said the only county-owned sites that might support a 250- to 300-vehicle storage lot are the lands around the county's three wastewater treatment facilities: Greene Valley in **Woodridge**, Nordic near Itasca and Knollwood south of Darien near the Des Plaines River.

The Greene Valley site is out, **Woodridge** officials say. An impound lot, even a smaller one, will never gain village approval since the village last month annexed part of the parking lot land, bringing the site under its control, said Julia Cedillo, management analyst for the village.

"The village is extremely opposed to those plans," Cedillo said. "It is totally inappropriate for that land. The land is surrounded by (Greene Valley) forest preserve land and a \$1 million bike path."