

Trustee Topics

The Village of Clarendon Hills, 1 North Prospect Avenue, Clarendon Hills, IL 60514 (630) 286-5400

January 2009

Message from the President and Board

Dear Fellow Clarendon Hills Residents:

I hope you all had a happy and safe holiday season. It was wonderful to meet with residents and business owners during the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony and Christmas Walk.

Contained within this issue of Trustee Topics is the 2008 State of the Village Report. This year-end report includes accomplishments made during 2008 as well as challenges that lie ahead. I encourage all residents to thoroughly read this report as it is an accurate account of the Village's progress and state of affairs.

Best regards,

Thomas F. Karaba,
Village President

Business License Fees

Due January 1st

Required licenses due January 1st 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.

Christmas Tree and Wreath Removal

Free Pickup

Free pickup of Christmas trees and wreaths will be on Monday, January 5th and Monday, January 12th. Trees and wreaths must be free of tinsel and ornamentation and are to be placed on the parkway. Trees or wreaths with tinsel and/or ornaments and trees in plastic bags or wraps will require a household or yard waste sticker. After January 12th, Christmas trees to be picked up will require a sticker.

**PLEASE NOTE:
THE VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY, JANUARY 5TH
HAS BEEN CANCELLED.**

NEW ON THE WEB

2008 Year-End Report

www.clarendonhills.us/Administration.cfm

New Water Rates

www.clarendonhills.us/Finance.cfm

Blue Dot Business Parking Application and Information

www.clarendonhills.us/BlueDots.cfm



Paid-on-Call Firefighters Needed No Experience Necessary

Did you know that the Clarendon Hills Fire Department is almost entirely comprised of residents who serve as paid-on-call firefighters?

The Village is continuously looking for highly motivated residents who would like to become a paid-on-call firefighter. Any resident who volunteers their time to become a paid-on-call firefighter will receive 450 hours of firefighter and emergency medical technician training. Once training is complete, the paid-on-call firefighter is paid on a per call basis to respond to emergency calls at all hours of the day or night regardless of weather conditions.

Becoming a paid-on-call firefighter is a challenging but extremely rewarding commitment. Paid-on-call firefighters protect the residents of Clarendon Hills during emergency situations and therefore help to make the community a safer place to live.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Clarendon Hills Fire Department or would like more information about this worthwhile opportunity, please contact Fire Chief Brian Leahy at (630) 286-5431.

**THE VILLAGE OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED
THURSDAY, JANUARY 1, NEW YEAR'S DAY**

ZBA/Plan Commission

Zoning Activity December 18

#435 - 228 Coe Road.

Yard Variation - Approved

Case

Side

No cases filed as of press time for January 15 ZBA

Salt Prices Up, Availability Down

Please Drive Carefully

The Village purchases rock salt for snow and ice removal through a competitive bid process conducted by the State of Illinois Department of Central Management Services. This year, the low bid was \$115.86 per ton of rock salt which represents a 200% increase over last's year's prices. The increase is partially due to a shortage in rock salt last year that caused salt prices to soar. The Illinois Attorney General is reviewing the bidding procedure and bidders for any irregularities.

This year's increase in salt prices will cost the Village an additional \$72,067 more than what was budgeted. The rock salt price increase occurs at a time when municipal revenues are severely challenged.

Due to the increased cost of road salt and concerns about availability, the Village of Clarendon Hills has been operating with a lower supply of rock salt. Public Works snow removal crews have and will continue to supplement road salt with other snow and ice control materials during this winter season. These additional materials include sand and liquid calcium chloride.

When snow falls, Village crews first spread salt at intersections, curves, hills, stop signs and fire hydrants. Work starts on the main streets, including the Central Business District, and then continues onto the side streets. Build-up of snow is monitored until plowing is necessary and as many passes as needed are made on each street depending on the severity of the storm.

With over 87% of residents rating Village snow removal efforts as good or excellent, the Public Works Department does a great job each year with snow and ice removal. This year, with the increased cost of rock salt and availability concerns, this Village is requesting that residents use caution when driving this winter and understand that streets may not be as clear as in past years. The Village will strive to clear the streets of snow and ice as efficiently as possible with this year's available resources.

As a reminder, if snow is predicted for Sunday night, please wait until Monday morning to place your garbage and recycling at the curb. Cans and bags buried in the snow or placed on the street may be knocked over by snow removal trucks or may be missed by the refuse collectors. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Public Works Department at (630) 286-4750.

Village Board Actions, Debember

Passage of Ordinances: (1) adopting the 2008 Village tax levy ordinances; (2) authorizing the disposal of a Public Works dump truck; and (3) amending the Village Code regarding building permit fees and deposits.

Adoption of a Resolution endorsing the Illinois Safe Routes to School Initiative.

2008 Tax Levy

Approved by the Village Board

Using estimates provided by the Downers Grove Township Assessor, a 6% increase in the Village's current assessed valuation is projected; from 528,132,180 to 559,820,111. Last year, the assessor projected an 8.2% increase, which was later changed by the County to a 10.3% increase. The 6% increase in assessed value may change after being reviewed by the County again this year.

Increases in the assessed valuation are tied to the new construction that has occurred within the Village. Estimates received from the tax assessor show the new construction value this year at \$9,718,380 which represents a decrease of 28% from the prior year's value of \$13,547,770. The final assessed valuation and new construction value will not be known until April 2009, 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 proposed 2008 tax levy for the Village is 5.94% higher than the 2007 final extended levy. The total dollar increase is \$175,557 and the projected tax rate is .5413 per hundred dollars of assessed valuation. Last year's final rate was .5416. This would mean a rate reduction of 0.03 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation. Including the Library levy, the increase is \$208,216, with an overall increase of 5.94% and a combined rate of .6453. This rate is 0.04 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation less than last year.

Based upon the average sale price of a home in Clarendon Hills of \$773,684 (October 2007), property taxes paid to the Village next year would be \$1,366. This would be virtually unchanged from this year's taxes of \$1,367 calculated on the same home value. However, this does not take into account any reassessment that may be applied to the home.

Planting Partners

Holiday Sponsors

This year, as part of the Planting Partners Program, the Village offered a limited number of opportunities to sponsor a downtown holiday planter. The planters were filled with balsam and dogwood and have helped to decorate the downtown during this holiday season. The Village would like to thank the following sponsors who participated in this special holiday Planting Partners Program.

Clarendon Hills Chamber of Commerce

Clarendon Hills Woman's Club

The Ceramic Attic

Donna and Darren Vilmin

Notes from the Clarendon Hills Library 7 North Prospect Avenue, 630-323-8188

Books, Bytes & Beyond coming to your mailbox

Check you mail for the official newsletter of the Clarendon Hills Library. It will give you an inside look at what's going on @ your library including a detailed calendar of events for the next two months.

Winter Story Times begin January 12th

It may be cold outside, but it's always warm and cozy at Story time! Drop in for the following programs:

- **Baby Time: for children from birth through 18 months and their caregivers; Mondays at 11 am**
- **LapSit Story Time: for children 3 years old and younger with an adult companion; Wednesdays at 10 am OR 11 am**
- **Preschool Story Time: for 3 to 5-year olds; Tuesdays at 10 am OR 2 pm**

No registration is necessary for Story Time programs.

More Special Programs for Children

- **Tiny Tot Art—Mondays, January 12th—February 16th, 10 am**

Come with your tiny tot for songs, a story and an art project. For children 18-30 months with an adult. *Registration begins January 5th; Limit: 10 children*

- **R.E.A.D. to the Dogs – Thursdays, January 8th and February 5th, 6:30-7:30 pm**

For readers in Kindergarten through 5th grade. Sign up for a 15-minute time slot to improve your reading skills and make a new friend by reading to a trained therapy dog. Dogs and handlers are provided by the Hinsdale Humane Society. *Registration dates are January 5th and February 2nd.*

3rd Annual Blanket/Pizza Day

Monday, January 19th, 12:30-2:00 pm—for students age 10 and up

Join us as we make no-sew fleece blankets for Project Linus, an organization that provides the warmth of a homemade blanket to children with serious illnesses or traumas. You may bring your own fleece (two 1 ½ yard pieces), or you can pick from the fleeces we will have available for you. All attendees will be treated to a pizza lunch, too.

Registration begins January 5th. Sponsored by The Friends of the Library.

Calling all local civic organizations—Tell your story @ your library

Do you want to spread the word about a local organization you represent? Your library is offering the opportunity for local groups to host informal gatherings here. We'll provide the meeting space, coffee and snacks free of charge. Your organization will have the chance to share its story with a brief program or question and answer session. These “**Community Conversations**” can be scheduled in conjunction with our “Coffee & Crosswords” series on the first and third Monday mornings of each month. For more information or to request a date for your organization, call Library Director Peg Brandon at 630-323-8188.

Mark your calendar for these upcoming programs and events:

- **The Roads that Lead to Lincoln: Honest Abe on the Historic Highways of Illinois**

Monday, January 12th, 7:00 pm

Join author and Route 66 scholar David Clark for a multi-

media presentation that takes a look at the tremendous impact Abraham Lincoln has had on our culture here in Illinois. We'll take a virtual tour of the many sites in the state that are either named after the famous 16th president, or figured prominently in his history.

Call the library at 630-323-8188 to register for this free program sponsored by The Friends of the Library.

- **Film Series continues with Hitchcock Festival**

North by Northwest – Monday, January 26th, 6:30 pm

The master of suspense creates a deadly game of tag and Cary Grant is “it!”

Call the library to register for this free screening. Refreshments will be served.

- **Coffee & Crosswords**

Mondays, January 5th and 19th 10 am – noon

Stop by for a cup of coffee, some good conversation and a round of Scrabble, Boggle, chess or your favorite card game.

No registration necessary. Refreshments will be served.

DVD's are here!

Come in and take a look at our new DVD collection located on the upper level near the reference area, plus DVD's for children on the lower level. These items are now available for check-out for one week, and the overdue fine will be \$1 per day per DVD. Notice that some items in the collection were purchased with contributions from our generous patrons, including many given in honor of others. See a librarian if you'd like to make a contribution.

What They're Reading...

Thursday Night Readers

- Thursday, January 8th, 7 pm **The Book Thief** by Markus Zusak
- Thursday, February 12th, 7 pm **Eat, Pray, Love** by Elizabeth Gilbert

The Game's Afoot Mystery Group

- Monday, January 19th, 7 pm **In the Woods** by Tana French
- Monday, February 16th, 7 pm **The Collaborator of Bethlehem** by Matt Beynon Rees

Kay Carlson Book Group

- Wednesday, January 7th, 10 am **The Alchemist** by Paulo Coelho
- Wednesday, February 4th, 10 am **Rector's Wife** by Joanna Trollope

New members are always welcome at our book groups. Books are available for checkout approximately 2 weeks prior to each meeting.

Recent Gifts and Memorials

Thank you to . . .

- Jim and Janet Kolzow for their generous cash donation.
- The Clarendon Hills Lions Club for the following Large Print Books: **Pagan Stone** by Nora Roberts, **Arctic Drift** by Clive Cussler, **Envy the Night** by Michael Koryta, **Scarpetta** by Patricia Cornwell, **Illegal Action** by Stella Rimington, and **The Other Side of Silence** by Bill Pronzini.
- The generous “elves” who helped decorate our “Giving Tree”: Corrine Butler, Lynn & Morse Shankman, Phil & Kay Barrett, Lucy Tarabour, Diane Maurer, Steve & Ruth Ostrodka, Joyce Skrydlak, Tina Krith, The Marucha Family, Diane Windisch and Peg Brandon.

Trustee Topics

January 2009

Village of Clarendon Hills
1 North Prospect Avenue
Clarendon Hills, IL 60514

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

Village President - Tom Karaba - Ext. 5420

Trustees

Allan Alongi - Ext. 5421
Paul Flood - Ext. 5422
Don O'Toole - Ext. 5423
Paul Pedersen - Ext. 5424
Diane Robertson - Ext. 5425
Steve Wallace - Ext. 5426

Village Clerk - Dawn Tandle - Ext. 5403

CARRIER ROUTE PRESORT

POSTAL CUSTOMER
CLARENDON HILLS, IL 60514

December Meeting Schedule

- **Thursday, January 1, 2009**
New Year's Day Village Offices Closed
- **Monday, January 5**
Village Board Meeting **CANCELLED** 7:00 p.m.
- **Monday, January 12**
Park District Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- **Thursday, January 15**
ZBA/Plan Commission 7:30 p.m.
- **Monday, January 19**
Village Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- **Wednesday, January 21**
Historical Society 1:30 p.m.
- **Monday, January 26**
Park District Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS
TASTE OF VINO
WINE SHOP AND TASTING ROOM
27 S. PROSPECT
TANYA HART
630/323-8444

January 2009 Agenda Matters

Please note that items listed below are the anticipated agenda items and are subject to change. The final agenda is confirmed the Friday prior to the Village Board meeting and is posted at the Village Hall and on the Village's website at www.clarendonhills.us.

Approval of the Village of Clarendon Hills Emergency Operations Plan, dated January 19, 2009. **Public Safety Committee and Village Board.** *Monday, January 19.*

Approval to purchase two vehicles for the Police Department. **Public Safety Committee and Village Board.** *Monday, January 19.*

Approval of an ordinance amending provisions for compliance citations. **Land Use Committee and Village Board.** First consideration, *Monday, January 19.*

Acceptance of the monthly treasurer's report for the month ending November 30, 2008. **Finance Committee and Village Board.** *Monday, January 19.*

Discussion of a road improvement program and financing for Juliet, Grant, Churchill, and Hudson. **Public Services Committee.** *Monday, January 19.*

Award of bid for an emergency power generator for the Public Works Facility. **Public Services Committee and Village Board.** *Monday, January 19.*

New Village Phone Numbers

Village Manager - Robert M. Bahan
Director of Finance - Peg Hartnett
Director of Public Works - John W. Hays
Director of Community Development -
Michael J. Brown
Police Chief - L. Patrick Anderson
Fire Chief - Brian D. Leahy

Village Office: 630/286-5400
Finance: Press 2
Building: Press 3
Administration: Press 4
Current Village Information: Press 8
Fax: 630/286-5409
Public Works: 630/286-4750

Web Page: www.clarendonhills.us
Emergency: 9-1-1
Non-emergency:
Police: 630/286-5460
Fire: 630/286-5430
Park District: 630/323-2626

Business Hours: Mon. - Fri. 9 A.M. - 5 P.M.