

President's Letter



Happy 2025! By now, I'm sure everyone has made their new year's resolutions, set their objectives and began the course for success! We, too, at the Village have done just that. First and foremost, I am happy to share that Barrington Hills residents will see a 2.2% reduction in the Village's portion of their 2024 property taxes. This is an incredible feat, especially during a time when everyone's expenses, collectively, have increased exponentially. I wish to thank the Finance Committee and Village Staff for making this possible. It is their continued goal to maintain its fiscal responsibility in 2025.

Last year, we welcomed Police Chief Kyle Murphy to join our Department, who brought a wealth of experience from his tenure with the Village of Wilmette, a CALEA accredited village. His approachable, down-to-earth demeanor and genuine kindness, together with his leadership style, made him an excellent choice for the position.

Officer Megan Schauner joined the Department in August, 2024. She recently graduated from the Police Training Institute at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and is currently enrolled in the Department's field training program. When you see her patrolling, be sure to give her a warm Barrington Hills welcome.

The Village is preparing for anticipated retirements within the Police Department and is taking proactive steps to minimize staffing shortages, ensuring residents continue to receive the high level of service they expect. Proper planning is essential, as it takes over nine months from the start of the hiring process to the completion of the police academy and the department's field training program, for a probationary officer to achieve solo status.

I am happy to report that investment in our community continues. Applications for permits keep the Village busy as construction for new residences, remodeling, and improvements continue. Properties are selling, vacant lots are being developed, and new subdivision applications have been received. This is proof positive that the very characteristics that have attracted new and existing residents to our village are being sought after and treasured, solidifying the village's commitment to its comprehensive plan and village code.

The Village's Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) program has demonstrated its value in enhancing community safety by assisting in the prevention and resolution of several incidents. For example, the system recently helped identify a vehicle involved in a hit and run accident and stolen vehicles passing through our Village. The ALPRs are strategically placed throughout our community, providing an additional layer of security and support for our residents.

Continuing this year is the private road resurfacing initiative. When the Village awards a contract to resurface the Village roads, the bidder is also asked to extend village pricing to homeowners needing their private road resurfaced. (Unfortunately, driveways are excluded). The expense of mobilizing the specialized equipment is mitigated by completing the work simultaneously. If you're interested in this program, send an email to village@vbhil.gov.

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**Chief Murphy (R) and
Officer Schauner**



**President Cecola placed 3rd in 2024's
The Land We Love Run 5K**



Barrington Hills Fall Fest visitors enjoying an animal show



President's Letter continued from page 1...

The 2024 Land We Love Run 5K/10K and 2-mile walk charity event, co-hosted with Cuba Township, was an incredible event. It set a new donation record of 820 pounds of food for Cuba Township's Food Pantry and raised \$11,500 for Folds of Honor, a fantastic charity which awards educational scholarships to the spouses and children of military members and first responders who have fallen or became disabled while serving.

This year's race is scheduled for June 29, 2025. Run or walk, I hope to see you there! Don't be daunted by the distance. I participated in the cause hoping to be able to finish the race. I not only finished (albeit limping across the finish line) but encouraged by the crowd, fellow participants, and especially my wife, I not only finished but medaled in my category! And you can, too!

We had an amazing time at this year's Barrington Hills Fall Festival. Attendance soared to just over 1,000 people who enjoyed rides, games, festival treats, live music, and more! Almost 500 raffle participants entered their tickets for the chance to win one of two telescopes, a Fall Festival T-shirt or a Fall Festival blanket.

Many residents have expressed their enjoyment at our annual Fall Festival and look forward to it each year. This is very gratifying. I want to emphasize that this is non-taxpayer funded; it is all made possible by the generosity of donors, sponsors and volunteers for which I am so very thankful. This year's Fall Festival is scheduled for September 14, 2025. Donations are always accepted, either monetary or in-kind, and we could always use more volunteers so don't be shy! It's a great way to meet new neighbors and area residents!

Information on village-related events, programs, etc., can be found on the Village website, social media platforms, or of course by calling Village Hall.

As always, I thank you for the trust have you placed in me as your Village President. I wish you all a 2025 filled with joy, health and prosperity.

With gratitude,

Brian D. Cecola, President



REAL ID GOES INTO EFFECT ON MAY 7, 2025.

For residents who fly domestically, **effective May 7, 2025**, the federal government will require you to use either a valid U.S. Passport or a **REAL ID**.

A **REAL ID** can be obtained from the Illinois Secretary of State's office. Some facilities require you to make an appointment and others are walk-in.

KEY DOCUMENTS to apply for REAL ID:

- Proof of Identity
- Proof of Social Security Number
- Proof of Residency with the applicant's name on it
- Proof of Signature

FOR ACCEPTABLE DOCUMENTS, A CHECKLIST AND THE ILLINOIS SECRETARY OF STATE FACILITY FINDER, VISIT: realid.ilsos.gov.

You DO NOT NEED a REAL ID if:

- You have a valid US Passport
- You do not use airplanes as a mode of domestic transportation
- You do not visit military bases
- You do not visit secure federal facilities.

2025 ROAD PROGRAM

The year is barely underway and we're close to putting the 2025 Road Program out for bid! The Roads and Bridges Committee comprised of Trustees Laura Ekstrom (Chair) and David Riff (Member), has been hard at work planning, driving the roads, taking



core samples, analyzing data and making assessments. The Village plans to resurface the western half of Spring Creek Road, and would like to add resurfacing Buckley Road if the received bids meet our budget. In the past, the Village has successfully been able to add to its road program by going to bid early in the year (early = better pricing). We hope to continue this trend and have a bid opening by the end of March, if not sooner.

ROAD PRESERVATION

The Village will continue its road preservation program, which has proven to be successful in extending the time between necessary resurfacing. This program includes the application of a maltene-based rejuvenator called Reclamite, onto recently resurfaced roads. When this product is applied to the surface of the road, it is quickly absorbed into the material, restoring components in the asphalt which helps to keep the road durable and flexible, extending the life of the road. The longer the Village can wait between resurfacing, the less we need to spend annually to keep our roads in good condition.

PRIVATE ROAD HOMEOWNERS

If your private road needs resurfacing and you are interested in receiving information about possible "in the neighborhood" pricing from the awarded service provider, send an email including your name and private road to village@vbhil.gov (sorry, driveways do not qualify).

THE VILLAGE BOARD AND STAFF ARE WORKING FOR YOU!

Residents will see a reduction in the Village's portion of their 2024 property tax assessment!

The Board of Trustees unanimously approved the levy and assessment of taxes for fiscal year 2024 which included a reduction of 2.2%, equivalent to \$104,500, in the village's portion of property taxes.

Both President Brian Cecola and Trustee Thomas Strauss, who also serves as the Finance Committee Chairman, emphasized this was the 15th consecutive year of maintaining or decreasing property taxes, all due to the careful diligence of village staff and the fiscal responsibility by both current and previous Boards of Trustees.

"I am so proud to be able to do this for our residents. Many hours are dedicated to making this happen; and a time when everything is increasing, this says a lot. I thank the Finance Committee for their diligence and for their many hours in making this possible," said President Cecola.



The direction began in 2011 when the levy remained flat, as did each following year leading up to 2015, when the residents of Barrington Hills saw a decrease of 1.7% in the Village's portion of property taxes. The trend has continued ever since with decreases ranging from 1.7% to as large as 14% in 2017, all while maintaining essential services and increasing efficiencies.

"It's a lot of work and 15 years is an incredible number," shared Trustee Strauss who is joined on the Finance Committee by Trustees Darby Hills and John Carpenter (JC) Clarke. "Very few villages in the State of Illinois can say that they've held or lowered their tax levy for so many years."

Trustee Strauss attributes fiscal responsibility and negotiating the Village's major expenses as the key factors in reducing the levy.

A MESSAGE FROM BARRINGTON AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (BACOG)

Did you know that the state requires public water supplies to be tested for a wide range of contaminants on a routine basis, but with private wells that serve just one or two households, there is no regulation that requires testing? If you are a private-well owner, no one is testing the water for you. That means you are responsible for making sure your home's 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 either animal or human waste, or fertilizer components reaching the well water, and can cause illness in humans. Additional testing to identify other contaminants in the natural well water (like manganese, iron, and lead) is recommended every 5 years or with a transfer of real estate.

BACOG is now partnering with My Tap Score and SimpleLab to bring expanded testing options to our region's residential private-well owners. So, if you're worried about other potential contaminants, like lead, arsenic, or PFAS, there is now easy access to water tests for your home through the BACOG's website.

For information on well-water testing, notifications, or other BACOG initiatives, visit their website: bacog.org.

PRIVATE WELL WATER TESTING OPTIONS

ANNUAL TESTS

provided by

- *E.coli & Coliform*
- *Bacterias*
- *Nitrates*

- *Metals & Minerals*
 - LEAD, Arsenic, Magnesium, etc.
- *PFAS*

EXPANDED TESTING

powered by

BARRINGTON HILLS RECAP 2024



President Cecola (L) presents retiring Police Chief Joseph Colditz a Proclamation recognizing his years of service.



New Police Chief Kyle Murphy sworn to office.



President Cecola and Trustee Hoffmann answering questions from Prairie Middle School's 7th grade history students.



BHPD earns its 7th CALEA accreditation.



Illinoisans prepared for two broods of cicadas.



The Land We Love Run 2024: On your mark! Get Set!



Equipped for the Total Solar Eclipse!



Record number of voters at Village Hall for the Presidential election.

SOMETHING FOR EVERY AGE AT BARRINGTON HILLS FALL FESTIVAL



A Heartfelt Thank You: 200 Pounds of Kindness Delivered to Barrington Township's Food Pantry

This holiday season, our village came together to make a difference. Thanks to the generosity and kindness of area residents, the Village Holiday Food Drive collected just shy of 200 pounds of much-needed food pantry wish list items.

These contributions benefited the Barrington Township Food Pantry which provides food insecurity relief to those in need.



President Cecola with Barrington Township Staff



Food Pantry Coordinator, Patrice Miller (L) with President Cecola.

"It is a great honor to help people and to make this delivery on behalf of the donors who made this possible. Every contribution, whether big or small matters, and this past season, together we were able to help food pantry shoppers add to their cupboards," said President Brian Cecola.

A huge thank you goes out to every donor who made this possible. Your compassion and willingness to give has made a real impact.

Donations are directly accepted at the Food Pantry which operates all year long. Visit their website for much-needed items and operating hours: barringtontwpil.gov.

AVOID A FINE, GET A PERMIT



That "simple" project may set you back \$2,500 a day--or more!

You are required to ensure the safety and quality of your project by having it inspected by a certified code administrator, helping to ensure the integrity of its:

- ✦ Electrical Wiring
- ✦ Gas Line Installation
- ✦ Plumbing Installation
- ✦ Structure

OUTDOOR PROJECTS NEED A PERMIT, TOO!

Did you know these types of projects potentially require a permit?

- ✦ Drainage
- ✦ Earth Moving
- ✦ Berm Installation
- ✦ Tree Removal
- ✦ EV Chargers
- ✦ Whole-House Generators
- ✦ Solar Panels

WHY IS YOUR PROJECT IN THE BUILDING SETBACK LINE OR EASEMENT?

It's not supposed to be!

If you're not sure, quell the curiosity and contact the Building Department!

IT'S EASY AND FREE!

Plans/questions can be emailed to build@vbhil.gov.

Avoid a fine by calling the line: **847-551-3003**
or
email: build@vbhil.gov

Follow the Building Department's link on the Village's website to get your project started!

VBHIL.GOV

★ April 1, 2025 Consolidated Election ★

OFFICES UP FOR ELECTION IN THE VILLAGE OF BARRINGTON HILLS

- **OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT: 4-year term**
- **TRUSTEE SEATS (3): 4-year term**

The consolidated election provides the opportunity to vote for your local representatives such as those on the village board, school board, library board, park district and other elected officials. It is also an opportunity to voice your opinion or to help decide on issues presented to voters through referendums.

WHEN TO UPDATE YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION?

- If you are a new resident
- If you recently changed your name.
- If you are recently married

Online registration is fast and easy! Visit ova.elections.il.gov and follow the prompts. Be sure to have your Illinois driver's license and social security number handy.

HAVE AN OUT-OF-STATE DRIVER'S LICENSE?

Bring the following acceptable forms of ID for registration to the Secretary of State's office or your County Clerk's office:

Acceptable Forms of ID

- Passport or Military ID
- Driver's License or State ID card
- College/University/School/Work ID
- Vehicle registration card
- Lease, mortgage or deed to home
- Credit or debit card
- Social Security, Medicare or Medicaid card
- Insurance card
- Civic, union or professional membership card
- LINK/Public Aid/Department of Human Services card
- Illinois FOID card

Examples of first-class mail addressed to voter that can be used as ID:

- Bill, Transcript or Report Card from School
- Bank Statement, Pay Stub or Pension Statement
- Utility, Medical or Insurance Bill
- Official mail from any government agency

Register



VOTE

WHAT TO DO IF YOU'RE INVOLVED IN A MOTOR VEHICLE CRASH

Your safety comes first. If you're involved in a crash, follow these steps:

- 1 CHECK FOR INJURIES**
Assess yourself, passengers, and others involved for injuries. Even minor collisions can cause harm, so call 911 if anyone is hurt. Provide clear details to the dispatcher.
- 2 MOVE TO SAFETY**
If it's safe and the vehicles are operable, move them out of traffic to prevent further accidents. If the vehicles can't be moved, turn on hazard lights and stay in a secure area.
- 3 STAY CALM AND ALERT**
Remaining calm helps you think clearly. Avoid standing in traffic lanes and stay aware of your surroundings to avoid secondary collisions.
- 4 EXCHANGE INFORMATION**
Collect names, phone numbers, addresses, insurance details, and vehicle license plates. If safe, take photos of the scene and vehicle damage. Avoid discussing who was at fault, as this will be determined later.



- 5 REPORT THE CRASH**
Notify law enforcement, as required by Illinois law, when the accident has resulted in an injury or death to any party involved or when the accident has resulted in property damage of more than \$1,500. File a report with your insurance company promptly.
- 6 OBTAINING A COPY OF THE CRASH REPORT**
In most cases, the reporting officer will supply involved drivers with the Driver Information Exchange either on the scene or soon after via electronic mail. A driver who does not receive this information or misplaces it may download a free copy of the Driver Information Exchange from LexisNexis® Police Reports, after registering for an account. Involved parties and commercial account holders can purchase LexisNexis® Police Reports via Barrington Hills Police Department's website: bhpd.net.

Have you had the chance to meet Police Chief Kyle Murphy? Let us introduce you!

Chief Murphy joined our Village from the Village of Wilmette, officially starting with us this past September. Over his extensive 30-year career in Wilmette, he held various law enforcement roles and ultimately rose to the position of Chief of Police, bringing a wealth of experience and expertise to our community.

He graduated from Northern Illinois University, earning a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology with an emphasis in Criminology, and has completed the Senior Management Institute of Police (Police Executive Research Forum in association with Boston University).



WE ASKED CHIEF MURPHY A FEW CANDID QUESTIONS AND HERE'S WHAT HE HAD TO SAY:

What inspired you to pursue a career in law enforcement?

It might sound cliché, but my motivation to become a police officer was rooted in a simple desire to help others. This career gives you the chance to work as part of a team dedicated to making a difference. It's about being there for people—not just on the worst day of their life, but also in those moments when they feel they have no one else to turn to for help.

What advice would you give someone considering a career in law enforcement?

My advice to anyone considering a career in law enforcement is to go in with your eyes wide open. This job is incredibly rewarding and gives you the opportunity to make a real difference in people's lives, but it also comes with significant challenges. The work can be physically and emotionally demanding, and it often affects not just you but your family as well.

That said, if you're committed to serving others, prepared to face adversity, and willing to balance the sacrifices with a strong support system, it can be one of the most fulfilling careers you'll ever have.

What's the best advice you have ever received?

The best advice I've ever received is from my mother, "treat others the way you wish to be treated." It's a simple idea, but it holds true in every part of life. Whether you're leading a team, navigating a tough situation, or supporting someone; respect, empathy, and fairness go a long way in building trust and meaningful relationships.

This advice has guided me both professionally and personally. And if there's one other thing I've learned, it's the importance of keeping a sense of humor and not taking yourself too seriously—it can make even the hardest days a little lighter.

What are your top priorities for the Department in this new year?

We have several. First is to continue to provide a high level of professional public safety services to the community while always looking for ways to improve efficiency and effectiveness.

We are a nationally accredited police agency through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). This is a voluntary process where independent assessors review our policies and practices annually with an award cycle in the fourth year. This is a labor-intensive process, but it ensures we are meeting industry best practices. Only about 5% of agencies nationally achieve this accreditation. We will be conducting our year one review in early 2025. We will be running a promotional process to create an eligibility list for the rank of sergeant and a recruitment cycle for the position of Police Officer later in the Spring. We will continue to work with our public safety partners on joint training, so we are best prepared for critical incidents.

Can you share a memorable story from your time in law enforcement?

Fortunately—or unfortunately, depending on how you look at it—a career in policing is never short of memorable experiences. One story that profoundly impacted me occurred during my time as a detective. I was working with a teenage girl and her family on an ongoing harassment case. Tragically, the girl later fell victim to a horrific crime and nearly lost her life.

As is often the case, after the prosecution of the offender, we lost contact. However, several years later, I received a letter from the victim. She shared an update on her life and included a photograph of herself with her family following her graduation from the police academy. She credited the work my team and I had done as her inspiration to become a police officer so she could have a similar impact on others who needed help.

Her story still moves me to this day.



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Monday-Friday
9:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m.

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**Sign up to receive
VILLAGE ALERTS**
by phone, text or email

**Scan the QR Code or
Text "VBHalerts" to 24639
for a link to register**



For more information on the new system go to
bhpd.net/community-alerts