

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public Comments are submitted by the public and are not reviewed or endorsed by the Village.

STATE OF ILLINOIS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, the State of Illinois recognizes the role of equines in the economy, history, and character of Illinois, which can be traced back to when our forefathers used horses to settle the prairie and build our great state, transport people and goods, clear and till the land, harvest and thresh grains, herd cattle, power mills, pull barges, serve in the military, fight fires, and deliver mail; and,

WHEREAS, the horses of today are vital in assisting in police crowd control, providing therapeutic aid to veterans and disabled persons, continuing to work our farms, and are used for pleasure riding and race at Arlington Park, Hawthorne, and Fairmont Park tracks; and,

WHEREAS, there are equine properties of all sizes in Illinois, including breeding farms, boarding and training facilities, riding schools, small acreage farmettes, showgrounds, and equine-based therapy centers; and,

WHEREAS, equine operations encompass thousands of acres, making for a significant part of our land kept in open space, pasture, and forestland; and,

WHEREAS, horses are the source of Illinois jobs and income for thousands of residents, both directly and indirectly, including services such as veterinarians, trainers, farriers, chiropractors, grooms, stable hands, entertainers, carriage/sleigh/hay wagon drivers, jockeys, and sellers of goods such as lumber, hay, grain, grass seed, bedding, tack, trucks, horse trailers and more; and,

WHEREAS, the Horsemen's Council of Illinois helps promote and educate the public about the importance of horses in Illinois; and,

WHEREAS, there are many significant benefits brought to Illinois agriculture, tourism, and quality of life through the equine industry;

THEREFORE, I, Bruce Rauner, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim December 13, 2016, as **ILLINOIS DAY OF THE HORSE**, and urge our citizens to recognize the importance of horses to our security, economy, recreation and heritage, and to lend their enthusiastic support to Illinois' equine industry.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield,

this EIGHTH day of MARCH , in

the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and SIXTEEN , and of the State of Illinois,

one hundred and NINETY-EIGHTH .



Deese White

SECRETARY OF STATE

Bruce Rauner

GOVERNOR

Press Release

Horsemen's Council of Illinois

At the request of the Horsemen's Council of Illinois, on March 8th Governor Bruce Rauner issued a proclamation officially declaring December 13 as the **Illinois Day of the Horse**. In doing so, Governor Rauner helped to raise awareness throughout the state of the importance of equines to the economy, history and character of Illinois. The date of December 13 coincides with the date designated by Congress as the National Day of the Horse.

With this action, Illinois joins states including New Jersey, Maryland, Kentucky and Delaware, which have also issued Proclamations recognizing horses and the importance of the equine industry to the state and local economies.

"Equines were instrumental in building our great state of Illinois and they still figure mightily into its economic and social fabric. The horse industry, and its ancillary professions and services, generates billions of dollars to Illinois' GDP and horses provide tens of thousands of our residents with recreation, service, labor and companionship", says Sheryl King, President of the Horsemen's Council of Illinois.

Companion legislative recognition in the form of a Senate Joint Resolution has been sponsored by Senator William R. Haine (56th Senate District) as Senate Joint Resolution 0046, filed March 8, 2016.

The mission of Horsemen's Council of Illinois (founded in 1987) is to educate, mobilize and represent Horsemen and the equine industry to ensure a thriving Illinois horse community. HCI produces the premier annual event for horse enthusiasts state-wide, the Illinois Horse Fair, held in March in Springfield at the State Fairgrounds. For more information about HCI, see www.horsemenscouncil.org or contact hci@horsemenscouncil.org.

JR, 26 year Resident of BH

We are requesting that the Board of Trustees clarify status and affirm actions taken as resolution 15-36 authorizing the execution of a settlement agreement in case # 15-CH-3461 involving the Village before the Circuit Court of Cook County. The resolution was authorized by the Board on September 28, 2015 and executed on October 26, 2015.

The Board will recall that this resolution and filed Agreed Order of Settlement rescinded the Commercial Horse Boarding Text Amendment. Reasons to find the Text Amendment null and void included, but not limited to, clear violations and conflicts of interest in the process of adoption and a scurrilous 7 year retroactive provision to favor one resident in a legal dispute. Subsequent filings by the Village in this matter in February of this year cause residents confusion as to the intentions of this Board relative to honoring the settlement agreement.

We are simply requesting that the Board take immediate and clear action to follow through with the settlement agreement and enforce all home occupation violations. Given the fact that this resolution is in effect, a cease and desist order should be immediately filed for those in violation and all fines collected.

Also, the Board may recall the accelerated process to approve a special permit for 170 Old Sutton Road. Anyone who has taken the opportunity to view the massive, steel beamed construction on this property would question if the specifics of the construction and special permit use are in line with original approvals. We know that no commercial permitted use for that property was approved and it was to be used only for family and a few friends for polo interest. While I personally see value in the owner's intent, the Board should ensure that the special use permit and construction are following the restrictions laid out. You may recall that this significant construction was approved in record time at one meeting and with little inspection to detail while ignoring questions of neighbors.

The Board most obviously understands the severity and importance of these issues facing the Village. For instance, adoption of a residential zoning map would be irresponsible without certainty that Home Occupation rights have been restored and enforcement of violations that protect residents Home Occupation rights are acted upon. There must be no ambiguity for property owners such as Oakwood Farms or 170 Old Sutton that the Village is serious about enforcing Home Occupation rights.

We look forward to your actions in this matter pursuing without doubt the cancellation of the Commercial Boarding Text Amendment. Thank you.