



Princess, 1st place chicken

News from Village Hall



Winter 2013

Letter from the President

As this beautiful season is upon us it gives us all a moment to appreciate and be thankful for all the wonderful blessings we enjoy in Barrington Hills. With that in mind I would like to express my warmest wishes from me and my family to you my neighbors for a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season!



The Hills Are Alive Fall Festival-



Thank you to all of the neighbors, volunteers, and generous contributors that made this event possible. Over 800 people enjoyed a beautiful day at our Barrington Hills Park District's Riding Center, the facility is second to none. The setting was ideal with people relaxing around

the fire, enjoying hay rides, watching equestrian events, listening to great music and enjoying delicious food. Our community organizations were featured and many residents were exposed to activities and clubs that provide wonderful color and are truly an essential part of the fabric of Barrington Hills. A special congratulations to Mr. Rooster and Ms. Hen Barrington Hills 2013, the inaugural winners were Fluffy (owned by Max Kuesis) and Princess (owned by Kelcey Roberts).



Barrington Countryside Fire Protection District -

We were pleased to have the BCFPD at the Town Hall meeting on October 28th. The new Chief and several current Fire District board members described how we should receive better response times after the establishment of the new independent organization with " a nominal increase in cost". We can look forward to expedited services due in part to additional manpower and more water tenders. This change will become effective January 1, 2014. The BCFPD welcomes any comments, questions, or concerns you have, call 224-848-4800 or email kmuller@bcfpd.org.

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BACOG Well Water Tests Results Are In



The Barrington Area Council of Governments (BACOG) hosted its sixth annual well water test collection event on October 28th. The Village of Barrington Hills sold nearly 60 water testing kits to their residents for this event! A total of 327 water samples were received on the 28th, nearly 12% of samples contained bacteria (total coliform), but none of the samples exceeded the nitrate standard. Approximately 1,600 households have tested their water with BACOG and Lake County over the past three years!

Private well owners should test their wells annually for coliform bacteria and nitrate, as these contaminants can arise suddenly, sometimes with no apparent cause.

Go to bacog.org to learn more about groundwater, additional levels of water testing, or to view the new brochure, "Know Your Water: Water Supply Edition".

Letter from the President *continued from page 1*

Tax Time

We are holding the Levy flat for 2014. At this time it is important to mention that the school system makes up 51% of our property taxes. District 220 is proposing a Levy 3% higher for 2014, although the rate of inflation is projected to be 30-40% lower. I encourage residents to attend and be heard at District 220 Finance meetings, District 300 Finance meetings, Barrington Township meetings, Algonquin Township meetings, Cuba Township meetings, and library district meetings, as they are critical to understanding the current thinking and trends of the taxing bodies moving forward. Barrington Hills is unique in many ways and one is that we do not enjoy commercial districts and revenues from such to assist in the ever continuing rising demands of other taxing bodies.

Police Contract-

Were you aware that in 2010 Barrington Hills sworn patrol officers voted to unionize? If not, you are not alone. Also, a contract had been in negotiations for almost THREE YEARS.....almost up until the next contract is due to be negotiated in 2014. Since they voted to unionize, the Metropolitan Alliance of Police (MAP) has represented the patrol officers or local #576 Barrington Hills Police in all negotiations. When I took office in May I met with many of these officers and they expressed that they felt it became necessary due to a "mistrust of management and the administration." Whatever the reasons or motivations, this disconnection has not been healthy for our small community. This process has not gone smoothly and reaching a resolution has extended well beyond a reasonable amount of time with legal and administrative expenses running well into the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Enough was enough and with the support of new Special Counsel and support of our Board, the Village changed

course. On Thursday, October 31, 2013, the Board voted to reach a settlement in this three year battle. This ended various pending lawsuits and included a reduction in the legal fees that we are responsible for, saving the Village nearly \$80,000. The previously negotiated contract is not ideal for our Village, in fact, it is rife with areas that should be improved and changed. However, the Court awarded the points in the contract to the Union against our Village twice prior to my term; fighting for a third determination and expecting a different outcome made no sense. The Village was also fighting at great expense, an Unfair Labor Practice charge and various other related motions. The Board determined the prospect of improving and changing contract terms was remote at best and estimated to be incredibly expensive without a guaranteed outcome. A global Settlement Resolution with MAP was passed by a 5-1 roll call vote of Trustees Harrington, Konicek-Hannigan, Meroni, Gohl and myself voted yes, Trustee Selman voted no. Trustee Messer, although not able to attend, was also in support of passage and asked that his position was added to the meeting minutes, www.barringtonhills-il.gov/board.htm

In summary the strategy and stance to continue fighting against the poor provisions no longer made fiscal, strategic, or tactical sense. We certainly hope that this settlement will send a strong signal to our officers that we intend to return to more normalized labor relations. We are a small vibrant community that values our police officers, this change in course will help the healing begin.

From all of us at Village Hall to you and your families Happy Holidays!

Martin McLaughlin, *President*
mmclaughlin@barringtonhills-il.gov



Visitors hear the rattling cluck of sandhill cranes as Barrington Hills resident Wendy Paulson describes the birds that depend on Flint Creek Savanna for nesting or migration.

Photo by Bob Lee

Whooo Goes There?

Citizens for Conservation (CFC) Youth Education had an idea to share even more of nature with the Barrington 220 School District. Currently, CFC's volunteers provide their knowledge at the D220 fourth grade field trips. However, volunteers wanted to do more!

With a grant from the Barrington Junior Women's Club to help offset costs and with the approval from D220 Sunny Hill Elementary School, students were going to learn about owls.

Children from grades one through five were randomly selected to take part in this free educational opportunity. In addition, family members, including caregivers were asked to attend the class.

As families arrived, they dropped off generous donations for the presenting organization. These included disinfectant wipes, old towels, paper towels, shoe boxes, sponges, and more. After a brief introduction about CFC and about the class by Youth Education volunteers, Dawn Keller of Flint Creek Wildlife Rehabilitation brought out the first owl. The almost one hundred attendees were in awe as Pennsylvania, a female great-horned owl, fluffed up her feathers to show off her beauty! Everyone learned that female owls are twice as large as their male counterparts. Participants also learned about owl habitat, food preference, camouflage, how an owl uses its hearing to catch food, and they saw up close the glowing yellow eyes of the great-horned owl.

The next owl was Pip, a barn owl. Participants were surprised to see such a small owl with mostly white coloring! Pip thought he was going to free-fly and spread his wings for all to see. Dawn explained how owls are not able to digest bones and fur, so that the owl regurgitates the matter like a cat expelling a hair ball. Dawn then told the participants they would be dissecting the bones and fur in an owl pellet. There was definitely a look of uncertainty and repulsion on their faces at the thought of dissecting a hair ball with bones.

Once the owls were safe in their transportation boxes, out came the pellets and directions on how to dissect them. Part of the educational process was the use of a printed guide which every child received, to aid in the bone identification. Children quickly found vole skulls (voles are a favorite meal of owls), a rat skull, bird skull, and several mouse skulls along with a leg, hip, and other bones. One child found a very large hip bone and thick leg bones, much too large for a mouse or vole. With the assistance of Dawn's expertise, bones were identified as those of an immature chipmunk! To complete the experience, everyone had the opportunity to have their photo taken with Pennsylvania.

To learn more about CFC's youth education classes, call 847-382-SAVE (7283), visit www.citizensforconservation.org, or email youth-ed@citizensforconservation.org.



TRUSTEE UPDATE—

Patty Meroni - Trustee

Roads and Bridges

pmeroni@barringtonhills-il.gov

As Winter tries to make an early arrival, Roads and Bridges has been trying to finalize all our 2013 projects. These include resurfacing Spring Creek Road, Three Lakes Road, extensive road patching, culvert replacements in various places, and repairing the impact of extensive drainage and flooding issues from our two record “hundred year” rains in two months.

This year has also seen a record number of calls from residents complaining that tree growth has encroached on roadway clearance with requests for the Village to cut the growth back. While we have tried to respond to these requests on Village roads, the Village Roads and Bridges budget does not allow for the extensive cutting as the Village has to hire outside contractors to provide this service.

The year 2014 will bring resurfacing to Plum Tree Road east of Ridge, Ridge Road north of Merri Oaks, Meadow Hill Road, and Steeplechase Road, the Cuba Road Bridge replacement, and an extensive drainage project required by Lake County, plus patching on other roads.

Also, please be aware that Barrington Hills does not just have Village roads, but also state, county and private roads. The Village maintains only Village roads over which it has jurisdiction. You can contact the Village Clerk if you have questions regarding which government agency maintains a road.

We have also cut some seriously dangerous tree limbs that were threatening roads, so look up and check to see that storms have not left threatening limbs which pose a potential liability to you. It is important to realize that the trees along the road are the resident’s responsibility for pruning and removal.

Be aware that overgrown vegetation can impede passage to all traffic, including snow plows this winter!

As the winter snow season approaches, just a note that should you see tree limbs down and blocking the road, please call the Police Department at 847-551-3006 so they can be removed.

Our roads are suddenly being trashed again, please report if you see any waste haulers driving with open containers, call the village 847-551-3000 to. Let’s all work to keep Barrington Hills clean and beautiful!

Fritz Gohl - Trustee

Public Safety

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The Village of Barrington Hills funds the Police Pension Plan which supports sworn officers of the Police Department. The Police Pension Plan is managed by Barrington Hills instead of State of Illinois’ Pension Board. The Village, along with our sworn police personnel, runs the Pension Plan in accordance with state statutes. The State of Illinois has mandated that this plan be 90% funded by the year 2040. Even though this is a relatively young fund, we are approximately 47% funded as of January 1, 2012. An independent actuary sets the amount of contribution by the Village. The sworn police personnel contribute 9.91% yearly, while the Village makes its contribution through its tax levy. If the Village continues to fund this Pension Plan as aggressively as it is been doing now, we could be 90% funded by the year 2026. This means we could be fourteen years ahead of the state’s mandated date. This could also lower our Village’s contribution per year and still be fully 90% funded by 2040. This could save Barrington Hills hundreds of thousands of dollars over the next fourteen years.

Joseph Messer - Trustee

Zoning Board of Appeals

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Please Call The Village Building Department Before Starting Work at Your Property

Residents are sometimes surprised about the types of improvements for which they need Village permits. For example, a resident who excavates or brings sufficient soil or fill onto their property must first obtain a Site Development Permit. Similarly a resident who constructs even a relatively small storage structure will generally first need a building permit. Also, residents who intend to remove trees covered by the Village’s Heritage Tree Ordinance will need to comply with that ordinance by coordinating with the Village before starting tree removal. Residents who hire contractors for work at their properties should not assume their contractors know about and will comply with Village permit requirements. Since it is the resident and not necessarily the contractor who is ultimately responsible for compliance with our Village Code, residents should insist that their contractors obtain the required permits for their work and provide proof that the contractor has done so before beginning work.

The Village Building Department staff will gladly assist you in determining if you need a permit for work at your property. Please call during the planning stages of your project to ensure that you get off to a good start.

TRUSTEE UPDATE—

Karen S. Selman - Trustee

Finance

kselman@barringtonhills-il.gov

The Finance Committee met in October to review the third quarter reports, as well as the Trustees' worksheets for the 2014 Budget. The third quarter shows a surplus of revenues over expenses, and members of the Committee discussed projections for year-end, including the recent settlement with the Metropolitan Alliance of Police (MAP). The Committee discussed goals for the 2014 Budget and agreed to produce a balanced budget, while maintaining the annual Levy at 2013 levels.

The 2014 Village Budget was presented to the Trustee Board at the November board meeting. The Trustees agreed to pass the Budget with three line items left undetermined, pending review. These items consist of two personnel salaries and the police pension payment for 2014. All three items will be resolved prior to the December Board Meeting and Levy determination, and the 2014 Budget will reflect these determined numbers. The 2014 Budget is lean, with a reduction in legal expenditures and over contributions to the police pension fund that combined equal a total of over \$200,000. It will work, as long as everyone behaves.

The Budget is not a binding document but is used as a guide with the revenues and expenses for operations projected for the coming year. Additionally, the Budget determines the amount set for the Levy. The Appropriation is the binding financial determination for a municipality, which will be voted on at the March, 2014 Trustee board meeting. The Levy amounts will be voted on at the December Trustee board meeting.

Board of Health

Illinois Amends Septic Code

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) recently amended the state code governing private sewage disposal. The IDPH code serves as the benchmark for all local health departments, including Barrington Hills. The changes in the state code necessitate changes in our village code, with the standard being that our code must be at least as stringent as the IDPH code. The new IDPH code goes into effect on 1/1/14. Accordingly, portions of our Village code pertaining to septic systems must be amended by the 1/1/14 IDPH implementation date.

Changes in the Septic Code only will pertain to anyone applying for a **new** septic permit or septic **modification** permit; if your current septic system is operating properly and not in need of modifications or repairs subject to a permit, the new regulations will not apply to you.

Among the requirements of the amended code is that new permit applicants must sign the septic permit acknowledging they are aware of and accept responsibility to service and maintain their septic system. This includes periodic inspections every 3-5 years and maintaining all maintenance records for the life of the system, with such records required to be transferred from owner to owner. Again, this only applies to systems subject to new septic permits or septic modification permits. Of course, even if your existing septic system is not subject to the new regulations, it is always wise to properly maintain and periodically inspect your septic system to ensure proper operation, minimize the chances of an emergency failure, and protect your family's health.

The new code amendments also dictate some new design standards. For example, a soil investigation will be the only acceptable method for designing a subsurface seepage field; a percolation test will no longer be accepted for design. Additional standards will apply relative to separation requirements, drainage, tank baffles, and non-residential properties, among others.

Our Village and its residents are required to comply with new state requirements governing private sewage disposal. Amendments to our Village code will reflect these changes effective 1/1/14. In order to help our residents understand the new regulations, public hearings were held during the month of October. The Village Code is available via the Village's web site at www.barringtonhills-il.gov. The sections relevant to septic systems are 4-2-7 and 6-4-6.



Barrington Hills Police Department

Holiday Safety Tips

The holiday season is a very special time of year. With so much to look forward to, it is sometimes easy to get caught up in the hustle and bustle of the season and overlook some easy steps that can be taken to make the season happy, safe, and secure. The Barrington Hills Police Department would like to share some ideas on how to safely and securely enjoy the season. Chief Murphy and the entire Barrington Hills Police Department would like to wish everybody a safe and secure Merry Christmas.

Home

- Be sure to lock all doors and windows prior to leaving your house. If your home has an alarm system, be sure to set it.
- Do not place any large displays of gifts where they are easily visible through a window or door at your residence. Remember, burglars like to window shop too.
- If you are setting up a tree in your house be sure to place it where it will not obstruct doors or passageways.
- If you are bringing a real tree into your house for the season be sure to place the trunk in either water or wet sand to keep it moist. A dry tree can present a potential fire hazard.
- If you place lights on your tree, inspect the wiring for any signs of damage or fraying. A damaged set of holiday lights can present a potential fire hazard.
- Do not place any large intact boxes out on the curb for garbage collection after the holidays have come and gone. Placing an intact box on the curb is the same as putting a sign in your front yard advertising what new goodies are inside your house. Break down any boxes and turn them inside out prior to placing them on the curb for collection.
- If you are going to be away from home, do not advertise your absence on social media or your telephone answering machine.
- If you are traveling out of town, place your house on the watch list with the Barrington Hills police department. You can download a house watch form at: <http://www.vbhp.net/services/house-watch-program/>

Shopping

- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
- Pay for purchases with check or credit card whenever possible.
- If possible, do not carry a wallet or purse. They are prime targets for criminals in crowded shopping areas.
- Keep a record of your credit card numbers in a secure place at home. In the event that your credit card is stolen, contact the credit card company immediately to cancel the credit card.
- Be aware of your surroundings, especially in crowded areas.
- Be wary of holiday season con-artists soliciting for donations. Only make donations to reputable organizations that you feel comfortable with. Anybody wishing to make a holiday toy donation may come to the Barrington Hills police station where a Tom's Toys For Tots collection box is located in the lobby. All toys donated will go to The Mercy Home For Boys and Girls located in Chicago.

Trick or Treaters in Barrington Hills?



No, these are members of Team 4 on the Village of Barrington Hills' Make a Difference Day Roadside Cleanup on Saturday October 26th. From left to right: Patti Fahey, Claire Mantelman, Tamara Voris, and Leslie Coolidge. A score of volunteers collected over 48 bags of trash & litter from three roads entering the Village. The event was sponsored by the Heritage & Environs Committee of the Village of Barrington Hills.

Photo by Cindy Mjolsness

Citizens for Conservation

Community Education Committee
presents



Winter Programs

January



Saturday, January 25
Habitat Corridors and Earth-friendly Yard Maintenance

Meredith Tucker, CFC Community Education Committee
This two-part program is the basis for all of our 2014 winter programs. We will introduce our exciting new Habitat Corridors initiative and follow up with suggestions for how to maintain yards in an earth-friendly manner. Bring your questions!

February



Saturday, February 22
The Homeowner and the Water Cycle

Kurt O. Thomsen, Coordinator, Flint Creek Watershed Partnership
Learn how to deal successfully with rainwater on your property, keeping the rain where it falls to infiltrate the substratum and replenish groundwater.

March



Saturday, March 22
Creating Amphibian-Friendly Yards

Michael Redmer, Fish & Wildlife Biologist, US Fish & Wildlife Service
Michael Redmer enthralled our audience two years ago with his frog/turtle program. Now he will tell us how to invite these valuable creatures to our properties and sustain them there.

April



Saturday, April 12
Gardening for Birds and Pollinators

Judy Pollock, Director of Bird Conservation, Audubon Chicago Region
Kelsay Shaw, Possibility Place Nursery
Two excellent presenters will show how to make yards attractive to birds and pollinators and how to keep them safe and functioning there. Judy Pollock shares her avian expertise with us for the third time while Kelsay Shaw shows why native trees and shrubs are especially vital to nurturing birds and native insects.

All programs will be held at the Barrington Village Hall, 200 South Hough Street, Barrington.

Convenient free parking in lot behind the building

All programs begin at 10:00 on Saturday mornings, but please come at 9:30 for coffee, conversation, and handouts.

Program fee is \$10.00 for non-members; CFC members attend for free as a benefit of membership.

Please RSVP to

847-382-SAVE (7283) or
to our email address at
cfc@citizensforconservation.org

To ensure proper registration,
please provide your name, phone number
and program name!

Reuse-A-Shoe

Old Shoes, what to do? In continuation of green efforts, the Village has partnered with Prairieland and the SWALCO to be a collection site for unwanted shoes. There will now be a bin placed in the Village Hall lobby where you will be able to drop off any shoes you no longer want, 24 hours a day. Old, new, lightly used; bring everything except rollerblades, ice skates and heavy winter boots.

Prairieland will pick up the shoes and transport them to SWALCO, where 95% of the shoes will end up being reused!

But you don't want my old shoes do you? Shoes that we might think are unusable, can make a huge difference to someone without any shoes at all.

This service comes at no cost to the Village and will allow us to keep hundreds of shoes out of landfills!

Call us if you have any questions 847.551.3000



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Directory

Village of Barrington Hills

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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

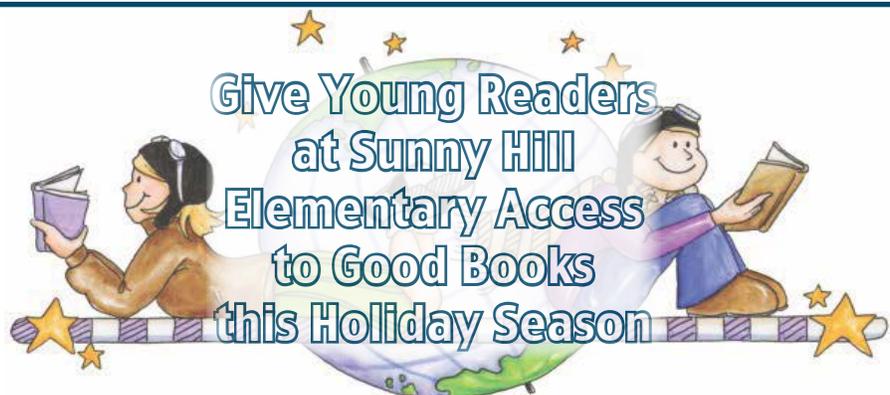
Patty Meroni
Trustee

Karen S. Selman
Trustee

Joseph S. Messer
Trustee

Colleen Konicek Hannigan
Trustee

Michael Harrington
Trustee



Clean out your bookshelves and help encourage a love of reading for the children at Sunny Hill Elementary School.

The Little Free Library is a brightly painted, weatherproof wooden box filled with a rotating collection of children's literature. A sign on its post invites passersby to, "Take a Book, Return a Book." Students may borrow a book and return it, or keep it and bring back another one for someone else to appreciate.

The library gives young book lovers 24-hour, year-round access to children's literature and provides a space for eager readers to share their favorites.

To donate, please drop off books appropriate for grades K-5 at the Village Hall during regular business hours 9am-5pm. You can learn more about the Little Free Library program at: www.littlefreelibrary.org