



## Village of Clarendon Hills 2009 Annual State of the Village Report

It is difficult to believe that the first decade of the new millennium is already behind us. During 2009 the Village Board and dedicated Village staff have accomplished many important projects that have improved your Village and the quality of life that we all enjoy in this community. The projects have been accomplished despite a constant struggle to sustain service levels with declining revenues. Below are some of the highlights of the past year. Also included are some of the challenges that the Village will be facing in 2010 and for the next decade.

The construction of the new concrete shoulders and associated paving and drainage improvements were completed for the SSA 15 road improvement program on Grant, Churchill and the 200 block of Hudson Avenue. The new design of concrete shoulders was incorporated into the project to alleviate the maintenance problems related to gravel shoulders, extend the life of the pavement on our roads, and lead to significant long term savings. It is the Village's goal to replace all of the gravel shoulders with concrete shoulders as roads are due for improvement.



The Village received funding through the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency for the replacement of approximately 10,500 lineal feet of water main totaling \$2,129,190. The funding will be awarded through a loan program in which 25% (\$532,297) will be paid for through federal funding and the remaining 75% (\$1,596,893) will be held in a zero interest loan program to be repaid over the next 20 years. The funding will allow for significant improvements to an aging water infrastructure system.

The Village also received grant funding from the West Suburban Mass Transit District (WSMTD) and the Regional Transit Authority (RTA). This funding, totaling approximately \$120,000 will be used to develop a comprehensive approach for redeveloping the greater train station area. The Village will be working with local and regional officials over



the next year to develop these plans. The Village will also be expanding on the plans with engineering and architectural elements through a \$250,000 State of Illinois grant sponsored by Senator Dillard.

Additional funding was also awarded from WSMTD to expand the train station video surveillance system and provide free Wi-Fi to downtown Clarendon Hills. Entirely grant funded, the video surveillance system has assisted the Police Department with investigations and the monitoring of vehicles and pedestrians crossing the tracks. Through the video system, the Village will be able to supply free downtown Wi-Fi and Internet service will be subsidized by the Chamber of Commerce.

The downtown sidewalks will also be receiving a facelift thanks to a grant supplied by Representative Bellock. This year, the Village was awarded \$176,800 to replace the brick sidewalks and concrete crosswalks in the downtown with stamped concrete. The concrete will provide the downtown with the look of brick without the additional maintenance that results from the natural shifting of real bricks.

The Village received an important safety grant from the IL State Fire Marshal for firefighter protective clothing. This \$25,500 grant allowed the Village to eliminate one of the Village's scheduled capital expenses for FY 10-11.

Next year, Flag Creek Water Reclamation District (FCWRD) will be constructing a \$14.5 million sanitary relief project that will run under Park Avenue. The Village successfully passed an intergovernmental agreement with FCWRD to manage the project and allow it to proceed with the least impact on our residents and downtown businesses.

During the summer of 2009, the Village completed the 10<sup>th</sup> year of the Dancin' in the Street concert series. This year, the concert series was sponsored by Fifth Third Bank. Once again, the concert series was very successful and well attended. The Village has already started planning for the 2010 concert series and is currently looking for a corporate sponsor.

For the fifth consecutive year, the Village conducted an annual Community Needs Survey to evaluate services, seek feedback on timely issues, and guide budgeting and planning processes. Not surprisingly, respondents continue to identify Clarendon Hills' convenient location, friendly and peaceful neighborhoods, and top-rated schools as its most important assets. The complete results of the survey are available online at [www.clarendonhills.us/Administration.cfm](http://www.clarendonhills.us/Administration.cfm).

In an effort to improve communication to our residents in 2009, the Village began offering residents the chance to receive their *Trustee Topics* newsletter by email. To register, please visit the Village's website at [www.clarendonhills.us](http://www.clarendonhills.us).

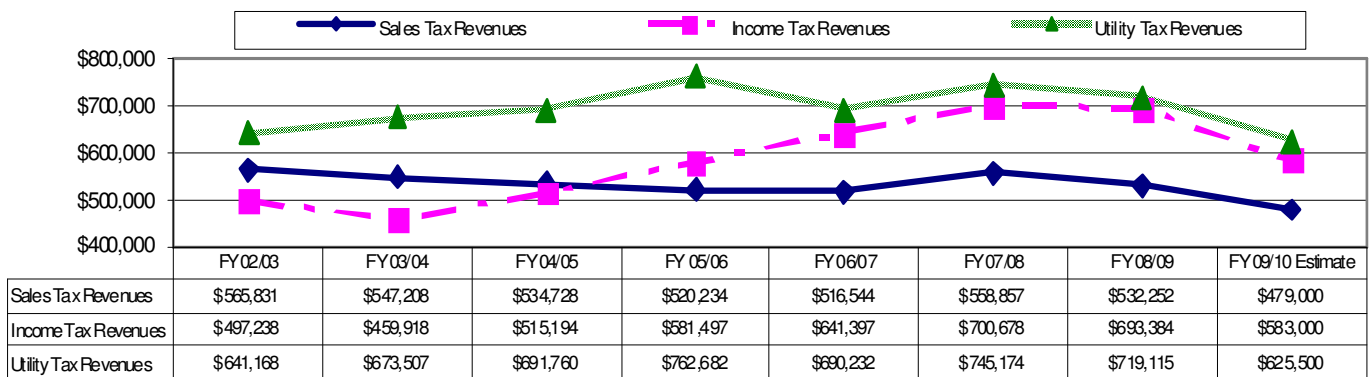
Although economic conditions have halted the redevelopment projects planned for the central business district, the Village has worked to improve the downtown vacant sites. The property located at 103 S. Prospect was graded and seeded at the property owner's expense to stop erosion and provide for a more attractive entrance into our downtown. In addition, the Village worked diligently with Inland Development, the property owners of 5-23 Walker, to make improvements to the site, and in September, the Village approved a one year extension on the development approvals for the property.

This fall, the Village received the Government Finance Officers Association's Certificate of Achievement in Financial Reporting for the 2008 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. This is the twentieth year that the Village has received this certificate and less than three-tenths of one percent of all municipalities with a population under 25,000 receive this award for achieving the highest standards in government accounting and financial reporting.

While the Village fiscal resources are well managed, revenue and service challenges lie ahead. During FY 08-09, the Village chose to defer or eliminate \$415,500 in current and future projects in order to offset a shortfall in the Capital Projects Fund. In addition, the General Fund supported increased service demands and increased costs while shrinking general government expenses by 2% from the prior year.

In FY 09-10, the economic situation for the Village has only worsened. As with other local and state governments, the Village has felt the delayed effects of the slowing economy on revenues. Sales, income, local use, motor fuel, and utility taxes as well as permit fees have all declined as the economy and housing market continue to struggle. Unless additional revenues are obtained, the Village will be unable to maintain its current service levels both in the near and long terms.

**Declining Village Revenues: FY 02/03 - FY 09/10**



Declining revenues have already affected the central business district sidewalk snow removal program. This year, the program was evaluated and the scope of the service area was reduced for the 2009-2010 winter season. The service area that has been maintained in this year's program removes snow from the sidewalks that have the highest pedestrian activity, and ensures that primary pedestrian commuter routes to the train station and bus areas are cleared of snow.

Snow removal on the Village's roads has also been challenging. Over the last couple of years, skyrocketing salt prices have forced the Village to supplement the salt with liquid calcium chloride and sand. Nevertheless, snow removal on our roads has been effectively managed while utilizing these cost controlling measures.

Finally, as the economy weighs on Clarendon Hills and surrounding communities, the Village has begun discussions with its neighbors regarding functional sharing of public services. Representatives from Clarendon Hills have met with those of Hinsdale, Burr Ridge, and Oak Brook to discuss ways in which sharing between these communities could be enhanced and formalized. As sharing agreements between the communities are proposed, the Village will keep you informed.

Although much was accomplished in 2009, it is evident that tough challenges lie ahead for the Village of Clarendon Hills. Together with your Village staff, the Village Board will continue to prudently manage the future progress and growth of our community. The Village requests your patience and support, and wishes our residents and businesses the very best during these trying times.

Sincerely,  
 Thomas F. Karaba, Village President