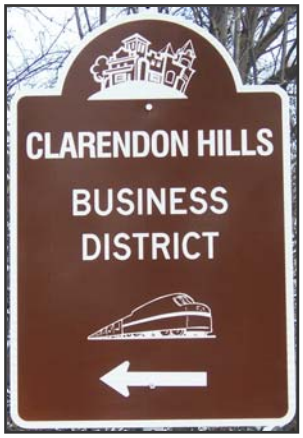
# Village of Clarendon Hills
# Annual State of the Village Report

It is difficult to believe that 2007 has come and gone. My first half-year as your Village President has passed by even more quickly. Thank you for all of your kind words of support and appreciation - it truly is a privilege to represent and serve our Village and the residents of Clarendon Hills. During the past year, your 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. While future fiscal challenges remain, I am pleased to report that the overall economic state of the Village remains strong, Village operations are stable, and the quality of Village services continues to improve.

In September, the future goals and challenges of the Village were discussed during the bi-annual goal setting session of the Board and Department managers. The goals set for the next two years address various fiscal, economic development, and staffing challenges that the Village will face. Specifically, the goals contain measurable accomplishments that will enable the Village to transform challenges into future progress. Below, is a list of some of the progress that was accomplished during 2007.

For the third year, the Village conducted a community-wide survey that was randomly distributed to 1,000 households throughout the Village. Consistent with past years, the results reveal that residents believe there is a high quality of life (95%), a feeling of safety and security (95.3%), and optimism for change within the Village. Residents rank our key assets as our convenient location, friendly and peaceful neighborhoods, and top-rated schools. Village services are rated very high, with departments achieving favorable ratings in all categories.

Economic Development continued as a priority during 2007 with the creation of a marketing brochure, marketing logo, and way-finding signage spearheaded by the Village's Economic Development Committee. The new marketing brochure features the Village's new marketing logo and tagline, "Clarendon Hills . . . Building a Brighter Future." The brochure contains information regarding the community's profile, demographics, retail environment, property values, schools, events, recent development activity, Downtown Master Plan, and Ogden Avenue TIF District.




The new marketing logo, containing pieces of the current and future downtown architecture, has been placed on 25 signs to help guide patrons and visitors to the downtown business district. Both the signs and the marketing brochure will be used to attract new patrons, retailers, and developers to Clarendon Hills.

The Pointe of Clarendon Hills

Progress on significant downtown developments continues (though slower than most of us would prefer). As the property at 1 Walker Avenue approaches completion, it is expected that the development proposed for 5-23 Walker Avenue (The Pointe of Clarendon Hills) and 103 S. Prospect Avenue (Prospect Place) will receive final P.U.D. approval before the end of February. Moreover, the Village is currently engaged in negotiations for the redevelopment of the former Police Station property located at 201 Burlington Avenue.

Effective this year, all new downtown developments will be subject to architectural review by the newly created Downtown Design Review Committee. The committee comprised of resident professional architects and builders was created this year to ensure that downtown developments meet the expectations of the Downtown Master Plan.

After years of planning and more than a year of construction, the reconstruction of Chicago Avenue performed by the Illinois Department of Transportation was completed this year. The jurisdiction of the road will soon be transferred from the State to the Village. The value of the project within Clarendon Hills exceeded $5 million dollars and included new signalization, sidewalks, water main replacement, storm sewer installation, and tree preservation.

During 2007, the Village also completed the second year of the Village-wide road maintenance program. This five-year maintenance program began in 2005 and follows the original road improvement project that took place between 1995 and 1999. The goals of the road maintenance program are to bring Village roads back to new pavement standards, improve structure where possible, and avoid impact to existing driveways and infrastructure.

To improve the infrastructure at the train station, the Village applied for and received an $89,400 grant from West Suburban Mass Transit District for a project entitled *Safety at the Station*. This project includes initiatives at and surrounding the Clarendon Hills Metra Station that will improve commuter safety. Specifically, the project will enclose an open and dangerous drainage ditch, repair a deteriorating curb, remove an unused commuter shelter, install a video surveillance system, upgrade the automatic locking system at the station, and repair electrical conduit that is used to light the platforms, shelters, and parking lot.

To ensure public safety, a new emergency operations plan (E.O.P.) was drafted to update emergency preparedness coordination and training services in the Village. This plan will meet all current DuPage County, State of Illinois, and federal NIMS standards for emergency planning.

The safety of young drivers was also made a priority in 2007. Over the past several months, communities have awoken to news reports concerning teen driving accidents involving the use of alcohol. Thankfully, our area has not experienced this type of tragedy. In response to this alarming trend, the Clarendon Hills, Hinsdale and Oak Brook Police Departments partnered with area schools to implement the "Alive at 25" teen driving program that encourages parents and new drivers to engage in driving safety together.

After an extensive search, the Village hired Finance Director Peg Harnett to replace Kathy Redding and continue the practice of well-managed finances in the Village. This fall, the Village received its annual audit with another favorable opinion. Less than three tenths of 1% of all municipalities under 25,000 in population receives a favorable opinion each year.

While our fiscal resources are well managed, service challenges lie ahead, primarily in the Fire Department. The Fire Department is predominantly staffed by paid on-call "volunteer" firefighters and paramedics. Over the years, the number of paid on-call staff has diminished, and very few volunteer replacements have been found. During early 2008, the Village Board will accept the results of a fire service study conducted by the PAR Group that will present various solutions for staffing the Fire Department. The Village Board will be holding a series of neighborhood meetings to inform residents about the results of this study.

Although much was accomplished in 2007, there are many challenges and opportunities ahead for the Village of Clarendon Hills. I look forward to my next 3.5 years as Village President. Together with your Village Board, we will continue to prudently manage the future progress and growth of our community. Finally, to all of you that have contributed so much of your time and expertise to the Village this year – thank you!