

# Trustee Topics

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

January 2010

## 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 – but next year I would like to see many more of you.

My message this month will be very brief because included with this issue of Trustee Topics is the 2009 State of the Village Report. This annual report includes a comprehensive review of our accomplishments from 2009 and highlights some of the significant challenges that your Village is facing in 2010 and in the near term. 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

## 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.**

## Free Christmas Tree Pick-up

Free Christmas tree pick-up will be on Monday, January 4th and Monday, January 11th. No yard waste sticker will be required. Please remove all ornamentation, tinsel, and garland before placing your tree at the curb.

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

## New Driving Laws

### To Take Effect January 1, 2010

On January 1, 2010, the following new Illinois laws regarding cell phones will take effect.

### 625ILCS 5/12-610.2 Electronic Communication

It will be illegal to send text messages while driving in Illinois. The text message ban prohibits drivers from sending or reading text messages, instant messages, and e-mails on a cell phone. It includes surfing the internet while driving. The ban also includes personal digital assistants and portable or mobile computers. It does not include global positioning systems (GPS) or navigation systems.

### 625ILCS 5/12-610.1 No Phone in School/Work Zones

It will be illegal for drivers to talk on a cell phone while driving through school speed zones or high construction zones unless they are using a hands-free device.

Please take note of the above changes in the Illinois Cell Phone Laws. This may be an opportunity for discussion with your children ages 19 and under. Visit this link for more information:  
<http://www.drivinglaws.org/ill.php>

## Snow Regulations

### Some Important Winter Reminders

If snow is in the weather forecast, it is a good idea to park your vehicles off the street. 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.

Additionally, it is against Village Ordinance to pile snow within 5' of a fire hydrant or deposit snow into the street. If your driveway is plowed, this snow must be piled on your own parkway and not your neighbor's.

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.

**Due to this year's high cost of road salt and regional concerns about availability, crews may be supplementing the road salt with other snow and ice control materials. The additional materials will include sand and liquid calcium chloride. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Public Works Department at (630) 286-4750.**

**THE JANUARY 4TH VILLAGE BOARD MEETING  
HAS BEEN CANCELLED**

## ZBA/Plan Commission

### ZBA/Plan Activity December 17

**Workshop**—impervious surface ratio regulations  
Recommendation to amend the Zoning Ordinance to incorporate maximum impervious surface ratios for residential properties.

### Agenda for January 21

No cases filed at press time.

**NEW ON THE WEB  
WANT TO RECEIVE YOUR  
TRUSTEE TOPICS NEWSLETTER  
BY EMAIL?**

To Register: Visit the Village's website at  
[www.clarendonhills.us](http://www.clarendonhills.us)

Please note that a printed copy of the newsletter will continue to be delivered to all residences in Clarendon Hills. Newsletters are delivered by postal route and therefore the Village cannot remove an individual address from the distribution list.

**For more information, contact Cheryl Pierce  
at (630) 286-5401.**

## 2009 Tax Levy

### Approved by the Village Board

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. Taxes levied by the Village account for approximately 12% of a homeowner's total property tax bill.

Using estimates provided by the Downers Grove Township Assessor, a 3% decrease in the Village's current assessed valuation is projected; from 565,262,299 to 548,304,430. Last year the Assessor projected a 6% increase, which was later increased by DuPage County to 7%. This 3% decrease in assessed value may change after being reviewed by the County again this year. 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 \$6,977,270; a decrease of 29% from the prior year's value of \$9,798,890. 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 2009 tax levy for the Village is 1.33% higher than the 2008 final extended levy. The total dollar increase is \$41,823 and the projected tax rate is 0.5607 per \$100 of assessed valuation. Last year's final rate was 0.5366. This would mean a rate increase of 0.0241 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation; the first time the Village has seen an increased tax rate since levy year 2000. Including the Library, the projected levy increase is \$49,607 or 1.33%.

Based upon the average sale price of a home in Clarendon Hills of \$534,923 (January – August 2009), property taxes paid to the Village next year would be \$966, an increase of \$38 over this year's tax calculated on the same home value. Your actual tax may be more or less, however, dependent upon any reassessment that may be applied to your property.

## Village Board Actions, December

Passage of Ordinances: (1) adopting the 2009 tax levy, tax levies for Special Service Areas, and abatement of certain taxes levied; (2) amending the Village Code to reflect the issuance of a Class J Liquor License to All Wined Up located at 27 S. Prospect Avenue; (3) amending the Village Code regarding domestic animals, traffic fines, and the issuance and settlement of citations; (4) amending the Village Code regarding Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination relative to the storm water system; (5) approving an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Village and DuPage County for the implementation of the Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination Program; and (6) authorizing the sale of a surplus court-awarded vehicle by eBay auction.

Authorization to: (1) appoint Administrative Assistant Cheryl Pierce as the Village's Freedom of Information Act Officer; (2) approve the FY 2010 budget transfers for salaries and associated benefits; and (3) accept the professional services proposal from the Village Engineer for design and bidding assistance associated with the IDOT Emergency Repair Program.

Adoption of Resolutions: (1) appointing Finance Director Peg Hartnett as the alternate delegate to the Intergovernmental Risk Management Agency Board of Directors; and (2) approving a Second Amendment to a Tower Lease Agreement between the Village and SprintCom, Inc.

## Burglary Prevention Council

### 10 Quick Security Tips

1. Keep all doors and windows closed and securely fastened.  
An open window or door is an open invitation for burglars. Thieves are also quick to spot weak locks that may be easily forced open. Doors should have deadbolt locks with a one inch throw and reinforced strike plate with three inch screws. All windows should have window locks.
2. Secure sliding glass doors. Place a metal rod or piece of plywood in the track and install vertical bolts.
3. Always lock the door to an attached garage. Don't rely on your automatic garage door opener for security.
4. Create the illusion that you are home by using timers on lights, radios and TVs. Making your residence appear occupied, even when no one is home, will deter criminals.
5. Keep the perimeter of your home well lit. Installing low voltage outdoor lighting is a cost-effective way to discourage intruders, as well as highlight a house.
6. Have a trusted neighbor collect mail and newspapers while you are away so delivered items do not accumulate. You can also ask a neighbor to park in your driveway or parking place to make it appear that you are present.
7. Keep some shades and blinds up and curtains open to maintain a normal, everyday appearance in your residence.
8. Never leave a message on your telephone answering machine telling people that you are away from home.
9. Keep shrubbery trimmed away from entrances and walkways.
10. Organize a community watch program to protect your neighborhood. An alert community is a safe community.

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

**Watch for the January/February Issue of *Books, Bytes & Beyond* in your mailbox.**

### **Winter Storytimes begin January 11th**

***Baby Time*** – Mondays at 11 am for children from birth to 18 months with caregiver

***LapSit Storytime*** – Wednesdays at 10 am OR 11 am for children up to 3 years with adult companion

***Preschool Storytime***- Tuesdays at 10 am OR 2 pm for children ages 3-5 years.

Storytimes run through February 20th. No registration required.

**Tiny Tot Art** – Mondays at 10 am OR Wednesdays at 4 pm, January 11th – February 17th

Come with your tiny tot for songs, a story, and an art project. For children aged 18-30 months with an adult.

Registration begins January 4th. Limit: 12 children

**Blanket/Pizza Day** - Monday, January 18th, 12:30 - 2:00 pm

Come make a no sew fleece blanket to donate to Project Linus. If you want to express your own creativity, you may use your own fleece (two 1 1/2 yard pieces) or simply have fun picking from the fleece the library will have available. All who attend will be treated to pizza for lunch too! For students age 10 and up.

Registration begins Monday, January 4th

Sponsored by the Friends of the Library

**Coming on February 6th: “Miss Nelson is Missing!”** a production of the Children’s Theatre of Western Springs. More details in next month’s Trustee Topics and in ***Books, Bytes & Beyond***.

**R.E.A.D. to the Dogs – First Thursday of each month, 6:30-7:30 pm**

Readers in K-5th grade may sign up for a 15-minute time slot to read to a trained therapy dog. Dogs and handlers are provided by the Hinsdale Humane Society.

January 7th (Registration begins January 4th)

February 4th (Registration begins February 1st)

**An Evening with author Jim Kokoris, moderated by Bill Moller** – Tuesday, January 19th, 7 pm

La Grange author, Jim Kokoris will discuss and sign copies of his humorous and poignant new novel, ***The Pursuit of Other Interests***. CLTV anchor and WGN radio personality Bill Moller will moderate the discussion. Space is limited! Call the library today at 630-323-8188 to register.

**It’s TIME to Get Organized: Turn Clutter into Calm** – Tuesday, January 26th, 7:00 pm

Patty Wolf, Certified Professional Organizer in Chronic Disorganization and owner of StuffBusters Professional Organizing, will teach simple home organizing strategies and tips that will allow you more time to do the things you love! Call the library at 630-323-8188 to register for this free program.

Sponsored by The Friends of the Library

**Lyric Opera Lecture Series: *The Elixir of Love*** – Monday, January 11th, 7:00 pm

### **Library Film Series continues with Classic Comedies**

***Born Yesterday*** – Tuesday, January 5th, 6:30 pm

Call the library at 630-323-8188 to register. Refreshments will be served.

### **Tax Help for Seniors courtesy of AARP**

Every Wednesday from February 3rd through April 7th, representatives from the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) will be here at the library to help those 60 years and up with income tax preparation. Hour-long appointments will be scheduled at 10 am, 11 am, noon and 1 pm each Wednesday. Call the library at 630-323-8188 to schedule your appointment. Please bring all your relevant tax documents (including last year’s return) and plan to arrive 15 minutes before your scheduled time.

For the latest on all library news, become a fan of ours on Facebook and follow us on Twitter ([twitter.com/CHLibrary](https://twitter.com/CHLibrary)).

### **What They’re Reading...Book Discussion Groups**

*Kay Carlson Book Group*

- Wednesday, January 6th, 10 am ***The House on Mango Street*** by Sandra Cisneros
- Wednesday, February 3rd, 10 am ***Jim the Boy*** by Tony Earley

*Thursday Night Readers*

- Thursday, January 14th, 7 pm ***Lonesome Dove*** by Larry McMurtry
- Thursday, February 11th, 7 pm ***The Sun Also Rises*** by Ernest Hemingway

*The Game’s Afoot Mystery Group*

- Monday, January 18th, 7 pm ***The Bone Collector*** by Jeffery Deaver
- Monday, February 15th, 7 pm ***TBA***

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

### **Recent Gifts and Memorials**

Thank you to...

- Jim and Janet Kolzow for their gift to be used to enhance the library collection.
- Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Spangehl for their gift to be used for the purchase of library materials.
- Joan Richert Watson, Clarendon G. Richert and Yvonne Richert Dines for the book, ***History of Clarendon Hills, DuPage County, Illinois 1839-1930***.
- The generous patrons of Quinn’s Coffee Shop for funds to purchase the books, ***America’s Lingering Wild: Great Plains*** and ***The American Meadow Garden: Creating a Natural Alternative to the Traditional Lawn***.
- Jim Kokoris, for a copy of his new novel, ***The Pursuit of Other Interests***.
- The Clarendon Hills Lions Club for funds to purchase the large print editions of; ***The Help*** by Kathryn Stockett, ***The Lost Throne*** by Chris Kuzneski and ***The Arms Maker of Berlin*** by Dan Fesperman.

# Trustee Topics

January 2010

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  
Edward Reid - Ext. 5422  
Mary Williams - Ext. 5423  
Paul Pedersen - Ext. 5424  
Diane Cochran - Ext. 5425  
Steve Wallace - Ext. 5426

**Village Clerk** - Dawn Tandle - Ext. 5403

## CARRIER ROUTE PRESORT

POSTAL CUSTOMER  
CLARENDON HILLS, IL 60514

## January Meeting Schedule

- **Friday, January 1, 2010**  
New Year's Day - Village Offices Closed
- **Monday, January 4**  
Village Board Meeting - cancelled
- **Thursday, January 7**  
Heritage Hall & Historical Society 6:00 p.m.
- **Monday, January 11**  
Park District Committee Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- **Monday, January 18**  
Village Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- **Wednesday, January 20**  
Historical Society Program 7:00 p.m.
- **Thursday, January 21**  
ZBA/Plan Commission 7:30 p.m.

## January 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](http://www.clarendonhills.us).

**Acceptance** of the monthly treasurer's report for the month ending November 30, 2009. **Finance Committee** and **Village Board**.

*Monday, January 18.*

**Approval** of ordinances approving an annexation agreement, annexation, rezoning to Office-Research District, and a consolidation plat - The Birches (214-56th Street). **Land Use Committee** and **Village Board**. Second consideration and passage.

*Monday, January 18.*

**Approval** of a resolution to accept stormwater management easement for Kruml Park (5624 Western Avenue). **Land Use** and **Village Board**.

*Monday, January 18.*

**Approval** of a resolution authorizing application for and execution of a Technical Assistance Agreement with the Regional Transportation Authority for a Community Planning Grant. **Land Use Committee** and **Village Board**.

*Monday, January 18.*

**Discussion** of ZBA/PC recommendation to amend zoning ordinance to incorporate maximum impervious surface ratios for residential properties. **Land Use Committee**.

*Monday, January 18.*

## New Businesses

### Four Loaf Clover Bakery

102 S. Prospect  
Anna Krug  
630-470-8593

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### All Wined UP

Wine Shop  
New Ownership  
Terrie Krokos & Brian Walker  
27 S. Prospect  
630-323-8444

## 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](http://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.**