

VILLAGE OF CLARENDON HILLS

TRUSTEE TOPICS

www.clarendonhills.us

May/June 2023

Message from the President

Dear Neighbors,

This month I will step down after eight years of serving the Village as Village President. My son was 14 when I discussed with him that I was running for the position. His first question was, why would I do this for free? My answer was, "Sometimes you have to do what is right and serve your community". Eight years later understandably, I have more to add to his simple question. My first observation is that people in our community genuinely appreciate the efforts that the volunteers on all boards and committees make. As a purely volunteer, selfless role, my hope is that residents understand (even in stressful situations) that the board they are communicating with is really making a decision for the community as a whole.



Village President
Len Austin

When I started, through community input and the previous boards' input, we had just completed the downtown master plan (DTMP). This was a massive planning exercise focused on what residents and businesses wanted to see in the downtown. The starting point was fairly bleak. We had a number of large vacant parcels and buildings, a few businesses in the process of failing, and even basic residential developments facing lawsuits and public backlash. What I didn't know at the time when I ran for office was that we had an excellent staff in the Village that would be able to take the direction of the board and the DTMP to investigate rebuilding the train station and creating a Downtown Revitalization Plan. It was my philosophy that our town was tired and needed this revitalization in order to attract a business community willing to invest in their properties and businesses. We took the DTMP and made a substantial investment in public infrastructure in the downtown including replacing the train station that was beyond its useful life, replacing a vacant lot with a new plaza, and creating a civic meeting place in front of the Village Hall that hosts the Farmers Market and other public gatherings. We invested in successful businesses like The English Garden through the TIF. We filled the gap between the low rents in the downtown and the old, out of code, building stock by providing grants for sprinkler systems for businesses like il Mio and Tierra. Success has followed success as new businesses came in, including Thassos Greek Restaurant, Open Door Tap Room & Bottle Shop, and Wasabi filling some spaces that had been vacant for many years. We supported development that added more residents to the downtown, added some commercial space and greatly enhanced the tax base with developments like 88 Park Ave, 229 Park Ave and the Mycroft Row development. Outside the downtown business district, the Village was able to fully transform an old motel into the Infiniti Dealer and the vacant pet shop became Band & Wire. We did this despite COVID putting a freeze on many businesses and causing massive delays in supply chains for construction materials.

When COVID hit, the Village acted quickly, moving processes online, protecting front line public safety workers, and immediately coordinating with our businesses on what the Village could do to keep them operating. This included launching outdoor dining immediately, providing funds to the Chamber to run "socially distanced" (remember that?) events and marketing. We did our best to balance public health and the need to have a functioning economy and government.

The last couple of years we had an uptick in crime. No longer could everyone assume Clarendon Hills was in a bubble safe from everything happening in Chicago. The Village responded by hiring an additional police officer, implementing new technologies like body cameras and drones, and expanded police training, including training in new digital forensic techniques. Many thanks goes out to our police Chief Paul Dalen, his Sergeants, staff, and officers. I also have the utmost respect for the job being done by Bob Berlin, our DuPage County state's attorney who backs our department and enforces the laws.

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SUMMER 2023 IN CLARENDON HILLS!

Keep up with all the events this summer by following us on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/VillageofCH

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

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In other public services, the Village made a historic investment in our fire department, purchasing two replacement fire apparatus and a modern ambulance. Additionally, we expanded our personnel on shift from one paramedic and two EMT firefighters to two paramedics and two EMT firefighters. When the department faced a paramedic shortage brought on by COVID disrupting the paramedic training cycles, the Board moved quickly to increase pay, increase marketing and recruitment efforts and engaged our neighbors to make sure that there were no disruptions to this life critical service.

My tenure has also been marked by continued investment in our infrastructure. The previous Board started a plan to replace most of the 100-year-old watermain in town and to upgrade our streets from gravel road edges to concrete ribbons. We continued these investments, effectively reducing the average age of the water system below 40 years.

We accomplished this while raising taxes by 8% less than allowed under the Illinois Tax Cap, water rates by 2% TOTAL and maintaining the Village's AAA bond rating. This was achieved by eliminating administrative staff, implementing cost effective technology solutions and securing grant funding for many of the infrastructure improvements.

I am so proud of the work we have done. This has been a team effort from day one. I want to take the chance to thank my outgoing colleagues. Greg Jordan has served with me my during my entire tenure, including acting as senior trustee the last few years. He spent these years providing a steady pro-development vision as land use committee chair, balancing the charm of the community with the need to be economically competitive in a changing world. Matt DeDobbelaere served as the Public Safety Chair, working directly with the Police Chief on public safety needs and on public messaging on crime prevention. Ally Russo and Dorothy Foster both stepped up to serve when vacancies opened on the Board and have provided wise guidance in their shortened tenures. Steve Tuttle and Meredith Lannert have chosen to remain on the Board providing needed continuity and understanding of all the issues at hand. Thank you both for continuing to serve.

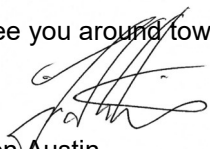
I also want to thank Kevin Barr, our Village Manager and his team. Village staff worked with the Village Board every step of the way to provide expertise, implement our directives and perform all the day-to-day work that is necessary to keep our Village operating and thriving. The Village is truly blessed with dedicated public employees that put the community and service first.

I also want to thank Zach Creer, the Assistant Village Manager, and my wife, Suzanne Austin, who have been my ghost writers all these years, and the voices of the Village.

I want to end my last president's message with an appeal. If we are going to carry on the Village's motto of "The Volunteer Community" we need volunteers. As a society we are entering a problematic era where everyone wants to complain, yet few step up to serve. Although there are highs and lows in public service, at the end of the day, there is so much good that is yet to be done. I am so proud of everyone who makes that commitment to service, whether that is to coach the T-ball or soccer team, serve on the Zoning Board, or participate in the Chamber of Commerce. Our community is stronger when people serve!

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the residents of Clarendon Hills

See you around town,



Len Austin
Village President

4th of July Fire Works

Fire Works in Clarendon Hills are presented by the Hinsdale Golf Club. While the private golf club is not open to the public, residents are able to enjoy the fireworks from Prospect Park. Fireworks are held on July 4th around 9:30 PM (*rain date is July 5th*).

Around Town



Board Meetings

May 1st at 6:30 PM
May 15th at 6:30 PM
June 5th at 6:30 PM
June 20th at 6:30 PM (Due to Juneteenth)

There is a virtual option for all Board meetings. www.clarendonhills.us/agendacenter

ZBA/Plan Commission

May 18th at 7:30 PM
June 15th at 7:30 PM

www.clarendonhills.us/agendacenter

Historical Society

Open 2nd Saturday each month
From Noon to 2 PM

www.clarendonhillshistory.org
630-915-5009

Library

May 15th at 7 PM
The Game's Afoot Mystery Group: A Thief of Time (Adult Program)
Registration Required

630-323-8188
www.clarendonhillslibrary.org

Park District

June 24th 8 AM to 10 AM
Fishing Derby at Prospect Park
See the Park District website for details

Check out the many activities offered by the Park District by viewing their Summer 2023 program brochure on-line.

Park District Number: 630-323-2626
www.clarendonhillsparkdistrict.org

Required - Vehicle Stickers!

Residents are required to purchase a village sticker for each vehicle they have housed in Clarendon Hills. The annual license period begins July 1st of each year and ends on June 30th of the next year. **2023/2024 Stickers can be purchased starting May 1st** www.clarendonhills.us/stickers.

New residents must obtain a Village Sticker within 30 days of moving to the Village.

Passenger Car \$40, Motorcycle \$30, and Seniors (62+) 50% off. An additional 50% late fee will be added to stickers purchased after July 31st.

This year's sticker is a jumpstart to our 100th Anniversary celebration happening in 2024! There is the option of an alternative vehicle sticker too. If a resident donates \$10 to support the Dancin' in the Street concert series, on top of a resident's vehicle sticker purchase, they will receive this unique sticker. You must hurry though because there's a limited number of these Dancin' in the Street vehicle stickers.

Vehicle Stickers can be purchased in person at Village Hall located at 1 N. Prospect Avenue Monday through Friday from 9am to Noon and 1pm to 5pm. They can also be purchased at the Police Station located at 448 Park Avenue, Monday through Friday from 8am to 7pm.



2023 Water Quality Report

The Village of Clarendon Hills 2023 Water Quality Report has been published. We are happy to report that we once again, meet or exceed all water quality standards established by the U.S. EPA and IL EPA to ensure the drinking water is safe for your family. You can read the full report at www.clarendonhills.us/waterquality or at Village Hall.



Watering Restrictions

Water Restrictions are enforced from May 15th - September 15th. Residents south of the Burlington Railroad tracks may use water outdoors on odd numbered day (1st, 3rd, 5th, etc.) Residents north of the Burlington Railroad tracks may use water outdoors on even numbered days (2nd, 4th, 6th, etc.)

NO WATERING IS ALLOWED BETWEEN 10 AM AND 4 PM.

Please note that watering restrictions apply to lawns, trees, shrubs and gardens only.

Permits for watering newly installed lawns and landscaping are available at the Village Hall.



Village Hall Closed

Weekdays from Noon to 1 PM for lunch

Monday, May 29th in observance of Memorial Day

Tuesday, July 4th in observance of Independence Day

Farmers Market

The Farmers Market organized by the Clarendon Hills Chamber of Commerce starts Thursday, May 18th from 7 AM to 1 PM at the Village Hall Plaza, 1 N. Prospect Ave. It will run every Thursday from May 18th through October 19th.

Internet Transaction Safe Zone

Online buying and selling is an attractive way to reach large numbers of buyers and sellers. In the rush to buy or sell an item, it is easy to forget the vulnerability incurred when meeting a total stranger one on one.

The Clarendon Hills Police Department located at 448 Park Avenue, has designated the police station parking lot and the police station lobby as safe zones for online transactions. If a resident is conducting a one on one transaction where money is changing hands this is the safest place to do it.

Anyone is welcome to meet buyers or sellers in the Police Department lobby during business hours. The lobby is open Monday - Friday 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. After hours, the front parking lot offers a police presence, surveillance cameras, good lighting and an emergency phone. Staff will not get involved in any transactions but can quickly respond to any situation requiring police intervention.

For more information call 630-286-5460.

Summer Concert Series

The 2023 Dancin' in the Street concert series is a Chamber of Commerce organized event. You can find out more out more at

<https://www.clarendonhillschamber.com/dancin-in-the-street>

June 21- *Libido Funk Circus* **June 28- *The WayOuts*** **July 12 - *Dirty Pop***
July 19 - *Anchors Away* **July 26 - *Gen Fuze*** **August 2 - *Whoosh***

Find Recent Village Board Actions at
www.clarendonhills.us/AgendaCenter

May/June 2023 Trustee Topics

Contact Us

As of 5/15/23

Village President:

Eric Tech 630-286-5420

Village Trustees:

Mark Peterson 630-286-5421
Ralph DeAngelis 630-286-5422
John Weicher 630-286-5423
Steve Tuttle 630-286-5424
Meredith Lannert 630-286-5425
Omar Chaudhry 630-286-5426

Village Clerk:

Lynn Dragisic 630-286-5403

Village Hall: 630-286-5400

Water/Finance Dept.: Press 2

Permit/Building Dept.: Press 3

Manager's Office: Press 4

Public Works: 630-286-4750

Non-Emergency:

Police: 630-286-5460

Fire: 630-286-5430

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.)