



News from Village Hall



Fall 2011

From The Desk Of The Village President

Fellow Residents:

This has been a very busy summer. We have been working on everything from dealing with the storms and power outages, to issues of foreclosed properties, the environment, roads and bridges, union arbitration, legislative actions, and making sure the Village remains financially sound.



Board Meeting Format: Since 2005 I have always held an open Board meeting format where residents could speak at length during Public Comment as well as interact with the Trustees during the overall agenda. For 5 years we did not have a problem with this format and it worked well. However, since the last election, a small number of individuals have abused this format by disrupting meetings and acting inappropriately. These few individuals regularly interrupt the Trustees, frequently yelling out loud, being disrespectful, rushing the Board tables, threatening the Board members, and generally interfering with the Board's ability to do its business. Several individuals have been removed for being disruptive. I have been patient over the last number of months hoping these individuals would regain some composure and we could move on. Unfortunately this has not happened. The Trustees and many members of the public have asked me to make changes to reestablish order and safety and I am thus forced to tighten the meeting format. I will be limiting the speaking time at Public Comment to 3 minutes per person and will no longer allow public comment during any other part of the agenda. These are the same rules as the counties and identical to the meeting rules before my term in office. If we can resume an appropriate decorum, I will certainly consider returning to our more open format which I much prefer. My intention is not to curtail public comment. But we must maintain decorum and public safety.

Board meetings are now audio recorded and have been over the last several months. You can listen to the recordings on the Village WEB site below where the board meeting notes are kept (<http://www.barringtonhills-il.gov/board.htm>). I have asked the Board and staff to assess the potential for installing video cameras and high quality audio in the board room so that meetings may be heard and viewed in real-time on-line. This project would be paid for over 18 months in savings by no longer requiring court reporters for various meetings. Additionally, it will allow us to accommodate larger meetings in our

Village Hall.

Why we protect our zoning: Some have asked why we so fervently protect our zoning and character. Since the last half of the 1990's, the Village has worked to protect its zoning on the land purchased by Fritz Duda on the west side of the Village. While there have been virtually no financial expenditures on this effort in the last several years, I and the Trustees and staff continue to work with the county and neighboring municipalities. Why? Because it saves us tax dollars as well as protects our character. Two recent events highlight the value of our strategy.

- The golf course in Lake Barrington Shores recently came into financial difficulty and is being purchased at a cost of millions of dollars by the surrounding tax payers. This golf course / housing development was similar to that proposed by the Duda organization and to be built by the same partners in Barrington Hills.
- The spray irrigation septic system in Wynstone, North Barrington ultimately failed and was found out of compliance by the IEPA (Violation Notice #W-2007-00215). North Barrington had to temporarily truck 80,000 gallons of sewage per day to Fox River Grove during some 8 months under an intergovernmental agreement. Ultimately, North Barrington had to pay for a direct sewage connection to Lake Zurich to resolve the problem costing millions of dollars. This was the same system proposed by the Duda organization.

Since our initial zoning protection efforts on this property, scientific and engineering analysis of the geology by BACOG, McHenry County, ISWS, and ISGS has determined that this property is part of a large aquifer recharge region. Protection of this recharge region ensures the security of our well water and the management of our storm water.

Our conservative approach to zoning has protected property values by not having the burden of hundreds of unsold and half finished homes in the Village as a result of the housing crash. Additionally, we have saved millions of dollars in taxes by protecting and enforcing our zoning.

No Raise in Property Taxes for 2012: For 2012, I see no need to raise our property tax levy. This will be the third year in a row we have not raised the property tax levy. It will be the 4th year in the last 8 that we have lowered or kept property taxes the same. Since 2005, the average yearly change is only 2.63%, which is consistent with the yearly CPI. The Village property tax levy is approximately \$6.56M. The total Village budget is approximately \$8.5M. Our current cash reserve is approximately \$1.74M. Our

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average cash reserves have remained constant over the last 6 years at around \$1.7M. The complete budget can be found on the Village WEB site at: <http://www.barringtonhills-il.gov>. The 2012 budget and levy will be approved in November and December respectively.

We are continuing to make progress regarding problems with individual tax bills that many of our residents are having caused by billing changes at the counties. As an executive member of BACOG and MCCG, I am working on proposed legislation to levelize the EAV changes between counties to promote tax fairness. The county tax bill problem threatens our financial health and the well-being of our residents. I will have more on the taxation efforts in the next newsletter.

Legal Costs: There has been much misinformation about how much the Village spends on attorneys. We spend less than 10% of our budget on attorneys. This year we are substantially below our budget allocation on these costs. Because of our tough stand on land use, we have not spent money on disconnections in more than 3 years as developers no longer challenge our community. Our expenditures fall into several categories:

- **General legal counsel** for operations of the Village including code, building, zoning / variance reviews, and police operations.
- **The Sears Holdings Corporation** (you know them as "Sears") has been suing the Village for the past 20 years regarding a property easement the Village maintains in perpetuity on the property that was once the Poplar Creek Theater, Hoffman Estates. The easement was put in place after the Poplar Creek Theater was razed and the land was sold to Niederlander in 1977. This easement ensures that the land use is not inconsistent with the surrounding community and that there is no risk of chemicals being used which could damage our ground water. Sears purchased the property from Niederlander in 1992 with the easement in place. Since then, Sears has lost time after time in court trying to remove the easement through strong arm tactics and an effort to outspend the Village. Sears contends that the easement has caused them some \$17M in damages. I have continued the effort started by then President Kempe in offering to modify the covenant to meet the needs of Sears without removing the environmental restrictions that protect our water and environment. In my view, Sears has behaved as a poor corporate citizen in this regard. The Village continues to defend its environment and land use.
- **Dilapidated and improper uses of property.** A number of properties in the Village are in an unsafe and unsightly condition, as well as some being used for non-residential use such as dumping and vehicle and industrial storage. The Village is actively pursuing remedies for these cases. Some of these property owners are resistant to comply and therefore the Village must spend legal resources to bring the weight of the court system to affect remedy.

- **Individual property owner fights.** In the last decade there has been a significant increase in private property owner disputes. While these cases do not directly involve the Village, many times the property owners attempt to use the Village code and its operations as either the hammer or the shield depending upon which side they are on. The Village then becomes involved at the civilian court level through subpoenas and other actions of the court proceedings. These intra-village fights have cost us tens of thousands of dollars. The Drury / McLaughlin vs. LeCompte law suit is a good example of this. The actions of residents who cannot resolve their differences significantly add to our legal costs.

Knowing that we have much resident expertise in the Village, I am always open to suggestions on more efficient resolutions on these cases.

Power Outages: This year we have seen an unprecedented number of summer power outages. In particular the mid-summer outages caused many residents to lose power for multiple days. Recognizing our rural nature, the Village encourages residents to have properly installed generators, or portable generators with proper training in their connection and operation.

If you have VOIP services for telephone, be sure all the components of your VOIP system have backup power of some type.

Because the Village has a full requirements generator to maintain emergency services, we can also now supply water for residents who are out. For outages lasting longer than 12 hours the Village will provide a water hose on the north side of the Village Hall where you can get an unlimited amount of potable water to fill your own containers.

We are working with ComEd to review the circuitry in the Village to reduce outages and improve restoration times. However, I expect that we will continue to have long duration power outage in the future. As soon as you have an outage you should report it at 1-800-Edison-1. As always, if you have any problems during an outage, or if you see a line down, please dial 911.

Go Mom! Congratulations to my mother, Joan Abboud, who lives on Braeburn Road and just completed her 10th Boston Marathon fall Jimmy Fund run/walk in support of the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Dana-Farber is affiliated with Harvard University. Mom also celebrated her 80th birthday this year. She plans to be back next year for those of you who want to run with her. The 26.2 mile run/walk raised more than \$7.5M this year. Congratulations Mom!

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.

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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

7th annual LeCompte Kalaway Landowners Cup Polo Event

Great weather, fast-action polo and a festive community spirit made the 7th annual LeCompte Kalaway Landowners Cup Polo Event the place to be on September 10th. Along with two polo matches, spectators were treated to demonstrations by the Fox River Valley Pony Club, a parade of hounds by the Fox River Valley Hunt and rides with the Lake Run Clydesdales driving team.



The Communication Committee's own Barbara Kemp was the second place winner of the Peter Wessel Memorial Tailgate Award. Barbara, along with Susan Kenny and Cheryl Hagen created a tailgate with the theme of "Rocking Horses". Congratulations Barbara!

If you weren't able to attend, make sure to put next year's event on your calendar so you can enjoy this fantastic family event with many of your friends and neighbors.

The Riding Club of Barrington Hills is now offering a reduced price social membership in addition to its regular membership. Also, new residents will get one free year of membership in the Riding Club. See <http://www.ridingclubofbarringtonhills.com/membership.html> for more information.

TRUSTEE UPDATE—

Patty Meroni

Roads and Bridges
pmeroni@barringtonhills-il.gov

As summer draws to a close, the 2011 Road Construction and Maintenance Program has been completed, with Ridge and Plum Tree Roads having major patching and resurfacing, as well as resurfacing of Buckley Road. Leeds, Crabapple and Aberdeen all received resurfacing and maintenance repairs. Additional patching and shoulder repairs were completed on other roads as needed, and culvert replacements on Ridge and River Roads as well as Hawthorne Lane were finished.

Without question, the biggest event of the summer season was the July 11 storm, which left 1372 Barrington Hills residents without power and created endless nightmares (see article following). And, a huge thanks go to our village staff and Police Department for coping with the aftermath and assisting residents however possible, including making water available at the Village Hall.

Fritz Gohl

Public Safety
fgohl@barringtonhills-il.gov

Deputy Chief Richard Semelsberger

The Barrington Hills Police Department recently appointed its first Deputy Chief. After starting his career with Barrington Hills in May of 1989 as a patrol officer, Deputy Chief Rich Semelsberger worked his way through the ranks of Corporal, Sergeant, and Lieutenant. He was appointed Deputy Chief on July 25, 2011. The appointment will allow for a more defined chain of command when the Police Chief is off duty or unavailable.

Through the years, Deputy Chief Semelsberger has held various duties and assignments including Detective, Field Training Officer, Field Training Supervisor, Training Supervisor, Fleet Supervisor, Public Information Officer, Scheduling and Detail Supervisor. He has also received numerous awards and commendations including the Cook County Sheriff's Award of Merit, the Barrington Hills Life Saving Award, the Commendation Award, the Supervisory Achievement Award and the Outstanding Community Service Award.

Deputy Chief Semelsberger graduated from Harper College, the Florida Police Academy and the Northwestern University Police School of Staff and Command. He resides in Palatine with his wife Cindy and their three children.



Joseph Messer

Zoning Board of Appeals
jmesser@barringtonhills-il.gov



After many months of discussion regarding commercial horse boarding in Barrington Hills, in July the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) presented the Village Board with a draft text amendment to the Village Code which would govern the boarding of horses. (You may see the ZBA's July 20, 2011 letter to the Board and draft text amendment at <http://www.barringtonhills-il.gov/pdf/EquestrianBoarding.pdf>). The ZBA's goal in presenting the draft to the Board was to obtain input from the Board and further direction regarding the scope of the text amendment sought by the Board. During its August meeting the Village Board conferred with the ZBA members in attendance and recommended substantial revisions to the draft text amendment. The Board then referred the text amendment back to the ZBA, which plans to conduct a public hearing on the text amendment. Because the ZBA has been busy deciding petitions for variances during its September and October meetings, the ZBA will not conduct the hearing on the text amendment until its November 14, 2011 meeting. The ZBA should then be in a position to prepare its final recommendation to the Board.

TRUSTEE UPDATE—

Harold “Skip” Gianopulos

Insurance, Health, Environment, Building & Grounds

sgianopulos@barringtonhills-il.gov

After executing five successful trash pickup events in Barrington Hills, the Beautification Committee continues to be amazed at what a group of like minded volunteers can do to clean up our environment. The latest Barrington Hills Roadside Trash Pick Up took place on October 22 to coincide with the national Make a Difference Day.

The day started at 8:30 AM at the Village Hall with registration and distribution of team information. By 9:15 AM everyone was working either on Plum Tree & Ridge or Penny & Healy for two hours of beautifying our community.

Did you see us in our neon yellow safety vests with giant orange trash bags? The weather was brisk but the volunteers were dedicated and hardy. Loads of trash bags were left alongside the roads as well as piles of too large debris & cast offs.

The thank-you tailgate back at Village Hall was filled with laughter, stories of the best finds and some new bonds formed. If you see anyone tossing litter out their vehicle windows in our Village, please jot down their license plate number and call it in to VBH. We would love to send them a “Thank You for Your Trash in our Clean Environment” letter!

For information of what very interesting projects are next for the Beautification Committee and YOU, send your inquiry to green@barringtonhills-il.gov or call 847-551-3000.CC: pdisrael@barringtonhills-il.gov

Karen S. Selman

Finance

kselman@barringtonhills-il.gov

The Equestrian Commission of Barrington Hills recently sponsored a horse handling demonstration for several local police and fire departments. Three hands-on clinics were held on August 8, 15, and 22 at John Pappas' Shamrock Farm with wonderful, patient horses supplied by Sarah Grubner, manager of Shamrock Farm, and their owners. About 45 police and firemen were trained during the three sessions. Attendees represented the Barrington Hills Police Department, the Barrington Countryside Fire Protection Department (which includes both Barrington Village and Barrington Hills) and the Fox River Grove Fire Department.

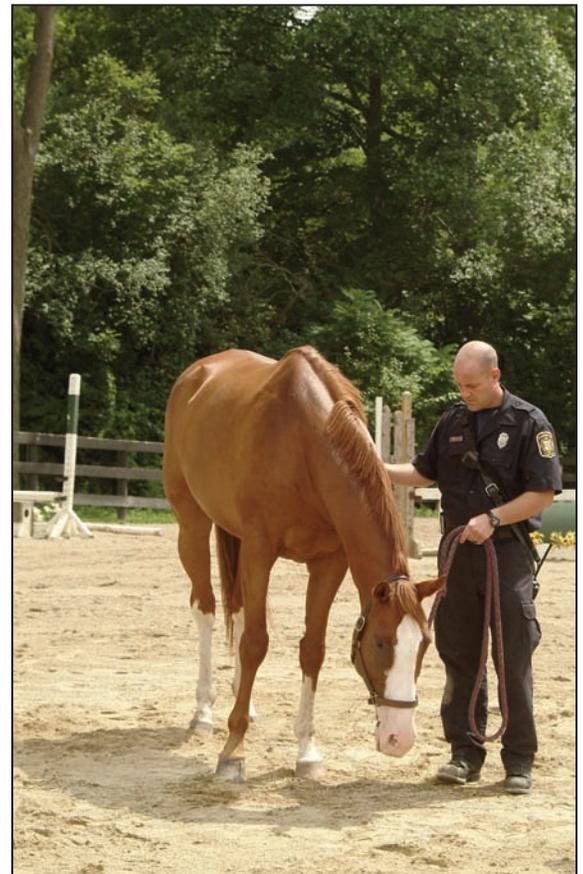
In an equestrian community like Barrington Hills, with 5 major state highways running through it, it is extremely important for both fire and police personnel to be intelligent in the handling of horses. Barrington Hills receives several loose, found, lost or trapped horse calls a year. In the past, the officers have had to deal with loose horses and horses trapped in frozen ponds and trailer accidents, just to name a few equine emergencies. Every police car in Barrington Hills carries a halter, lead rope and a bucket with horse feed.

The clinics were presented by Ronda Ewing, Director of Marketing & Development of H.A.R.P.S. (Hooved Animal Rescue & Protection Society) of Barrington Hills. Ronda and her helpers demonstrated approaching, catching, haltering, leading and backing horses as well as picking up their feet, leading in and out of stalls and loading/unloading in a trailer. Discussions were held on getting horses out of a burning building and how to react around horses in an emergency when the animals were upset.

Many of these officers had never been around a horse before, but by the time the four hours were up all of them were accomplishing the tasks comfortably and said they all felt at ease around a horse.

Ronda commented, “These were great sessions with a fun group of firemen and policemen that were very attentive and interested in learning about horse handling and horse behavior. We should be proud of our Village and these Departments for their focus and willingness to keep our horses and people safe.”

It is planned to offer these sessions on an every other year basis and include other nearby fire and police departments.



Conservation Corner

By Jim Voris



By mid-September the skies are bluer, the air is dryer, and the days and nights are cooler. Now is a great time to get out into our properties for some "fall cleaning" projects! Hiking, gardening and riding are also perfect activities for these months. An added bonus is that the mosquitoes and horse flies are pretty much gone for the year and none too soon! I'm guessing The Bard would call these "the salad days" of the year for those who love to spend time out of doors. Fortunately, and by careful design, our own Barrington countryside holds lots of that "out of doors" for us to get out into.

By far the largest outdoor area available to us is the Spring Creek Forest Preserve. Running generally from Route 72 north to Lake Cook Road, and roughly bounded by Sutton Road to the east and Bateman / Healy to the west, its nearly 4,000 acres offer us a glorious place to spend some time in and around woodlands, grasslands, and wetlands. Further, it borders our own Barrington Countryside Park District's Riding

Center on three sides. For nature lovers, equestrians, hikers, birders, artists, and those who simply want to soak up some Fall ambiance, this is Barrington Hills' jewel of a place.

Spring Creek visitors might well run into local conservation organization seed collectors through the end of October. Citizens for Conservation and Spring Creek Steward volunteers gather large amounts of grassland, savanna, and woodland seed from high quality restorations and wild native remnant patches for redistribution into areas within the preserve slated for restoration. This quiet, unassuming enterprise has been pursued for many years at Spring Creek. Grigsby Prairie, Flint Creek Savanna, and Baker's Lake Savanna, among other local restoration sites, have provided enough seed over the past decade to foster the plant repopulation of hundreds of acres of Spring Creek. Each year, with the dedicated man-hours of local volunteers and conservation minded organizations our "jewel" more and more closely approximates a tiny slice of what pre-European settlement eyes would have beheld in this area. Certainly a noble cause.

Possibly the most remarkable aspect of restoration efforts at Spring Creek is the fact that so many organizations, government bodies, and dedicated individuals have cooperated to such an extent to a common end. When Citizens for Conservation, the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, Spring Creek Stewards, Friends of Spring Creek, The Riding Club of Barrington Hills, The Audubon Society, the Bird Conservation Network, the Army Corps of Engineers, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Village of Barrington Hills, Barrington School District 220, Barrington Hills Park District, many other supporting organizations, and scores of local citizens team up to a common purpose, there is no end to the momentum generated in support of our natural environment.

As you read this, our school district's 4th graders are out there collecting seed. The Army Corps is restoring small wetlands. Harper College students will be clearing buckthorn near Penny Road Pond very soon. Spring Creek Stewards and their band of volunteers are collecting/sowing seed at Galloping Hill and the 160 Grassland. Things are clearly happening at Spring Creek, and hey, it's right here in our own back yard!

Seed Collecting

Citizens for Conservation and Friends of Spring Creek jointly organize seed collecting activities in fall on Thursdays and Saturdays from 9 -11 AM, and on Sundays from 3:30-5 PM. Meet at the Citizen for Conservation office 459 W Hwy 22, Lake Barrington IL. See their website for more details.

<http://www.citizensforconservation.org/volunteer/>

BACOG will again be offering its water testing program for bacteria and nitrates in November. To participate, pick up your kit at the Village Hall from November 7th through the 10th. The test kits cost \$16. Then bring your water sample to the Barrington High School on Monday November 14th from 3:30-7:30 for testing. This test is recommended annually for all people with private drinking water systems.

Countryside 4th grade students spent a sunny morning at the Spring Creek Forest Preserve exploring the prairie on a recent field trip led by Citizens for Conservation (CFC) volunteers.

On a guided walk through the prairie they identified many native plants, birds, and insects. A few lucky grasshoppers were carried along for the ride. Students were able to use their math skills by measuring various plants and then determining the mean. Budding artists sketched native plants, using magnifying glasses to study them up close. To ensure further survival of the prairie, students participated in what one CFC volunteer described as "competitive seed collecting"; collecting Indian Grass seed to sow in CFC projects.

It turned out to be a lovely day, with the children enjoying spending time in and learning about our ecosystem.



Summer Storms By Patty Meroni



This has been a year of weather extremes – winter winds, the third largest snowfall in history, the most rainfall recorded in one 24 hour period, and the summer of storms. Beginning with the June 8th storm, which brought 36,000 lightening strikes, 50-70 mph wind gusts, and ping pong size hail, residents then faced the June 21st storm which left 478 Barrington Hills residents without power but fortunately not the 2 tornados which touched down in nearby suburbs.

The real blow came in the early morning storm of July 11th which left 1,372 Barrington Hills residents without power, along with over a million more in the Chicago area, mainly in the North and Northwest suburbs.

With huge trees down on lines and entire roads blocked by downed power lines, Barrington Hills residents reeled from the prolonged outage – no power, no water, no communication in many instances, and endless traffic jams on Routes 62, 59, and 68 from dark traffic signals.

The Village Hall and Police Department telephone systems became jammed with calls to report outages and demand quick restoration.

As a result of this storm, a few heretofore unknown facts emerged. In an effort to have the power restored to the traffic signals at Routes 62 and 59,

Routes 62 and 68 and Brinker Road, and Route 59 and Dundee Road, the village learned that even though some of the signals are within ¼ mile of each other, all the signals are on different power feeds, thereby drastically increasing restoration time by having to have multiple calls and visits by both Meade Electric, which services all of IDOT's traffic signals in this 9 county district, and ComEd.

In addition, IDOT has responded to a request by our village engineering consultants for generators at these major intersections with the following: "No generators, either by Meade Electric, ComEd or municipalities. In the future, as the battery backups wear down, the signal will go to Flash, then to Dark and remain Dark (with hopefully STOP signs posted) until power is restored. In addition, IDOT since January has been fitting all of its traffic signal cabinets with padlocks. IDOT is not allowing consultant access unless the consultant is working on an active signal coordination and timing project involving that signal, and even then the padlock can only be removed by IDOT."

Subsequent meetings with ComEd have resulted into an effort to have the traffic signal feeds consolidated, the promise of backup generators (pending IDOT cooperation), and a renewed effort to try and upgrade sometimes years old lines and transformers and accelerate tree trimming along power lines.

For those residents who suffered for days, the hope is that there will not be a recurrence of this magnitude – which was comparable to hurricanes that affect the Southeast and Gulf Coast states.

The Village Hall had water available to all who needed to fill up – whether for personal use or to water horses and other animals, but this did little to solve all the other problems.

After numerous meetings the plight of residents living in a rural setting, on wells and septic systems, and with low population density has been impressed on ComEd. While it may be expedient for ComEd to restore areas with high population density, the full impact and hardship on those living as we do in Barrington Hills is far greater.



Village of Barrington Hills
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Please take the time this fall to check the grid sign in front of your home. We've attached a picture of one in case you're not sure what it looks like. Make sure your sign is clearly visible and not covered by weeds or other items. Also, the sign should be in good repair. If you need a new sign for any reason, please call the Police Department at 847-551-3006. These signs are used by police and fire personnel to find your home in the event of an emergency, rather than your street address. For your own safety, make sure your sign is in good shape.



Directory

Village of Barrington Hills

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 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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