



News from Village Hall



February 2009

FROM THE DESK OF THE VILLAGE PRESIDENT

Fellow Residents:

While things seem to be frozen and sleeping outside, there are many activities going on within the village.

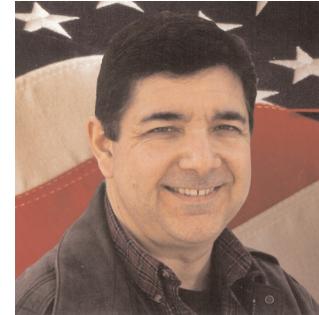
The Economy, Property Values, and Taxes: Our nation is weathering the worst economy in the last 70 years. My expectation is the economy will get much worse than it is right now. This places a great strain on both the Village government and on individual residents. Many of our neighboring communities have been devastated by the loss of property values, business, and substantial increases in crime. Our Village operates somewhat differently allowing us to remain financially solvent during difficult economic times. However, as the economy continues to worsen, we must be ever more vigilant in working together as a community and as a region.

Those of you in McHenry County most likely saw a substantial increase in the assessment of your land values. There are several issues worth noting here. First, the Village has no legal control over assessments, and I personally disagree with this assessment change. Assessments are made by the county assessor. Second, our Village does not levy its taxes as a function of a **rate** or **percentage** of the assessment as other jurisdictions do. The Village levies the **actual cash value** necessary to operate

the village as defined by our yearly budget. This means that gross changes in the assessments which are area wide, do not change your tax payment to the Village. Typically, residents pay between 15% and 17% of their total tax bill to the Village, with the rest going to other jurisdictions such as schools and the county. Historically, the Village has raised taxes only to keep up with cost increases, about 4.5% per year.

The Canadian National Railroad, a foreign corporation, intends to purchase the EJ&E which passes through Barrington Hills, and stretches from Waukegan to the Gary, IN area. CN plans to change the use of this rail line from a few small trains per day, to more than 30 unit freight trains a day (that's a train every 43 minutes), each being more than 12,000 ft long, as part of a limited access railway to travel from Western Canada to Mississippi. To support this train traffic, CN has ordered **90** new high power freight locomotives.

On December 24, 2008, the Surface Transportation Board (STB) ruled in favor of the foreign corporation. Their ruling allows unlimited and unregulated use of this line for their profit at the expense of our local communities. This decision will result in a significant impact to the Village character and property values in a way that we have never experienced. It provides no economic benefit to the region. These goods are not bound for



the US. In addition, there are serious safety and traffic concerns. Illinois tax payers will be saddled with some \$2B in new taxes to provide the necessary grade crossing improvements.

The decision by the STB is an abject failure of leadership by Congressman Manzullo, Congresswoman Bean, Senator Durbin, and the other congressmen whose districts run along the line. All failed to provide the necessary leadership in order to ensure that the STB properly considered the environmental impacts, the regional economic impacts, and the impacts to individual property values. To be fair, Congresswoman Bean did assist with getting certain evidence placed before the STB. But the real problem is the 100 year old federal railroad legislation. Our leadership should have acted quickly and decisively to make the appropriate changes in this legislation protecting our

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LIGHT POLLUTION BY STEVE KNOOP, TRUSTEE

This being the International Year of Astronomy, celebrating the 400th anniversary of Galileo discovering the Milky Way, I am delighted to report that the village recently passed a Proclamation stating its continued intent to preserve our dark skies and to become the 2nd municipality in the nation designated as a dark sky community. Barrington Hills' leadership on this issue has led other BACOG communities and civic organizations to commend us and in some cases pass similar Proclamations of their own (we received a commendation from Illinois' Governor Pat Quinn).

Over the past year, I have written several articles for this newsletter expressing my concern about the increasing prevalence of excessive landscape lighting in the village. As seen on the cover of the November issue of National Geographic, highlighting specifically the Chicago region, excessive lighting is ruining our night sky and many think our own village character. The growth in the use of **decorative outdoor lighting is not commensurate with the semi-rural community character which we all love and want to protect.** Excessive lighting causes energy wastage and light trespassing which affects our

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community from impacts by foreign corporations. I urge you to contact your representatives and ask them why did they did not act appropriately.

TRAC, of which Barrington Hills is a member, will be appealing the decision. I will be asking our Village board to commit an additional \$20,000 to the TRAC appeal, in addition to the \$15,000 we have already committed overall for TRAC. By contrast, the Village of Barrington has spent more than \$2,000,000 on the TRAC effort. I am also working with our federal representatives and regulators to require that CN place a substantial amount of money in escrow in order to address a variety of environmental and infrastructure issues which our Village will face.

Property Disconnections and Boundary Protection issues continue to command my attention. The Duda/James property on the northwest corner of the village continues in discussion. I believe we have made great progress and I expect a satisfactory conclusion from the perspective of the village and neighboring residents. However, given the state of the economy and the upcoming village elections, I am not expecting an immediate resolution.

The Iatarola disconnection, which involves property on the southeast corner of the village, has moved out of the trial court and into appeals. The Village maintains that the trial court clearly violated the state statute by stranding pieces of the Village after the disconnection.

Disconnection continues to be a major threat to our village character and our property values. The solution is a change in the state statute which acknowledges the planning of the community and the voting public. Because I am a senior executive member on the various councils of governments I have been able to form a coalition of mayors dedicated to addressing this problem. And while there are many distractions within the state government at the present time, I believe we will make substantial progress in the next year.

School Boundary Issues involve not only the boundary between District 220 and 300, but also the intra-district boundaries within 220. While we have not yet achieved the goal of having the entire Village within District 220, a lot of work has been accomplished. Principally, we have moved the discussion to that of financial issues. However, in our latest discussions with District 300, a new set of legal barriers has appeared. Addressing these legal issues will be my focus over the coming months.

Regarding District 220, the Village and the District are now working together to address long-term planning and land use issues. This relationship will also be critical in solving the District 220 / 300 boundary problem.

Zoning and Village Code issues have dominated our village board meetings of late. Essentially the problem is that our code has become outdated and unable to keep up with the pace of technology and the scale of projects proposed by our residents. The large boarding stables are an example of this issue. I am a strong supporter of equestrian activities, including boarding, as well as the ability of residents to take full advantage of their property. But I am also very concerned about how these projects impact the tranquility, health and safety, and property values of adjacent neighbors.

We cannot continue to create more restrictive and complex code that no one can understand. Developers and others will simply use lawyers to game the system and create havoc and division within our community. Rather, we should take advantage of a code structure which makes use of our review capacity so that we can individually look at large projects and evaluate them on their individual merits. To this end, the Legal Committee has begun a complete review of our village code.

Some of you are reading this article and thinking that our village character is doomed. Quite the contrary! Having lived here for more than 40 years I have seen threats to the village come and go. The most important thing is that we work together. Allowing internal divisions to fester will drive this community apart. My experience has been that we can overcome these distractions and work productively together. We must recognize that we are not just a collection of individuals, but an integrated community recognizing each other's concerns and ideas.

I encourage you to continue to communicate directly with me and the Trustees. We need your feedback and ideas. I invite you to attend our regular Board and committee meetings and get involved. 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
Bob@RGALabs.com



GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

Bird lovers take note: the Great Backyard Bird Count needs you to help count birds February 13-16. Participating in the count is as easy as 1,2,3! Just follow the instructions below from the organizers.

- 1. Plan to count birds for at least 15 minutes on one or more days of the count, February 13–16, 2009.** You can count for longer than that if you wish! Count birds in as many places and on as many days as you like—one day, two days, or all four days. Submit a separate checklist for each new day. You can also submit more than one checklist per day if you count in other locations on that day.
- 2. Count the greatest number of individuals of each species that you see together at any one time.** You may find it helpful to print out your regional bird checklist to get an idea of the kinds of birds you're likely to see in your area in February. You could take note of the highest number or each species you see on this checklist, which can be found on the count's website www.birdsource.org.
- 3. When you're finished, enter your results through the web page.** You'll see a button marked "Enter Your Checklists!" on the website home page beginning on the first day of the count (February 13, 2009). It will remain active until the deadline for data submission on **March 1, 2009**.





SHINING STARS

News From the Police Department

The kudos keep piling up for officers of the Barrington Hills Police Department (BHPD). The village's police force has recently been recognized for their outstanding work by state and national organizations.

❖ The Police Department was awarded second place in the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police Traffic Safety Challenge for departments with 11 to 25 sworn officers last August in a ceremony in Rosemont, Illinois.

❖ In November, at the International Association of Chiefs of Police Conference held in San Diego, California, the BHPD won second place in the National Law Enforcement Challenge. The award (in the 17-25 officer category) was in recognition of the Department's 2007 program aimed at improving safety on Bateman Road, and on Routes 62, 59 and 68. In response to the two awards, Police Chief Michael Murphy stated "I am very pleased with our results in these two competitions, as they validate the Department's commitment to traffic enforcement and crash reduction." Although the BHPD has fared well in the state competition over the years, the national win marks only the second time in history that

the Department has received such recognition.

❖ Many residents are no doubt aware that police have been manning roadside checkpoints in recent months, enforcing DUI laws and occupant protection. These checks are possible because the BHPD was the recipient of a \$30,000 overtime grant from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in November 2008. The grant has permitted increased enforcement of DUIs, seat belt checks, and checks of appropriate child safety restraints.

❖ During 2008, IDOT recognized Officers Gary Deuschle, Brian Baird and Sabas Parada for having issued 1000 speeding citations during the preceding 24 month period. Officer Baird was also presented the IDOT Division of Traffic Safety DUI Enforcement Award for making 25 DUI arrests, as were Officer Gary Deuschle and Sergeant Todd Borck. BHPD Sergeant Michael Montemayor was also acknowledged for achieving the remarkable total of 100 DUI citations since 2001.

Let's hear it for the fine officers of the BHPD!

"Police Assistant Amanda (Amy) Raddatz joined the department on May 16, 2008 and recently completed the dispatch training program. Prior to coming to the village, Amy was a dispatcher for the City of Reno Emergency Communications Division in Reno, Nevada. Amy grew up in Park Ridge and attended Maine South High School. She earned her Bachelor's Degree from Luther College in Decorah, Iowa and now resides in Des Plaines. In her free time, Amy enjoys exercising, reading suspense novels, and spending time with her family."



LIGHT POLLUTION CONT.

quality of life. Vanity lighting in trees and up-lighting aimed at homes serve no practical purpose and are contrary to the very reason why many of us enjoy our large lots – to do as we please without trespassing or interfering with our neighbors.

In addition, studies have demonstrated the **negative and destructive effects of altered nocturnal environments on species and ecosystems**. For instance, light pollution has been shown to affect both flora and fauna. Prolonged exposure to artificial light prevents many trees from adjusting to seasonal variations and **has proven to kill trees!** Bright lights can also disrupt the behavior of migratory birds, with artificially longer days and shorter nights confusing their migration patterns, thus upsetting a host of precisely timed biological behaviors. Bats, birds and other insect eating species are harmed as well, as the insects they rely on as their food source gravitate to the unnecessary vanity lights placed in trees.

Responsible outdoor lighting in the village benefits everyone as it promotes the good health of our environment and citizenry, and preserves the ability to view the stars against a dark night sky. Thus, if the village's Comprehensive Plan, which memorializes our character and specifically addresses our heritage of dark skies, is to be protected, **we must take a proactive role**. The Planning Commission has actively been researching lighting ordinances from around the country and will be recommending to the ZBA changes in the village code. We hope this step will act to safeguard the village's valued natural, historic, and scenic resources, all of which combine to provide a unique sense of place and community and protect our environment.

Of all the types of pollution we face, light pollution is perhaps the most easily remedied. Simple changes in the placement of lighting and light fixtures used can yield immediate reduction in the amount of light trespass as well as light which is uselessly directed into the atmosphere inhibiting the viewing of the stars.

Therefore, as we continue to explore possible ordinance changes and seek to educate our residents to reduce unnecessary outdoor lighting, specifically the vanity lights put in trees and excessive wash lighting on homes, I would like to invite you to contact the village with your thoughts on this subject. Let's cherish our night sky and celebrate the International Year of Astronomy. Make sure to check the Village Communications Committee website www.vbhcomm.info for information on exciting IYA2009 activities in Barrington Hills throughout the coming year.

TRUSTEE UPDATE—

**Fritz Gohl, Trustee
Public Safety**



I want to thank all of you who spent time filling out and returning the 2008 citizen survey. As chair of the safety committee and our police department, I was quite interested in your comments and concerns about what has happened in our community during the past several months.

About 350 citizens took part in the survey and the most consistent comment reflected the need for more police on neighborhood patrol. Keeping that in mind, we are hiring two more people in the year 2009. With an annual budget of about \$3 million - which covers everything from office supplies and salaries to gas, bullets and new cars - operating our police department is like running a small business. Given our budgetary restrictions, the village will work to maximize our patrol presence in town.

The most consistent comments were praise for our "great group of officers" and their "professional and courteous" manner; generally residents said "keep up the good work." I am also delighted that our new CTY system has been so well received. It is apparent that the calls by Chief Murphy, alerting residents about various dangerous situations that have occurred, have been an excellent source of information. Please see www.vbhcomm.info for a detailed list of resident comments.

Some other concerns seem to be bikers on our village roads. We as trustees are looking at a more aggressive way to handle this problem. Bikers need to be aware of the rules of the road in our community, such as stopping at stop signs and running single file when a car approaches from the rear. The hope is to get bikers educated about our community and our road environment.

**Walter E. Smithe, III, Trustee
Finance**



The finance committee and Treasurer Rosemary Ryba are proceeding with field work for the 2008 audit. The team - headed by David Farmer, CPA and manager of our audit firm Virchow, Krause & Company, LLP - are expecting another smooth audit. The results should be ready for Board of Trustee review and approval early in the second quarter.

As an adjunct to her great work on village finances, Treasurer Ryba is committed to continuing her education in order to be more effective in her work. To this end, she has attended the 2008 Public Investors Financial Symposium, Illinois State Treasurer's Electronic Payment Services Program (EPAY), ADP Payroll Expert Training and Municipal Software User Group Meeting over the past few months. The Finance Committee really appreciates her hard work and dedication.

Approved at the December meeting of the Board of Trustees was what I believe to be the 53rd balanced budget of the Village of Barrington Hills. Spending did exceed budget by an approximately \$500,000 deficit in 2008 due to unexpected legal expenses. This year the village is facing extraordinary inflationary pressure in several key areas, particularly wages and expenses, while several key revenue areas are expected to be weak. The trustees and village staff are mindful of the difficult economic conditions and will work together to cut costs where possible while maintaining the board's commitment to an accredited best-in-class police force, a consistent long term approach to road and bridge maintenance, defense of the village zoning and land use policies, a fully funded police pension plan and continuous improvement in village services. All of the above translates into an increase in the tax levy of just under five percent. Your trustees pay our taxes also and you can be assured we are careful that the money is well spent.

The Legal Committee is hard at work under the direction of Chair Alan C. Hoffman. Mr. Hoffman, along with committee members Raymond W. Busch, Frank J. Cools, Catherine I. Klima, Thomas J. Magner and Bruce R. Pfaff, are reviewing a variety of issues as necessary as well as undertaking a comprehensive review of the village code. Should you see any of the committee members, be sure to thank them for their diligent hard work on behalf of the village.

Mrs. Ryba and I remain at your service should you have any questions or comments about village finances. Walter E. Smithe, Trustee 847-382-8867 iii@smithe.com or Rosemary Ryba, Village Treasurer 847-551-3002

**Beth Mallen, Trustee
Beautification Committee**

Please join the Beautification Committee on Saturday, May 2nd for our KICK OFF EVENT removing trash from our roadways. To assist in this endeavor, residents twelve years or older should meet at 8:45 AM in the Countryside School parking lot. Come by yourself or build a "team" to make the most of the EARTH DAY concept in our community. The aim is to pick up roadside trash along Lake Cook Road within short assigned quadrants in under two hours. You should plan to wear weather appropriate clothing, boots and rubber work gloves; garbage bags and safety vests will be provided. Please share this information with all your clubs, church affiliation, family members and neighbors.

In addition, we are working with Recycling Avenue to collect used small electronics for recycling. A collection bin is available at the Village Hall on the lower level. A complete list of acceptable items can be found at www.vbhcomm.info or you can contact Committee Chair P Denise Israel at pdensei@hotmail.com <<mailto:pdensei@hotmail.com>> or call 381-9487.

TRUSTEE UPDATE—



Elaine M. Ramesh, Trustee Road and Bridges



We are well into winter at this point with no let up in sight, and so far it has made road conditions challenging at times. As chair of the Roads and Bridges Committee, I'd like to remind everyone that due to the open spaces of our village which we all love and cherish, there may be blowing and drifting snow and icy conditions even after our roads have been serviced by the Cuba Township Road District. Therefore, please proceed with caution while driving.

Potholes, Snow and Ice

If you have comments or concerns about the clearing of village roads, call the Cuba Township Road District at 847-381-7793 or visit their website at www.cubaroads.com. Potholes on village roads can be reported by calling the Police Dispatch number at 847-551-3006. The village has made a request to IDOT that the extensive potholes along Lake Cook Road be filled.

Upcoming Major Drainage Projects

Our drainage projects for 2009 include the second phase of the River Road project and also improvements along Merri Oaks Road. Although our budget for drainage improvements and road maintenance will be constrained this year, we are already planning for this spring's projects, as well as those for 2010.

New Method for Feedback on Drainage Conditions

To facilitate receipt of residents' comments regarding drainage issues, a form will be available this spring on-line or by calling Village Hall. This form will give the village the information needed to properly investigate. As the budget allows, minor issues are addressed in spring and fall, while more long-term planning is needed for major projects.

Lastly, looking ahead, it will soon be time to renew your contracts for landscaping and other services at your own homes. During this process, please remind your contractors to park on your own property while they service your home to the extent possible in order to minimize damage to others' property by the contractors' vehicles.

George L. Schueppert, Trustee Building and Zoning



The village's Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) is continuing the careful process of considering changes to our Zoning Code that address the need to provide clarity to our residents on preserving the right to board horses. In addition, the village has begun drafting separate provisions governing agricultural use of land in our community.

Working with the Legal Committee and the Equestrian Commission, and taking our Comprehensive Plan into account, the ZBA is crafting language that seeks to protect our natural environment, to sustain our pleasure with the presence of responsible equestrian activities, and to reinforce our desire to protect the residential zoning we enjoy in Barrington Hills.

Review of the draft documents by concerned residents and members of the various committees is an ongoing process, and new wording which reflects the views and concerns of the community continues to evolve. The revised versions of any potential amendments to our code will be posted on the Village's Website before open meetings are held to gather residents' input.

This revision process could lead to proposed amendments to our Zoning Code in the next six to eight months. Legally required public hearings are being held and may be held in coming months as required. Interested residents are encouraged to attend such hearings and offer their contributions to the deliberations. In addition, the agenda for each ZBA meeting is also on the website, and will provide a list of topics to be considered and discussed at the each meeting.

Since our last newsletter, the ZBA has also approved a special use permit to permit Verizon Communications to build a Personal Communications Services facility (a cell phone tower) inside one of Com Ed's towers immediately south of Algonquin Road in the southwest portion of the village. The antenna will be atop a pole structure built inside the Com Ed tower and will be approximately 15 feet higher than the existing transmission tower. The Village Board approved the special use permit at its meeting on December 15, 2008.

The ZBA has been advised by the Plan Commission that a draft amendment to the Zoning Code covering lighting limitations will be forthcoming this winter after many months of discussions by the commission. As is the usual requirement, this potential amendment to our code will be subject to a public hearing, and residents with an interest in the subject are encouraged to become informed and participate in the process.

In the last newsletter, we mentioned how much the village has seen requests for building permits decline compared to prior years. Little changed in the last few months of the year, and we wound up with only six building permits issued in the whole of 2008, our lowest total by far in more than a decade. One wouldn't expect the importation of a large number of nails in 2009, so it should be another quiet year on the construction front.

Community Corner

Countryside Elementary

Help make dreams happen for Countryside Elementary by supporting its annual fundraising event. The PTO is hosting a dinner and auction on April 3 at The Stonegate in Hoffman Estates to celebrate the families, individuals and businesses that make dreams a reality for the school.

This event promises comedy and camaraderie to parents, teachers, Barrington Hills residents, Countryside alumni and others who attend. Stand-up comic Tom Dreesen will entertain the crowd. A frequent guest of the Tonight Show and Late Night with David Letterman, this television veteran and Chicago resident is guaranteed to make you laugh. There will also be an amazing selection of items for auction, including golf trips, sporting event tickets, spa days, diamond jewelry.

For information on buying tickets (\$85 per person), making a donation or volunteering to help, please e-mail wefindit4u@aol.com or phone Diana or Frank Feraco 847-687-8220.



Diana Feraco, Tom Dreesen (back row), Frankie Feraco, Ashton Dato front row.

Flint Creek Watershed Partnership



At the recent 6th Biennial Conference of the Chicago Wilderness Consortium, the Barrington area Flint Creek Watershed Partnership received one of five Excellence in Conservation Awards. The Partnership was cited for “its visionary planning and strengthening partnerships among local government.”

The conference is the premier event to highlight the resources, science and collaborative conservation action of the Chicago Wilderness consortium. Congress 2008 featured the strategic initiatives of Chicago Wilderness: Green Infrastructure, Leave No Child Inside, Restoration and Management, and Climate Change.

Attending the award ceremony were Janet Agnoletti, Executive Director, Barrington Areas Council of Governments (BACOG) Patsy Mortimer, Watershed Coordinator, Sam Oliver, Staff Director, Citizens for Conservation, and Lauren DeJesu and David Raclaw, Village of Lake Barrington trustees.

Barrington Township/Cuba Township Food Drive

Barrington area communities have been very generous with donations to local food pantries. Unfortunately, the need goes on all year and demand is increasing. We have seen many new families seeking assistance (26 new families in Cuba Township alone). Barrington and Cuba Townships distributed over a ton of food in December 2008.

To address the need, the two townships have joined together for their 8th annual February “**Have a Heart**” **Food Drive on Saturday, February 14, 2009 from 9am to Noon**. Donations of non-perishable food items may be dropped off at: **Barrington Countryside Fire Station #1, 400 N. Northwest Highway, Barrington, IL**. Use rear entrance and drive through! Helpers will unload your donation. Stop for coffee and cookies and tour the fire station. (Early or late drop-offs can be made inside the front door.) Checks can be accepted for The Angel Fund (Barrington Township) or Cuba Township Food Pantry. All donations stay in the Barrington area. Officials of Barrington and Cuba Townships would like to thank residents for their continued support. A special thanks to the Barrington Countryside Fire Department for their assistance.

CITIZENS FOR CONSERVATION

Citizens for Conservation’s Annual Meeting is planned for March 5 at the Barrington Area Library. It will begin at 6:15 PM with refreshments, followed by the business meeting, program, and awards at 7:00 PM. The meeting will feature local conservation, restoration and preservation efforts and will celebrate accomplishments of noted area conservationists. The community is invited; RSVPs are appreciated at 847-382-SAVE (7283).

In addition, we are pleased to announce the programs we will be presenting during the winter of 2009. Topics for February thru April programs include Natural Lawn Care, Native Pollinators, and Deer – see more details at www.vbhcomm.info. All programs will be given in the downstairs meeting room at the Barrington Area Library and will run from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Join us for coffee at 9:00 a.m. and stay for questions afterwards. All programs are free, but donations will be accepted at the door. Please RSVP to 847-382-7283.

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Community Corner cont.

FRIENDS OF HOME OF THE SPARROW

The **FRIENDS of HOME of THE SPARROW** annual luncheon meeting will be held this year on Wednesday April 22nd at Wynstone Country Club, 1 S. Wynstone Drive, North Barrington. This event is always an informative day in support of the local charity **HOME of THE SPARROW**, which provides transitional housing, counseling and job-skills training to those women of the northwest suburbs finding themselves in personal crisis due to unfortunate circumstances such as loss of a job, death of a spouse, abusive situations, etc. Unique boutique shopping begins at 9:30 AM followed by the luncheon at 11:30. Tickets are \$50. Please contact Sue 847-526-3981 by April 17th. All are welcome to attend this fun day and find out more about the work of the organization as well as current volunteer opportunities!

THE VILLAGE WELCOMES A NEW PLANNING AND ZONING COORDINATOR, SARAH KENNEY.

Sarah will maintain the recording process between the Building and Zoning Departments, and assist various village committees and staff on research and administrative tasks such as minutes and meeting agendas. She will also be the initial point of contact for residents on all planning and zoning related questions. Sarah is enthusiastic to learn more about Barrington Hills, and says her rural background, county highway experience and background in county and regional government are a good fit with the rural environment of the village. Originally from Canton IL, Sarah lives in St. Charles with her husband and children Morgan, 4, and Max, four months. In her free time, Sarah enjoys producing artwork, reading narratives, fishing for largemouth bass and spending time with friends and family.



BARRINGTON AREA CONSERVATION TRUST – SAVING OUR COUNTRYSIDE AND SAVING MONEY, TOO

BY PATTY DOWD SCHMITZ

This year, Barrington Hills residents can choose a win-win for the community and for their own pocketbook: You can help save our countryside through a conservation easement. Currently, there are incentives in place that may save you thousands of dollars on various property and income taxes.

Conservation easements are legally binding agreements that restrict future land uses on qualifying properties in perpetuity. It's critical for landowners to understand that a conservation easement does not mean that you cannot build upon your property or improve it as you wish. A well-designed conservation easement is specifically tailored to each individual property, with the current landowner retaining full ownership rights and having full input and sign-off regarding the easement's provisions. The conservation easement is held by a qualifying 501(c)(3) conservation organization such as the Barrington Area Conservation Trust, which monitors and stewards the easement over time, even if the property changes hands.

Residents might be hesitant to consider a conservation easement because they've heard that property values might initially decrease once an easement is in place. However, studies have shown that the land values in protected communities actually increase dramatically over time because of the guaranteed protection of the area, and that the initial decreased value is usually only temporary. In the meantime, initial reduced property values could mean reduced property taxes or estate taxes.



Nancy Schumm-Burgess, the Executive Director of BACTrust says, "While conservation easements are relatively new to the Midwest, they have successfully protected communities such as Jackson Hole, Wyoming; Albemarle County in Virginia; Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket Island, and our own Lake Forest. Barrington Hills could also be protected in the same way — and 2009 is the year to consider this option, considering the financial benefits you may receive. BACTrust is uniquely qualified to address the needs of this community due to its location, community support, and staff training."

For more information contact Barrington Area Conservation Trust at 847-381-4291 or visit www.bactrust.org.



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WINTER DRIVING TIPS

- Clear off all the snow and ice from your car before driving. Brush off all windows and the roof, also making sure to clean off your license plates, headlamps and taillights.
- Make sure that you have a full reservoir of windshield wiper fluid.
- Accelerating, braking and turning should all be done slowly and smoothly. Allow extra time and distance for all driving maneuvers.
- Don't let four- or all-wheel drive give you a false sense of security. 4WD and AWD systems only provide extra traction when accelerating. They provide no advantage when braking or cornering.
- The key is to drive as smoothly as possible, avoiding sudden actions or rapid movements of any kind. Drive as if you have a full cup of coffee on the dashboard and don't want to spill any. For more winter driving tips, visit the Communications website at www.vbhcomm.info.



Directory

<p>Village of Barrington Hills 112 Algonquin Road Barrington Hills, IL 60010-5199 Web address with e-mail www.barringtonhills-il.gov www.vbhcomm.info Phone 847-551-3000 Village Hall Hours Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m. Director of Administration Robert Kosin</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">MEETINGS</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <p>Village Board 4th Monday of the month, 6:30 PM</p> <p>Equestrian Commission 1st Monday of the month, 7:00 PM</p> <p>Development Commission 1st Monday of the month, 5:00 PM</p> <p>E-911 ETSB 2nd Monday of the month, 6:30 PM</p> <p>Plan Commission 2nd Monday of the month, 7:30 PM</p> </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <p>Zoning Board of Appeals 3rd Monday of the month, 7:30 PM</p> <p>Board of Health 3rd Wednesday of the month, 7:30 PM</p> <p>Communications Committee 3rd Monday of the month, 5:30 PM</p> <p>Police Pension Board 4th Monday of the month, 9:00 AM</p> </td> </tr> </table> <p>All meetings are held in the Alexander MacArthur Room of the Barrington Hills Village Hall. <i>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.</i></p>	<p>Village Board 4th Monday of the month, 6:30 PM</p> <p>Equestrian Commission 1st Monday of the month, 7:00 PM</p> <p>Development Commission 1st Monday of the month, 5:00 PM</p> <p>E-911 ETSB 2nd Monday of the month, 6:30 PM</p> <p>Plan Commission 2nd Monday of the month, 7:30 PM</p>	<p>Zoning Board of Appeals 3rd Monday of the month, 7:30 PM</p> <p>Board of Health 3rd Wednesday of the month, 7:30 PM</p> <p>Communications Committee 3rd Monday of the month, 5:30 PM</p> <p>Police Pension Board 4th Monday of the month, 9:00 AM</p>	<p>Board of Trustees</p> <p>Robert G. Abboud <i>President</i></p> <p>Fritz Gohl <i>Pro-Tem</i></p> <p>Walter E. Smithe <i>Trustee</i></p> <p>Steve Knoop <i>Trustee</i></p> <p>George L. Schueppert <i>Trustee</i></p> <p>Beth Mallen <i>Trustee</i></p> <p>Elaine Ramesh <i>Trustee</i></p>
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