



# News from Village Hall



Winter 2013

## From The Desk Of The Village President

Fellow Residents:

This month I thought I would provide some answers on my previous article regarding threats to our environment and drinking water via the proposed East Dundee project (See [vbhcomm.info/newsletter.php](http://vbhcomm.info/newsletter.php)), and an update of the Village's financial health.

**East Dundee Wrecked Car Facility:** The Village continues to work to stop the development of the proposed Insurance Auto Auction facility which is to be adjacent to our Village on our south west corner. The company proposes to auction 25,000 to 35,000 wrecked, burned, and leaking vehicles to buyers, many of whom ship these damaged vehicles overseas. The pictures in this article were taken at the IAA Wheeling facility.

**Why is this project a threat to us?** The project is a threat because the vehicles processed by IAA are heavily damaged, and the proposed location is on one of the most prolific recharge areas of our regional aquifer. Because these damaged vehicles have compromised systems, they can create a long term source of oils, coolants, gasoline, diesel fuel and additives (e.g. MTBE), as well as carcinogens from vehicles that are burned. The proposed project location is on top of a refilled gravel pit, thus, there is little barrier to contaminated water percolation into the aquifer. Contaminates need to travel little more than 100 feet to reach the water table. At the proposed site, contaminated water could reach the aquifer in just a few days.

**Will this project affect me and my family if it is not stopped?**

Probably. Our analysis shows that contaminants from these vehicles will leak into our aquifer that serves the entire Barrington area, including all of Barrington Hills.

Contamination will travel both convective and diffusion mechanisms. Your well taps into this aquifer. In addition to the health risks, your property value would be drastically impacted collapsing the entire property value base in our community.

**If our aquifer is contaminated, can it be remediated?** No. There is no existing technology that would be capable of cleaning our aquifer.

**Why is the Village investigating IAA operations at Wheeling?** IAA has operations in many states, and many of these facilities have had serious environmental violations. IAA is also a Super Fund defendant in the NW US. The facility at Wheeling is roughly 1/6th the



*continued on page 2*

## FIRE SAFETY By Patty Meroni

Fire is one of the most devastating threats to a homeowner's property and safety. While there are few structure fires (only 4% of 911 calls), the importance of being aware and prepared cannot be overly stressed. This was brought home to Barrington Hills in recent months, with two major fires in the Village, one consuming a house on Otis Road another a barn on Ridge Road, both of which were a total loss.

On December 19, the Barrington Countryside Fire Protection District (BCFPD) made a presentation to the Village of Barrington Hills Board of Trustees which outlined a number of points pertinent to Village residents.

First, the fire protection system in the Village is large and complicated. The BCFPD stretches over 52 square miles, from Wauconda to Rt. 72, and serves portions of Barrington Hills, South Barrington, Lake Barrington, and Inverness. In addition to the BCFPD, Barrington Hills has 4 other fire protection districts that serve different areas of the Village: Algonquin – Lake in the Hills, Carpentersville, East Dundee, and Fox River Grove.

Another factor that makes Barrington Hills unique is that everyone is on wells and there are no fire hydrants, so water must be ferried in by trucks (tenders) and on fire engines.



*continued on page 3*

**From The Desk Of The Village President** *continued from page 1*

size of the proposed site in East Dundee. Wheeling presents insight into how IAA operates and allows us to see firsthand what the proposed facility will be like. At the time we visited Wheeling, we found IAA pumping storm water at high rates off site onto adjacent properties. The water was visibly contaminated with oils and exhibited an obvious sheen.



**Why isn't the IEPA doing anything about this?** The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency has classified the proposed site as a Class III area for ground water protection. However, this protection is not for drinking water and human health. It is to protect the water supply for Trout Park in Elgin where some of this ground water migrates. The IEPA is concerned about rare caddis flies and a virgin stand of oak trees. (See: [barringtonhills-il.gov/pdf/IEPAStatementEastDundee.pdf](http://barringtonhills-il.gov/pdf/IEPAStatementEastDundee.pdf)). The IEPA has little authority for the protection of drinking water before contamination. After many hours of discussion with the IEPA director, it is clear they are very concerned about funding impacts by the powerful lobby of waste handlers and processors. IEPA had no records of the operations of IAA in Illinois until we brought this to their attention in the late Fall of 2012. In addition, they were unaware that communities like Barrington Hills are dependent upon individual private wells until we identified this issue. Their approach is typically to apply regulation for treatment at the well head of municipal wells. This is why East Dundee is seemingly unconcerned about contamination even though one of their own wells is just some 5200 feet away. The Director of the IEPA is on record as saying that the proposed operation is not a threat to our ground water "...as long as they follow their own procedures". Since IAA has received multiple violations in multiple states involving multiple procedural failures, and is a Super Fund defendant, it is hard to imagine we can be assured this will not be a problem in our community.

**Why can't IAA simply clean up materials that leak from these wrecked vehicles?** The proposed site covers some 33 acres with 10's of thousands of vehicles on permeable ground. With only a few employees, it is irrational to expect that any spills would be noticed, let alone processed properly. Only a cup of leaking fluids or contaminated storm water from each vehicle translates to hundreds of barrels of contaminates in just 60 months.

**Why can't we just be nice to IAA and East Dundee?** The Village has made numerous attempts to discuss the facts of hydrology



and geology on this site. These conversations began in the summer of 2012. East Dundee stands to make millions of dollars in sales tax revenue from this project. Many other states,

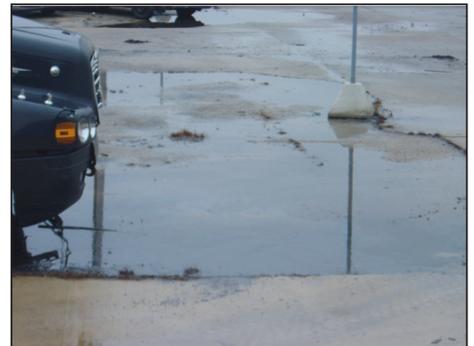
such as New Jersey, New York and Washington have been unable to ensure IAA's adherence to IAA's own procedures for environmental protection, as limited as they are. Barrington Hills cannot afford to place our drinking water at risk for the profit motive of a corporation to sell scrap vehicles overseas. Therefore, we have to take many different approaches to address this threat.

**What is the cost of this effort?** While there is no price that can be placed on clean safe drinking water, the cost to date for the Village has been low; well less than \$30k. This is because much of the effort on this project has been by your Village Board who work without compensation and our existing staff whose costs are fixed. Additionally, the Barrington Area Council of Governments (BACOG) has been very helpful in the analysis of the hydrology and geology. In fact the BACOG water mapping is a cornerstone of our protection efforts. The BACOG water program is supported and cost shared by all the BACOG members. Without the BACOG mapping effort we would not have recognized the threat to our wells by this project.

**Is this effort in the yearly budget?** The Village always maintains sufficient funding in its various technical, engineering, and legal budget line items to address emergent issues. The budget for this effort will continue to be refined as it progresses towards resolution. There is no expectation that the Village would need to raise property tax levy as part of this effort.

### **What is the status of the project?**

East Dundee does not currently have this project on their agenda because of technical issues which the Village has raised. It is not clear when this project will begin moving again.



The Village has an array of tactical and strategic tools it will bring to bear at the appropriate time to ensure continued protection of our aquifer and drinking water.

**What are our taxes compared to other communities?** Recently, one of our local papers attempted to sensationalize our tax levy by using the metric of tax dollars per person, comparing Barrington Hills with communities such as Rosemont, South Elgin, and Barrington.

The average Village tax bill per household is about \$3,900. VBH properties are much larger and far more valuable than our surrounding neighbors. If one owned 5 acres in downtown Barrington, or downtown Elgin, I suggest that your Village tax bill would be far larger than \$3,900. This is the flaw in these comparative articles that try to sensationalize this issue. If you look at your tax bill on a \$/acre basis, you will find that Barrington Hills is one of the LOWEST tax levies for municipal services.

VBH maintains some 31 square miles of area with more than 5.4 acres per capita. We manage more than 100 miles of roadway and service some 12,000 acres of forest preserve and protected areas. Our community is 6.5 times the area of Barrington with 1/3 the population.

VBH receives relatively little revenue from commercial activity because our community has chosen to maintain large scale open space and large lot zoning for equestrian and rural residential use. We do not promote commercial and industrial uses in the Village. Therefore \$6.6M of our \$8.3M budget comes from residential

*continued on page 3*

**From The Desk Of The Village President** *continued from page 2*

property taxes. Our revenues go to three areas:

- Police protection and public safety
- Road management
- Land use, environmental protection, and open space protection

All three of these areas are nationally recognized in terms of performance and return on investment / public service. Anyone who would like tour of our facilities can contact me and I will arrange it.

**Taxes and Levy.** This year The Village continued to maintain a very stable budget and property tax levy. The following table shows the budget and levy in dollars since 2007.

As you can see from the table, the Village has maintained services and infrastructure and construction even though yearly inflation continues to place upward pressure on costs. Our most variable expenditures are those for road maintenance and construction which comprise about \$1.8M per year.

I want to encourage you to take full advantage of the Village website. Here you will find all the Village communication, meeting schedules, a fully searchable version of the Village Code, and all the latest happenings within the Village. I would like your feedback on how we can make this website more useful to you.

I encourage you to continue to communicate directly with me and the Trustees. I invite you to attend our regular Board and committee meetings and get involved. There are still slots available on several Committees and I am always looking for more volunteers. We need

YEAR	ANNUAL TAX LEVY	ANNUAL BUDGET	ACTUAL	BUDGET - ACTUAL
2007	5,976,175	8,121,421	8,190,107	(68,686)
2008	6,268,839	8,354,568	8,953,558	(598,990)
2009	6,565,921	8,408,189	7,944,365	463,824
2010	6,565,273	8,600,386	7,866,128	734,258
2011	6,565,273	8,348,483	8,349,401	(918)
2012	6,565,273	8,377,042	8,299,913	112,776
2013	6,565,273	8,281,305		
			Total Yearly Under Budget	<b>642,263</b>

your feedback and ideas. I can be reached directly either by e-mail or phone and I look forward to hearing from you.

Best Regards,



Robert G. Abboud  
 President, Village of Barrington Hills  
 Village Hall Office: 847-551-3000  
 Home: 847-381-8174  
 Cell: 847-921-1932  
 President@BarringtonHills-IL.gov

**FIRE SAFETY** *continued from page 1*

Lastly, Barrington Hills has many narrow lanes and sometimes confusing addresses, which is why the signs with the numbers were installed to aid in locating a residence in an emergency. These are grid numbers and are coordinated with 9-1-1 dispatch and GPS. Having the correct grid number on hand when you call in for an emergency can save minutes and sometimes a life.

The following are things that we, as residents, can do to help insure the fastest response and best possible outcome if such a disastrous event should occur.

1. Memorize your fire grid number!
2. Be sure it is easily visible to emergency vehicles (Police or fire).
3. If you have a gate and want emergency service to have ready access, call for options.
4. In an emergency, having advance information in the hands of the fire or police departments (especially if there are multiple structures) such as the water sources available, can save valuable time. Since 70% of all calls are medical emergencies, it could save a life.
5. Maintain your furnace, with annual cleaning and inspections. Change your filters as recommended.
6. Clean your chimney if you burn wood.
7. If you must use extension cords, be sure they are adequate for the job (i.e. appliance cords, heavy duty cords). In addition, do not run them under rugs or fabric. If you must plug multiple cords in, use a power strip which will shut off if it is overloaded.
8. Make sure the area around furnaces, dryers, stoves, refrigerators, heaters or any appliance which emits heat is clear.
9. Clean your dryer vent regularly, and clean your dryer filter after each load.
10. Unplug any appliances that are not regularly used to avoid accidental fires.
11. Be sure to use grounded outlets and discard or repair any frayed cords.
12. Do NOT leave home with appliances still running (washer, dryer, stove, dishwasher).
13. Keep working fire extinguishers accessible in the obvious danger areas, utility rooms, kitchen area, garage, and any other areas where flammable materials might be stored.
14. Change batteries in your smoke and CO detectors as recommended, usually every six months.



The Fire Prevention Bureau is available to residents to do an inspection and offer safety advice and suggestions – at no cost. Please review your safety status, call for a free evaluation at (847) 304-3600 and be prepared!

# TRUSTEE UPDATE—

---

## Patty Meroni - Trustee

**Roads and Bridges**  
[pmeroni@barringtonhills-il.gov](mailto:pmeroni@barringtonhills-il.gov)

It seems we keep setting records – most rain, worst storms, most days without measurable snow, worst drought.

Our 2012 road and drainage projects covered several roads and involved some unexpected problems with drainage and culvert replacements, especially on Caesar Drive and Steeplechase. Still, the projects were completed within budget and left the village with improved infrastructure as the life of the new, concrete culverts should be 50 years or more.

This coming year's road projects will include resurfacing of Spring Creek Road from Ridge to Hager's Bend Road, including replacement of culverts west of Hill 'n Dale Farm.

Currently, a review of a drain tile survey west of Braeburn Road is being done in an attempt to mitigate periodic flooding to residents on the south side of Spring Creek Road.

Also included in 2013 are plans to replace culverts at Creekside Lane. The Cuba Road Bridge Phase I Engineering Project Development Report has been authorized by IDOT, which allows the village to qualify for federal funding assistance under the Federal High Safety Program. Right of way and easement dedication will begin this year.

We will hold the annual private road coordinator's meeting in the upcoming weeks, and an expert in private associations has been invited to attend to share information and offer assistance to make their job a little easier.

A traffic count on village roads was completed in December which produced a surprise – a general 20% decrease since the last count in 2007!

---

## Karen S. Selman - Trustee

**Finance**  
[kselman@barringtonhills-il.gov](mailto:kselman@barringtonhills-il.gov)

January marked the beginning of the 2013 Fiscal Year for the Village. This is the second budget I've worked on during my term, and I'm pleased to report that the budget is balanced and the levy that supports the budget remains the same as last year. The Trustee Board approved the proposed FY13 annual budget at their November, 2012 Board Meeting and the Levy passed at their December, 2012 meeting. The 2013 budget totals \$8.3 million, and this is the fourth Levy filed without an increase in the amount levied.

This will complete the fourth year that we have projected Village spending within the budget without a deficit at year end.

The Village Trustees, administration, and staff work hard to keep revenues and expenses even, while at the same time maintaining outstanding police service, safe roads, and the unique character of the Village. The Village budget relies mainly on property taxes to fund these services because as a community we have chosen open space over commercial and industrial development.

The annual audit fieldwork for the FY12 will be performed by Baker, Tilly, Virchow, Krause accounting firm and commenced on February 25.

Village financial information is available on the Village of Barrington Hills website [barringtonhills-il.gov/treasurer](http://barringtonhills-il.gov/treasurer) where we now have a five-year snapshot of the financial activities of the Village.

If you have questions regarding the Village Budget or finances, please contact either myself, or Rosemary Ryba, Village Treasurer [treasurer@barringtonhills-il.gov](mailto:treasurer@barringtonhills-il.gov)

---

## Elaine M. Ramesh - Trustee

**Planning**  
[eramesh@barringtonhills-il.gov](mailto:eramesh@barringtonhills-il.gov)

This article provides a summary of the most recent activity of the Village Plan Commission, and regional planning activities which may affect our residents.

The Plan Commission recently received approval from the Village Board to begin some planning activities with regard to Focus Area 3 (in the southeastern portion of the Village), as identified in the Village's Comprehensive Plan. Some conceptual plans for two of the other nine focus areas are already part of the Comprehensive Plan. The eventual goal is to plan for each of the Focus Areas identified. The project will be initiated at no cost, relying upon our staff, publically available information and the expertise of our Plan Commission. A sub-group of Plan Commission members are expected to begin work on the project this spring.

In the fourth quarter of 2012, the Plan Commission agreed to serve as informational resources for developments occurring at the county level having potential effect on our Village, at my suggestion. Commission members have volunteered to monitor the meeting agendas, announcements and news of our Lake, Kane, Cook and McHenry county governments.

If you have an interest in helping to shape the future of our Village by participating in the projects outlined above, considering volunteering for the Plan Commission. We currently have two open positions on the nine-member board. Interested residents are encouraged to contact the Village Clerk at [clerk@barringtonhills-il.gov](mailto:clerk@barringtonhills-il.gov) or at 847-551-3000 to apply for appointment.

Beyond our eastern border, the Longmeadow Parkway project has recently been a subject in the local news. Sometimes referred to as the Bolz Road bridge, this regional transportation project is designed to create a new crossing over the Fox River. Detailed information about the plan may be found at [www.co.kane.il.us/DOT/foxBridges/longmeadowPkwy.aspx](http://www.co.kane.il.us/DOT/foxBridges/longmeadowPkwy.aspx). Over the past few years, I have represented the Village

## TRUSTEE UPDATE—

in Kane County for planning-related events such as the Kane County 2040 Plan and the Longmeadow Parkway project. Residents having concerns about the plan should note that presently only 60% of the necessary right-of-way has been secured, and the estimated \$170 million dollar cost of the project has not yet been funded.

To our north, work continues on planning for the future recreational uses within the McHenry County Conservation District's 300 acre Fox Bluff site. In early March, another Public Open House will be held to review the second draft of the Master Plan. M CCD will also accept comments on the second draft of the Plan in late February through their website. Check [mccdistrict.org](http://mccdistrict.org) for details.

### Joseph Messer - Trustee

### Zoning Board of Appeals

[jmesser@barringtonhills-il.gov](mailto:jmesser@barringtonhills-il.gov)

The Village has experienced an increase in the number of situations where residents have conducted work on their properties without first obtaining the required permit. When cited for this Code violation such residents will typically apply for a permit after the fact, or apply for a variance with the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) if they have done work not otherwise allowed under the Code. In the worst cases the Village has been forced to pursue residents in building court before they attempt to come into compliance. Those few residents who figure it is better to ask for forgiveness rather than permission consume an inordinate amount of Village resources and unfairly burden other residents with the Village enforcement costs necessary to bring their properties into compliance. Worse, since our Village Code was not drafted with these situations in mind, these residents have often been able to obtain permits without paying the fines they incurred by violating the Code.

The ZBA has been working on revisions to the Village Code to remedy this problem. Under the revised Code provisions residents who are subject to fines would have to pay those fines before qualifying for the compliance certificate required under the Code upon the completion of permitted work. Further, the ZBA could condition the issuance of a variance on the payment of fines or the correction of Code violations by the petitioner. The Code would also be revised to make the penalty amount uniform at up to \$750 per day, with each day being a separate violation. This penalty would apply to all Building Code violations, including the failure to obtain a certificate of compliance. The ZBA decided to recommend these Code revisions to the Board of Trustees at its February, 20, 2013 meeting. The Board of Trustees will now consider the Code revisions at a subsequent meeting.

In other news, the Building Department has purchased a computer program to better allow it to manage and track building permits and building Code violation cases. This should improve the efficiency and consistency of this process in the Village.

Any resident who is unsure whether they are required to obtain a permit for work on their property should contact the Village Building Department. Building Department personnel will be more than happy to answer your Code compliance questions and guide you through the process if a permit is required. Call or email the Building Department at [building-dept@barringtonhills-il.gov](mailto:building-dept@barringtonhills-il.gov)

### Harold "Skip" Gianopulos - Trustee

### Insurance, Health, Environment, Building & Grounds

[sgianopulos@barringtonhills-il.gov](mailto:sgianopulos@barringtonhills-il.gov)

The Barrington Hills Heritage and Environs Committee suggest that residents adopt this motto for the coming year:  
**Recycle First; Trash Last.**

*Recycling is doing well in Barrington Hills; however we can do even better. Our friends at SWALCO (Solid Waste Agency of Lake County) have proposed a challenge that we readily support. We would like for Barrington Hills denizens to **"transition from a mindset of pulling recyclables out of the trash to, ideally, pulling trash out of the recycling."** We ask that you make recycling a regular part of your daily routine.*

To help, SWALCO has an appropriately named website: [RecycleFirstTrashLast.org](http://RecycleFirstTrashLast.org)

In a village that spans four counties and utilizes the services of several independent outside scavenger services, coordination can be a challenge. Refuse collectors provide curbside pick-up of recyclables and join the Village in promoting maximum recycling. All make it easy to recycle the Big Five: paper, plastic, aluminum, glass & steel. However, each has minor operational differences. So here are the websites of the major scavenger and recycling vendors serving the Village:

Groot Industries Inc. [www.groot.com/waste-management-chicago/what-to-recycle](http://www.groot.com/waste-management-chicago/what-to-recycle)

PrairieLand Disposal, Inc. [prairielanddisposal.com/recycling.html](http://prairielanddisposal.com/recycling.html)

Republic Services, Inc. [www-republicservices-com.netsolads.com/Corporate/home.aspx](http://www-republicservices-com.netsolads.com/Corporate/home.aspx)

Waste Management, Inc. [wm.com](http://wm.com)

For curbside recycling, keep it clean and keep it neat. Be sure to rinse out glass, plastic and metal containers; avoid soiled pizza boxes, paper, napkins, diapers and the like. Recycled containers should be free of leftover food. To keep recycling from blowing around the neighborhood, use a bin with a lid or utilize paper bags to hold things together. No broken glass, no wire hangers, no plastic bags, no batteries, and no electronics (nothing with a plug) should be included with your curbside recycling.

*continued on page 6*

# TRUSTEE UPDATE—

Trustee Gianopulos *continued from page 5*

Compact fluorescent and fluorescent bulbs, batteries, electronic waste, paint, motor oil & tires, medical waste and household hazardous waste need special handling and should not be placed in **either** regular trash or curbside recycling. Everything can be recycled or, as a last resort, safely discarded. However, some items are more challenging to safely dispose of than others. Here are some websites that can provide further guidance:

**Cook County:** [swancc.org](http://swancc.org) **Lake County:** [swalco.org](http://swalco.org) **McHenry County:** [mchenry.edu/recycling/greenguide.pdf](http://mchenry.edu/recycling/greenguide.pdf)

**Kane County:** [countyofkane.org/pages/recycling/default.aspx](http://countyofkane.org/pages/recycling/default.aspx) and [countyofkane.org/Documents/Recycling/KCR-LR.pdf](http://countyofkane.org/Documents/Recycling/KCR-LR.pdf)

**Algonquin Twp:** [algtwsp.com/Algonquin\\_Township\\_Highway\\_Department\\_Recycling\\_Center.php](http://algtwsp.com/Algonquin_Township_Highway_Department_Recycling_Center.php)

**Cuba Twp:** [cubaroads.com/recycling/index.asp](http://cubaroads.com/recycling/index.asp) **Also:** [earth911.com](http://earth911.com) and [ecyclingcenter.com](http://ecyclingcenter.com)

Let's remember that some of those old time platitudes and proverbs such as "Save the planet by thinking globally and acting locally" and "Waste not, want not" never get trite. And now we can add a new one for 2013: *Recycle first, trash last.*

## The Wilds In Barrington Hills Are Thriving

By Jim Voris

A quick look back on 2012 gives us many examples of local good news in the natural world that exists between, around, and near our properties. Forest preserve staff, local officials, a range of clubs and organizations, and even national affiliations, as well as a small army of your neighbors keep close eyes upon that huge part of Barrington Hills that helps make our town the very special place it is. We all are stewards of this wild for it is our actions, and sometimes inactions, that determine to a large extent how healthy the forest preserves, pastures, woodlots, roadsides, waters, and otherwise untended areas of our community have come to be.

Reports come in regularly as to happenings in our wild places, and in 2012 the good and great news seemed to far outweigh the bad. Here are a few of the formal and more anecdotal positives that surfaced in the last year.

The Army Corps of Engineers project to bypass the outmoded farm drainage systems at Spring Creek was completed and changes were quickly evident. Even in this drought year water that for decades had simply run off remained for much longer in many low areas of the preserve. Result: the wetland habitats are on the road to recovery. Now we just need some rain.

Long-time Barrington Hills resident Peggy Grigsby Richards passed away in December, 2012. Citizens for Conservation (CFC) honors her memory. For more than thirty years, Mrs. Richards was a generous and gracious friend to CFC, donating almost fifty acres of land which became Grigsby Prairie. Her estate conferred 5.5 acres to CFC in December, Peggy's final donation. CFC is grateful to Ms. Richards for her generous gift and for her foresight in preserving this land in perpetuity for nature and for people.

In total Citizens for Conservation CFC brought another dozen acres under its protection, keeping true to the goal of "saving living space for living things". Significantly, the number of individual volunteers (252 at last count!) and groups coming out to participate in conservation and restoration work with CFC shows a steady increase too. The organization's continuing work with local 4th graders promoting understanding and appreciation of our prairie heritage remains a hallmark which has few equals in the conservation world.

In November of 2012 the Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge was established just to the north of our community. This refuge will bring huge benefits to our local wildlife populations and habitats.



In our own Spring Creek Forest Preserve, county staff along with local individuals and groups continued their work of conserving and restoring nearly 4,000 acres of landscape. Weekly work days were spent clearing buckthorn and honeysuckle, collecting and sowing native seed, and educating the public as to the significance and uniqueness of the preserve.

Perhaps most encouraging of all however are anecdotal nature reports from our local citizenry.

- Bald eagles nested along the Fox River last summer and are now seen regularly in the skies over Barrington Hills.
- Wild turkeys are back in the area. Several were spotted last summer near the Riding Center.
- For the first time a dickcissel (a relatively rare grassland bird) was observed in Grigsby Prairie Preserve, .
- A local citizen spotted a bobcat in December. Their tracks have turned up periodically over the years, it appears they may be back as well.
- Bobolinks, are back too, and they now nest at Galloping Hill grassland just north of Penny Road Pond.
- Wendy Paulson's many and varied bird walks (Audubon / CFC sponsored) were very popular. A strong and growing appreciation of our local bird population is evident.
- The Barrington Hills Watershed Project, which seeks to provide for the deliberate and thoughtful monitoring of our local surface watershed and groundwater has been completed. More to come soon on that critical front.

Our community's stewardship of its wild is paying dividends. Just look out your window.

## BACOG Water Quality Testing for Residents in March

### Why is it important to test the quality of my well water?

All Barrington Hills residents have private wells drawing water from shallow aquifers. The state requires public water supplies to regularly tested, but with **private** wells there is no regulation requirement for routine testing – that means you are responsible for making sure your water is safe to drink!

Households with private wells are advised to test for bacteria and nitrates on an annual basis to detect these invisible, odorless contaminants. These contaminants can result from animal or human waste or fertilizer components reaching the well water and can cause illness in humans. The test is fast, easy and inexpensive, and the Barrington Area Council of Governments (BACOG) is working with Lake County Health Department to make it even easier.

### Pick-up Test Kits: March 4-7th

Homeowners can pick up a drinking water test kit with instructions at a special reduced price of \$10 per test kit at Village Hall during regular office hours between March 4th- 7th. Please have exact change or make checks payable to “Lake County Health Department”.

### Drop-off Test Kit: One Day Only – March 11th at The Garlands of Barrington

Homeowners can **return previously purchased water test kits on March 11th between 3:30 pm – 7:30 pm ONLY at The Garlands of Barrington**, 1000 Garlands Lane, Barrington.

### Webinar Viewing Event:

Drop off your sample at 6:30 pm and join other residents in a live **webinar viewing event** with Steve Wilson from the Illinois State Water Survey about local groundwater issues.

For a list of the BACOG member locations selling test kits and additional information, visit [bacog.org](http://bacog.org) or call (847) 306-9671.

## Freedom of Information Act Village Report 2012 By Barbara Kemp

The Illinois Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) was strengthened in 2010 to ensure that residents can obtain information to hold government more accountable. It is intended to provided Illinois residents with a more open and accountable government. The Village of Barrington Hills FOIA Officers are: Robert Kosin, Administration;

JoAnne Grumprecht, Police; and Todd Borck, Police Pension Fund. Village Records are searchable on the Barrington Hills website: [barringtonhills-il.gov/foia](http://barringtonhills-il.gov/foia). Residents and non residents may call the Village at any time if their own searches are not productive. The Village is required to respond to all formal FOIA requests within five (5) business days of receipt of a written request. The Public Access Counselor (PAC) at the Illinois State Attorney's Office is the point of escalation. A \$5000 fine (non refundable through insurance) may be imposed for a failure of the FOIA Office to return a valid reply. As of January 2013, no fines have been imposed. There are

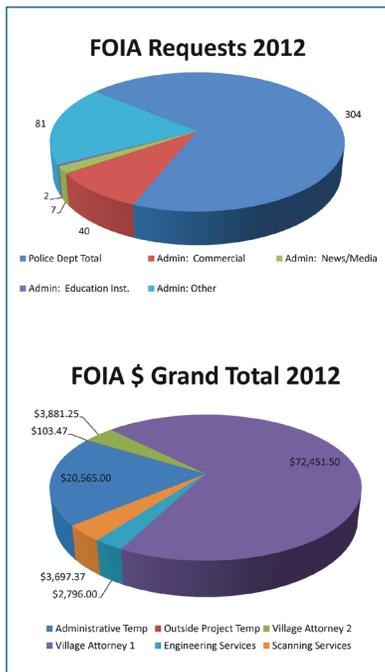
costs associated with providing FOIA services.

FOIA Requests and External Village Costs for 2012 are summarized as follows:

FOIA Requests 2012 – In 2012, there were 434 total formal FOIA requests, Police 304, and Administrative 130. Of the 130 Administration Requests one (1) resident was responsible for 12% of the Administrative total or 16 requests including three (3) Attorney General escalations. The legal costs for the three (3) escalations were \$5,557. There were 65 other 2012 Administrative Requests.

FOIA \$ Grand Total 2012 – External expenses for FOIA fall into several categories as shown on the second chart. The grand total of external costs was \$103,494.59. Basic external costs were \$89,476.59, program management costs were \$8,461.00, and FOIA escalation costs were \$5557.00. Of the total, legal costs were \$76,332.75 or 73.8%. The remaining \$27,161.84 or 26.2% of external costs were incurred as shown above: temporary services were used as needed to scan and convert old typewritten and/or PDF records and load them to the data storage company for more rapid retrieval. Village records go back to 1957; any and all records can be requested. With a five (5) business day turn around requirement; the record types that are needed for retrievals are converted to allow for electronic searching. That work has been taking place since 2010. Most Commercial requests come from builders or businesses wanting information for their own financial benefit. Permits for buildings can help the requester target their customers.

Residents often ask how the Village can reduce costs. One way is to search the website first for the needed information. Then, residents and outside contractors are encouraged to call the Village Clerk and/or one of the FOIA Officers directly. Someone on staff should be able to answer the question, thus reducing external costs. The Trustee Meeting material has been converted to an electronic packet so as soon as a decision is rendered the information can be posted online within a few days. For more details on FOIA, please refer to the Illinois State Website. Link to FAQ on Illinois FOIA: [www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/government/FAQ\\_FOIA\\_Public.pdf](http://www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/government/FAQ_FOIA_Public.pdf).



**A-** “The Sunshine Foundation has issued the Village’s website its Transparency Report Card for 2013. The Sunshine Foundation, a non-profit agency that promotes transparency in state and local governments, collects and shares information using a 10-point Transparency Checklist to evaluate 6,000 state and local government websites. The Village received an A- one of the highest scores in the area. For more information visit [bit.ly/YJwV84](http://bit.ly/YJwV84)”



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

barringtonhills-il.gov

FIRST CLASS  
 PRESORTED  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
 BARRINGTON, IL  
 PERMIT NO. 102

Printed on recycled paper  ©2013, Village of Barrington Hills

## Directory

### Village of

#### Barrington Hills

112 Algonquin Road  
 Barrington Hills, IL 60010-5199

barringtonhills-il.gov

#### Phone

847-551-3000

#### Village Hall Hours

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

#### Director of Administration

Robert Kosin

#### Board of Trustees

Robert G. Abboud  
*President*

Fritz Gohl  
*Pro-Tem*

Harold "Skip" Gianopoulos  
*Trustee*

Patty Meroni  
*Trustee*

Karen S. Selman  
*Trustee*

Elaine Ramesh  
*Trustee*

Joseph S. Messer  
*Trustee*

## WINTER/SPRING CALENDAR

**March 4-7 Pick up Water Test Kits at Village Hall** Cost is \$10 per kit

**March 12 Voter Registration Ends**  
 Call the Village Clerk to register 847-551-3000

**April 9 Election Day**  
 Visit your polling place and be sure to vote!

**April 20 Roadside Trash Pick Up**  
 Meet at the Village Hall at 8:30 to sign waivers, register and get team assignments.

**April 20 E-Waste Disposal**  
 Between 10am and 1pm drop off electronics for safe disposal at the Village Hall.

**May 27 Dedication of the Blue Star Memorial in Barrington Hills**

A "Blue Star Memorial Marker" has been placed at the Barrington Area Civil War Enlistment Site, located at the intersection of Old Sutton and Dundee Roads in Barrington Hills. The joint application by the Council of Barrington Garden Clubs and the Village of Barrington Hills was accepted

for the marker by the National Garden Clubs. The program was established as a way to pay tribute to "All who have served, are serving and will serve."

**June 7 Relay for Life – Barrington High School**

**June 29 Fox River Valley Pony Club 50th Anniversary Celebration**

The Fox River Valley Pony Club plans to celebrate 50 wonderful years. Founded in 1963, the FRVPC remains one of the strongest clubs in the North Central Prairie Region.

The celebration will take place Saturday, June 29th, 6:00pm, in Barrington Hills. We are looking for all past members, families, coaches, and instructors. Please pass the word if you know an FRVPC alumni and have them fill out a contact form at [foxrivervalleyponyclub.weebly.com/50th-anniversary-party](http://foxrivervalleyponyclub.weebly.com/50th-anniversary-party) or call Lauren at 847-751-4431.

Please call or visit the Village website for more information about an event.