



# News from Village Hall



Fall 2009

## From The Desk Of The Village President

**F**ellow Residents:

Normally, I discuss the many positive things the Village is doing. Today, however, I will discuss a significant potential threat to our community – the Canadian National Railroad’s operation on the EJ&E.

**The Issue:** The problem is, with CN’s purchase of EJ&E and the scheduling of large numbers of 2+ mile unit freight trains, the risk to our community from a serious accident has substantially increased.

Earlier this year, a CN train derailed at the Mulford crossing in Rockford. The derailment involved at least 18 tank cars, from a 114-car long train, holding tens of thousands of gallons of highly flammable ethanol. These cars violently exploded and burned, injuring people nearby and incinerating a 41-year-old woman as she tried to run to safety from her car stopped at the Mulford crossing.

Tens of minutes **prior** to the accident, a number of 911 calls were made by people in the area indicating a serious



problem with the tracks due to flooding. Yet, the local police dispatch had no mechanism to stop the train prior to the accident. In addition, local government had no information as to the manifest regarding the train’s cargo.

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**Beth Mallen, Trustee**

**Beautification Committee**

### Make Autumn Even More Beautiful

- **Saturday, October 24th** is the next opportunity for residents, age 12 and older, to take part in another fun **Roadside Trash Pick Up Event**. At 8:20 a.m., volunteers should meet at the Riding Center on Bateman Road. Yellow safety vests and garbage bags will be distributed. The Police Department will instruct volunteers on proper safety precautions and then teams will be driven to their assigned roads. After finishing their tasks, teams will return to the Riding Center and will be treated to snacks and beverages. Remember to dress for the weather and bring gloves!
- Our fall recycling focus is out-dated working computer equipment. The Goodwill Store at 746 S. Rand in Lake Zurich (847-550-0769) will take working computer equipment. There is also a list of links to computer recyclers online at [www.VBHComm.info](http://www.VBHComm.info). (Before you donate a computer, make sure to erase your hard drive using the appropriate software.)
- Residents needing special assistance with property roadside trash or recycling electronics and appliances can call the Village Hall and leave a message for the Beautification Committee with Dolores at (847) 551-3000.
- The Beautification Committee is considering the preservation of two historic cemeteries in the village that are resting places for some who fought in the Civil War. Plans are underway and we are looking for volunteer grant writers, researchers, building movers, and gravestone restorers. We may also organize and recruit residents to participate in a costumed character representation of those Civil War soldiers.
- Finally, Lorraine Briggs, former Village Trustee and originator of the former Landscape & Restoration Committee (which was responsible for restoring the prairie southwest of our Fire Station) has joined our committee. Her experience, governmental knowledge and enthusiasm to tackle issues are an inspiration.



The accident taxed the abilities of local governments to respond and mitigate the damage and injury to people and the environment. Fortunately, the cargo on the derailed cars was 'only' ethanol and not chlorine, R-134, anhydrous ammonia, acid, etc. Had this accident occurred at Lake-Cook Road in Barrington adjacent to the high school, one can only imagine the impact to our community.

This is exactly the type of accident we were concerned about during the CN / EJ&E STB hearings.

**CN's Problem - Arrogance:** After the Rockford accident, I requested CN representatives to meet with the BACOG mayors to discuss rail safety. It took more than 4 weeks for this meeting to be accepted by CN, the most telling issue was their apparent arrogance and disdain for our concerns. This arrogance and lack of federal oversight contributes to the frequency of freight derailments in our region. Simply Google 'Canadian National derailment' or review the Federal Railroad Administration statistics for the frequency and severity of this problem.

Prior to the Rockford accident, the National Emergency Number Association (NENA) issued standards that provide for railroads, police and fire to communicate directly to mitigate accidents.

CN has refused to participate on interoperability of communications with police and fire dispatch centers.

CN has also refused to provide our police department personnel with necessary training to address rail issues and accidents, including hazardous materials. It is notable that if a factory containing hazardous or flammable materials were to be located in our community they would be required to provide this type of training, response and support equipment.

To CN's credit, they are working with us on installing grade crossing cameras to help our police determine which crossings are blocked to reroute emergency response vehicles where possible.

The fundamental problem is little or no federal regulation governing the transport of hazardous and flammable materials, and the inter-mixing of cargo types on a single train. In addition, there is little support for communities to provide emergency response. Our Congressmen have not brought forward legislation on this issue, including Don Manzullo whose district this accident occurred in.

**What We Are Doing:** The Village is working to develop new



state legislation to regulate certain types of shipments similar to interstate and intrastate truck traffic regulations concerning hazardous materials. We have received support from mayors throughout the region and state. If you have expertise in these areas, I would be interested in hearing from you. We are also working with CN to adopt and implement the NENA communications standards in our community.

**Our Way Forward:** We are working to upgrade the CN / EJ&E crossings with cameras and other equipment to mitigate emergency response delays caused by the increased rail traffic. We are also working to provide our police department personnel with more training and equipment necessary to address these increased risks.

I encourage you to continue to communicate directly with me and the Trustees. We need your feedback and ideas. Attend our regular Board and committee meetings and get involved. I can be reached directly by e-mail or phone and I look forward to hearing from you.

Best Regards,

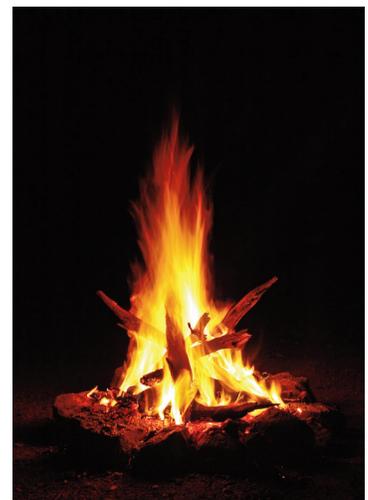
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## NEWS YOU CAN USE

### BURN NOTICE

The autumn leaves are already changing color and homeowners wishing to clear their properties of landscape debris through open burning need to follow the rules.

Residents should be considerate of their neighbors at all times, avoid burning on very windy days, and exercise care to control blowing ashes. Burning is allowed for no more three hours total per day, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 10 p.m. only. The fire site itself must be at least 100 feet from any structure, and must be less than 5 feet x 5 feet x 5 feet in size. The fire cannot be left unattended, and, at minimum, a garden hose and shovel or rake should be on hand for immediate use to control the fire. Additional requirements for burning are posted at [www.barringtonhills-il.gov/building.htm](http://www.barringtonhills-il.gov/building.htm).



## TRUSTEE UPDATE—

### Fritz Gohl, Trustee Public Safety



A recent newspaper article by Sun Times News Group writer Mike Danahey, “Barrington Hills tells bicyclists: Get in line!” highlighted our new bike ordinances. For years, we in Barrington Hills have had safety concerns about bicyclists in our village. So, as village trustees, we have passed new laws prohibiting bicyclists from riding their bikes two abreast on village roads, and negligent operation of a bicycle. Elgin has a program of bike ambassadors that make public appearances to hand out flyers encouraging safe cycling. The flyers state, “Bike riders—want respect? Give respect. Play by the same rules used by most others on the road. Want other road users to treat you as an equal? Act like one!” This flyer has been given official approval by the City of Elgin, the Illinois Department of Transportation and the Active Transportation Alliance.

### Walter E. Smithe, III, Trustee Finance



#### Census 2010 – 10 Minutes, 10 Questions, 10 Fast Facts

- 10) Forms will be mailed out beginning in March 2010. Households that do not respond by April 1st may receive a replacement questionnaire in early April.
- 9) April 1, 2010, almost six months from today, is Census Day – the deadline for returning Census forms.
- 8) When filling out the questionnaire, your responses should represent your household as it exists on April 1st.
- 7) From May to July, Census takers will personally visit households of those who have not returned questionnaires.
- 6) The Constitution requires a National Census every 10 years to count the population, and to determine the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives.
- 5) The Census consists of just 10 basic demographic questions.
- 4) The form takes less than 10 minutes to complete. See [www.VBHComm.info](http://www.VBHComm.info) for a sample questionnaire.
- 3) Your answers are completely safe; by law, your answers cannot be shared with anyone including federal, state and local agencies.
- 2) Census data is widely used to determine allocation of funds for school districts and programs for the elderly, in addition to planning for road rehabilitation and construction.
- 1) Approximately 10 percent of Barrington Hills’ overall budget comes from per capita allotments of the Motor Fuel Tax and other population-based surcharges. If there were a deficit in per capita collections because of a census under-count, the village would have to go into the general fund to make up the difference. Getting an accurate count could help keep our taxes from going up to cover these costs.



### Peter C. Wessel, Trustee Road and Bridges



As the fall approaches, two projects are drawing to a close. Resurfacing operations are complete for the 2009 Road Program. Roads resurfaced with this year’s program include Rock Ridge Road, Surrey Lane, Surrey Court, and Wagon Wheel Lane. Landscape restoration remains to be completed on these roads, and surface patching remains on a number of other roads in the Village. This work should be completed by the end of September.

Phase two of the River Road Drainage Improvements is nearing completion, with final grading and landscaping efforts remaining. This project included culvert replacements and ditch grading along River Road to relieve persistent flooding problems in this area. This work will also be completed by the end of September.

The Roads & Bridges Committee has been monitoring an ongoing drainage issue on Chapel Road. For several months this past spring and early summer, Chapel Road was closed due to water ponding over the roadway. Algonquin Township assisted the Village in pumping the water level down in May, but subsequent rain events resulted in the water levels rising above the roadway again. The Village Engineer has examined several options to address the drainage in this area, but due to the distance between this area and the closest possible point of discharge, the Village is considering closing the road permanently at the location of the drainage issue. In August the Village Board proposed a public hearing process to consider the closure of the roadway. An open house concerning Chapel Road has been tentatively set for Tuesday, October 13th. Check the village website for confirmation of date and time.

(Written by Dan Strahan, P.E., CFM, Gewalt Hamilton Associates, Inc.)

# TRUSTEE UPDATE—

**Elaine M. Ramesh, Trustee  
Building and Zoning**



I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our dedicated team of volunteer residents for their service to our community on the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA).

The ZBA recently held a series of meetings regarding whether or not an animal shelter could be a permitted home occupation under a special use permit. The outcome was a thoughtfully crafted document of proposed constraints under which an animal shelter (if a special use permit were applied for and granted) could operate in Barrington Hills. This proposal was forwarded to the Village Board, and was approved.

The ZBA is also in the process of reviewing our current code as it relates to provisions for agricultural use. The ZBA is considering what restrictions or modifications, if any, should be made to our current code; recognizing that many municipalities have altogether eliminated agricultural use as a permitted use of the land, while other municipalities have retained the potential for agricultural use, but only in a restricted fashion. Barrington Hills has historically maintained a very broad definition of agricultural use, but is now considering whether additional limitations are desirable for the protection of the residents. Of course, additional limitations also mean a loss of a certain degree of freedom now enjoyed by all of us, so the matter does warrant a thorough examination and careful consideration. We invite you to participate in this process. The valuable input of the Legal Committee and the Equestrian Commission has already been received by the ZBA, as well as some public comment. At least one more meeting is to be held in September to gather further public comment before the recommendation to the Village Board is made on this provision of the code by the ZBA.

**Steve Knoop, Trustee  
Planning**

As mentioned in previous articles, the Village has gained much acclaim in pursuing International Dark Sky designation and celebrating -- through education and special events -- the International Year of Astronomy 2009, which commemorates Galileo's discovery of the Milky Way 400 years ago. In addition to the numerous events earlier this year that were detailed in the Summer Newsletter, there are several recent noteworthy accomplishments including: the Village being asked to participate before the AMA in their resolution advocating and supporting light pollution efforts; Village Administrator Robert Kosin being interviewed by Comcast regarding the Village's Proclamation and pro-active stance on light pollution; coordinating and participating in several "Star Parties", including co-sponsoring the celebration of "Galilean Nights" on October 24th with the Barrington Area Library. The Village has also undertaken direct community projects such as changing sidewalk ballasts, changing lighting on municipal buildings, successfully encouraging ComEd to change out streetlights, creating a bulletin board/kiosk with appropriate lighting and promoting the International Year of Astronomy with 2009-2010 vehicle stickers.

Finally, following a detailed process involving public comment and utilizing feedback from both advocates for and against lighting, the Plan Commission has completed its proposed draft of a new lighting ordinance. This has involved over a year of hard work by the Commission, utilizing many experts and holding additional special work sessions to complete this draft. We are excited to present this draft to the ZBA for their consideration in the near term.

## **DAS Network aims to improve cellular coverage**

In July, the Board of Trustees approved a Right of Way agreement that moves American Tower Corporation (ATC) one step closer to installing a Distributed Antenna System (DAS) to help improve cellular telephone coverage in the village. This agreement spells out terms for ATC to apply for permits to install DAS nodes on utility poles along village roadways. ATC is also working with county and state agencies to get permits for nodes to be installed on roads controlled by those entities.

The network currently being developed in the Barrington area is the result of a letter of intent by ATC signed with AT&T, but two other cellular carriers have also expressed interest. The DAS network would consist of a central hub building (proposed to be located on the grounds of the Village Hall), and 21 visually unobtrusive "nodes". The nodes will be placed along roadways on existing utility poles – there is a control box about 15 feet off the ground, measuring 1'D x 3.5W' x 3'H, and an 8' antenna mounted at the top of the pole. The control boxes each have several slots, allowing for use by more than one cellular carrier in the future. The nodes connect to the central hub via fiber optic cable.

Outdoor DAS networks are typically proposed as alternatives in communities where conventional large cell towers are not feasible or are objected to by local residents. Signal coverage from a node ranges from only ¼ to 1/3 mile, compared to 1 mile for traditional macro coverage. In terms of safety, DAS systems are low power and RF output from a node at the base of the pole is roughly equivalent to that of a typical cell phone.

ATC will notify owners of properties adjacent to and abutting the node locations prior to beginning system installation on utility poles. If the project stays on its timetable, active work could begin in October and the network will hopefully be "on air" by the end of March. The village news and information web site [www.VBHComm.info](http://www.VBHComm.info) has detailed information regarding DAS.

## Community Corner



### IGNITE THE NIGHT

Make your plans now to attend **Ignite the Night**, the annual fundraiser for the Friends of the Forest Preserves, on **Saturday October 10<sup>th</sup>**, from 5-10 p.m. on the grounds of the Riding Center at 361 Bateman Road. Event sponsors include the Riding Club of Barrington Hills and the Barrington Countryside Park District. Family activities include dancing to the live music of the I-Lites, narrated horse-drawn wagon rides through the Forest Preserve, raffle, food and beverages, star gazing with the Adler Planetarium and much more. This fall festival wraps up with a spectacular bonfire. Advance tickets may be purchased at [www.FOTFP.org](http://www.FOTFP.org) or by calling (312) 356-9990.

### CFC

This spring the Native Seed Gardeners (NSG) program, sponsored by **Citizens for Conservation (CFC)**, Friends of Spring Creek Forest Preserves, Audubon-Chicago Region, and Chicago Botanic Garden, placed over 3,000 native plants in area gardens. In its inaugural year, the program offered twenty-two prairie and savanna species, with plants as rare as white false indigo and as strikingly beautiful as Michigan lily.

Trained volunteers collected seeds from natural populations in the Barrington area. A portion of the seeds were propagated in the Chicago Botanic Garden's greenhouses over the winter. In spring, the seedlings were given to the NSG, and volunteer gardeners from throughout the Chicago area came to CFC's headquarters to pick up the two-month old seedlings.

As the gardeners tend to these plants, they cultivate a new source of precious native seeds that will have a profound effect upon local restorations. These lands include various CFC preserves and the Spring Creek Forest Preserves. For more information, visit [www.VBHComm.info](http://www.VBHComm.info).



*"Katherine Grover of CFC (left) & Kim Keper from Friends of Spring Creek Forest Preserves"*

### HELP TO PRESERVE OUR RURAL ROADS

**Barrington Area Conservation Trust (BACTrust)** is currently working with Barrington Hills residents to protect the rural and scenic character of our residential roadways and to help prevent their expansion. The Heritage Corridor program aims to address possible future widening of roads which are currently being used as cut-throughs, including Otis, Old Sutton, Brinker, Oak Knoll, Bateman, Ridge, Plum Tree, Spring Creek, Meadow Hill, Braeburn, and others. BACTrust works with you to place an easement 10 to 20 feet from the edge of the roadway into your property setback. This easement is then held jointly by BACTrust and the Village of Barrington Hills. When enough easements are placed by homeowners along both sides of the roadway, IDOT and other entities have a more difficult time trying to widen that road. It is a very effective tool that residents can use to help protect the special beauty of our back roads. Call BACTrust at 847-381-4291 to find out more!

### WE'RE LISTENING

Recently, the Communications Committee conducted a survey studying residents' awareness of, and satisfaction with, our two main modes of communication – the newsletter and website. The anonymous survey was mailed to a statistically selected sample of homes and asked for your opinions about the flow of information to you about Barrington Hills. The responses are now being tallied and analyzed, and will be used to improve the quality of communication to residents. Look for the results to be posted soon on the web and in a future issue of this newsletter. In the meantime, your comments are always welcome – just send us an email to [clerk@barringtonhills-il.gov](mailto:clerk@barringtonhills-il.gov)





Village of Barrington Hills  
 112 Algonquin Road  
 Barrington Hills, IL 60010-5199

[www.barringtonhills-il.gov](http://www.barringtonhills-il.gov)

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 Autumn landscape photo by Pamela Cools.**

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## HAS BARRINGTON HILLS GONE TO THE BIRDS?



**No, but the Village is now “tweeting” on Twitter!** Social networking websites have quickly become a standard means of personal communication for many individuals and businesses, but more and more, municipalities and other governmental agencies are joining this trend. In August, the Barrington Hills Communications Committee set up a page on Twitter.com, the free online micro-blogging service and began sending out short 140 character messages, called “tweets”. Think of tweets as “headline news” – these short messages contain current news items, such as reminders of village commission and committee meetings, announcements of community events, and provide links to find more detailed information on our village websites. Signing up to follow us is easy. After you join, go to [www.twitter.com/BarrHills\\_IL](http://www.twitter.com/BarrHills_IL). You can access Twitter from your computer, mobile phone or smart phone and keep up on the latest news and information from our community. (Note: Twitter does not replace the Connect CTY service which is used for urgent emergency notifications.)

## Directory

<p><b>Village of Barrington Hills</b>          112 Algonquin Road          Barrington Hills, IL 60010-5199  <b>Web address with e-mail</b>  <a href="http://www.barringtonhills-il.gov">www.barringtonhills-il.gov</a>  <a href="http://www.vbhcomm.info">www.vbhcomm.info</a>  <b>Phone</b>          847-551-3000  <b>Village Hall Hours</b>          Monday-Friday          9:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m.  <b>Director of Administration</b>          Robert Kosin</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>MEETINGS</b></p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;"> <p><b>Village Board</b>            4th Monday of the month, 6:30 PM</p> <p><b>Equestrian Commission</b>            1st Monday of the month, 7:00 PM</p> <p><b>E-911 ETSB</b>            2nd Monday of the month, 6:30 PM</p> <p><b>Plan Commission</b>            2nd Monday of the month, 7:30 PM</p> <p><b>Zoning Board of Appeals</b>            3rd Monday of the month, 7:30 PM</p> </td> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;"> <p><b>Board of Health</b>            3rd Wednesday of the month,            7:30 PM</p> <p><b>Communications Committee</b>            3rd Monday of the month, 5:30 PM</p> <p><b>Police Pension Board</b>            4th Monday of the month, 9:00 AM</p> </td> </tr> </table> <p>All meetings are held in the Alexander MacArthur Room of the Barrington Hills Village Hall.  <i>Should you wish to comment at any of these meetings, your advance notice, by telephoning the office of the Village Clerk at 847-551-3000, is appreciated.</i></p>	<p><b>Village Board</b>            4th Monday of the month, 6:30 PM</p> <p><b>Equestrian Commission</b>            1st Monday of the month, 7:00 PM</p> <p><b>E-911 ETSB</b>            2nd Monday of the month, 6:30 PM</p> <p><b>Plan Commission</b>            2nd Monday of the month, 7:30 PM</p> <p><b>Zoning Board of Appeals</b>            3rd Monday of the month, 7:30 PM</p>	<p><b>Board of Health</b>            3rd Wednesday of the month,            7:30 PM</p> <p><b>Communications Committee</b>            3rd Monday of the month, 5:30 PM</p> <p><b>Police Pension Board</b>            4th Monday of the month, 9:00 AM</p>	<p><b>Board of Trustees</b></p> <p>Robert G. Abboud  <i>President</i></p> <p>Fritz Gohl  <i>Pro-Tem</i></p> <p>Walter E. Smithe  <i>Trustee</i></p> <p>Steve Knoop  <i>Trustee</i></p> <p>Beth Mallen  <i>Trustee</i></p> <p>Elaine Ramesh  <i>Trustee</i></p> <p>Peter C. Wessel  <i>Trustee</i></p>
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