

# VILLAGE OF CLARENDON HILLS TRUSTEE TOPICS

[www.clarendonhills.us](http://www.clarendonhills.us)

January/February 2021

Message from the President

Dear Neighbors,

As we start a new year, I find it good to reflect on where we have come from and where we are headed. Although 2020 was a tough year for everyone individually, the Village operations continued, ending the year with some great successes. I can confidently say that despite the pandemic, the Village is in better condition than it started on January 1st, 2020. As I've written about before, our infrastructure continues to improve and we are nearing completion of the first phase of the downtown redevelopment projects. Let me share some information about the other plans that were developed in 2020 and will be seen in 2021.



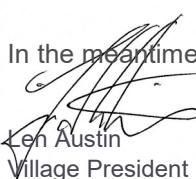
Village President  
Len Austin

2021 is shaping up to be a great year for welcoming new businesses. One of the most frequent questions I get from neighbors is what is happening with various properties in the downtown business district and what new businesses might be coming. Well, here is our most recent update on that subject - we believe that many of our major restaurant spaces will be filled this year. One Walker Ave (the old Scapa, Thipi Thai space) has a new restaurant, Walkers. They are opening for carry-out and delivery. The restaurant concept will be upscale American pub food, and I can't wait to try it. The other major restaurant coming into the downtown, will be occupying the old Aguamiel space. They expect to serve Italian Street food and aim to open in March. Additionally, we continue to see interest in remodeling our older retail spaces in the downtown which will move towards eliminating vacancies. The Downtown TIF has already been successful in starting these conversations with property owners, and is starting to be a launching point in getting the funds needed to preserve and remodel our downtown. I look forward to many ribbon cuttings in 2021.

Another frequent concern I hear from neighbors is the cost of property taxes, and just government in general. I have some positive news there as well. As part of the Village's 2021 budget, the Village Board voted to cut the Village property tax increase to 2.3%, which is almost 40% less than allowed under the property tax cap. Depending on new growth, the average home in Clarendon Hills should see less than a 1% increase in the Village portion of their bill. Additionally, the Board restructured the Village's 10 year financial plan. Under the new plan, the Village is aiming to continue to keep taxes below the tax cap with only a 2% per year increase in the total levy targeted, down from 2.5% previously (although we have been under that number in most years). We continue to freeze water rates as well, making it the 5th year in a row with no increase. We have done this while increasing services, not decreasing them. This year, we eliminated another administrative position in the Public Works department, as we were able to automate those duties and other employees took on more. We made small tweaks to employees' health insurance, that allowed us to realize some significant savings. We also invested in upgrading our IT infrastructure, moving many of our legacy programs to less expensive, but more feature rich, cloud platforms. Another area we expect residents to see savings starting in April, is our refuse contract. Residents should expect to see more than a 20% savings immediately, with lower rates going forward. All together it means more money in residents' pockets, without sacrificing our infrastructure, road maintenance, public safety or quality services.

Hopefully, you can see why I'm excited for the Village's future. We are hopeful that by the spring and summer we will see life begin to return to normal and we will be able to enjoy all the great new options in town.

In the meantime, please continue to shop local and stay safe. Looking forward to seeing you around town!

  
Len Austin  
Village President

For questions, contact the Village Hall at (630) 286-5400

# 2020 PROJECTS HIGHLIGHTS

YTD Permit Report – As of December 1, 2020 the Village has issued 220 new building permits having a reported total construction value just under \$21 million. This is a healthy increase from last year. Monthly permit reports are posted at [www.clarendonhills.us/bp](http://www.clarendonhills.us/bp).

Zoning Map Updated – The Zoning Board of Appeals/Plan Commission finished its Zoning Ordinance Modernization Project earlier this year with its approval of the Village's new Zoning Map. The new map and its revised zoning designations clearly identify the diversity of uses found in the Village. The Zoning Map is posted at [www.clarendonhills.us/maps](http://www.clarendonhills.us/maps).



Downtown TIF District Updated – On March 16th, the Village created a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District designating a funding source supporting public and private investment to strengthen the economic viability of the Village's downtown business district. More information about the Downtown TIF District is posted at [www.clarendonhills.us/dttif](http://www.clarendonhills.us/dttif).



Downtown Revitalization Project was funded primarily from outside funding sources, which includes the redevelopment of the streets in front of Village Hall, the Village's Commuter Station, and the Prospect Avenue Railing Road Crossing Gates. Completion of all three components of the project is expected in Spring and Summer 2021. More information about this project is posted at [www.clarendonhills.us/dtrev](http://www.clarendonhills.us/dtrev).



Richmond Education Gardens (1 S Richmond Ave) – This project, constructed under a partnership between the Villages of Clarendon Hills and Westmont, is home to new outdoor classrooms featuring education programs about natural and organic gardening methods and our environment. Funding for much of this project was provided by outside sources, including grants from DuPage County, Commonwealth Edison and local fundraising activities. More information is posted at [www.richmondgardens.org](http://www.richmondgardens.org).



In 2020, the Village earned its DuPage County Earth and Water Quality Flags for its commitment to sustainable practice featured in day-to-day activities and on display in its Downtown Revitalization, Richmond Education Gardens, and other community volunteer projects.



Mycroft Row (221-231 Burlington Av) – Construction of this mixed-use development began in Fall 2020. Mycroft Row features twelve luxury urban style row houses with open balconies over ground level office space. The first six units are on path for completion in Spring 2021. More information about this exciting development can be found at [www.mycroftrow.com](http://www.mycroftrow.com).



Tierra Distilling Co (211 Burlington Av) – The new owners will soon start renovating this building to contain a distillery and coffee shop. Tierra Distilling Co will be a distillery focusing on rescuing fruit and turning it into deeply flavorful brandies and pushing the boundaries on some whiskies you know and others you don't. Their building renovation plans will be one of the first supported by the Village's Downtown TIF District.

## 2021 PLANNED PROJECTS

Walkers American Brasserie – 1 Walker Ave

New Restaurant – 30 S Prospect Ave

Building Renovation and New Retail – 20 S Prospect Ave (fka Ebenezer's Gift House)

Hamel Dental Renovation and Expansion – 210 Burlington Ave

Burlington Plaza and Alley Improvement Project



## New Refuse Service coming in April!

The Village is currently finalizing a new contract with Lakeshore Recycling Systems ("LRS") for residential waste hauling. During a competitive bidding process, LRS provided pricing that was 20% less expensive than current refuse hauling pricing while essentially maintaining the current refuse program. In the next few months, all residents will receive a mailer detailing the new program and providing information about the can swapping process. Please open that mailer, and be on the look out for more information through the normal Village communication methods (email, website, and Trustee Topics) as we get closer to the new service date on April 1st, 2021. Although change is never easy, we are aiming to make this as seamless as possible for residents.

## Around Town



### Board Meetings

January 4th at 6:30 PM

January 19th at 6:30 PM (rescheduled due to MLK day 1/18)

February 1st at 6:30 PM

February 16th at 6:30 PM (rescheduled due to Presidents Day 2/15)

\*Mtgs are virtual and adjusted time

### ZBA/Plan Commission

January 21st at 7:30 PM

February 18th at 7:30 PM

[www.clarendonhills.us](http://www.clarendonhills.us)

### Library

January 11th at 7PM

*Surf's Up! - History of the Beach Boys with Gary Wenstrup*

Adult Program - thru Zoom

*Registration Required.*

630-323-8188

[www.clarendonhillslibrary.org](http://www.clarendonhillslibrary.org)

### Park District

Every family or individual interested in participating in Park District programs, renting a facility or purchasing a season pool pass must establish a "Household" through the Park District Office. The process is simple, complete the Household Information Form (available at the Park District Office) and return with proof of address to the Park District Office at 315 Chicago Avenue or emailing to

[info@clarendonhillsparkdistrict.org](mailto:info@clarendonhillsparkdistrict.org).

Once the Household is established in the system you will be able to register for programs. Online registration is an option for most programs. Pool passes may be renewed online, however facility rentals (Pavilion, Lions Park Pool, Community Center) cannot be processed online.

Park District Winter/Spring 2021 program brochure will be available on-line only.

Park District Number: 630-323-2626  
[www.clarendonhillsparkdistrict.org](http://www.clarendonhillsparkdistrict.org)

## Village Hall Closed

- Weekdays from Noon to 1 PM for lunch
- Monday, February 15th in observance of Presidents Day.

January/February 2021

## Reassurance Program

The Clarendon Hills Police Department offers a "Reassurance Program" for residents who need a daily health and/or safety check. Participants, once enrolled, are required to call the non-emergency dispatch number daily between 6am-10am to the Clarendon Hills Police Department at (630) 323-2151.

Active participants in the program whom do not contact the Clarendon Hills Dispatch by 10:00 am will be called by the Police Department. If no response is forthcoming, an officer is dispatched to the person's residence for a wellness check. Persons eligible to participate in this program must be a Clarendon Hills resident, complete an application, supply a key to the residence (*to be kept at the Police Department*), as well as a recent picture of the applicant. All of these are required to begin this service.

The program is not limited to any one category of persons. The program is available to any person, subject to the requirements discussed above, claiming a need for this service; i.e. senior citizen, handicapped, bed ridden, etc.

*The information provided on the application is kept confidential.*

If you would like an application or have any additional questions regarding the program, please call the Clarendon Hills Police Department at (630) 286-5460 ext. 0.

## Recycle Holiday Lights



The Police Department is accepting worn out strings of holiday lights until February 1, 2021. You can find the collection bin in the lobby of the Police Department located at 448 Park Avenue.

## Christmas Clean Up



Republic Services offers free recycling for Christmas Trees and other live garland during the first two collections in January (Jan. 5 and Jan. 12). All decorations must be removed. Place trees and greenery for recycling at the curb.

## Resident Responsibility

Each year residents are required to safeguard our municipal drinking water supply by having all their backflow devices tested by a certified plumber or Certified Irrigation company. This is an IEPA State mandate. Having these devices tested helps to prevent contaminated water from backflowing into the community drinking water. Backflow devices are commonly found on lawn irrigation systems, home fire sprinkling/suppression systems, some pool water features, and radiators.

These tests (sometimes known as RPZ tests) should be done annually and submitted to the Village by the certified plumber to [rpz@clarendonhills.us](mailto:rpz@clarendonhills.us). It's best to test outside systems during summer months when they are operating, so we recommend you schedule your inspections with a certified plumber now so you can be sure to do your part in protecting everyone's water supply.

**Trustee Topics****Village of Clarendon Hills**

1 North Prospect Avenue  
Clarendon Hills, IL 60514

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

## WWII Memorial

From James Carlos Campbell, Eagle Scout Candidate.

"About a year ago, I started my Eagle project to refinish the Village's WWII Veterans' memorial plaque in front of Village Hall. The plaque was dirty, and the names were hard to read. Planning during a pandemic was tricky sometimes but changing some things helped the work go smoothly. My Eagle coach, Mr. Poisson, and Scout Troop 8 leaders helped me every step. John LaMonica, a master metalworker out of Chicago, showed me the old ways his grandfather used to fix and clean metals. My fellow scouts and volunteer team took more than 70 hours at John's shop, working by-hand on the bronze plaque. It turned out better than I imagined. I wish I could thank everyone who helped. There were so many. The CH Womans Club helped with the wreath. Lots of CH people came through to help. Donations were made by Troop 8, the CH Lions Club, the Riders Vet Motorcycle Club, the CH Bank, the Hinsdale VFW, and the LaPlaca, Cibinski, Stach, and Cuchna families. I am still paying bills from the project. Donations can be made at [JCC Eagle Project, c/o Hinsdale Covenant Church, 412 S. Garfield, Hinsdale, IL, 60521](http://JCC Eagle Project, c/o Hinsdale Covenant Church, 412 S. Garfield, Hinsdale, IL, 60521). Refurbishing the Village's WWII Veterans' memorial plaque honors those who showed that 'uncommon valor was a common virtue' when we needed it the most. The biggest thank you goes to those on the plaque."



## Winter Reminders

Residents are required to park off the Village streets if the weather predicts 2 or more inches of snow fall. This is to allow for proper snow removal. (*It's recommended snow be removed from the top of your vehicle prior to driving!*)

No person shall dump snow onto any public road, public sidewalk or fire hydrant.

Garbage cans should be placed at the end of your driveway and not on the street which includes the concrete ribbons. This makes it easier and safer for our crews to clear the streets of snow and allows cars to go around garbage trucks picking up cans.

**Find Recent Village Board Actions at**  
[www.clarendonhills.us/AgendaCenter](http://www.clarendonhills.us/AgendaCenter)

## Contact Us

**Village President:**

Len Austin 630-286-5420

**Village Trustees:**

Don Knoll 630-286-5421  
Greg Jordan 630-286-5422  
Ken Hall 630-286-5423  
Carol Jorissen 630-286-5424  
Wil Freve 630-286-5425  
Matt DeDobbelaeere 630-286-5426

**Village Clerk: (Tues & Fri AM)**

Dawn Tandle 630-286-5403

**Village Hall:** 630-286-5400

Finance Dept.: Press 2  
Building Dept.: Press 3  
Administration: Press 4

**Public Works:** 630-286-4750**Non-Emergency:**

Police: 630-286-5460  
Fire: 630-286-5430

[www.clarendonhills.us](http://www.clarendonhills.us)

**Community Numbers:**

Park District: 630-323-2626  
Public Library: 630-323-8188

**Online Transaction Safe**

**Zone Location:**  
Police Station (448 Park Ave.)