



Village of Clarendon Hills Trustee Topics

January/February 2011

Message from the President and Board

Dear Fellow Clarendonians:

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a Merry Christmas and a happy and safe holiday season. It was wonderful to meet with many of our residents and business owners during the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony and Christmas Walk in early December! The Clarendon Hills Chamber of Commerce members deserve many thanks for their hard work in planning and organizing the Christmas Walk. It is a great way to kick off the holidays.

My message this month is brief because included with this issue of Trustee Topics is the 2010 Clarendon Hills Annual Report. This annual report includes a comprehensive review of our accomplishments from 2010 and highlights some of the significant challenges the Village is facing in 2011 and beyond. I strongly encourage you to read this Report about the Village's progress and state of affairs.

Please share the good news with your neighbors and talk to your friends about the challenges that lie ahead. We welcome your input, suggestions and proposed solutions to our mounting fiscal difficulties – and how your Village should balance competing services and capital programs.

Best regards,
Thomas F. Karaba,
Village President

Free Christmas Tree Pick-up

Free Christmas tree pick-up will be provided on your regular trash collection day during the first two weeks of January. No yard waste sticker will be required. Please remove all ornamentation, tinsel, and garland before placing your tree at the curb.



2010 Community Needs Survey results now available Respondents report overall good quality of life

Since 2005, the Village of Clarendon Hills has conducted an annual Community Needs Survey to evaluate services, seek feedback on timely issues, and guide budgeting and planning processes. This September, the Village once again randomly distributed 1,000 Community Needs Surveys to households throughout the community. The Village had received 380 completed surveys, achieving a response rate of 38.0 percent.

The results of the survey indicate that residents believe Clarendon Hills offers a high quality of life, a feeling of safety and security, and overall satisfaction with the services the Village provides. Respondents reported the things they like best about the Village are its convenient location, top-rated schools, residential neighborhoods, and the “small-

town feel” of the community. For the fifth year in a row, more than 95 percent of respondents rated the overall quality of life in Clarendon Hills as good or excellent. Additionally, 96.3 percent of respondents reported feeling safe and secure in their neighborhood. Nearly all police, fire, emergency medical, and public works services were rated as good or excellent by a most respondents.

The survey also asked what things respondents like least about living in the

Village. The most often cited item people liked least about living in Clarendon Hills is the lack of shopping and restaurants (26.3 percent).

The survey also asked for feedback on specific components that may be part of a

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Thank you to everyone who completed a 2010 Community Needs Survey!

Your efforts helped the Village achieve a 38% response rate.



Complete survey results are available online at www.clarendonhills.us/administration.cfm and at the Clarendon Hills Library.

Downtown sidewalk snow removal ends

Since 2000, the Village has provided sidewalk snow removal services in downtown Clarendon Hills as an enhanced service to downtown business owners and pedestrians. Over the past several years, however, as the Village has cut or deferred more than \$1.7 million in expenses, sidewalk snow removal funding was also eliminated.

This year, the Village Board proposed establishing a Special Service Area tax (SSA) that would fund this enhanced service and help fund downtown beautification. However, due to the number of property owners and residents opposed to an SSA, the Village ended the process to establish it. Without the additional SSA funding, the Village is unable to provide sidewalk snow removal

services in the Central Business District.

Individual business and property owners will be responsible for clearing snow in front of their property. The Village will continue to provide snow removal on the street and on sidewalks immediately adjacent to the commuter parking lot and train station. In addition, the Village will provide snow removal at certain crosswalks in the downtown.

While the Village wishes it could continue to provide enhanced services that benefit downtown business and property owners, it is the Board's decision that such enhancements that benefit a limited portion of the Village are simply not prudent in these difficult economic times.



Road Improvement Program planned for 2011

Recently, the Village Board considered and approved plans to move forward with a Road Improvement Program for 2011. The proposed plan for 2011 includes roads impacted by the Flag Creek Water Reclamation District construction, as well as those streets with the lowest condition rating.

The streets planned for improvement include Fairview Court, Juliet Court, Iroquois and Mohawk from Norfolk to Algonquin, North Jackson from Ogden to Chicago Avenue, Hudson Avenue from Hosek Park to Walker, Ridge Avenue from Western to Walker, Eastern Avenue from Park to Harris, and Harris from Holmes to Route 83.

The 2011 Road Improvement program will incorporate the Village's new road standard, which was recently tested on Grant, Churchill and a segment of Hudson Avenue. The new road design uses a concrete shoulder instead of the previous gravel shoulder. The concrete shoulder has a higher cost to install, but it extends the life of the road surface, reducing maintenance costs over the life of the road. Based on resident feedback and the input of the Village's Infrastructure Advisory Committee, the Village has adopted the concrete shoulder as a new road standard and will replace gravel shoulders in future road improvements.

As with the last road improvement cycle, the road improvement projects will be funded in part through Special Service Areas (SSAs), which will share the cost of road repair and resurfacing between homeowners and the Village. When this first group of SSAs was established, the Village committed to provide an additional maintenance cycle within a 20 year period for those roads whose condition warranted such maintenance. The Village plans to fully



The Village's new road standard incorporates concrete shoulders, which help to extend the life of the pavement and reduce maintenance costs.

Open House

An open house for the Village's Road Program is planned for Jan. 24 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Clarendon Hills Middle School

ly fund and maintain this commitment for those roads previously included in an SSA and in need of repair.

The incorporation of the new road standard, however, adds an additional cost for the enhanced road shoulder. Based on input from the Village's Infrastructure Advisory Committee, the Village's plan proposes funding the cost of the concrete shoulder installation entirely through an SSA. The funding for the repair and resurfacing of the road will be determined based on the history of the road segment. The new SSA rate would be the same or lower than previous SSAs for road repairs and will not overlap with the previous SSAs.

For those roads that have never been included in an SSA, the roadway portion will

be split as it has been in the past, with the Village funding 40 percent of the cost and the remaining 60 percent funded through an SSA. Road repair and resurfacing related to the sanitary sewer improvement project will be funded by FCWRD as outlined in an intergovernmental agreement between FCWRD, Hinsdale, Westmont and Clarendon Hills. In all three groups however, the enhanced concrete shoulder will be funded entirely through an SSA.

There will be several opportunities for resident input related to the road program and establishing the related SSAs. The program and the SSAs will also need to receive final approval by the Village Board. An Open House to discuss the SSAs and the road improvements will take place January 24 at Clarendon Hills Middle School, and all affected residents will be notified. Construction is anticipated to begin in spring 2011 and conclude in fall 2011.

Village licenses, permits expire Jan. 1

Required licenses due January 1 include those for contractors and home occupations as well as regular businesses. Special permits are also required for businesses having outdoor seating and decorations on the public sidewalk adjacent to the business property location. If you have not received a business license application, please call the Village Hall at 286-5400.

The business license ordinance provides for a penalty of one-half the original fee

for any business that does not obtain a license within 30 days of the due date.

Blue Dot parking permits are also due by Jan. 1. Please visit the Village's website at www.clarendonhills.us/bluedots.cfm or call 630-286-5401 for an application or more information. Quarterly Commuter parking permits also expire before Jan. 1. The Clarendon Hills Police Department issues all commuter parking permits. Call the Police Department at 630-286-5460 with questions.

ZBA/Plan Commission

Nov. 4 Special Meeting: Case 446 - Rezone to B-3 Highway Business District, special use permit for auto sales and service (279 Woodstock, 280 Oxford, 407-419 Ogden): approved
Next meeting is **January 20:** Case 447: Side yard variation (430 Ridge Ave).

New Business: Redd Herring Restaurant

Roger Herring, Owner
31 S. Prospect Ave.
630-908-7295



Board approves 2010 tax levy

Each year, the Village levies property taxes to partially fund its core operations. Property taxes help to fund police protection, fire protection, public works, general administration, retirement pensions and liability insurance. Property taxes make up approximately 54 percent of the Village's total revenues, with the remaining portion coming from state shared revenues, grants, fees, fines and other sources.

The 2010 tax levy marks only the second tax rate increase from the Village since 2000. It remains a priority of the Village to maintain fiscal restraint and responsibility. Even as the Village has cut or deferred nearly \$1.7 million in expenses, costs have increased by approximately 3 percent due to increasing health and general liability insurance costs and required pension contributions. Still, taxes levied by the Village account for approximately 12 percent of a homeowner's total property tax bill.

In the past, the Village was able to lower the levy rate as the community grew and property values increased, resulting in a growing tax base. However, new construction has slowed and housing values have declined as a result of the economic downturn. At the same time, many of the Village's required costs have continued to increase. Using estimates provided by the Downers Grove Township Assessor, a 5.8 percent de-

crease in the Village's current assessed valuation is projected, to \$535,133,709 in 2010 from \$568,022,194 in 2009.

Changes to the Village's tax levy are also tied to the new construction that has occurred within the Village. The Township Assessor estimates the value of new construction at \$4,522,290, a decrease of 30 percent from the prior year's value of \$6,489,030. The final assessed valuation and new construction values will not be known until April 2010, well after the date by which the Village must file its tax levy. Therefore, the Village must use estimates for these two integral components.

The approved 2010 tax levy for the Village is 3.58 percent higher than the 2009 tax levy, or \$113,640. The projected tax rate is 0.5946 per \$100 of assessed valuation. Last year's final rate was 0.5407. This would mean a rate increase of 0.0539 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation. Including the Library, the projected levy increase is \$134,791 or 3.58 percent from the previous year.

Based upon the average sale price of a single family home in Clarendon Hills of \$536,866 in 2009, property taxes paid to the Village next year would be \$1,028, an increase of \$93 over this year's tax calculated on the same home value. The actual property tax due for each property may be more or less, however, dependent upon any reassessment that may be applied.

Community Needs Survey

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future redevelopment of the downtown train station area and commuter parking lot. Respondents continued to be supportive of a privately funded mixed-use development on the site but less supportive of other aspects of the project, such as a new train station and a pedestrian underpass. In all, 43.5 percent of respondents supported the redevelopment of the site, which is a decline from 49.5 percent in 2009.

Approximately twelve cents of every property tax dollar each household pays goes to the Village. The remaining \$0.88 of each property tax dollar goes to the Township, County, Grade and High School Districts, College of DuPage, Library, and Park District. For the sixth year in a row, the majority of respondents (57.0 percent) responded

they felt they receive a fair level of service for their property tax dollars. Of the remaining responses, 20.3 percent felt they did not receive a fair level of service for their property tax dollars, while 22.7 percent did not know or were undecided.

Respondents were also asked their opinion about the Village obtaining home rule authority. Home rule allows municipalities greater control over local issues, including revenues, but municipalities can only become home rule by having a population of 25,000 or greater or through referendum. The highest proportion of responses was "Don't Know/Undecided" at 30.4 percent. The remaining responses were divided generally among supportive, neutral and not supportive.

The complete results of the survey are available on the Village's website at www.clarendonhills.us/administration.cfm and at the Clarendon Hills Library.

Reminders

Keep the Wreath Red

The Clarendon Hills Fire Department again participated in the "Keep the Wreath Red" campaign through the holiday season. A wreath with red lights was hung at the fire house. If there was a fire in town caused by holiday decorations or displays, a white light will have replaced a red one. As of Christmas, there had been no fires caused by holiday decorations. The Fire Department encourages safety awareness. Visit the Fire Department webpage on the Village's website or call Fire Prevention Officer Dave Godek for more information at 286-5430.

Get Trustee Topics by e-mail

The Village is offering a free e-mail newsletter so residents can stay up to date on the latest news and events. You can subscribe by visiting the Village's website, www.clarendonhills.us/subscribe.cfm. By subscribing, you will also receive emergency alerts distributed by the Village.

Village news on TV

There is now a new way to stay up to date on Village news and events. The Village has updated and improved its public access channel. Comcast subscribers can access Village information and a three-day weather forecast on Channel 6, while AT&T U-Verse subscribers can access the same information on Channel 99.

Winter Weather Reminders

If snow is in the weather forecast, residents are required to park vehicles off of Village streets. Vehicles cannot be parked on Village streets (or any other place where they would interfere with snow removal) during a snowfall of 2 inches or more and for 12 hours after it ends. This includes all motor vehicles and all streets. Vehicles on the streets may be ticketed and/or towed.

Residents and building owners are also reminded to clear snow away from refuse and recycling containers to avoid a missed collection. If the container is not accessible, it will not be emptied. Call 630-964-3232 to report a missed collection.



Trustee Topics

Village of Clarendon Hills
1 N. Prospect
Clarendon Hills, IL 60514

U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Clarendon Hills,
Illinois 60514
Permit No. 45

ENHANCED CARRIER ROUTE PRESORT
POSTAL CUSTOMER
CLARENDON HILLS, IL 60514

Community Schedule: January/February 2011

Monday, January 3

Village Board Meeting: *Canceled*

Monday, January 11

Park District Board Meeting

Monday, January 17

Village Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

Monday, January 24

Road Program Open House, 6 to 8 p.m.,

Clarendon Hills Middle School

Monday, February 7

Village Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

Thursday, December 17

ZBA/Plan Commission, 7:30 p.m.

Monday, February 21

Village Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

Village Board Actions | November/December 2010

Approval of a Proclamation: (1) recognizing December 2010 as National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month.

Passage of Ordinances: (1) granting a Class C Liquor License to Redd Herring Restaurant located at 31 S. Prospect Avenue; (2) approving an extension of the permitted construction start times outlined in the Village Code for demolition work at 407, 415, and 419 Ogden Avenue, 279 Woodstock Avenue, and 280 Oxford Avenue; (3) amending typographical errors contained in Chapter 47 of the Village Code regarding municipal utility taxes; (4) approving a Zoning Map amendment, a Special Use Permit, and preliminary and final consolidation plat approval to the Infiniti Consolidation Plat for the property located at 407, 415, and 419 Ogden Avenue, 279 Woodstock Avenue and 280 Oxford Avenue, and authorizing a redevelopment agreement between the Village and Ogden Clarendon, LLC; (5) providing for the salary ranges for non-union Village employees for the period beginning January 1, 2011 and ending April 30, 2011; (6) approving the proposed 2010 property tax levy, tax levies for Special Service Areas, and abating portions of the taxes levied; (7) voluntarily terminating the proceedings regarding the proposed establishment of Special Service Area 16 to fund snow removal in the central business district; and (8) authorizing the sale of a court awarded vehicle in the Police Department's possession.

Adoption of Resolutions: (1) recognizing former Village Manager Rob Bahan for his dedicated service to the Village; and (2) approving participation by Police union employees in the VantageCare Retirement Health Savings Plan.

Authorization to: (1) make the annual fund balance transfer from the Village's General Fund to the Capital Projects Fund; (2) issue a raffle license to Notre Dame School for a raffle to be held on January 29, 2011; (3) accept the Infrastructure Improvement Advisory Committee's recommendations regarding new road construction standards and funding for future road improvements; (4) accept an amendment to the Village's ten year Capital Projects plan for road maintenance; (5) accept the Village's proposed FY 2011-12 street maintenance program; (6) accept the bill of sale and a reduced letter of credit for Borchardt's Third Subdivision; (7) accept the proposal from the Village Engineer for the design, public meetings, and bidding assistance associated with the 2011 SSA Road maintenance program and, upon the successful award of a construction contract, construction observation services; and (8) approve the proposal from Joel Kennedy Constructing Corporation to disconnect and abandon the 80-year old Park Avenue water main and to reconnect residential services and fire hydrants to the water main that was installed in 1986.

Contact

Village Board of Trustees

Village President:

Tom Karaba 630-286-5420

Trustees

Allan Alongi 630-286-5421

Edward Reid 630-286-5422

Mary Williams 630-286-5423

Paul Pedersen 630-286-5424

Diane Cochran 630-286-5425

Steve Wallace 630-286-5426

Village Clerk

Dawn Tandle 630-286-5403

Contact the Village

www.clarendonhills.us

Village Hall: 630-286-5400

Finance Press 2

Building Press 3

Administration Press 4

Fax: 630-286-5409

Public Works: 630-286-4750

Non-emergency:

Police: 630-286-5460

Fire: 630-286-5430

Interim Village Manager:

William Balling

Director of Finance: Peg Hartnett

Director of Public Works: John Hays

Directory of Community

Development: Michael Brown

Police Chief: Patrick Anderson

Fire Chief Brian D. Leahy

Community Numbers

Park District 630-323-2626

Public Library 630-323-8188