



News from Village Hall



March 2014

Letter from the President



A record breaking winter has just about ended for our area, it is hard to believe that in just a few weeks spring foals will be returning, about the same time as we welcome back our residents from warmer climes where the terms ice, frozen, and salt may have referred to an evening libation after a day on the links, or a ride through the desert. In Barrington Hills, 2014 ice, salt, and frozen have been all about driving conditions. Warmth here at home has been derived from a crackling fire, a warm blanket, and a trusted companion at your feet. Spring is on its way and with it will come change and renewal to the landscape.

With this change, there are several issues facing our community. Hope springs eternal that we will be able to continue as stewards of our unique environment but hope itself is not a strategy. I will continue to work with the board, our commissions and committees, regional agencies and associations, state and federal legislators, and our residents to identify both opportunities and challenges.

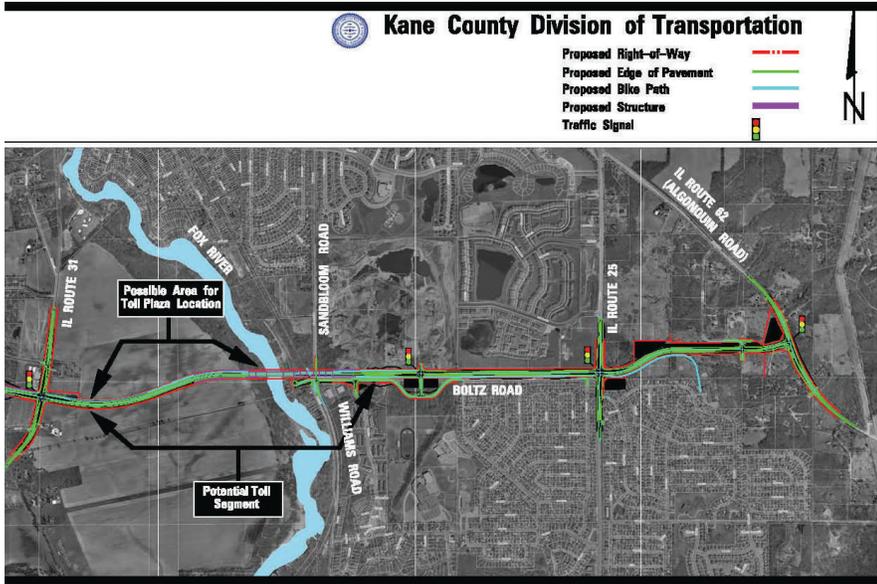
It is my intention while in office to keep you apprised in a timely manner of issues and topics that can affect our quality of life, sense of community, desire to protect our open spaces, equestrian heritage, and rural character. My goal is to highlight those aspects of the Village that truly make Barrington Hills a unique and desirable place to live, work, and play. We will strive to promote what's great about Barrington Hills, to not only our residents but our region, as well, and to make sure that our surrounding communities also have a vested interest in preserving our open spaces. Neighboring communities' residents benefit from our open spaces through the Cook County Forest Preserve, our trail system, and the wonderful recreational and leisure activities our Village affords. In this way we can continue to protect our environment through thoughtful cooperation and planning.

To that end we are having an open house for our community on March 12th regarding developments related to the Longmeadow Corridor. It is our intention to provide as much detailed historic information as possible, while also attempting to accurately predict the possible timeline and impact of the project to the best of our ability. There is an overview of the Corridor on the following page to review, but we will also post additional links as well as the information that will be at the open house on our website, so those that cannot attend can participate and comment.

As we begin to emerge from our homes to explore the wonderful surrounds, I look forward to seeing you, my neighbors, on a more frequent basis; riding, walking, running, birding, and enjoying whatever activity moves us outdoors into our unique community this SPRING.

Martin J. McLaughlin

Longmeadow Parkway



that the overwhelming concern is the impact of adding additional traffic (projections estimate 8700 cars/daily) to the already maxed out situation on Algonquin Road.

Consequently, the Village requested and held a meeting with IDOT regarding the entire Algonquin Road question, i.e. widening, traffic signals for safety issues for crossing, equestrian crossings, and most importantly, maintaining the rural, natural environment of Barrington Hills and the Cook County Forest Preserve District for the entire length from Route 68 at Brinker Road to Route 25.

In January the Village held another meeting with the residents who live in the immediate vicinity of the long proposed and contemplated Longmeadow Parkway and Algonquin Road area to review the answers to their questions submitted at the December meeting, and ask for the residents' input for concerns and suggestions to be submitted to Kane County Department of Transportation. After reviewing these comments and concerns it became clear

IDOT was very receptive to our requests and has indicated a willingness to work with the village to accomplish these goals.

As a result of this meeting, and the imminence of Longmeadow Parkway planning, the Village is holding an **OPEN HOUSE on March 12, 2014, at Countryside School, 205 W. County Line Road from 4:30 to 8pm** to display the Kane County Department of Transportation plans, and answer your questions.

McHenry County UDO Update

McHenry County's proposed Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) will go to public review starting the first week in April.

The UDO is a proposed update to the County's zoning ordinance, subdivision regulations and related development regulations for unincorporated areas. It doesn't affect municipalities that already have zoning ordinances.

The public review process begins with public presentations to the Zoning Board of Appeals who will then amend the final draft based on public comments.

The ordinance will address land-use issues that pertain to agritourism, building of wineries, and limits on off-premises electronic billboards.

Dates of the public reviews of the ordinance will be announced.

For more information: bit.ly/1hlpasD

ROADS AND BRIDGES

The winter of 2013-2014 will be one to remember and one for the record books! After this last snowfall, this winter ranks as the fourth or fifth snowiest, depending where you are located and may go down as the coldest.

Cuba Township will soon be out surveying the damage to the roads and making repairs to potholes.

2014 Road Projects :

Resurfacing of Plum Tree Road east of Ridge Road, Ridge Road north of Merrie Oaks, Meadow Hill Road and Steeplechase Road. The Cuba Road Bridge will also be replaced later in the summer, so this will be a busy year on Village roads.

There is also a major drainage project north of Merrie Oaks and east of Ridge Road that will be completed this year.

Citizens for Conservation To Hold Native Plant, Shrub and Tree Sale

Citizens for Conservation will hold its 18th annual Native Plant, Shrub and Tree Sale on Saturday, May 3 and Sunday, May 4 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. A huge selection of robust, hardy native plants will be available for purchase and knowledgeable volunteers will be on hand to answer questions.

Native plants provide many advantages for gardeners and the environment. They do not require fertilizers or pesticides which saves gardeners both time and money. In addition, their deep, fibrous root systems firmly anchor soil to help conserve water and prevent erosion. Once established, native plants do not require watering. They provide food and shelter for birds, butterflies and other wildlife.

Native forbs (flowering plants) and grasses can be pre-ordered but will also be available on the day of the sale. Trees and shrubs must be ordered in advance. Gardeners who wish to order before the sale can find an order form on the CFC website at www.citizensforconservation.org

beginning March 1. Pre-ordering increases your chances of getting the plants you want. **The deadline for advance orders is April 12.**

The sale will be held at CFC's headquarters, 459 W. Highway 22, in Lake Barrington, across from Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital. If you have questions, or wish to have an order form mailed, call CFC at 847-382-SAVE (7283).



Thank YOU for your donations!

Over the holidays we started collecting children's books for the Sunny Hill Elementary School's Little Free Library. The kids absolutely love the program, and are ALWAYS in need of more books. They could not have been happier to receive the books Barrington Hills residents donated.

We will continue the program going forward. Please drop off any K-5 aged books at Village Hall to be donated to the program.



Come Celebrate Earth Day

VOLUNTEER AT THE SPRING ROAD SIDE CLEAN UP

Meet at the Village Hall at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday April 26th

Roadside Cleanup on the main corridors of our Village

Bring gloves & work shoes or boots • Dress in layers

Students under 18 welcome, with signed waiver, earn volunteer credit!

We are finished by 11:30 a.m.

Please join us to celebrate Earth Day in our Village.

Light refreshment and friendly conversation will be provided.

Bring your friends & neighbors!



Questions?

Call 847-551-3000 or

village@barringtonhills-il.gov

Coordinated by VBH Heritage
& Environs Committee

Cemetery Inventory

The Village of Barrington Hills partnered with Barrington Township and Susan Lindberg of Elmhurst College to inventory two historic cemeteries located in Barrington Hills: Center Cemetery & Union Cemetery. Susan's project went much further than simply completing an inventory; she consolidated, verified and reported the history of the people buried there.

Susan's work has not gone unnoticed; the local chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution recently honored her with the "Historic Preservation Award." We cannot thank Susan enough for the volunteer time she invested in this project.

The materials she produced are available at Village Hall for all to view.



Roads & Bike Paths

The Village is considering adding bike paths or bike lanes to certain Village Roads. There are several reasons why this is being considered:

- 1) Bike paths could help channel existing bike traffic;
- 2) The addition of bike paths increases the Village's chances for grants and other funding for necessary road work;
- 3) Bike paths will provide for a traffic free path of travel for recreation and fitness opportunities for residents.



There is already a substantial amount of bike traffic in Barrington Hills, particularly on weekends by bicycle enthusiasts. While additional bike paths will not completely funnel this traffic, they may shift some of the bicycle usage onto roads that are designed more specifically to accommodate bike traffic.

Further, one of the most substantial costs to the Village and residents is the Roads Program. All Village roads require maintenance and, at some point, will require resurfacing. We see this now more than ever, especially as traffic increases over certain roads characterized as collector roads. The Village often finds itself in a position where it could not afford to complete necessary updates without external financial support in the form of state or federal funding. By implementing bike path planning, we dramatically increase the Village's chances for funding from outside sources.

We recently received a grant from the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) to assist in the creation of a bike plan. We are looking at a connection from the Stover Road trail head at Crabtree Nature Center to the existing Fox River Trail in East Dundee. The funding for all aspects of this bike path plan would be covered entirely by CMAP.

The Village is also exploring the possibility of a bike path along Haeger's Bend Road as a connection with existing bike paths in Fox River Grove and Algonquin. In this instance, the planning of a bike path would assist the Village in obtaining funding for necessary improvements to Haeger's Bend Road, expenses which otherwise will be borne by the taxpayers.

The Village appreciates any input you have on the addition of bike paths. These paths can be in the form of the marking of a lane on existing roads or could go as far as trails entirely separated from the road. Please email any comments to village@barringtonhills-il.gov or call the clerk at [847.551.3000](tel:847.551.3000).

Is Your Drinking Water Safe?

It's important for residents relying on private wells for drinking water to know if their drinking water is safe. Level 1 Testing is a basic test for Coliform Bacteria and Nitrates that's recommended annually. Water testing bottles are available at the Barrington Hills Village Hall. Bottles with water samples can be dropped off at the Lake County Central Permit Facility, 500 W. Winchester Road in Libertyville between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

In observance of National Groundwater Awareness Week, the Lake County Health Department is offering reduced water testing rates. Between March 3 and 13, water sample analysis, normally \$16.00 will be reduced to \$10.00. Call the Lake County Health Department for more information, (847) 377 8020.

Come pick up a test bottle at Village Hall today if it has been more than a year since you tested!

See Barrington Area Council of Government's website about the BACOG Private Well Water Testing Program: www.bacog.org/watertesting.html



Barrington Hills Police Department Police Accreditation

Since 2004, the Barrington Hills Police Department has been accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). Accreditation is a voluntary process of continuous review and improvement which ensures that the policies and practices of the department conform to professionally established standards.

The Police Department works daily to maintain compliance with the standards. Every three years, agencies must apply for re-accreditation, which is formal recognition that an agency has an excellent record of service and operation. These awards are a testament to the service and commitment of police department staff members.

In addition to the Illinois State Police, and three County Sheriff's Department's, the Department is one of only 53 municipal law enforcement agencies accredited in Illinois. The Department is also the only accredited police agency in the Barrington Area Council of Governments and was the first in the McHenry County Council of Governments to achieve accreditation.

Free Smoke Detector Battery Exchange Program Established for District Residents

A new public safety program offered by the Barrington Countryside Fire Protection District allows residents to receive free batteries for their homes' smoke detectors when they drop off old batteries at District fire stations, Lieutenant Angela Grandgeorge reports.

Residents may bring old smoke detector batteries to the District's Lake Barrington station, 22222 N. Pepper Road, or its Barrington Hills station, 120 W. Algonquin Road, to take advantage of the program. "The BCFPD's battery exchange program is designed to protect the residents we serve and help minimize the risk of fire-related injuries," Lt. Grandgeorge explains. "In the vast majority of cases, missing or dead batteries are the reasons why smoke detectors fail to activate. We want our residents to be safe in their homes," she adds.

Smoke detectors have been proven to reduce the risk of fire death by 50%. According to the **National Fire Protection Association** (NFPA), nearly two-thirds of reported home fire deaths across the country occur in situations where there are no working smoke detectors.



BCFPD officials recommend that residents test their homes' smoke detectors once per month and change the batteries twice per year.

Barrington Countryside Fire Protection District

(224) 848-4800

www.bcfpd.org

Coyotes

Coyotes are common throughout Illinois, and their numbers have increased dramatically in the past 30 years. Illinois Department of Natural Resources biologists currently estimate there are more than 30,000 coyotes in Illinois. They prefer living in semi-open country with a mix of grasslands and woodlands but they are very adaptable and it is not uncommon to find coyotes living in suburban or urban areas. Coyotes in Illinois tend to have large home ranges compared to coyotes in western states. In Cook County, solitary coyotes traveled over 20 square miles, while coyotes living in family groups traveled over 3 square miles.

The coyote looks like a medium-sized dog, but its nose is more pointed and its tail is bushier than most dogs. A coyote holds its tail down between the hind legs when running. Their fur is typically gray to yellow-gray with guard hairs tipped in black, but some color variation is due to hybridization with domestic dogs. Illinois coyotes are usually larger than those from the western United States, ranging from 20-55 pounds. A coyote's eyes are a striking yellow with large dark pupils, instead of brown, like most dogs. Coyotes are most active from dusk until dawn, but are sometimes seen during the day. They communicate with a variety of vocalizations including barks, yips, and howls. These nocturnal yaps and howls may be their most distinguishing characteristic.

Coyotes took over the role of largest predator in Illinois after wolves and mountain lions disappeared from the state during the 1860s. They hunt mice, voles, rabbits, deer fawns, and other prey, helping to keep the population of small mammals under control. They also supplement their diet with insects, plants, and fruits and berries when these items are available. Besides being good hunters, coyotes are opportunistic feeders and will occasionally eat carrion, garbage, and pet food. Coyotes may also kill livestock and poultry. However, there are many feral dogs in Illinois, and often the coyote is blamed for livestock depredation actually done by feral dogs. It is also commonly thought that urban coyotes frequently prey upon cats and small dogs. A recent study of coyotes in Cook County found that small rodents were the primary food source for urban coyotes. Cat remains were found in less than two percent of the coyote scats studied.

The coyote has no natural predators in Illinois, but forces other than predation impact coyote longevity. Urban coyotes typically live less than two years, and vehicle collisions are the most common cause of death. Rural coyotes typically live three to four years. Malnutrition and disease are also common mortality factors. The oldest



coyote found in a study conducted in central Illinois during 1996 and 1997 was 13 years old.

As Illinois' largest remaining predator, they are an integral part of a healthy ecosystem, but there are many misconceptions about coyotes and their role in urban landscapes. In 2000, a collaborative [research project](#) began between the Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation, the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, the Brookfield Zoo, and the Zoological Pathology Program from the University of Illinois. This project resulted in a six-year study of coyotes living in Chicago and surrounding suburbs. The researchers captured 253 coyotes and placed radio-collars on 175 so that they could track their movements. Their findings indicate that coyotes are an asset in the urban environment. If you are interested in learning more, read the report here ohioline.osu.edu/b929/pdf/b929.pdf.

Despite fear inspired by coyotes, they are not likely to cause problems. However, individuals do sometimes kill or injure domestic pets, young livestock, or poultry. These incidents can typically be prevented by removing resources that attract coyotes and by using exclusion techniques such as fencing and secure shelter for pets and livestock. Some coyotes become accustomed to human activity and may approach close to buildings, people, or pets. Cats and small dogs should be observed closely and placed in fenced areas (yards, kennels) when coyotes are known to be present.

It is important to recognize that coyotes are a permanent fixture in Illinois' rural, suburban and urban areas. Coyote population reduction is usually unrealistic and always temporary and removal of coyotes requires time, effort and funding. Therefore, take steps to learn how to co-exist with these important wildlife neighbors.

Information obtained from the University of Illinois Agricultural Extension website.



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 Barrington Hills, IL 60010-5199

barringtonhills-il.gov

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Village Hall Hours

Monday-Friday
 9:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m.

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CALENDAR



March 3 to 13

Reduced water testing fee (\$10).
 Pickup test bottle at Village Hall, must
 return sample to location in Libertyville, IL

March 12

Longmeadow Corridor Open House
 4:30 pm to 8 pm
 @ Countryside Elementary School
 205 W. County Line Road

March 18

GENERAL PRIMARY ELECTION DAY

April 26

Roadside Clean Up, Volunteers needed!
 Meet at Village Hall at 8:30 am for
 breakfast orientation.

May 3 and 4

Citizens for Conservation Native Plant,
 Shrub, and Tree Sale.
 459 W Highway 22, Lake Barrington