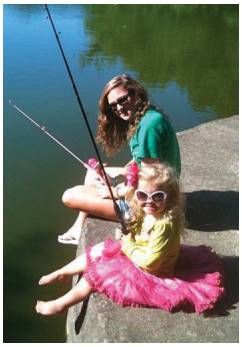

News from Village Hall

Summer 2014

Letter from the President

Believe it or not it's finally here. Warm weather! It has been a historic winter and spring. It is about time we heard the sounds of children laughing, playing and running around outside chasing fire flies. It's time for morning rides with friends and neighbors through the Spring Creek Forest Preserve and visit Crabtree Nature Center. Evening walks near Grigsby seeing rising prairie grasses, shooting stars, and the sound of Henslow's Sparrows.

This summer starts with graduations for many of us. Congratulation to all of our 2014 college, high school, middle school, and (of course) kindergarten graduates.

The season will be filled with outdoor parties, garden walks, and more than a few weddings. Time to open our windows, brush up on our barbecuing skills, and head to the pool to relax and enjoy the summer.

I look forward to being able to spend more time with friends and my family, which is once again complete with my two daughters returning from TCU and Villanova. I hope to catch a few fish with Morgan and Elle (pictured above) at one of our secret spots around Barrington Hills in the weeks ahead.

I am keeping my letter brief this issue as there are many new important topics before our community and updates on legacy issues contained within this newsletter for review. I will continue to keep you apprised of the Villages official position on as many issues as possible in a timely manner.

I wish all my neighbors a wonderful, enjoyable, and safe summer.

Martin J. McLaughlin

Horse Boarding

According to Barrington Hills Village Code:

Horse boarding and training under the Home Occupation ordinance IS NOT illegal and IS NOT a prohibited use for properties in Barrington Hills. The practice of boarding and training is a traditional and welcomed practice in Barrington Hills. Recent court decisions DO NOT impact any property owner other than those parties within the case. Further, the unfortunate litigation between neighbors and the rulings only apply to those involved.

Community Survey

Please complete the Barrington Hills Community Survey on our website vbhil.gov before July 31, 2014!
Your answers will be used to assist the Village with decision making on various topics and issues.

Update on Pending Sears Litigation

As you may or may not be aware, the Villages of Barrington Hills (BH) and South Barrington (SB) are defendants in a lawsuit that has been ongoing for over 18 years. Many in our community are asking why and how did we get here and what are we fighting for or against? Prior to the last two administrations, the land south of Route 72 and west of Old Sutton Road all the way down to I-90 was known as the Poplar Creek Music Theatre area. Many of us enjoyed a Waylon Jennings concert or two, maybe even a Liza Minelli or Blue Oyster Cult performance on a warm summer night. At this time SB and BH were concerned about dense development abutting the residential sections of our communities. In 1988 we were able to have restrictive covenants placed on the land prior to its sale to Sears.

Many years have passed, but the covenants remain and Sears wants them removed. Sears now feels that they could have developed the site if the covenants that they agreed to honor when they acquired the land were not in place. Sears argues that the area has changed and the covenants are too restrictive. They have been suing our villages for $15 million in damages. This potential judgment and the costs associated for defense (roughly $1.5 million spent by both villages, nearly $1 million by BH) are extremely expensive. For over 14 years the SB and BH boards have not met jointly to discuss a combined strategy to defend and more importantly settle this dispute to all parties' mutual satisfaction.

This suit has a trial date set in October, where SB and BH will be defending both our villages against Sears's desire to have unrestricted building and development rights on the property called "The Sears Center" now located within the Hoffman Estates B-4 zoning.

After President McLaughlin was elected, he made contact with Sears and the newly elected SB President Paula McCombie to schedule a joint board meeting. This occurred in June of 2013 and was very helpful in coordinating a strategy to move forward. In July, and again in October and February, President McCombie, the representatives from Sears, and President McLaughlin have met, and have been moving forward on settlement discussions.

Also, we have entered into a joint defense agreement with SB containing cost sharing provisions as we prepare for trial to defend our villages.

Today we are in settlement discussions but Sears is pushing for a trial. We will continue to keep you apprised of developments on this longstanding dispute and will work diligently to resolves this matter in an attempt to spare any more taxpayers dollars from being spent in court if a settlement is possible.

CFC Native Plant Sale has banner year

Results from Citizens for Conservation's 18th annual Native Plant, Shrub and Tree sale are in and plant sale chairman Ginger Underwood has declared it a banner year. In a message to shoppers, volunteers sponsors and in-kind contributors she thanked all involved for their support, enthusiasm, care for the environment and all the "insects, reptiles, birds and critters, including humans, that will benefit from all the new native plants that have gone into the ground".

In addition to record numbers of local gardeners, shoppers came from Palos, the North Shore, Chicago and points between. There was special emphasis this year on the sale of milkweed plants in order to help save the dwindling monarch butterfly population. Gardeners are urged to plan ahead for CFC's Native Shrub and Tree Sale in the fall.

Barrington Area Conservation Trust Summer Events

We have an opportunity for people to paint and draw at our Pederson Preserve on Thursday, June 19th from 6:30 - 9pm. We are calling it Plein Air Painting and it is an informal gathering of artists who may set up with their supplies anywhere on our preserve and take advantage of some lovely scenery and hopefully feel inspired to create.

On August 30th, we are holding our premier annual fundraising event, Concert for Conservation. This event is a "Ravinia" style event with a swing band, Let's Dance, performing on the grounds of a lovely private Barrington

continued on page 5

SPRING CREEK

Recently, representatives of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County (FPDCC) met with the Barrington Hills Park District regarding their 2014 Master Trail Plan which can be found at fpdcc.com/trail-master-plan. This included a possible addition of a limestone trail.

Based upon these discussions the Village met with Cook County Commissioner Gregg Goslin who recognized the need for separate trail systems within the Spring Creek Preserve for equestrians. Commissioner Goslin is also aware of the years of fine work many of our equestrian related organizations and conservation groups have done maintaining trail systems and restoring natural indigenous plant species back into the ecosystem. For example, Spring Creek has been designated an "Important Bird Area" by the Audubon Society as a result of restoration.

Upon the request of several interested parties the Village requested a meeting with the General Superintendent of the FPDCC, Arnold Randall, which occurred on May 9th. At that meeting it was discussed that the District has an intention to increase the public's use of all Forest Preserve land and that additional parking sites are a part of that plan.

As far as mixed use trails go, there was a discussion of the concept of grass trail versus limestone shared trail systems and what would be best for the natural habitat present within the Spring Creek Preserve. Mr. Randall was aware of the concerns associated with mixed use trails and is taking our requests under advisement.

Spring Creek Stewards

We are pleased to report that after several meetings between the President McLaughlin and representatives of the FPDCC, it now appears that the prepared mixed use limestone trail system presented will not be moving forward as funding for the project has been allocated elsewhere.

Heritage Trees Protection Ordinance

After this long, harsh winter, the time has finally come for residents to get out in their yards and tend to all their landscaping needs. If tree removal is part of your plans, make sure to contact the Village to ensure that you are in compliance with the Heritage Tree Ordinance. A tree removal permit is required for the destruction or removal of any heritage tree, even if the tree is dead.

Some heritage trees include oaks, honey locust, hickories, black cherry, black walnut, linden, hackberry, ironwood and sugar maple trees. Please refer to the Village website for a list of protected trees along with the specific requirements of the ordinance.

Residents are encouraged to be proactive in educating themselves before trees are removed, because the expense of replacing trees removed in error can be significant. In addition, the wooded landscape of Barrington Hills is an essential part of our Village's rural character, so please do your part to protect the natural beauty that surrounds us.

Barrington Area Spring Bird Walks & Hikes

Cosponsored by Audubon Chicago Region and Citizens for Conservation

Get to know nearby nature with Barrington area naturalist Wendy Paulson

Walks are free and open to the public though spaces are limited and RSVPs are required.

Waterproof boots are strongly recommended for these hikes. Don't forget your binoculars!

June 15, 5:30 p.m—Longmeadow (north side of Longmeadow Dr. off Penny Rd)

June 16, 7:00 a.m.—Galloping Hill

indicates a more strenuous hike

Please RSVP to: Rebeccah Sanders (847) 328-1250 ext. 12 or rsanders@audubon.org and let us know how best to contact you should that be necessary.

Before you head out, please be sure to check the Citizens for Conservation website for any last minute changes or cancellations

April 26 Earth Week Roadside Pick-Up Report

So Many to Thank for So Much Roadside Debris Collected

One of our Village's central corridors, County Line Road (aka Lake/Cook Rd), had its Earth Week Spring Cleaning on April 26. Our small but sturdy crew (some of Barrington Hills cleanest/greenest folks!) tidied up our Village by collecting 72 Orange Bags of roadside debris, 1 black bag of discarded trash, 1 box, 2 tires, 1 rusty utility locator sign, 1 bent 50 MPH speed limit sign, and assorted miscellany.

Sponsored by the Village of Barrington Hills (VBH) Heritage & Environs Committee (HEC) headed by P. Denise Israel, our semi annual clean up fielded six teams led by team captains: VBH Trustee Karen Selman, Donato Cantalupo, Laurie Abboud, Chuck Prettyman, Jennifer Kainz, and Rudy Stevens. Volunteers included a cross section of our Village: Barrington High School & Middle school students, Trustee Harrington's family, prominent equestrians, young parents, older parents, grandparents, and hip singles. Veteran volunteer and former Trustee, Lorraine Briggs helped with registration along with Gary Gabriel who also served as field co-ordinator.

Post Script: Independent of the HEC's Roadside Pick-Up, neighbors could be seen all over Barrington Hills sprucing up our great outdoors. One example, the Bateman Circle Road Association collected the same Saturday morning five bags of trash, one from their private drive and four bags from a quarter mile stretch of Bateman Road.

Our Fall Roadside Pick-Up is scheduled for October 18th.

Citizens for Conservation presents a Leave No Child Inside class "Seining with CFC"

To celebrate June as Leave No Child Inside month, join us in this ever-popular class with CFC's interns along with seining expert and long-time CFC volunteer Tom Vanderpoel.

We will meet at CFC, drive to a local site, and use seining nets to see what is in the water. Will there be frogs, fish, mussels, larvae? Be prepared to get wet and muddy. Please dress according to the weather— layers are best. Water shoes/boots or closed-toe shoes are required and must be worn at all times. Bring your own drinking water and use mosquito spray at home.

Friday, June 13 Time 1:00 – 5:00 pm

Location: Meet at CFC headquarters:
459 West Highway 22, Barrington, IL 60010

We're on the south side of Highway 22 between Route 59 and Kelsey Road, across from Advocate Good Shepherd Hospital

This class is open to children ages 6 and older.
Caregivers are required to attend.
No bathrooms are available once we leave CFC.

Class size is limited to twenty children, so please register early!
COMPLETED REGISTRATION FORMS ARE DUE by June 10
Please contact us immediately if you are unable to attend so another child may participate in the class.

Registration forms can be found at http://www.citizensforconservation.org/youth-education/ or call CFC at 847-382-SAVE (7283) for details.

Trustee Micheal Harrington and Heritage & Environs Committee Member Jan Goss working to eliminate teasel, an invasive species, on the Village Hall Property.

A letter from the Forest Preserves: Horizon Farms

Photo courtesy of Forest Preserve District of Cook County

As many Barrington Hills residents may already be aware, the Forest Preserves of Cook County was recently fortunate enough to have purchased 397-acre Horizon Farms, an equestrian estate that has long been a familiar and picturesque sight to those driving past the grand entrance at 311 Algonquin Road.

Our largest single acquisition since 1968, this property was identified as highly desirable in our most recent land acquisilon plan for its large tracts of open space, wetlands and native bird habitat, as well as its proximity to other preserves—4000-acre Spring Creek to the west and 1000-acre Crabtree Preserve to the east. Because the property had been in foreclosure proceedings for a number of years, this opportunity was financially within reach.

We're inviting all members of the public, including Barrington-area neighbors and stakeholders, to our first community outreach meeting on Wednesday, June 18, 2014, from 6 to 8 pm at Barrington Countryside Elementary School, 205 W. County Line Road, Barrington Hills, IL. (Please RSVP at horizonfarms.eventbrite.com or 708-771-1009.)

We are excited to have acquired Horizon Farms and to make it available as a resource for all of the residents of Cook County. Like many other forest preserves, we anlcipate this large parcel will offer opportuniles for hiking, horseback riding and simply enjoying nature. We believe there will be opportunities to restore additional habitat for wildlife such as grassland birds. We'll also be taking into account the site's equestrian history, its exislng infrastructure, and other equestrian facilities in the area as we decide what additional role horses may play.

Though the property is not yet open to the public, we are already beginning the process of creating a plan—and we hope you'll join us.

I hope to see you there.
Arnold Randall, General Superintendent
Forest Preserves of Cook County

Learn more about the Forest Preserves of Cook County at fpdcc.com.

ROADS AND BRIDGES

Winter did not want to let up, but finally pothole patching was able to make some headway on this winter's damage and road repairs will soon begin in earnest. Healy Road was so badly damaged by the winter that it has been added to this year's program as a priority.

The 2014 Roads Program will include resurfacing on Ridge Road north of Merri Oaks; Plum Tree Road east of Ridge; Steeplechase Road and Meadow Hill Road.

Engineering will continue on the Cuba Road Bridge after receiving funding approval, but actual construction will not begin until after Spring of 2015.

The Longmeadow Parkway meeting was well attended and all comments have been forwarded to Kane County Department of Transportation.

The following roads, while located in the village are not under village jurisdiction.

Cook County – Brinker Road, Otis Road and Old Sutton Road, Batemen Road, Penny Road,

Donlea Road, Palatine Road. Any problems can be called in 24 hours a day to (708) 485-7130.

IDOT – Lake-Cook Road, Route 62/Algonquin Road, Route 68/Dundee Road, Route 59/ Barrington Road.

Barrington Area Conservation Trust Summer Events
continued from page 2

Hills estate. The event will begin at 4pm and run until 7pm. Ticket holders are encouraged to bring picnic foods, blankets and drinks to relax and unwind. We are currently in planning with Heinen's to provide food "baskets" for those wanting to purchase a picnic.

For more information please visit www.bactrust.org.

Barrington Hills Police Department

Deputy Chief Rich Semelsberger was presented a plaque honoring his 25 years of service to the Village of Barrington Hills at the May 28th Board Meeting. He has served the Village as a Patrol Officer, Field Training Officer, Detective, Corporal, Sergeant, and Lieutenant before being promoted to Deputy Chief in July of 2011.

During his 25 year career Deputy Chief Semelsberger has received the Barrington Hills Police Life Saving Award, Merit Award, Commendation Award, Supervisory Achievement Award, and Outstanding Community Service Award. He has also received the Cook County Sheriff's Law Enforcement Award of Merit and in 2013 was awarded the Northwestern University Public Safety Executive Leadership Award.

Deputy Chief Semelsberger is a graduate of the Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command and Executive Management Program.

Barrington Area Tennis Association offers Tennis Instruction & Leagues for Kids and Adults

BATA is pleased to work with the Barrington Hills Park District in offering tennis instruction and league play for children and adults. Programs take place at the BHPD tennis courts at 205 W. County Line Road right next to Countryside School. Two summer sessions are offered beginning June 16th. Check out the BHPD website or visit www.BarringtonTennis.com for more information. BATA wants you to ***Get in the Game!***

BACOG Hosts "It's A Derecho!" Tabletop

The township and municipal officials of the Barrington Area Council of Governments (BACOG) experienced a hypothetical "derecho" on April 22nd in a presentation by Kent McKenzie, Lake County's Emergency Management Coordinator. A derecho is a powerful straight-line windstorm that can take out power, block traffic, make homes uninhabitable and cut off entire communities from police, fire and emergency management services. BACOG is charged with pulling together resources and training about emergency preparedness, and this program was intended to help our small communities coordinate their emergency response planning.

Participants were asked to find solutions to getting water, food, medicine and police and fire response to homes. Local police and fire officials, administrators, and village and township board members discussed using reverse-911 calls and even social media to notify the public and calling on private businesses to assist with transportation, tree clearing and refuse disposal, for example.

Officials from the Lake County Sheriff's Office, Cook County Homeland Security, and the Illinois Emergency Management Agency also attended the tabletop exercise. McKenzie is preparing a summary report that will be distributed by the BACOG office soon.

For further information, please contact: Janet Agnoletti in the BACOG office at 847.381.7871

Let's Talk Bikes

First, our Village has not made any final decision about the location, or even the necessity of bike paths. What we do know:

- The surrounding communities have bike infrastructure incorporated in their future planning, and even if we don't guide cyclists they are still going to be guided to/near our borders.
- Roads are expensive! The Village maintains over 39 miles of road. There is grant money to assist with maintaining roadways, on a past application we did not receive funding largely due to a lack of bicycle planning. While we can pay for roads in full, that is your tax payer money.
- Bicyclists are already here. We've all left our homes on a weekend only to be stuck behind a pack, unable to get where we are going efficiently. Legally they have the same right to the road as cars do. They are supposed to follow the same rules that cars do too, and we know that many do not. We are working with our Police Department and bicycling groups to try and reduce violations.

Not Every Path is the Same

When someone talks about bicycle planning one often thinks of a large asphalt path adjacent to a road, or through a natural area. Fortunately, this is only one type bicycle path, there are various acceptable ways to approach bike transportation to fit the community, the roadway, traffic volume and the bicyclist. The following are possible ways to safely accommodate bicycles and vehicles on the public roads.

Shared Lane

Shared Lane

This marker indicates that a cyclist has the same rights to the lane as cars. Often a roadway does not need to be widened to incorporate a shared lane.

Drivers, share these lanes carefully with cyclists. Give cyclists 3 feet when passing and don't follow too closely.

Bike Lane

Bike Lane

A bike lane is an exclusive lane on the road for cyclists.

Off Road Paths

These are protected, and separated, bike lanes for cyclists.

Various components need to be reviewed to determine which, if any, type of bike infrastructure is right for the road.

Off Road Paths

What we are doing?

We are evaluating our options moving forward and trying to do what we can to help our residents now. Yes, we are looking at incorporating bicycle planning into our road program; the State of Illinois suggests bicycle planning as part of roadway planning and construction. We are also considering this to save you, the taxpayer money; if it is possible to get a $2.3 million project 80% funded by federal sources we need to consider it as an option.

We are working to have more "single file riding" signs installed to eliminate any confusion over what areas are included. We are also reviewing our authority to regulate large organized training races and group rides and how to enforce them.

What are we considering?

There are two distinct bicycle planning projects that you may have heard of in our Village:

- Consideration of including a bike plan in the possible reconstruction of Haegers Bend Road during 2015 or later. We again have not finalized anything, but are looking at it as just one option to increase our chances for funding the road reconstruction.
- The other is a project that is being undertaken by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) to look at bicycle connectivity in our area, specifically looking at connecting Crabtree Nature Center to the Fox River Trail. The Village is a part of the advisory commitee on this project but is not the lead party. The CMAP report is to be available in April, 2015.

Both of these projects are still in a preliminary state, nothing is final.

We want to hear from you!

Please let us know what you, the resident, think. Please fill out the Barrington Hills Community Survey on the Village website vbhil.gov. We want your input on the sections related to bicycle planning. Please take the points discussed in this issue of the newsleher into consideration while answering the questions, as the survey results will be taken into consideration.

Residents are also encouraged to communicate with their elected officials, attend public meetings, especially meetings held by other jurisdictions that influence the Village of Barrington Hills such as Barrington Area Council of Governments (BACOG) and county meetings.

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

barringtonhills-il.gov

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

Printed on recycled paper ©2014, Village of Barrington Hills

Directory

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

vbhil.gov

Phone
847-551-3000

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

Director of Administration
Robert Kosin, AICP

Board of Trustees

Martin J. McLaughlin
President

Fritz Gohl
Pro-Tem

Patty Meroni
Trustee

Karen S. Selman
Trustee

Joseph S. Messer
Trustee

Colleen Konicek Hannigan
Trustee

Michael Harrington
Trustee

CALENDAR

June 13	Citizens for Conservation "Seining with CFC"
June 15	5:30pm Longmeadow Bird Walk
June 16	7am Galloping Hill Bird Walk
June 16	Barrington Area Tennis Association Summer sessions start
June 18	6pm to 8pm FPDCC Horizon Farm Community Outreach Meeting
June 19	6:30pm BACT Plein Air Painting
June 20 to 22	Fox River Valley Pony Club Horse Trials
July 4	Independence Day, Village Hall closed
August 30	4pm BACT Concert for Conservation
October 18	Fall Roadside Pick-Up

The Hills Are Alive 2014
Fall Heritage Fest

Mark your calendars, the second annual "The Hills Are Alive" Barrington Hills Fall Festival is going to be Saturday October 25, 2014. More information to follow on our website and the next newsletter. We need your help! We are seeking volunteers to help in the prior planning and the day of the event. Please contact Anna Paul at fest@vbhil.gov or call 847.551.3000 if you are interested in volunteering.