

Directory

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

Director of
Administration
Robert Kosin

Phone
847-551-3000

Website
www.ci.barrington-hills.il.us

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

• • •

Meetings

The Village Board
4th Monday of the month,
7:00 pm

The Plan Commission
2nd Monday of the
month, 7:30 pm

**The Zoning Board of
Appeals** - 3rd Monday of
the month, 7:30 pm

The Board of Health
3rd Wednesday of the
month, 8:00 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 Trustees

James A. Kempe
President

Theodore L. Horne
President Pro Tem

Robert G. Abboud, Jr.
Trustee

Fritz Gohl
Trustee

Daria G. Sapp
Trustee

Walter E. Smithe III
Trustee

Julie McKevitt
Trustee

News from Village Hall



Keepers of the Land
published by
The Garden Club
of Barrington
is available at the
Village Hall.

Winter/Spring 2004

From the Desk of the Village President

REAL ESTATE TAX FACTS

For the year 2002 (payable in 2003), Real Estate Taxes were derived from several different taxing bodies. In the Cook County portion of our Village, the taxes came from the following separate entities:

<u>Taxing District</u>	<u>Tax Rate</u>
Community Unit District 220	3.741
Barrington Countryside Fire District	0.374
Barrington Library District	0.229
Village of Barrington Hills	1.147
Barr. Countryside Park District	0.039
Harper College District	0.295
NW Mosquito Abatement	0.009
Barr. Twp. General Assistance	0.003
Barr. Twp. Road & Bridge	0.000
Township of Barrington	0.038
Consolidated Elections	0.000
Suburban T B Sanitarium	0.006
Forest Preserve District	0.061
County of Cook	0.534
Cook County Health Facility	0.156
TOTAL RATE	6.632

The 6.632 rate is in dollars per 100 dollars of equalized assessed value. (I might point out that the Forest Preserve and the County Health Facility are already part of the Cook County activity.) In Cook County, the County Assessor sets the assessment value at 16% of the market value. However, the State of Illinois requires the property be assessed at 1/3rd market value. So the State set the Cook County Equalization Factor for the year 2002 at 2.4689. If you multiply the 16% Cook County

assessment value by the State Equalization Factor, you will get 39.5024. This is above the law-mandated 1/3rd market value. Those in other counties will find that the State-set Equalization Factor is either 1.0, or very close to 1.0, because those counties already assess at about 1/3rd market value.

In all counties, the assessed value must be multiplied by the Equalization Factor and then the amount divided by 100. This value multiplied by the tax rate is the tax due. The tax is payable in two installments. One is due in the Spring (March 1, in Cook County and a little later in the other counties) and the second payment is due in the Fall.

There are also several reductions available. First, there is the Homeowner's Exemption which is available to all homeowners who live in their property as a principal residence. There is also a Senior Citizens Exemption for those over 65 years of age. Finally, there is a Senior Assessment Freeze Exemption. Of course, any of these three reductions is applied to the tax as a reduction to get the final tax due in all counties.

For Real Estate Tax help call your Township Assessor's office.

Algonquin Township:	847-639-2700
Barrington Township:	847-381-5632
Cuba Township:	847-381-1924
Dundee Township:	847-428-8092

James A. Kempe
President, Board of Trustees

Look Inside For:

- Police Pension Fund Information
- Village Budget Summary
- Plan Commission Information
- Village Hall Upgrade

A CONSERVATIVE APPROACH TO FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

Barrington Hills, since its inception over 45 years ago, has taken a very conservative, even frugal approach to fiscal responsibility. This has served our residents well by providing appropriate and necessary services without the "fluff" that can build up in a municipal system. Your current Board is 100% committed to working diligently to continue with this conservative and frugal approach to running our Village.

The past several years have been fiscally challenging to our Village, resulting in deficit spending in some accounts. Fortunately, since the Village has maintained sufficient cash reserves we have been able to pay budgeted deficits without borrowing. On the advice of Ron Amen, auditor and partner in the Village's auditing firm, Lauterbach & Amen, LLP, now is the time to build the reserves back up. According to Mr. Amen, Barrington Hills is in a unique position in that we are totally reliant on extremely limited sources of revenue. Virtually every other suburb can count on a steady supply of significant sales tax revenue, as well as large property tax collections from retail, commercial and industrial property. We have a special lifestyle in Barrington Hills and little more than our residential real estate and utility taxes to support it. Your Village Board continues to be the frugal, fiscally responsible government that you want.

Walter E. Smithe III
Chair, Finance



VILLAGE BUDGET SUMMARY - FISCAL YEAR END APRIL 2004

Where the Village Funds Come From:

<i>Revenue</i>	<i>Source</i>		<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Real Estate Tax	Cook-60.46%	\$1,925,651		
	Kane-01.72%	\$54,782		
	Lake-16.41%	\$522,659		
	McHenry-21.41%	\$681,908		
Total all 4 counties			\$3,185,000	66%
Motor Fuel Tax	State of Illinois		\$112,000	2%
Sales Tax	State of Illinois		\$90,000	1%
Income Tax	State of Illinois		\$230,000	5%
Utility Taxes	Com Ed, Nicor, Telecommunications		\$390,000	8%
All Other Revenue			\$894,598	18%
Total Revenue:			\$4,901,598	100%

How The Village Spends The Funds:

<i>Description</i>		<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Legal Expenses		\$696,877	13%
Police Services		\$2,198,441	38%
Road Expenses		\$825,000	14%
Administration & All Others		\$2,009,398	35%
Total Expenses:		\$5,729,716	100%

R_x FOR COOPERATION?

When the Illinois Constitution was redrafted in 1970, it included a provision regarding the establishment of intergovernmental agreements. This provision has important merit to the governmental structure of the State in general and Barrington Hills in particular.

In northeastern Illinois there are some three hundred general purpose units of local municipal government from Chicago (2,896,016) to Union (576). (A general-purpose unit of government is one that can levy taxes, impose fines and regulate land uses.) The number increases almost threefold when adding such special purpose units as forest preserve districts, school districts, mosquito abatement districts, sanitary districts, library districts, fire districts and street lighting districts.

Amidst this bounty of governmental units operates our Village of Barrington Hills. While it is common knowledge that the Village is within four counties, only the most astute student of local government recognizes that it adjoins nine other municipalities and is served by five fire protection districts, four forest preserves, and eight highway departments. In this setting, the constitutional provision for intergovernmental cooperation can be a prescription for success.

The Village has used intergovernmental agreements as a tool to create mutual aid pacts between police departments of adjoining villages and to establish a structure for cooperation between Barrington Hills and governmental units that surround us. These agreements do not spring full-blown from a handbook of municipal forms, but require significant persistence and pursuit. Each sitting Village Board, including the current board, has had before it agreements to consider, propose, reject, or more often than not, adopt. And your Village has, in most instances, initiated these agreements of intergovernmental cooperation.

Do they always work? Not always, but we do keep trying. Because, even though Barrington Hills is an island of continuity in an ever-shifting ocean of land development, we still have to live with our neighbors. It is easier and less expensive to co-exist peaceably. Therefore, when needed, the Village begins the process of intergovernmental cooperation as specified by the State constitution and starts formulating another prescription for neighborly cooperation.

Robert Kosin
Director of Administration

The Village of Barrington Hills currently has Intergovernmental Agreements with the following:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| • Village of Algonquin | Barrington Countryside Fire District |
| • Village of Lake Barrington | BARN |
| • Village of South Barrington | BAGIS |
| • Village of Barrington | BACOG |
| • Numerous agreements with neighboring Police Departments regarding mutual aid | |

CHANGES FOR THE BETTER

1 The numbers are in.

The Village of Barrington Hills Curbside Recycling Program for 2003 saw a 100% increase over 2002! In 2003 an average of 1153 homes participated in recycling efforts. Our residents were responsible for diverting 20.35% of the total waste collected away from landfills. **Are you recycling?**



2 ADA improvements completed.

2003 brought about several improvements to the buildings and grounds at the Village Hall. Please feel free to stop by the Village Hall to see for yourself. The entryway, hallway, and restrooms near the Alex MacArthur Meeting Room have been renovated to accommodate the ADA requirements for public spaces. The last of the work required was the installation of an ADA-compliant drinking fountain. In addition, the existing floor tiles, which were delaminating, were replaced and a fresh coat of paint finished the job.

3 What has 20 computers, 12 monitors, and one pair of eyes on them all 24/7?

The Barrington Hills Police Dispatch and 911 Center. The dispatch center has undergone a major renovation to make the radio traffic system compatible with our digital record management and telephone systems. Design started in July 2003 and construction was completed in January 2004.

The improvements include:

- Monitors have been changed from tube to flat screen, saving space and easing eye strain.
- Electrical circuits are now segregated according to usage.
- Mapping integration with 911 telephone carriers permits pinpoint location of cellular calls.
- BH Police dispatchers, newly re-trained to expertly operate this equipment, also manage the walk-in traffic to the Police Department through the addition of speakers in the lower lobby.

4 It's on the record!

In 2003, Governor Blagojevich signed a bill requiring that all Executive Sessions make a verbatim record of each session, using either a stenographer or audio or video-recording equipment, effective January 2004. The Barrington Hills Village Hall, without a need for a sound system, undertook the installation of a digital recording system, tied into the new police system, that can be temporarily used for the Executive Session, and not intrude on other meetings being held in the MacArthur Room.

Julie McKeivitt
Chair, Buildings and Grounds
Chair, Environment

POLICE PENSION FUND POSED TO RESIDENTS' VOTE

The March 16, 2004 ballot will ask the residents of the Village of Barrington Hills to decide the following public policy question:

Shall the Village of Barrington Hills adopt Article 3 of the "Illinois Pension Code" pertaining to the creation of a police pension fund?



Here are some frequently asked questions and their (hopefully clear) answers:

Q: What is this all about?

A: A good police pension plan can help the Village attract the high quality officers that we all want. Therefore, this question is on the ballot because more than 150 registered Barrington Hills voters signed petitions to put this question on the ballot. If a majority of the Village residents casting ballots on March 16 approve this question, a Barrington Hills Police Pension will be created. The regulating Illinois statute is "Article 3 of the Illinois Pension Code" (Article 3).

Q: Do the officers of the Police Department have a pension system now?

A: All Village employees are currently members of the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF). If the voters approve, the sworn officers of the Police Department would no longer be members of IMRF, but would become members of the Barrington Hills Police Pension system.

Q: What's the difference between IMRF and Article 3?

A: There are four major differences between IMRF and Article 3 pension systems:

1. The "widows and orphans" benefits in the Article 3 pension system are significantly greater than those in the IMRF system. In an IMRF system, surviving family members of an officer killed in the line of duty receive 50% of benefits that would have been available to the officer upon retirement. In an Article 3 system, the surviving spouse receives full benefits for life. Children receive benefits until they reach the age of 18.
2. Police officers in an IMRF system contribute 4.5% of their salary to the State of Illinois system. By State law, the Village matches this contribution. In an Article 3 system, officers contribute 9.91% of their salaries to the fund. The Village's financial responsibility is to make sure that there is enough in the fund to meet the fund's commitment.
3. The minimum age for retirement in IMRF is 62. With a Police Pension Fund, officers are allowed to receive retirement benefits at age 50 IF they have 20 years service with the Village. This difference was intended to recognize that law enforcement takes an extraordinary toll on police officers.
4. The IMRF system is a State system, managed by the State with no local control or input into funds administration. An Article 3 system is locally controlled and managed. Members of the Barrington Hills Police Pension Board would be appointed by Barrington Hills elected officials and/or elected by officers of the Barrington Hills Police Department.

Q: What are the advantages and disadvantages of adopting Article 3 now?

A: Advantages

1. The creation of an Article 3 fund would better provide for an officer's family if a tragedy should occur.
2. Creating a Barrington Hills Police Pension Fund now actually controls costs. Under Illinois law, once a community reaches a population of 5000 people, an Article 3 fund is mandated. There is a reasonable possibility that the Village may reach this threshold by 2010. At that time, because the age and tenure of incumbent officers will have increased, the contributions by the officers and potential funds growth will be less – thereby increasing immediate costs for the Village.
3. Creation of an Article 3 fund would make the Village a more attractive employer, better able to attract qualified candidates to the police ranks. Currently both Fox River Grove and South Barrington have Article 3 funds. Barrington Hills competes with these communities in an effort to assure the most professional police service.

Disadvantages

Being self-funded, in the unlikely case where a catastrophic event results in the deaths or permanent disability of a majority of the police officers in the department, the Village would be required to supplement benefits until such time as replacement personnel could be put in place and until the fund has sufficient assets to offset the calamity.

Q: Will this increase my taxes?

A: Probably not. The Village of Barrington Hills only levies taxes when and if necessary. The only requirement by the State for the Police Pension Fund is that the municipality contribute to the fund to make sure that pension checks are valid. If the referendum passes and the Pension Fund is established for sworn officers, there will be an immediate one-time transfer from IMRF of nearly \$400,000 – the current retirement account for sworn officers. This will serve as seed money for the new BH fund. With officers contributing 9.91% of their salaries to the fund, the Village's obligation need be no more than the current contribution levels to IMRF.

Fritz Gohl
Chair, Public Safety
Frederick J. Clauser
Chief of Police

THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN IS NOW BEING REVIEWED AND REVISED

The Plan Commission of the Village of Barrington Hills was originally created for the purpose of creating a Comprehensive Plan that could be used as a guide to direct the land-use policies of the Village. Through the years, this nine-member commission has been entrusted with the periodic review and update of the Comprehensive Plan. Since it is recommended that plans be revisited every 5 to 8 years, the

Plan Commission in November 2003 took on the task of reviewing the Comprehensive Plan dated 1996. As with the subdivision process, the Plan Commission welcomes residents' input into the review and update of the Village's Comprehensive Plan.

Daria G. Sapp
Chair, Planning

Barrington Hills Plan Commission

Daniel R. Wolfgram, *Chairman*
Kenneth W. Bosworth, *Vice Chairman*
Lou Ann Majewski, *Secretary*
Peter A. Grande
Patrick J. Hennelly
Thomas J. McGrath
James J. O'Donnell
Michael Schmechtig
David M. Stieper

Barrington Hills Zoning Board of Appeals

John A. Ward, *Chairman*
Thomas G. Fitzgerald
Margaret Kerr
John C. Parker
John L. Quick
George L. Schueppert
Jonathan J. Knight

THF

Winter Snow Plowing

Many of you have noticed some changes in snowplowing strategy on Village roads. We are making operations safer for the environment and less costly to our residents.

In past years, the snow plowing contractor determined the amount of salt to be used. Also, the trucks would be typically called out as soon as any snow appeared. While this strategy produced dry, clear roads, it was very damaging to the environment and very costly to the Village.

This year, we changed our strategy to reduce the amount of salt applied as well as when the trucks are called out. We reduced the salt application by about 90%. We carefully monitor the weather to make timely decisions on calling out the snow plowing trucks when the accumulation is expected or approaching 1.5 to 2 inches. Village dispatchers can also call when road conditions warrant attention. Intersections and hills are given priority.



Sure Signs of Spring -- Pot Holes and Weight Limits

Potholes form when the weather begins to warm up. When daytime temperatures rise above freezing, but nighttime temperatures drop back below freezing, freeze-thaw cycles are created that open weak spots in the road surface causing the pot hole. Additionally, as the frost begins to come out of the ground, the road base is weakened and the underlayment becomes water-logged. Then, heavy vehicles such as garbage trucks and school buses, can cause the road surface to break open.



The Village's extensive road construction over the last several years has produced good progress on improving the road surfaces, but spring pot-holes still happen. Village crews will be placing temporary patches in these pot holes as they form, using "cold patch" until the weather warms up enough to use hot asphalt for permanent patches.

Be aware that pot holes can form overnight, so please drive carefully and be alert to changing road surface conditions. Our newly improved roads are better prepared to handle these effects because of their improved design and resistance to pot holes.

To protect Village roads during the spring thaw, we temporarily reduce the road weight limit from 32,000 lbs. to 20,000 lbs. This has no effect on passenger vehicles. Large delivery trucks and construction traffic need a special overweight permit to travel on Village roads during this period. Check with the Village Hall for this year's large truck ban schedule.

Road Construction

In 2003 we completed the following road sections:

- Ridge Road – between Oak Knoll and Merri Oaks Roads
- Meadow Hill Road – from Fox Hunt Road to the top of the hill
- Haeger's Bend Road – between Lake Cook and Chapel Roads
- Church Road
- Algonquin / River Road

All outstanding landscaping or driveway issues will be completed in the coming construction season.

For 2004 we are planning improvements to the following road sections beginning in July:

- Plum Tree Road – Braeburn to Ridge Roads
- Ridge Road – south of Oak Knoll to Lake Cook Roads
- Cuba Road – various components as part of a multi-year effort
- Various road repairs, particularly south of Lake Cook Road
- Inspection of all bridges and box culverts in the Village

I believe you will find that the new roadways will be a substantial improvement over past conditions.

Road Construction Incidentals

• School Bus Pick-Up

The Village will coordinate with the bus company regarding temporary road closures. They should notify you of any changes in school bus pickup.



• Stakes and Markings

You may notice stake markings along the construction routes set back some distance from the existing road surface. This is NOT the location of the new roadway. These markings are set back away from the work area to provide stable reference points for the construction work.

Landscaping, Mailboxes, and Driveway Aprons

Prior to road construction, the landscaping, driveway aprons, mailboxes, and other signage are photographed and documented along the construction route. The Village is committed to returning your landscaping elements to their original condition by the end of the work.

If you are in the road construction area and plan on moving your driveway or making other significant changes regarding your property as it adjoins the roadway, this would be a good time to bring it to our attention. By coordinating our efforts, we can avoid confusion and lower the costs of the work both to you and to the Village.

If you are interested in paving your driveway, we can put you in touch with our contractors. While the Village does not pay for services to residents, you might find you can get a good price since the work can be coordinated with adjoining Village road construction. A number of residents have taken advantage of this in the past.

If you have any questions about snow plowing, pot holes, or the 2004 road construction plan, please call Robert Abboud at 847-381-8174 or the Barrington Hills Director of Administration, Bob Kosin, at 847-551-3004.

THE INS AND OUTS OF THE PLAN COMMISSION

The Plan Commission is made up of nine members of the community, residents of Barrington Hills, who voluntarily serve as an advisory body to the Village Board. They are the guardians of the Comprehensive Plan and make sure that new developments and subdivisions fall within the Plan's current guidelines. The Plan Commission meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at 7:30 pm and are open to the public. Residents are encouraged to participate in the process.

To begin the subdivision process, the owners of the property who have decided to develop must first notify the Village Clerk of their intent. The applicants are then scheduled to appear before the Plan Commission in a public meeting, which begins the process of subdividing the property. There are four distinct phases of the process each requiring the applicant to provide certain information for the Plan Commission to review and approve.

1. Pre-application Conference: Although the applicants are encouraged to request this conference before the Plan Commission, it is not required. The benefit is that the Plan Commission has the opportunity to review the plan concept and make suggestions before the applicants have had to incur large expenses in the design process.

2. Sketch Plan: This phase begins the formal process of review of the subdivision. The purpose of the sketch plan is to provide the Plan Commission with sufficient information to evaluate the proposed subdivision in its early stages. Some of the information required of the applicants is a physical inventory of the property and surrounding properties to determine if this proposed land use is appropriate for their property. The applicant is also required to provide a professionally designed plan identifying the proposed land uses, layout, and features of the property. The applicants must also inform neighboring property owners of the PC public hearings. The Plan Commission at this time may make significant changes in the proposed design.

3. Preliminary Plat: Once the Plan Commission has approved the sketch plan, the subdivision moves into the more technical aspect of the process called the preliminary plat. The applicants are required to provide information such as percolation tests, proposed grading plans, tree inventory and other detailed information set out in the *Subdivision Ordinance*. After the Village Administrator, Engineer and Counsel have had an opportunity to review the submitted technical information, they report their findings and make recommendations to the Plan Commission. The preliminary plat is the most time consuming phase of the process and may continue from two to six meetings. Once the Plan Commission is satisfied that the applicant has met all the requirements, the proposed subdivision is sent to the Village Board for its review and approval.

4. Final Plat: During the final plat phase, the applicant is required to submit the subdivision plan in its final form. The Plan Commission confirms that all requirements of the *Subdivision Ordinance* have been met and that all recommendations from the Village staff have been addressed. The proposed subdivision is then forwarded to the Village Health Board for its review and then to the Village Board for its approval.

Daria G. Sapp
Chair, Planning

THE BUILDING DEPARTMENT IN REVIEW

Here is a compilation of interesting tidbits of information about the building activity within the Village of Barrington Hills over the past year with a few historical facts thrown in.

In 2003 there were 132 total permits issued. This includes permits for building up and tearing down (demolition). There were permits for barns, gazebos, septic repairs, garages, sheds. One person even came in and asked (Oh dear. What if we'd said, "Yes"?) about a permit for a child's treehouse.

There were permits issued in 2003 for 26 new residences. The smallest residence we calculated at 2,629 square feet; the largest was 24,999 square feet, almost ten times larger.

In addition to totally new homes, 22 families made their existing houses larger by adding on (requiring more permits).

Over the last ten years, the number of permits issued for new homes has varied significantly. For instance, in the past decade, the most residences built were 54 in 2002 and the least number of residences constructed was 12 in 1998.

Recreation plays a large part in Barrington Hills life. 2003 saw the issuance of permits for 13 swimming pools (only in-ground pools are permitted), 3 stables (does not include any equestrian stabling on such agriculturally-zoned parcels as Horizon Farm) and 2 tennis courts.

The Building Department of Barrington Hills is a busy place. Since 1957 (the year of building permit #1), nearly 5000 building permits have been issued.

And finally, this year marks the 30th anniversary of one of the more meaningful and poignant permits issued – the permit for the construction of the Village Hall of Barrington Hills. It was designed by Barrington Hills resident Ed Dart and built by Barrington Hills resident Richard Pepper.

Theodore L. Horne
Chair, Building and Zoning



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

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

Printed on recycled paper ♻️ 2004, Village of Barrington Hills

LOCAL SAVE HILLS CHARACTER

Few can argue that Horizon Farm – a 400-plus acre free-range of sprawling, hilly vistas, lakes, trees and fields in Barrington Hills – is not postcard-perfect.

While Chicago-area developers may salivate over land this choice, they never will feast on it, thanks in large part to the efforts of the Barrington Hills Conservation Trust.

"They could've come in and built some 75 homes on that property, and when it was over, it would've looked like just another big suburb," said Mary Bradford-White, the Trust's president and an architect of the deal that keeps this land development-free. The organization she leads is a newly chartered, volunteer non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the essential character of Barrington Hills and the surrounding area.

"Algonquin Road borders much of Horizon Farm and the sight that people see as they drive by – well, it exemplifies Barrington Hills," she said.

Members of the William McGinley family, who own the property, partnered with the Trust and the Conservation

Foundation, a Naperville-based land trust organization, to create what's called a "conservation easement." This agreement limits what can and cannot be done on the land. The McGinley family has retained ownership, but surrendered most development rights. In return for their charitable donation, they will receive a sizeable tax benefit.

With more than 400 acres being protected, the easement is one of the largest private land protection efforts in the State of Illinois, according to the Conservation Foundation. In addition to the many acres of pasture for horses, more than eighty acres have been set aside as natural areas, protecting ponds, woods, wetlands, and wildlife corridors.

By creating this conservation easement, preserving Horizon Farm's rural beauty and character, the McGinley family and the Barrington Hills Conservation Trust have created a unique living legacy for our community. For more information call Mary Bradford-White at 847-381-4291.

Written for the BH Newsletter and the BHCTrust
by *Media Answers*