



News from Village Hall



Spring/Summer 2012

From The Desk Of The Village President

Fellow Residents:

Spring has come early this year to the Village. It seems like I only had my snow equipment on my tractor for a day or two and suddenly I am reconfiguring for mowing. And spring time is when we execute the final step of a three part budgeting process that makes up our Village's financial planning. Because government budgeting and appropriation is somewhat different than what we are all used to in business and our personal matters, I thought I would provide this as a theme for this month's newsletter. A few in our Village have tried to create an issue on this subject where there really is not a problem by focusing on these operational differences.



I have divided this article into an FAQ style outline for easy reference. If anything is still unclear, please e-mail or call me or our Treasurer and we can give you more information. I know this is pretty dry stuff so make your coffee extra strong before continuing...

How big is the Village budget? The Village's approximately \$8.5M budget is mainly divided into three basic functions: police operations, road management, and environment/zoning protection – including protection of ground water for drinking.

How does the budget process work? The Village budget process is controlled by state statute and consists of three parts: 1. The Budget approval, 2. The Tax Levy, 3. The Appropriations Ordinance. Each of these parts is controlled by the Village Board.

Step 1 - The Budget: The Budget of the Village for the next calendar year is developed by the various departments and committees during the last 5 months of the current calendar year. The Village Finance Committee, run by Trustee Karen Selman, is responsible for assembling all the various components of the Budget. The Budget is some 22 pages long and details all the salient operations of the Village. The Budget defines all funds, expenditures, and revenue line items. It provides a summary of the financial transactions forecasted for the next year.

The Village budget is not a binding document in terms of expenditure limits. The Budget is a planning document identifying budget and revenue line items intended to

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CALLING ALL LOCAL HISTORY BUFFS AND PATRIOTIC AMERICANS

The Village of Barrington Hills is hosting a Rededication Event on Sunday, July 1st at 3:00 p.m. to commemorate 94 Barrington area residents who were mustered into service in the Civil War. Their names are on a plaque that sits in front of the New Friends Korean Wesleyan Church at the corner of Old Sutton Road and Dundee Road. The ceremony will include a posting of the colors, raising of the flag, short speeches from township and village personnel, and a combined VFW/American Legion full honor salute at its conclusion. The Sons of The Union Veterans of The Civil War, the VFW Post 7706 and Barrington Township are also participating in this event.

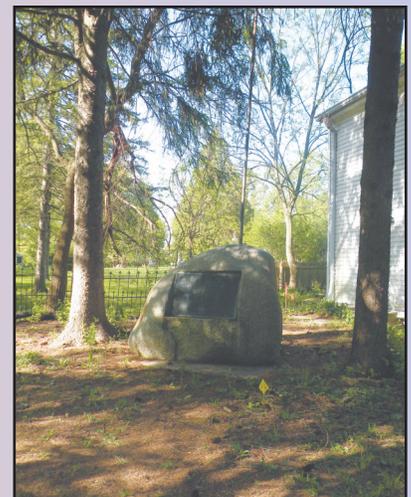
Efforts have already been taken to restore the area surrounding the stone and plaque. We are celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Civil War and want to do what we can to honor those individuals from our area that stepped up on our behalf at this site. Please join us on Sunday, July 1st as we remember and salute our fallen veterans and consider bringing your own chair.

Date: Sunday, July 1st

Time: 3:00 p.m. Please arrive early to park.

Location: New Friends Korean Wesleyan Church

**174 Old Sutton Road
(corner of Old Sutton Rd. and Dundee Rd./Highway 68)
Barrington Hills, IL 60010**



From The Desk Of The Village President continued from page 1

establish realistic spending limits but it does not control the limits on spending for each line item. Also, unlike the budget at your business or your home, funds / revenues / expenditures cannot be directly transferred from one line item to another without executing a statutory process. This lack of budget flexibility is one of the complexities in operating the Village. I will come back to this point in the Appropriations Ordinance discussion below.

Each department / committee is expected to operate within the limits of the budget per the policy of the Village Board. The budget progress is monitored each month through the Treasurer and Finance Committee reports at each monthly Village Board meeting. If a committee or department is projected to exceed its expenditure budget by year-end, or if revenue is shown to be falling short, then action is taken early on to address that matter and get back on the Budget schedule.

The next year's budget is approved by the Village Board in November of each calendar year. The budget for 2012 was approved at the November 2011 Village Board meeting. The Village Budget is approximately \$8.5M. Historically, the Village has come in under or on budget for overall expenditures and revenues.

Step 2 - The Tax Levy: The Levy establishes the village portion of property taxes (budget revenue) to the residents of the Village. This makes up about 15 to 20% of your tax bill depending upon which county you live in.

The Levy is about \$6.5M which is about 80% of the total Village Budget revenue. The remaining \$2M comes from other revenue sources including state allocations and local distributed funds. The Levy is approved by the Village Board in December of each year - one month after the Budget is approved.

The Levy is a total cash value. It is divided between Barrington Hills households based on their individual property assessments and the state's allocation between the four counties. The total Levy does not fluctuate with changes in the total property value. If your individual property assessment is lowered, that portion of your tax burden is shifted to the other residents in the Village. The Village's Levy has been constant for the last two years and I expect we will continue to keep this flat in the next year.

Step 3 - The Appropriation Ordinance: The Appropriation Ordinance defines the maximum possible expenditure for *each line item* in the budget. Due to the procedural complexity of revising the Appropriation Ordinance after its passage, most municipalities in Illinois enact an appropriation somewhat higher than the amount actually intended for expenditure. For example, the Budget contains a line item for gasoline for our squad cars and Village operations. The 2012 Budget presumes approximately \$4.25 a gallon as a median price for the year 2012 and approximately 30,000 gallons of gasoline purchases. The Appropriation Ordinance provides a budget buffer per statute to allow for spikes in gasoline prices and increased usage in the event we have increased police operations. Without this Appropriation Ordinance buffer, the Village would exceed the adopted expenditure for gasoline if prices and/or usages increased.

While the Appropriation Ordinance specifies the maximum amount that can be legally expended, the Village Budget establishes the maximum amount to be spent for usual operating purposes, barring the occurrence of unexpected spending needs. The adoption of the Budget limits expenditures to only that level which is truly necessary, instead of giving department heads a "carte-blanche" approval to spend all the way up to the higher limits of the Appropriation Ordinance.

Note that the sum of all line items in the Appropriation Ordinance is not what we expect to spend as a few would have you believe. Rather it provides emergency headroom and financial flexibility on each Budget line item. The Village Budget is the best window on the forecasted expenditures for the Village.

The Appropriation Ordinance is approved in March of each year after a public hearing is held at the beginning of the Village Board meeting. It is the last step in the Budget process.

Why is my tax bill going up? The Village has not raised its property tax levy in 2 years and this will be the 3rd year I will continue to push for no village property tax increases. This is despite the dramatic increases in oil based products such as asphalt. I and the Board of Trustees also serve without any compensation, as has been so throughout the history of the Village.

While many of us continue to see rising tax bills, I can assure you this is not caused by the Village Levy. The Village is continuing to catalog the reasons for some rising tax bills. I will have more on this in the next newsletter. The data we have so far indicates that these are caused by shifts in the individual property tax assessments combined with the State's change in county allocation between the four counties in Barrington Hills. In particular, the state is shifting more tax burden to McHenry County due to what it sees as more stable property values in the McHenry Country portion of Barrington Hills.

What is the financial health status of the Village? The Village continues to remain in excellent financial health with a stable budget, strong cash reserves, and our two pension funds (IMRF and Police Pension Fund) in excellent health. Note that the Village does NOT set the terms of the employee's pensions. This is set by the state legislature. But the Village does have to fund these programs.

Electricity Choice - The "Opt-In" Option: In my last article, I described the processes associated with an "Opt-Out" program for electric energy aggregation for the entire Village. This electricity choice option was on our last election ballot in our village as well as in many others in the region. While this option passed in the vast majority of municipalities, it failed in Barrington Hills by 25 votes (426 YES, 451 NO).

The electric deregulation legislation provides for municipalities who fail to pass an "Opt-Out" referendum to consider an "Opt-In" program and negotiate for better energy pricing for its residents. "Opt-In" means individual residents have to actively select to change their electricity

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supplier.

The process requires approval by the Board of Trustees. If approved, the Village will negotiate for better electric energy prices than are currently available for our residents, saving us between 15% and 20% on our electric bills if you decide to switch to the Village negotiated supplier ("Opt-In"). While this is about half of the "Opt-Out" program savings, it is still better than the standard ComEd rate.

If approved by the Board this spring, the new system simply gives our residents more choice. 1. You can Opt-In to the new program, 2. You can stay with Exelon or your current 3rd party provider – no change to your current situation. 3. Or you can contract independently from a third party supplier.

Electric power is billed in two parts, delivery (wires, billing, and customer service) and energy (the actual electricity). Each of these two parts makes up about half the bill. ComEd does the delivery and the billing. Currently, Exelon provides the energy portion of your electricity to ComEd unless you have already independently switched to another provider. Any change in energy provider does not affect the ComEd portion, your delivery, billing, or customer/outage service from ComEd.

Personally, I purchase my power in real-time using the ComEd RRTP program (see www.WattSpot.com). This provides the cheapest energy but you are at risk of certain high cost hours in the month if you are not careful. So it is

not for the faint of heart. If you have energy management systems and software integrated into your home systems as Patricia and I do, this may be a good option for you.

Please contact me or Trustee Karen Selman if you have any further questions on this or any other issues.

I want to encourage you to take full advantage of the Village WEB site, www.BarringtonHills-IL.gov. Here you will find all the Village communication, meeting schedules, a fully searchable version of the Village Code, and all the latest happenings within the Village. I would like your feedback on how we can make this WEB site more useful to you.

I encourage you to continue to communicate directly with me and the Trustees. I invite you to attend our regular Board and Committee Meetings and get involved. There are still slots available on several Committees and I am always looking for more volunteers. We need your feedback and ideas. I can be reached directly either by e-mail or phone and I look forward to hearing from you.

Best Regards,

Robert G. Abboud
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 President@BarringtonHills-IL.gov




Martha Adams serves up good times each week at Sunny Sunday "Riding Center Cafe".

It's always a Sunny Sunday at the Barrington Hills Riding Center and you're invited!

Each Sunday during the summer season, breakfast is served rain or shine. Head over to the Riding Center any time between 10 and 11:30 am and enjoy meeting new people and seeing old friends. The brainchild of hosts Jane Clement and Martha Adams, this fun weekly get-together is made possible by a partnership of the Riding Club of Barrington Hills and the Barrington Countryside Park District. In good weather, everyone eats al fresco while enjoying the scenery and watching riders in the outdoor arena. In poor weather, the newly refurbished meeting room can accommodate a crowd.

Jane's famous waffles and Martha's egg casserole are definitely on the menu and there are usually other goodies too. Suggested donations help the hosts cover the cost of food. Bring some extra dollars and you may also be able to shop for Riding Club apparel such as caps, polo shirts and fleeces with the RCBH logo along with the 75th Anniversary embroidered on them. Come any time and spend some time getting to know your neighbors!



Jane Clement tries to keep up with the demand for her famous waffles.

TRUSTEE UPDATE—

Patty Meroni

Roads and Bridges
pmeroni@barringtonhills-il.gov

After a record mild and low snowfall winter and a totally unpredictable spring, summer and construction season is upon us. As a reminder, Dundee Lane, Braeburn Road, Cross Timber, Caesar Drive, Dana Lane, and Steeplechase will all be under construction at some point this summer. Preliminary markings to delineate wetland areas are already in place. Culvert replacements began in early May.

The Chapel Road flashing beacon and sign have both been installed to warn when there is water over the road. In addition, the drainage program to install a dry well on the north side of the road to alleviate the flooding is progressing.

Further construction affecting Barrington Hills residents this summer includes Route 62 from Penny Road to Palatine Road (currently in progress and expected to continue through the end of October) and Kelsey Road at the Route 14 intersection, with construction on Route 14 and installation of new traffic signals lasting through September. Cook County is resurfacing Penny Road from Dundee Road to Route 59 starting in mid-May with a completion date of October 26, 2012.

As a follow up for our private road residents, I attended a Lake County Homeowners Association meeting on May 19th to gather additional information which can be of assistance in planning, legal obligations, and responsibilities for the associations and/or owners. We will be planning another meeting in the fall to make some of this very helpful information available to you. If you have any question or specific requests, please feel free to contact me and I will attempt to get the answers you need.

Let's hope that we escape the damaging summer storms this year. ComEd has been through the village doing major tree trimming to try and avoid a repeat of last year.

Enjoy summer!

Fritz Gohl

Public Safety
fgohl@barringtonhills-il.gov

The Village of Barrington Hills Neighborhood Watch program is currently looking for persons interested in becoming Neighborhood Watch Block Captains. Block captains act as the eyes and ears of the community and serve as a bridge between neighborhoods and the Police Department. Block Captain duties include attending Neighborhood Watch meetings, promoting interaction between neighbors, encouraging neighbors to call the police when they observe suspicious activity, and distributing information pertaining to criminal activity. Anybody interested in volunteering as a Block Captain may contact Officer Sabas Parada at 847-551-3006 or sparada@vbhpd.net.

In addition, the Police Department recently held a very informative meeting in April to help residents protect themselves from becoming the victims of robberies and break ins. After viewing security video of a recent robbery attempt, police representatives discussed the importance of having and using an alarm system, and of securing your vehicle as well as your home. They also offered tips on how to improve home security. You can find more information about the meeting on the Barrington Hills Police Department website, including some handouts from the meeting such as "21 Things Your Burglar Won't Tell You" and "Ruse Burglaries". <http://www.vbhpd.net/services/neighborhood-watch/neighborhood-watch-meeting-summaries/>

Just a reminder about things to do and not to do around your home when going on your next vacation. Check in with your neighborhood watch captain to let them know when your family is leaving and for how long. If you do not know who your neighborhood watch captain is, you can contact Barrington Hills Police Officer Sabas Parada at 847-551-3006 to find out. Next, let our police department know the details for your vacation. They will be happy to put your home on their police house watch list while you are away. Things to do while you are away on your family trip: Have the Post Office hold your mail; stop delivery of newspapers; turn on your alarm, if you have one; have indoor lights on timers; contact your closest neighbor, that you know well and let them know your plans. When you are leaving and coming home, bring trash cans in; check to see that all doors and windows are locked; have lawns cut. Things not to do while you are away; do not have outdoor lights on 24 hours a day; do not leave a message on your answering machine that you will be out of town; do not leave e-mail messages about leaving town, and put vehicles in your garage.

Remember, people are watching and calling your home to see what is happening. You must be aware of all the scenarios around you. These times are different and the bad guys are getting more sophisticated.

TRUSTEE UPDATE—

Karen S. Selman

Finance

kselman@barringtonhills-il.gov

The Finance Committee met in April. Village Treasurer, Rosemary Ryba, introduced James White of the auditing firm Baker, Tilly, Virchow, and Krause, who presented the Fiscal Year 2011 Audit Draft to the Committee. Mr. White reviewed his findings and thanked Treasurer Ryba for her assistance in making the records easily accessible for review. He complimented her work and said he had found the Village records to be in order and that the procedures practiced were appropriate for a Village the size of Barrington Hills. He answered questions regarding the report from the Committee members. The audit report was presented to the Village Board at the May 21, 2012, Board Meeting for the Trustee's review and approval.

Treasurer Ryba presented the first quarter review of the approved Fiscal Year 2012 Budget. The first three months of budgeted revenues and expenses versus actual for each fund and department were reviewed by the committee members. Discussion followed with members making suggestions for cost cutting or containment of expenses.

Residents were asked in the last newsletter to voice their opinion if they wanted the Village to purchase video cameras for the meeting room, which would enable home viewing of Board meetings. With no responses to date, the decision to not purchase the cameras at this time will stand.

Harold "Skip" Gianopulos

Insurance, Health, Environment, Building & Grounds

sgianopulos@barringtonhills-il.gov

Changes to the MacArthur Room

If you have not visited the MacArthur room lately you will notice a new piece of furniture in the room. A podium has been provided for residents and guest speakers. Also, microphones have been installed at the main meeting table as well as a standing microphone at the new podium. The microphones were added in an effort to increase government transparency and provide residents with a better understanding of the way our village is being run.

Currently, the Board of Trustee meetings and the Zoning Board of Appeals meetings are being recorded. Both of those recorded meetings will be indexed and posted to the Village website within 30 days of the meeting date. Recordings may be accessed at <http://www.barringtonhills-il.gov/archive/vboard/recordings/archive.htm>.

Earth Day 2012



On April 21st, 2012 our Village Hall was a very busy place. Beginning shortly after dawn, volunteers were hard at work preparing for another trash pick-up day. Also, the Village of Barrington Hills, in partnership with Prairieland Disposal Company conducted the first ever e-scrap pick-up in Barrington Hills. As reported in the last Village newsletter, effective January 1st, 2012, electronic waste (any device that may be plugged into an electrical

outlet) will no longer be accepted at any Illinois landfill.

Spring trash pick-up day was also a success. We had 38 volunteers who worked very hard to gather 65 bags of trash along Lake Cook Road.



The village is looking for old photos of Barrington Hills, particularly aerial photographs, to help document the progress of development through the years. If anyone has photos they can share, please contact Patty Meroni at pmeroni@barringtonhills-il.gov.

TRUSTEE UPDATE—

Joseph Messer

Zoning Board of Appeals
jmesser@barringtonhills-il.gov



In addition to handling multiple requests by residents for variances and special use permits, the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) has continued work on a proposed amendment to the Village's home occupation ordinance regarding commercial horse boarding in the Village. During its April 16, 2012 meeting the ZBA sent the proposed amendment to the Village Board with a request for the Board's concurrence that the ZBA hold a public hearing on the proposed amendment. (You can review the proposed amendment at www.barringtonhills-il.gov/pdf/HomeOccupation_AMD042012.pdf.) During its April 25, 2012 meeting the Village Board considered the ZBA's request and decided to submit questions and comments from Village Trustees regarding the proposed amendment to the ZBA for consideration at its May 14, 2012 meeting. The ZBA considered the Trustees' questions and comments then and will report back to the Village Board. It is expected that the ZBA will conduct a public hearing on the proposed amendment during its June 18, 2012 meeting, at which time residents will have an opportunity to comment on the proposed amendment.



Barrington Hills residents Laura Arndt, Gene Branson and Annamarie Lukes were honored by Citizens for Conservation this spring with the Mighty Oak award. CFC gave an unprecedented twenty-eight Mighty Oak Awards at its annual meeting to non-board members who volunteered fifty or more hours in 2011. This group of outstanding volunteers represents more than 1400 hours, as their dedication extends well beyond fifty hours each. Branson was also elected to the CFC Board of Directors and will co-chair the Volunteer Committee, while Annamarie Lukes is Co-Chair of the Community Education Committee.

Other recipients are Bonnie Albrecht, Virginia Black, Jim Bodkin, Donna Bolzman, Doe Crosh, Demmy

Giannis, Katherine Grover, Ryan Guilfoil, Helen Hawthorne, Carol Hogan, Richard Hooven, Julia Martinez, Jerry Masino, Sharon Pasch, Carol Rice, Gail Rudisill, Bill Schaupp, Cliff Schulte, Steve Smith, Judy Springer, Mary Stubbs, Raph Tarquino, Gail Vanderpoel, Jeanne Vukovich and Scott Vukovich.

The Friends of Spring Creek Forest Preserves helped local children build birdhouses at the 2012 Barrington Area Kid Fest on May 5th. The event, held at Citizen's Park in Barrington, was sponsored by several local organizations and hosted by the park district.

Volunteers Jim Root, Jim Voris and his wife Tamara, and Trustee Karen Selman taught kids to make a bluebird or a wren house to take home with them. Posts and guards were offered for the bluebird houses for an additional \$5.00.

Friends of Spring Creek is a local volunteer organization that advocates for the appropriate use and restoration of the grasslands, shrub lands, wetlands, and woodlands of our own Spring Creek Forest Preserve in Barrington Hills. They work in close partnership with Citizens for Conservation, Spring Creek Stewards, Chicago Audubon Society, Riding Club of Barrington Hills, and Forest Preserve District of Cook County. www.friendsofspringcreek.org/





Barrington Hills native Allison Springer advanced her hunt for a spot on the 2012 United States Olympic Team with a spectacular 2nd place finish at the Rolex Kentucky Three Day Event CCI**** in April. Her parents Bill and Carolyn Springer joined many neighbors from the village to cheer on Allison and her horse Arthur. In addition, she won the Rolex USET Four-Star Championship as the top-placed U.S. rider at the event, as well as the award for best-conditioned horse. For her amazing finish Allison, 37, received \$37,000 along with a special prize—an 18-month lease of a 2012 Range Rover HSE courtesy of Land Rover North America. Stay tuned as Allison continues her quest to represent the United States in London this summer.

Allison Springer receiving the Pinnacle Cup Trophy from United States Equestrian Team Trustee Bruce Duchossois. Both are originally from Barrington Hills.

FOIA ADDS UP

The Illinois legislature has as of January 1, 2010 enhanced the process for the administration of Freedom of Information which governs the distribution of the public record. By law the Village has appointed two employees to respond to requests for information, one with the Police Department, another with Administration. A record is maintained of the requests received that show

in 2011 the Village FOIA officers dispensed with 527 requests;

in 2012 to May 15th the Village FOIA officers dispensed with 143 requests.

These requests include police reports, commercial inquiries for business ventures, public interest on behalf of newspapers and general requests for records. The substance of the information may be different from request to request, but a response is due on non-commercial reports within five business days.



This little Luna Moth was warming up on the Oak Bluff in Spring Creek on a recent spring day. Serves as an inspiration to at least one Spring Creek steward for sure. Next time someone asks why we do what we do, I will just show them this extra-terrestrial looking beauty and say nothing. The luna speaks for itself.

Jim Voris



Village of Barrington Hills
112 Algonquin Road
Barrington Hills, IL 60010-5199
www.barringtonhills-il.gov

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April showers bring May flowers, but they also bring hungry mosquitoes. Try to keep your home and yard free of standing water whenever possible. In addition, there are many products available to help reduce the number of these pests in your yard. For example, one mosquito donut can kill the insects' larva in 10 square feet of water. For a sampling of what is available check out the following link at the website of the Northwest Mosquito Abatement District, a public body that works to reduce the mosquito population in 9 townships including Barrington.
http://www.nwmadil.com/pest_products.htm

Directory

Village of Barrington Hills

112 Algonquin Road
Barrington Hills, IL 60010-5199
Web address with e-mail
www.barringtonhills-il.gov

Phone
847-551-3000

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

Director of Administration
Robert Kosin

MEETINGS

Village Board
4th Monday of the month, 6:30 PM
Equestrian Commission
1st Monday of the month, 7:00 PM
E-911 ETSB
2nd Monday of the month, 6:30 PM
Plan Commission
2nd Monday of the month, 7:30 PM
Zoning Board of Appeals
3rd Monday of the month, 7:30 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 Health
3rd Wednesday of the month,
7:30 PM
Communications Committee
3rd Monday of the month, 6:00 PM
Police Pension Board
4th Monday of the month, 9:00 AM

Board of Trustees

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