



# News from Village Hall



Spring 2015

As we enter into the Spring of 2015, I want to make you aware of the progress we have made in the past year. Although we may not agree in all things, I would like to thank the Board of Trustees for their cooperation in supporting measures which have begun to move our Village in a new direction, toward improved services, lower spending, and lower taxes.



## 2014 In Review

- ☑ Lowered Village spending for the first time in several years by:
  - ✓ Establishing new Village legal representation at municipal rates, a 50% savings
  - ✓ Approving employee retirement incentive program.
- ☑ Established new financial credit quality standards and a new investment policy statement for vendors and Village assets.
- ☑ Initiated formal employee reviews and provided total compensation and benefit statements to all employees for the first time.
- ☑ Passed a resolution prohibiting bike lanes from being initiated on all Village Roads.
- ☑ Strengthened relationships with neighboring entities
  - ✓ We hosted the 2nd annual The Hills Are Alive, partnering with the Barrington Hills Park District and Algonquin Township Road District and working with community organizations and volunteers.
  - ✓ The Forest Preserve District of Cook County acquired Horizon Farms, protecting 400 acres of open space in Barrington Hills.
  - ✓ We worked cooperatively with several local clubs, the Barrington Hills Park District and the FPDCC to keep the Spring Creek Forest Preserve trail system natural.
  - ✓ We worked directly with South Barrington's Village President, Paula McCombie, to resolve an 18 year lawsuit with Sears. This settlement will save millions in future legal expenses for our Villages.

## Looking Foward To 2015

**Negotiations** with the Metropolitan Alliance of **Police Union** representing our Police Officers. Will establish a 3 or 4 year contract outlining how the Village and its employees will share responsibilities and rising costs for benefits

Consideration of **Public Safety 911 consolidation** which could improve safety, response times, and system reliability, while saving \$3 million over 10 years. Investing in essential public safety technology.

Consideration of **pension obligation** issuance. Could reduce the current \$31 million estimated liability by \$4 million.

The **Road Resurfacing Program** under consideration would establish a program to maintain current village roads while addressing 4.8 miles of backlog inherited from the prior ten year road program. There are 6 proposals being reviewed. Each would require substantial increases in annual spending as compared to previous years. Total additional spending is estimated at \$500-\$800K per year in addition to the \$700-\$800k the Village has been spending over the last 8 years.

These matters provide our Village the opportunity to solve difficult issues and work collaboratively in the best interest of all of our residents. I look forward to the challenges ahead and wish good luck to the six Board of Trustee candidates running in the April 7th election.

*Regards,  
Martin J. McLaughlin  
Village President*

## 911 Consolidation in Summary

In May of 2014, former Police Chief Murphy requested that the Village study what consolidating our 911 call center with QuadCom might offer to our residents. Currently, our center is staffed 24 hours a day by a single dispatcher responsible for all Police emergency dispatching and for transferring all EMS and Fire emergency calls. Results of that study have been shared at several Public Safety Meetings and Board Meetings. The full study can be found at [bit.ly/VBH\\_PSAP](http://bit.ly/VBH_PSAP)

This is a big decision for our Village which could result in a significant cost savings, but one that should not, and has not been undertaken in haste. Below are some of the questions that have been received by the Village. Please go to [vbhil.gov/911Consolidation.htm](http://vbhil.gov/911Consolidation.htm) for more information. This item is expected to be considered at the March 30, 2015 Board of Trustees Meeting.

### Will responding safety personnel change?

No. The same highly trained, professional, Barrington Hills Police, EMS and Fire responders will continue to serve and protect our residents.

### Will the response times be the same under a consolidation?

In some cases they will actually improve as QuadCom handles Police, Fire and safety for the portion of the Village they serve.

### Why consider this now?

The equipment used in our 911 center is nearing its end of life and a significant capital investment (\$380,000) is required to replace and maintain our stand alone system. Additionally, requirements to handle multiple methods of communication, land line, cell phone, text, and video has expanded to the point that new technology investments and additional staffing to handle these technologies are imminent. Finally, as the State reviews 911 services, there is an expectation that our area may be consolidated without our input. So, making a decision today as to who best serves our community's unique needs may be prudent.

### Are there cost savings to the Village? Will we lose employees?

The study estimates \$3,000,000 savings over 10 years. Unfortunately, we would lose several employees. The study recommends retaining two employees to handle non-emergency calls to maintain the high level of service our residents expect. The other dispatchers may apply to join QuadCom or other surrounding PSAPs.

### Will we lose managerial control of our operation if we join QuadCom?

No. We would be a voting member of the organization. Our police and elected officials will have a role in the operational aspects of QuadCom.

**Don't  
Forget to  
Vote!**



The consolidated election is Tuesday April 7, 2015. There are 3 Barrington Hills Village Board of Trustees positions on the Ballot.

Early Voting will take place March 23 - April 4. For residents of Cook County the Village Hall serves as an early voting location. Please see individual county websites for early voting locations and hours.

Best of luck to all the candidates!

## Get Your Green on, Barrington!

**Prairie Middle School's Recycling Drive-Thru Event**  
April 18, 2015, 9 am – 1 pm

**Prairie Middle School Campus - 40 Dundee Road, Barrington, IL 60010**

Prairie Middle School's PTO Environmental Awareness Committee is hosting a community-wide recycling event in honor of Earth Day, with support from Prairieland Disposal & Recycling, Chicago Textile Recycling, and Chicago Logistic

**Dispose of electronics, textiles, and Styrofoam responsibly in one convenient location. Spring clean and go green!**

Volunteers available to help unload. Event will take place rain or shine. Please bring \$35 cash for TV drop-off only, a portion of which is donated to Prairie Middle School. We will also earn cash back from Chicago Textile Recycling for clothing we collect.

For acceptable Ewaste items see [vbhills.com/BarrEwaste](http://vbhills.com/BarrEwaste) and [vbhills.com/textrecycle](http://vbhills.com/textrecycle)

## Treasures Report

Our Village runs on a fiscal calendar year, January-December. The 2015 approved budget reflects a decrease in spending by just under \$25,000 vs. 2014. A decrease of \$113,268 in the Levy vs. the prior year was mainly attributable to retirements as offered by the Voluntary Separation Program (VSP). General Fund expenditures are projected to decrease by \$63,917 as compared to 2014. This is due to controlling legal costs and decreases in insurance costs.

Roads and Bridges expenditures increased from \$1,337,000 FY '14 to a projected \$1,785,846 FY '15. With savings from the VSP and reduction of Village Attorney and Other Legal Fees within the General Fund of the Levy, these saved funds will be available for improving the roads. The contribution to the Police Pension Fund increased from \$650,000 FY '14 to \$669,214 for FY '15.

## You can make a difference!

**Barrington Hills Heritage & Environs Committee (HEC) is seeking team members & team leaders for our Public Corridors Spring Cleaning Party. Celebrate Earth Day by joining us at Village Hall at 8:30 am, Saturday, April 25, 2015 for training & light breakfast. From 9 am to noon, teams will be engaged in the field before returning for post-op debriefing and snacks.**

**To volunteer or for more information call event chair, Jan Goss 847-707-8710 or co-chair, Josie Croll 315-505-0260.**

**Hope you'll join the fun!**

*Get Volunteer Credit!*

## BACOG Private Well Returns Water Testing Results!

The Barrington Area Council of Governments (BACOG) held a water event in November to promote and facilitate testing of private wells for bacteria and nitrates. Over 300 area residents returned samples to be tested by the Lake County Health Department, 32 tested positive for bacteria.

The presence of bacteria usually indicates a problem within the well, not the water supply (aquifer). Contamination can enter the well from the ground surface or plumbing system.

The standing room only event featured presentations by Dean Jarog from the Water Quality Association, speaking about local water quality and treatment systems. Also speaking was Steve Snelten from A&C Snelten Drilling, he discussed well construction and maintaining a home water system. Janet Agnoletti, BACOG Executive Director, talked about the new long-term water level monitoring program.

Homeowners with private wells are responsible for the testing and maintenance of their wells. For more information please contact BACOG at [847-381-7871](tel:847-381-7871) or [bacog.org](http://bacog.org).

## Little Library Success

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Village book collection for the Sunny Hill Elementary School Little Library. This Little Library is part of a national program to ensure that children have access to books of their own, instilling a love of learning at an early age.



The program at Sunny Hill Elementary is extraordinarily popular and they are always in need of k-5 books, both English and Spanish. The Village Hall collects books throughout the year, but the holiday push collected nearly 200 books! The donated books are sure to make a difference to the hungry readers at Sunny Hill Elementary.

## BCFPD to Host Antique Fire Truck Show, May 16

Explore vintage fire trucks from different eras and learn more about the rich history of the fire service Saturday, May 16, when the Barrington Countryside Fire Protection District (BCFPD) hosts a free antique fire truck show at Fire Station #1, 22222 North Pepper Road, in Lake Barrington.

The show, organized with the help of the Northern Illinois Fire Museum, will also feature a full slate of fire safety-themed activities, station tours, games and prizes, refreshments, and much more.

"Our organization takes tremendous pride in upholding fire service traditions. They are the underpinnings of our duty to protect those we serve," BCFPD Captain Angela Grandgeorge explains. "We are excited to partner with the Northern Illinois Fire Museum to share a bit of fire service history with our residents in a fun, family-friendly atmosphere. It will also help them gain a better understanding of the services the District provides."

For more information go to [bcfpd.org](http://bcfpd.org) or contact Captain Grandgeorge at 224-848-4871. Learn more about the Northern Illinois Fire Museum at [nifm.net](http://nifm.net).

## Our New Look

Have you noticed, we've done some spring cleaning. We have created a cleaner, better organized website, informative newsletter and timely village emails.

Let us know what you think? [web@vbhil.gov](mailto:web@vbhil.gov)

ComEd's Smart Meter Benefits

# HOME SMART HOME

Smart meters are coming.



ComEd is powering lives by modernizing its electric infrastructure to provide you with a stronger, more reliable smart grid.

Smart meters are important building blocks of the smart grid and can help you manage your electric bills.

**ComEd** | powering lives  
An Exelon Company

*Before installation of a smart meter on your property you will be contacted by ComEd. If you have questions please visit [ComEd.com/SmartMeter](http://ComEd.com/SmartMeter) for more information or call 1-866-368-8326.*

## Village Roads and How We Fix Them

At the end of each year the Village adopts a budget and levys for funds to undertake road and bridge repairs for the following year. Within Barrington Hills there are ~39 miles of roads maintained by the Village, paid for through a portion of our property taxes. It is worth noting that most of the roads that drivers are familiar with such as Algonquin, County Line, or Sutton are not maintained by the Village, but by other entities.

The 2015 plan includes the resurfacing of Meadow Hill Road (Fox Hunt to Spring Creek Road), Plum Tree Road (Ridge Road west to Village Limits), and Haegers Bend Road (County Line Road to Chapel Road) and the replacement of the Cuba Road Bridge. Currently, the largest portion of the Roads & Bridges Budget, \$986,846 is for continued maintenance of Village Roads. However, if adjustments need to be made based on bid proposals, the replacement of the Bridge will be the priority. The estimate to replace the bridge

is \$1,016,106.25 of which the Village is responsible for 20% (just over \$200,000), the remaining 80% comes from federal funding.

Historically, the most significant adjustment to the roads budget and program occurred in 2004 when the Village decided to repair the roads rather than to rebuild them. The lower cost of a repair-only program works only for so long. Unfortunately “borrowed time” is an operative cliché for public infrastructure and we now must look at replacement. The Roads & Bridges Committee, at the direction of the Board, will begin discussion of a combined repair and replace program as soon as bids are received.



Cuba Rd Bridge over Flint Creek West View  
Photo credit: Dan Strahan, Engineer

### Road Construction 2015

IDOT to repair 68 from IL 59 to IL 53

#### Village Scheduled Resurfacing

- Hager's Bend (County Line to Chapel)
- Plum Tree (Ridge to west Village limits)
- Meadow Hill Road (Fox Hunt Lane to Spring Creek Road)

The start date for projects are unknown. When possible updates will be posted on [vbhills.com/roadnews](http://vbhills.com/roadnews)

### Have you joined the Drivers Emergency Contact Database?

In 2009 the Illinois Secretary of State's office established the Emergency Contact Database allowing drivers to enter emergency contact information into a voluntary, secure database. In the event of a motor vehicle crash or other emergency situation when a person is unable to communicate directly, law enforcement may access the database to help them reach the person's designated contacts.

To learn more or to sign up go to [vbhills.com/ILSecSignup](http://vbhills.com/ILSecSignup)



BHPD Tennis Courts at Countryside Elementary

### Barrington Hills Park District Rebate Program

The Barrington Hills Park District offers residents within its district boundaries the opportunity to receive a rebate. Up to \$70 per calendar year per family will be rebated to cover the cost difference between any in-district and out-of-district rate charged for participation in another park district's program. For further information, please go to [bhillsparkd.org/rebate.htm](http://bhillsparkd.org/rebate.htm)



## A Letter From The (New) Chief of Police

To The Residents of Barrington Hills,

On Monday, February 23rd I was sworn in as the tenth Chief of the Barrington Hills Police Department (BHPD). I am honored to follow in the footsteps of the innovative and forward thinking leaders (four of whom I have worked for directly) that have held this office before me. I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to serve the residents in this capacity and lead the department into the future.

I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to thank President McLaughlin and the entire Board of Trustees for entrusting me with this responsibility. I also would like to thank my fellow employees at BHPD for their support and assistance throughout my career. I certainly would not be in this position without them. Their professionalism and dedication is what truly drives BHPD and is the reason we are a nationally accredited police department.

I have been with the Barrington Hills Police Department for almost 26 years. In those years I have served the Village as a Patrol Officer, Detective, Corporal, Sergeant, Lieutenant, and Deputy Chief. As Chief of Police I will continue building on the tradition of exemplary service to the residents of Barrington Hills.

As we move into an uncertain future there will be some challenging decisions, but we will stay true to our core mission of providing the best possible security and service to our residents.

I plan to keep our technologies current and identify potential equipment issues before they become a distraction. Additionally, I plan to explore ways to better communicate with our residents to address concerns and/or solicit suggestions for improved service. The employees of the BHPD are the most valuable asset of our organization. To that end, I will strive to improve communications and relationships between management and employees.

In closing, I am truly honored to have the opportunity to serve the residents of Barrington Hills as 'Chief of Police' and I look forward to the challenges that are ahead.

Regards,  
Rich Semelsberger, Chief of Police



Stop in, call, or email the Chief with ideas, suggestions or just to get acquainted.  
**847.551.3006**  
[rsemelsberger@vbhpd.net](mailto:rsemelsberger@vbhpd.net)

## Thank You Master Officer Gary Hammelmann

Saturday, November 15, 2014 marked the final shift for Master Officer Gary Hammelmann. Gary began his career in Barrington Hills on March 1, 1983. During his 31+ year law enforcement career, Gary served as a range officer, field training officer, ASP/OC trainer, train trainer, and truck enforcement officer. Throughout his career, Gary has been an incredibly dependable, loyal, and dedicated public servant. Gary consistently has been one of the most productive and hardest working officers in the history of the department. Chief Richard Selemesberger commented "it has been a pleasure to work alongside Gary for 25 of his 31 years. His easy going personality and good natured sense of humor has endeared him to his fellow officers and helped to make Barrington Hills a fun place to work. I personally consider myself lucky to have had the opportunity to work with and learn from Gary. Even more so, I consider myself lucky to call him a 'friend'."



***Please join the Police Department and the Village in wishing Master Officer Gary Hammelmann a happy and healthy retirement; he certainly has earned it!***

## Citizens for Conservation to Hold Native Plant, Shrub and Tree Sale

Citizens for Conservation (CFC) will hold its 19th annual Native Plant, Shrub and Tree Sale on Saturday, May 2 and Sunday, May 3 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Native plants provide many advantages for gardeners and the environment, they require no fertilizers or pesticides saving both time and money. In addition, root systems firmly anchor soil to help conserve water and prevent erosion. Native plants do not require watering but instead provide food and shelter for birds, butterflies and other wildlife.

Trees and shrubs must be ordered in advance. Pre-order online at [citizensforconservation.org](http://citizensforconservation.org) beginning March 1. **The deadline for advance orders is April 10 with the pick-up date of May 1.**

This year the sale will be held in the Good Shepherd Hospital barn area (to the east of the actual hospital), 450 W. Highway 22, in Lake Barrington, across from CFC Headquarters. Questions call CFC at 847-382-SAVE (7283).

*Again this year, CFC will be offering native milkweed at greatly reduced prices for the sake of the monarchs.*



*Photo Provided by CFC*

## Hosting a Wedding or Event this Spring?

Often these events require tents and/or canopies to be temporarily installed on the property. Please be aware that permits are often required. Call to confirm, but the following guidelines should be used to determine if a permit is required.

A **canopy** is a structure, enclosure, or shelter constructed of fabric or pliable materials, without sidewalls or drops on seventy-five percent (75%) or more of the perimeter.

A permit is required if **canopy exceeds seven hundred (700) square feet**

A **tent** is a structure, enclosure, or shelter constructed of fabric or pliable materials, supported in any manner.

A permit is required if the **tent exceeds four hundred (400) square feet** unless it is used exclusively for recreational camping purposes.



To apply for a permit please provide:

Site and floor plans.

1. Floor plan shall indicate details of means of egress (exits)
2. Seating capacity
3. Arrangement of seating
4. Location and type of any heating and/or electrical equipment.

Also: tents or canopies shall not be located within fifty feet (50') of the property lot lines. Tents shall not be closer than twenty feet (20') to buildings, other tents, parked vehicles, or internal combustion engines.

Please contact the Building Department at 847-551-3003 to check if you require a permit or with other questions.



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## 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

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## CALENDAR

**March 23- April 4**

**Early Voting**

**April 7**

**Consolidated Election Day**

**April 18**

**9 a.m.-1 p.m. Drive-Thru Recycling Event at Prairie Middle School**

**April 25**

**8:30 a.m. Roadside Cleanup Event at Village Hall**

**May 2 & 3**

**9 a.m-3 p.m. CFC Native Plant Sale at 450 W. Highway 22, Lake Barrington**

**May 16**

**Antique Fire Truck Show at BCFPD Fire Station #1**

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