



News from Village Hall



February 2011

From The Desk Of The Village President

Once again, winter is upon us and the Village has been transformed into a scene from a Norman Rockwell painting. While the cold weather is always a challenge, the Village in winter is always such an incredible place.



Taxes and Budget: In December 2010, the Village authorized the new tax level and budget allocations. For 2011, the Village will not be raising taxes. This is the first year since the early 70's the Village has not raised its property tax levy. This year's total budget is \$8,348,482, which is \$189,184 less than last year.

The 2010 levy for your 2011 property tax bill is \$6,565,268. By comparison, the 2009 levy (2010 property taxes) was \$6,565,291.

The Village was able to maintain this budget through reorganization of staffing schedules and other operational efficiencies which allow us to make up for normal year-to-year increases in costs, typically 2-5%, for goods and services. Note that the Village does not use tax rates for its levy. We levy on actual cash requirements. This ensures complete transparency of revenues and actual expenditures. Most communities levy on a rate, allowing increases in assessments to provide for more revenue without changing the rate. This creates an unseen tax increase each year.

The Village has little discretionary spending, with the vast majority of the budget going to police operations, fixed labor costs, and road building and maintenance.

Separately, the Village is continuing to work on the various county tax billing problems where particularly McHenry County issued 2010 property tax bills that were inconsistent with the Village's (as well as other districts') levy. Although the Village does not have the statutory authority to control tax bills, I am working on addressing this problem which I detailed in previous newsletter articles. We are expecting to see a correction in the 2011 tax bills. If you believe your bill is in error, please contact our Treasurer Rosemary Ryba at (847) 551-3002 so we can continue to track these problems.

Cell Antennas and Fiber Communications: The Village has been working to improve the cellular communications infrastructure. Over the last 18 months, we have been working with American Tower to install 23 small distributed antennas and associated fiber backbone. This DAS system was turned on in December and assists

commercial calls as well as our police and engineering staff.

Additionally, the Village received 4 dark fiber strands in the backbone as part of the agreement. This infrastructure is planned for future use, ultimately allowing Village residents to connect to the Internet via ultra-high bandwidth fiber instead of Comcast cable or copper phone lines.



DAS Antenna along Spring Creek Road.

This effort was done without cost to the Village and is highlighted in a Daily Herald article:

<http://www.dailyherald.com/article/20110108/news/701099908/>

Police Union Negotiations: We are continuing discussions regarding the police union contract. Twelve of our patrol officers are represented by the Metropolitan Alliance of Police (MAP). The sergeants, lieutenants, and dispatch personnel are all non-union. On the table are salary, benefits, insurance, and working conditions. The Village is continuing to control costs and pension obligations while maintaining the high level of police protection.

If you are wondering what dealing with the MAP union is like, take a look at their spring news letter: <http://www.mapunion.org/rapsheets/Spring10forweb.pdf>.

While this is a difficult process to be sure, these negotiations are not affecting the performance of our department or the safety and security of our community. Our department continues to be a nationally recognized leader and CALEA certified department to which the current manual is dedicated.

Lighting: The Village Board is continuing to carefully and thoroughly evaluate the lighting ordinance draft we received from the ZBA. Trustee Gohl, Trustee Knoop, Trustee Messer and I have requested a substantial number of modifications to the proposed draft after hearing public comment and Board discussion. In short, we want to ensure that we do not impose any restrictions on existing residential lighting, and that we protect private property rights, and security. At the same time,

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From The Desk Of The Village President continued from page 1

we want to ensure the protection of residents from nuisances, usually from building operations, and the support of the Comprehensive Plan. I cannot overstate the importance of our Comprehensive Plan and its basis for defining our character. I expect that this issue will come to resolution at the January Board meeting. You can view the Plan at http://www.barringtonhills-il.gov/pdf/VBHCComprehensivePlan_Complete.pdf

Snow plowing: Through our Cuba Township snowplowing contract, the Village is making sure that our roads stay clear. We coordinate efforts and operations with Tom Gooch, Cuba Township Road Commissioner, in order to minimize costs and maximize road safety. If you have any concerns about snow plowing, please contact our Police Dispatch at 911 or contact me directly.

CN: With the execution of our agreement with the Canadian National Railway (CN), a number of upgrades have been executed and more are progressing along. CN has been very responsive to the Village's requests. If you have any concerns about the CN operations, please contact me directly so we can address your concerns as quickly as possible.

Hackmatack: The US Fish and Wildlife Service has recently initiated a study to evaluate the possibility of establishing the Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge. This refuge would be located on a section of land of more than 30,000 acres in McHenry and Lake Counties in Illinois and the two adjoining counties in Wisconsin. The study area is more than 350,000 acres. The review process is expected to take 1-2 years.

The Hackmatack will be part of the National Wildlife Refuge System which is a national network of public lands set aside specifically to protect wild animals and plants. Found in all 50 states and five U.S. territories and encompassing 95 million acres, 560 refuges currently exist. National Wildlife Refuges are special places with significant natural resources where the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service acquires land and/or conservation easements. The National Wildlife Refuge System was

created in 1903 by President Theodore Roosevelt with Florida's 5.5 acre Pelican Island named the first refuge. The name 'Hackmatack' comes from the common reference to the American Tamarack tree which is a deciduous conifer native to the area. The tree is the inspiration for the proposed reserve.

The Village is in contact with the US Fish and Wildlife Service to support their efforts and help to integrate land planning efforts, and to facilitate the boundaries of the planning area. As with many other large scale regional conservation plans, the Village is working to coordinate our land use with that of the Hackmatack and investigate possible joint efforts.

I will have more about the Hackmatack and our participation in the next newsletter. You can see more about the Hackmatack at: <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/planning/Hackmatack/index.html>

More of the Village operations are featured in the rest of the newsletter and I encourage you to read through it. Please remember that our commissions and Board members are made up of your neighbors. The work our commissions are doing is difficult and they need your cooperative input. Let's work together in preserving this unique community that is shared by us all.

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

Best Regards,



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BIG OR SMALL – ALWAYS CALL

Winter seems to be a prime time for residents to begin planning for home improvements, both major and minor. If you are not sure if your project needs a permit, or if you have any questions about applications, fees, submittals and inspection requests, the Building Officer is available to assist you from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at (847) 551-3003. Some projects that may require building permits:

Additions & Alterations
Barns & Conservatories
Decks
Demolitions

Drainage Improvements
Elevators
Garages & Gazebos
Piers & Ponds

Pools & Spas
Septic Systems
Site Development

If your project will require a vehicle over 36,000 lbs. gross weight to travel on Village-maintained roads, you must also purchase an Overweight Permit. Keep in mind that Overweight Permits are generally voided in March, April, and May. Since this may halt construction progress, schedule accordingly. More details online at <http://www.barringtonhills-il.gov/building.htm>

Community Corner

Old Sutton Road Becomes First Heritage Corridor

The Barrington Area Conservation Trust (BACT) recently completed the area's first Heritage Corridor, protecting one of the scenic roads in Barrington Hills that contributes to the unspoiled beauty of the local countryside.

The corridor is located on Old Sutton Road from County Line Road south to Donlea Road. Landowners Jim and Susan Kennedy, and Stephen and Mary Smith placed easements on their property along the roadway to permanently safeguard the character of the road. The easements are jointly held by BACT and the Village of Barrington Hills.

A sign identifying the Heritage Corridor designation has been placed at the southern entrance to Old Sutton Road at County Line Road. For more information on the program, call (847) 381-4291.



700 Fourth Graders Pitch In

Last fall, almost 700 fourth grade students restored, studied, and enjoyed Barrington area prairies thanks to the leadership of Citizens for Conservation (CFC), as part of the local Leave No Child Inside initiative.

The kids had a first-hand opportunity to connect with the natural world while learning why prairies are important, who makes the prairie home, why prairie restoration is critical work, what it was like for the early settlers to farm prairies, how very little original prairie exists in Illinois, the importance of the significant prairie plant root system, why prairie burns are necessary, what the native Americans used plants/seeds for, and more.

Thanks to the District 220 Foundation grant and the cooperative efforts of all involved, these field trips to Grigsby Prairie, Flint Creek Savanna, and Spring Creek Prairie provided students with a spectacular outdoor classroom to enhance their indoor curriculum about prairie preservation.



Upcoming Community Events

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|------------|--|--|
| March 7-17 | BACOG Private Well Testing Program
\$10 test kits will be available at Village Hall | www.BACOG.org |
| May 7 & 8 | CFC Native Plant Sale
Pre-orders by April 16 | www.CitizensForConservation.org |
| July 11 | Barrington Concours d'Elegance | www.BACTrust.org |

Foxes and Geese and Deer, Oh My!



Many types of wildlife can be seen on our properties, but some animals, like coyotes and deer, may wear out their welcome or pose a danger for people or pets. The University of Illinois Extension Service website <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/wildlife/> contains information about how to coexist with wildlife, including how to identify the animal causing a problem, prevention, solutions and what do if you find injured or orphaned wildlife.

TRUSTEE UPDATE—

Beth Mallen

Health, Environment,
Building & Grounds
bmallen@barringtonhills-il.gov



Board of Health -- A central element to the quality of life in the Village is preservation of the quantity and quality of our groundwater. Domestic water use is typically drawn from shallow aquifers that are locally recharged. Then wastewater is returned to the aquifer after treatment and filtration by the soils in our individual septic systems. For this reason, the Village has recognized the importance of ensuring that our Septic Code provides an optimal level of protection to residents.

To this end, the Board of Health would like to announce two initiatives designed to promote and advance awareness regarding soil conditions. Not all soils are the same, and differences in soil characteristics can greatly affect the performance of septic systems. To provide Village residents and potential residents with advanced information regarding the suitability of soils to accommodate septic systems, an internet application has been created and posted on the Building Department page of the Village website <http://www.barringtonhills-il.gov/building.htm>. By clicking on the "Restricted Soils Map" link, the user can access a map that utilizes a Google Earth aerial photograph of the Village, overlaid with a color-coded set of soil information. Soils are qualitatively described as "unrestricted", "limited", or "prohibited" for septic systems. The soils information is based on county-wide soil surveys published by the National Resource Conservation Services (NRCS). This map should be used as a planning tool, and is not a substitute for site specific soil testing.

Second, the Board of Health also recently approved an ordinance that permits Village staff to consider soil classification to supplement the percolation test information that must be submitted with a building permit. Although the percolation test remains the standard by which septic systems must be designed, occasionally weather conditions at the time of the test can result in misleading data in the field, leading to a passing rate for a soil which is actually unsuitable. Consideration of the underlying soil type can provide the Village with a supplemental indicator of the expected performance of a septic system, potentially saving homeowners from a much larger headache down the road.

Beautification Committee -- On October 30th, the Committee held its latest village-wide trash pickup event. Thank you to all 43 volunteers who gathered trash and debris along Helm Road. Very special thanks go to the smallest participants – the hard-working members of the Countryside Tiger Cub Scouts who inspired all with their energy. Well done boys!



Elaine M. Ramesh

Roads and Bridges
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In 2010, two new programs were successfully introduced. The first was an addition to the Village's schedule for drainage improvements --that of regular maintenance for the culvert systems. After Gewalt Hamilton's inventory of the 200+ cross-culverts in the Village, Cuba Township flushed the pipes which needed clearing. At the same time, culverts identified as requiring replacement were addressed. The second program was an initiative to facilitate communication between the various private road maintenance coordinators on the 24.5 miles of private roads in the Village. A series of informational meetings was held monthly to reach out to all of the residents on our private roads. Residents who participated in the program reported that they found it to be very useful. In March, the first meeting for all of the private road coordinators will be held.

Buckley Road, Aberdeen Drive, Barrington Hills Road, Butternut Road, Crabapple Road and Leeds Drive will be resurfaced in 2011. In addition, large-scale drainage improvements for Church and Chapel Roads are scheduled. In 2012, drainage improvements for Spring Creek Road and Caesar Drive are slated, with drainage improvements to Lakeview Lane to be addressed in 2013. Please note that the ability of the Village to carry out and complete large-scale drainage projects depends not only upon budgetary considerations and approvals from the various regional permitting authorities, but also upon obtaining appropriate authorization to perform the work from all of the homeowners in locations where the Village does not have dedicated easements. In the event that homeowner authorization cannot be obtained, proposed drainage improvements slated cannot proceed.

TRUSTEE UPDATE—

Joseph Messer

Zoning Board of Appeals
jmesser@barringtonhills-il.gov



On December 20, 2010, the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) began the process of hearing a petition by the Barrington Hills Polo Club for an amendment to the Special Use Permit to allow the Club to continue to use the polo field at Oakwood Farms, 350 Bateman Road, for practices and additional charitable and fund raising events. The ZBA continued the hearing on the petition to its January 19, 2011 meeting to allow the attorney for two neighbors who are opposing the petition time to assemble their witnesses.

At their December 20 hearing, the ZBA also continued hearings on a potential text amendment to the Village Zoning Code which would govern the boarding of horses. At issue is how the Village should regulate horse boarding operations to safeguard the interests of neighboring property owners. The ZBA will continue consideration of the matter, including potential changes to the language of the Zoning Code, at its January 19 meeting. Those

who are interested should review the Equestrian Commission's White Paper, which was presented to the ZBA in February of 2010, available at <http://www.barringtonhills-il.gov/pdf/CommercialBoardingBH20100212.pdf>. Those interested should also review the draft ordinance on horse boarding, prepared for the ZBA by the Village's attorneys in May of 2010, which is available at http://www.barringtonhills-il.gov/pdf/DraftRegulationsCommercialHorseBoarding_2.pdf.

Steve Knoop

Planning
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As I enter into my last few months as a Trustee, I thought I would review two principal objectives I set out for at the beginning of my term and comment on what progress was made.

Objective # 1 - Preservation of Barrington Hills Comprehensive Plan principles – the stated vision of our village character. Development pressures, regional changes and new technologies constantly require the village to re-evaluate its Comprehensive Plan and to recommend implementing zoning and ordinances to protect its character. Moreover, to continue to protect the Plan's vision of a quiet, secure and natural environment which supports an equestrian-oriented, semi-rural lifestyle.

It is unfortunate that the lighting issue, in particular, has caused so much controversy in trying to protect our natural surroundings. To be clear, excessive lighting has worried village officials since 1963 and ordinances were contemplated as far back as 1993 despite the accusations concerning intent some like to purport. If one understands the municipal process, the original draft of the ordinance was just a laundry list of items to consider and have public discussion over. Instead, it turned into a vitriolic fight which included threats and brought unwanted national attention to our serene village. As you may know and demonstrated in public meetings, none of the Trustees supported the original draft and never did.

Objective #2 – Fight developers' continual threat of land disconnection and to preserve our open space large-lot zoning. Commensurate with this, we must find the right balance of zoning to preserve our equestrian, semi-rural atmosphere commensurate with landowner's property rights.

Asked by other Trustees, I spent thousands of hours speaking and negotiating with surrounding villages such as Algonquin, Fox River Grove, Barrington, Inverness, South Barrington and Hoffman Estates, along with McHenry and Kane County Forest Preserve Districts regarding our land preservation issues. In addition, I had numerous meetings with Ken Koehler, Chairman of McHenry County Board. Despite what some might have suggested, all of this has led to real tangible results such as stopping a threatened disconnection case on the east side of the village and entering into the first ever intergovernmental boundary agreement with Inverness. Further, initiating and maintaining a continuing co-operative dialogue with McHenry County and the Duda representatives has led to not only a productive outcome with McHenry County, but also, before the real estate market collapsed, had some solid progress on the future development concerning the Duda property which would be commensurate with our surroundings.

Understanding the surrounding area's limited resources and subsequent impact when it comes to water, traffic congestion, and dealing with the future problems of the CN railroad are critical. Without a doubt, Barrington Hills' most important issue has to be preservation of its open spaces and large-lot zoning. While the village currently is involved in some zoning issues revolving around horse boarding, this issue becomes moot if we don't preserve the principles of our Comprehensive Plan and continue to enforce it with proper zoning.

I've enjoyed my time as a Trustee and thank the numerous Commissions and other village volunteers for their help and the residents for their trust and confidence.



Village of Barrington Hills
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BACOG PRIVATE WELL WATER QUALITY TESTING PROGRAM

Annual tests for bacteria and nitrates in drinking water are recommended for all private well owners. This spring, the Barrington Area Council Of Governments (BACOG) once again is offering testing kits at a reduced cost for our residents.

Beginning on Monday March 7th, water quality testing kits will be available for \$10 during National Groundwater Awareness Week at the BACOG office and other participating locations. Complete instructions on how to collect your water sample are included. You can then drop your kit off at Barrington High School on either March 15th or 17th during scheduled hours. Detailed information on this test program can be found at www.bacog.org.

In addition, BACOG has also put together a brochure to help homeowners understand how their wells and septic systems work, and how to properly maintain them. This guide is available for download at http://www.bacog.org/docs/Public/Groundwater/Guide_toWellandSeptic8x11.pdf.



Directory

Village of Barrington Hills

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Village Hall Hours
 Monday-Friday
 9:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m.

Director of Administration
 Robert Kosin

MEETINGS

Village Board
 4th Monday of the month, 6:30 PM
Equestrian Commission
 1st Monday of the month, 7:00 PM
E-911 ETSB
 2nd Monday of the month, 6:30 PM
Plan Commission
 2nd Monday of the month, 7:30 PM
Zoning Board of Appeals
 3rd Monday of the month, 7:30 PM

All meetings are held in the Alexander MacArthur Room of the Barrington Hills Village Hall.
 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.

Board of Health
 3rd Wednesday of the month,
 7:30 PM
Communications Committee
 3rd Monday of the month, 6:00 PM
Police Pension Board
 4th Monday of the month, 7:30 AM

Board of Trustees

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