

**VILLAGE OF CLARENDON HILLS**  
**MANAGER'S REPORT**  
**March 8, 2013**

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- A. Policy Feedback**
- B. Management Reports**
  - 1. Manager's Notes -- See weekly report**
  - 2. Finance Department -- See weekly report**
  - 3. Public Works Department -- See weekly report**
  - 4. Building Department -- See weekly report**
  - 5. Police Department -- See weekly report**
  - 6. Fire Department -- See weekly report**
- C. News/Media Items -- See attached articles**
- D. Calendar**



## Village of Clarendon Hills Manager's Report

To: Village President & Board of Trustees

From: Randall Recklaus, Village Manager

Date: March 8, 2013

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1. The FY14 Budget Document was distributed this week. Hard copies were made available for the Board, and it was made available online for public review. A Press release was also distributed to local media. As a reminder, following is the budget schedule:
  - a. **March 15<sup>th</sup>**- Deadline for first round of written questions to Staff. Again we ask that Trustees submit any questions they have in writing to staff before the end of the business day on the 15<sup>th</sup> so we have time to prepare a detailed and thoughtful response in advance of the meeting. We also ask that Trustees indicate any particular areas of interest that they would like covered in detail at the Budget Workshop meeting. All questions and answers will be posted on our website (unless confidential in nature) and be sent out to all Trustees. Residents will be encouraged to email us questions during that time frame as well.
  - b. **March 20<sup>th</sup>**- Staff will answer every question received with a written response by the end of the business day on March 20<sup>th</sup>. Again, questions and responses will be made public unless confidential in nature.
  - c. **March 22<sup>nd</sup>**- We ask that Trustees submit any remaining follow-up questions they have no later than the end of business day March 22<sup>nd</sup>.
  - d. **March 25<sup>th</sup>**- Budget Workshop at 6pm. Staff will give a presentation on the budget as proposed and work in detailed answers to any questions received by March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Obviously members of the Public and the Board will have the opportunity to ask new questions at this meeting as well.
2. The Village received 11 bids for janitorial services last Friday. We are calling references on the finalists currently and will be in a position to recommend firm to the Board for approval at the March 18<sup>th</sup> Village Board Meeting. All of the finalists' bids were below our current costs for janitorial services for Village facilities.
3. On Tuesday, Chief Jenkins, Chief Leahy, Mike Millette, Christina Burns and I met with organizers of new race concept for Clarendon Hills called an Urbanathlon. This race would essentially be a 5K race with obstacles placed at various locations. Most of the obstacles would be in parks, however the race would require certain roads to be closed and at least one set of obstacles would be located on a closed street. Staff is working with the organizers to

determine if the concept is logistically feasible. It is likely that the concept will be presented for feedback at the March 18<sup>th</sup> Village Board meeting.

4. On Thursday, Christina Burns and Peg Hartnett attended the Illinois Public Employee Labor Relations Association Employment Law Seminar. The one-day seminar review developments in employment and labor relations law. This event helps the Village keep its policies and practices up to date.

Have a Great Weekend!

# **VILLAGE OF CLARENDON HILLS**

## **Finance Department**

### **MEMORANDUM**

DATE: March 8, 2013

TO: Randy Recklaus, Village Manager

FROM: Peg Hartnett, Finance Director/Treasurer

SUBJECT: Department Report

- Copies of the 2014 proposed budget are in your mailboxes and available for your review. The budget is also available on the Village's website and at the Clarendon Hills Library. I would like to thank the Finance staff for their assistance in assembling these books. Any questions related to the budget may be directed to Christina Burn by March 15.
- I attended the Public Sector Employment Law seminar this week which was hosted by the Illinois Public Employer Labor Relations Association. It was a very informative program which included an EEOC legal update, interest arbitration, grievance arbitration, collective bargaining and a review of employee handbooks.
- Diana McDermott and I will be meeting with Fred Lantz of Sikich LLP next week to work out a schedule for the FY 2013 audit as the fiscal year ends on April 30<sup>th</sup>. Final fieldwork is anticipated to be completed during the last two weeks of July.

**Village of Clarendon Hills**  
**Department of Public Works**

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** March 8, 2013  
**TO:** Randy Recklaus, Village Manager  
**FROM:** Mike Millette, Director of Public Works  
**SUBJECT:** Department Notes

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1. This week has again been dominated by snow removal work. We had all equipment ready by close of business Monday with a 3:00 a.m. Tuesday call, but the storm was moving slower than the forecast. Consequently, we began our day normally at 7:00 a.m. with a round of pre-salting on hills, curves and intersections. The snow finally started shortly before noon and began significant accumulation by 2:00 p.m. At that time, we had two crews (four trucks) plowing and salting and a third crew was clearing the platforms and the CBD. All main routes had had one pass completed before 4:00 p.m. and we then started on the secondary's. The downtown contractor was also in by 2:00 p.m. By this time, the snow was piling up at one inch an hour. The Metra lot was only salted for fear of trapping cars with the windrows of snow. We continued until 7:00 p.m. at which time one plow crew and the CBD crew were released to get some rest. The remaining crew made two more passes and completed their day at 11:30 p.m.

Two crews were on call for 3:00 a.m. and the CBD crew was due in at 4:00 a.m. The snow stopped just after midnight, so we were in clean-up mode. The parking lots were cleared first. We completed the majority of work by 9:00 a.m. except for haul-out which was scheduled for overnight Wednesday-Thursday.

This has been the bulk of our effort for the last two days. Piles are being moved to Blue Lake and to our yard. This work is wrapping-up as I write this. Total salt used this week was 450 tons.

2. In between snow removal, we still completed some work on the bathroom remodeling project at Village Hall, which should start wrapping up next week upstairs and beginning downstairs.

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Randy Recklaus, Village Manager  
**From:** Dan Ungerleider, Community Development Director  
**Date:** March 8, 2013  
**Subject:** Department Report

1. **Demolition of 227-231 Burlington Avenue:** Environmental Assessment Underway. We continue to monitor the property for vandalism.
2. **Downtown Master Plan (DTMP) Update:** Orange and white signs with quotes from our community survey downtown were placed throughout the downtown by staff on Wednesday afternoon. These signs are the first part of the DTMP Update Community Outreach Program. The displayed quotes were chosen to provoke thought and conversation about downtown Clarendon Hills. We will be replacing the signs on Monday with signs having a similar look and feel, encouraging community members to participate in the DTMP planning process and in the general conversation about the future of Downtown. Invitations to the March 20th kickoff event were mailed today. As previously discussed, we are encouraging everyone to follow the project on twitter ([www.twitter.com/villageofch](http://www.twitter.com/villageofch)) and Instagram ([www.instagram.com/villageofch](http://www.instagram.com/villageofch)) using the search tag of #dtplan.  
  
This morning, the DTMP Steering Committee met to formulate the kickoff event agenda and to discuss how we will begin to engage with the new subcommittee members.
3. **115 W. 55<sup>th</sup> Street.** On Thursday afternoon, I met with Tad and Sandy Lagestee at their office at 115 W. 55<sup>th</sup> Street. We talked about the available 3,190 square foot office space in their building. We also discussed sign program options for the building.
4. **Department Projects:** List of Projects, ongoing and future, is listed on page 2 of this report.
5. **Code Enforcement Reports:** Please see attached reports

**As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.**

**Community Development Department Projects**  
**(current projects are bold, future/planned projects are not bold)**

1. Building
  - a. **construction deposit backlog**
  - b. **building code update - 2012 ICC** (2012 Energy Conservation Code not mandated for 2006 ICC communities)
  - c. **permit fee structure review**
  - d. electronic permit and inspection system (internal/external)
  - e. consolidate address file systems
2. Code Maintenance/Enforcement
  - a. **VB memos (3/18/2013)**
    - i. **Special Use - Firearm and Ammunition Retail Sales**
    - ii. **Special Use - Medical Marijuana Distribution Facility**
    - iii. **Special Use - Adult Entertainment**
  - b. **227 Burlington Av Demolition (3/15/2013 & 5/1/2013)**
  - c. **Park Willow (35 foreclosures)**
  - d. **2012 Property Maintenance Code**
  - e. **zoning text amendment - gravel driveways and parking lots**
  - f. **zoning text amendment - parkway maintenance**
  - g. **zoning text amendment - floor area ratio**
3. Planning and Development Review
  - a. **DTDRC - 103 S Prospect (88 Park Av)**
  - b. **DTMP**
    - i. **VB memos (3/4/2013) - Subcommittee Appointments**
    - ii. **Middle School Program (Art/LA/History) - Started/Visiting 1<sup>st</sup> Class 2/28/2013**
    - iii. **QR Surveys & Signs**
    - iv. **Existing Conditions Update**
    - v. **Stakeholders**
    - vi. **Kick-Off Mtg (3/20/2013 7-9pm) - Project Intro & Pre-visioning Discussion (at CHMD)**
    - vii. **Visioning (4/2013)**
  - c. **develop GIS mapping - address, zoning, land use, utilities, inventory maps (april/may 2013) update**
  - d. **development review fee structure review**
  - e. Ogden TIF District
  - f. 55th street corridor plan
  - g. 1991 comprehensive plan update
  - h. zoning ordinance update
  - i. subdivision code update

[illegible]



VILLAGE OF CLARENDON HILLS  
POLICE DEPARTMENT

DATE: March 8, 2013

To: Village Manager Randy Recklaus

From: Chief Ted Jenkins

Subject: Weekly Activity Report

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1. Recent training:

- One officer completed Mental Illness and Dealing with Variant Behavior training.
- Officer Pasteris completed a 24 hour Search and Seizure NEMRT Course.
- Officer Finrock and Officer Shaw completed a 24 hour DWI Field Sobriety Testing NEMRT Course.
- Officer Porter completed a one day Pension Training Course.
- Detective Shirley completed a 16 hour Death Investigation Course at the Cook County Morgue.

2. Officers handled four motorist assists, three auto accidents and assisted the Fire Department with an oven fire on Willowcreek during Tuesday's snowstorm making for a busy afternoon shift.

3. Two police applicants have been scheduled for outside testing and I hope to present the results to the Police Commission for their review on 3/15.

4. On Wednesday I attended a FIAT Chief's meeting. Darien Police Sgt. Reed was recognized for his years of service as the Component Commander of the FIAT Major Crimes Task Force. Sgt. Eric Bernholdt of the Hinsdale Police Department was appointed the new Component Commander and Sgt. Mark Loftus of the Burr Ridge Police Department was appointed the Asst. Component Commander. The Chiefs also approved the purchase a new 2013 Ford F450 chassis to be installed on the FIAT SWAT truck. The new truck and installation of the equipment box not to exceed \$35,000.00.

5. On Wednesday our surplus squad car was put up for auction on eBay. To follow the auction go to:

<http://cgi.ebay.com/ebaymotors/ws/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=140927899422&ssPageName=ADME:L:LCA:MOTORS:1123>

6. On Thursday, Randy attended the morning and afternoon roll calls at the PD. Conversations included the latest police consolidation news, community development and some Q & A time. The meetings were well received and informative.
7. This week I have been working on our Illinois Liquor Control Commission grant for 2013. The Department has received this grant for several years and it pays the Village to perform controlled tobacco buys from Village tobacco retailers. It is the goal of the Clarendon Hills Police Department to promote a partnership with tobacco retailers within our jurisdiction with the intention of preventing underage tobacco sales and use by minors under the age of 18. We have worked hard to convince retailers that our goal is not to trick them into committing violations but rather to partner with them to prevent tobacco accessibility to minors. We feel we have been successful.
8. I want to give a shout out to our Public Works partners for a job well done this week. They did a fantastic job dealing with the weather and are always there when we have special service requests. Great job guys.

**Significant traffic and criminal activity during the period March 1, 2013 through March 7, 2013**

1. On 3/1 at 6:15 pm, Jewel employees reported that a male in a gray hoodie had run from the store without paying for a basket full of merchandise worth \$403.79. Employees were able to get a plate number from the suspect's vehicle and the person has been identified. Pending
2. On 3/3 a 21 year old Hinsdale resident was arrested for retail theft at the Jewel. She was charged with placing \$41.00 worth of merchandise in her purse and leaving the store without paying for the items.
3. On 3/5 officers assisted the Fire Department with an oven fire on Willowcreek Court.
4. Clarendon Hills' officers made one arrest for driving with a suspended/revoked driver's license in the last week.

# VILLAGE OF CLARENDON HILLS FIRE DEPARTMENT

**DATE:** March 8, 2013  
**TO:** Randy Recklaus  
Village Manager  
**FROM:** Brian Leahy  
Fire Chief  
**SUBJECT:** Weekly Fire Department Report 2013-09

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1. Fire Prevention Bureau Activity during the past week.
  - Five (5) Fire Prevention/Life Safety inspections were completed this week.
  - Fire Prevention Officer Dave Godek attended an NFPA 13D (Sprinkler) seminar on Wednesday in Addison.
  - Dave Godek worked with building managers at 6 locations seeking repairs to their fire alarm system.
2. Training Report:
  - Wednesday evening, twenty three (23) firefighters attended regular weekly training. Fire situational pre plans was the training subject.
3. Emergency Medical Services Report:
  - No report this week.
4. Clarendon Hills/Hinsdale FD sharing of services report:
  - See training report above.
5. On Tuesday, myself and representatives of other area fire departments attended an equipment staging demonstration at A-Beep in Joliet. This was for the VHF radio equipment and microwave system that will be installed in the area soon as a backup and fire paging system and is being 100% funded by the DuPage County ETSB.
6. On Tuesday, I attended a presentation regarding a possible Urbanathon race that could be held in Clarendon Hills in September.
7. On Friday, on duty personnel attended a pre-plan training drill at Hinsdale Hospital.
8. Because of the severe snow storm, two (2) extra fire fighters were on duty at the fire station from 6AM Tuesday until 6AM on Wednesday. During that time a total of five (5) firefighters were on duty.

9. Incidents of Interest:

- During the past week Hinsdale FD responded to three (3) calls in Clarendon Hills.
- During the past week Clarendon Hills FD responded to three (3) calls in Hinsdale.
- Monday, March 4<sup>th</sup> at 1:57 PM. Ambulance 314 responded to assist the Hinsdale Fire Department for an ambulance call in the 900 block of north Elm St. in Hinsdale.
- Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:35 PM. The fire department along with Hinsdale engine 1013 responded for a kitchen fire in the 500 block of Willowcreek Court. Upon arrival firefighters found heavy smoke, a fire in the kitchen and a 90 year old woman trapped on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. Crews rescued the woman and extinguished the fire at the same time. Damage was estimated at about \$20,000.
- Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:52 PM. Ambulance 314 responded to assist the Westmont Fire Department for a pedestrian struck by a train in the area of Quincy and Cass in Westmont

10. Fire/Rescue/EMS calls:

- During the past week the fire department responded to twenty four (24) emergency calls.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me.

[clarendonhills](#)

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## Hinsdale-Clarendon Hills police merger is dead

BY CHUCK FIELDMAN | [cfieldman@pioneerlocal.com](mailto:cfieldman@pioneerlocal.com)

Last Modified: Mar 6, 2013 12:23PM

HINSDALE — The consolidation of police departments in Hinsdale and Clarendon Hills, which has been a focus of discussion for about two years, is not going to happen.

“It’s very disappointing,” said Hinsdale Village Manager David Cook.

Social Security payments received by Clarendon Hills officers, but not by those in Hinsdale, ultimately killed the plan.

In Clarendon Hills, officers continued paying into Social Security when the federal government offered a one-time opt-out in 1983; Hinsdale police have not paid into Social Security since that time. With a consolidated department, Clarendon Hills officers would lose at least some of their Social Security benefits.

“That was the issue,” Cook said Wednesday. “We tried for three or four months to find alternatives that would be amendable to the Clarendon Hills officers, but they preferred remaining in the Social Security system.”

In addition to retirement benefits, the officers could be eligible for other benefits through Social Security, such as disability and payments to dependents, Cook said.

“We offered an alternate private (insurance) policy to replace those benefits, but they rejected it,” Cook said.

Reducing operating costs without impacting services was the goal of a possible consolidation of the two neighboring police departments, a move that has never been done in Illinois. Hundreds of hours of work by staff in both villages were completed in hopes of making the consolidation a reality, including the development and proposal of legislation to allow municipalities to merge their police departments via intergovernmental agreement. The consolidation would have saved an estimated \$700,000 to \$800,000 annually between the two municipalities.

Over the last several months, the villages worked with the Fraternal Order of Police to discuss potential wages and benefits of the consolidated department. The villages and unions continued discussions in good faith on other issues while also working with the Social Security Administration to identify alternatives and impacts. In the end, the lack of a mutually agreeable solution on the Social Security problem proved to be insurmountable, according to a statement from both villages.

“We put a lot of hard work into this and the consolidation would have saved both communities a substantial amount of money,” Cook said. “It’s very disheartening.”

“From the village standpoint,” Cook said, “we are going to continue to try to work together with other communities” to share resources and reduce costs. “It may not (involve) the police, but communities are going to have to find a new operating model, which may involve consolidation.”

In their statement, Hinsdale and Clarendon Hills officials said they “remain committed to working together in other ways to provide services to their residents in a cost-effective manner.”

Legal costs associated with the consolidation discussion were paid for with a grant from the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority.~.

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**Breaking:** [Darien Man Charged With Robbing Juvenile Near Clarendon Hills](#) »

## [Police & Fire](#)

### Police Merger Plan Scrapped After Negotiations Fail

The Village of Clarendon Hills and its police officers were not able to reach an agreement regarding Social Security benefits under a consolidated Hinsdale-Clarendon Hills model.

By [Joe O'Donnell](#) [Email the author](#) March 6, 2013

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The villages of Clarendon Hills and Hinsdale have called off further discussion of a police-department merger after an "impasse" was reached in negotiations with Clarendon Hills patrol officers, according to a joint release from the villages sent out Wednesday.

It was made clear earlier this year that the stickiest point in negotiations with the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) was the loss of the Social Security benefit for Clarendon Hills officers under a consolidated model and how that benefit would be replaced.

**READ: [Social Security Benefits 'Big Hurdle' in FOP Negotiations](#)**

The [Clarendon Hills Police Department](#) is among a minority of the state's police agencies that has its officers pay into Social Security and retire with Social Security benefits on top of their standard, locally funded police pension, [Clarendon Hills](#) village manager Randy Recklaus said in January.

"The villages and unions continued discussions in good faith on other issues while also working with the Social Security Administration to identify alternatives and impacts," Wednesday's release reads. "In the end, the lack of a mutually agreeable solution on the Social Security problem proved to be insurmountable."

An agreement with the FOP was seen as important to the passage of state legislation that would allow for the unprecedented police department consolidation.

Officers of the Hinsdale Police Department do not pay into Social Security or receive Social Security benefits.

Wednesday's joint release summarizes the history of police-merger discussions, which were [first publicized in October 2011](#):

*The two villages began to explore consolidated police services with the goal of reducing operating costs without impacting services. The two communities have been exploring consolidated police services in earnest for nearly two years, including the development and proposal of legislation to allow municipalities to merge their police departments via intergovernmental agreement. The consolidation was estimated to bring annual savings of \$700,000 to \$800,000 between the two municipalities.*

*Legal costs associated with the consolidation discussion were paid for with a grant from the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority. Both communities remain committed to working together in other ways to provide services to their residents in a cost effective manner.*

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There are plenty of ways to keep up on Hinsdale-Clarendon Hills news:

- [Sign up for our daily email newsletter](#)
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See also:

- [Social Security Benefits 'Big Hurdle' in FOP Negotiations](#)
- [Police Merger: Patti Bellock Says Referendum Idea Came From Residents](#)
- [Police Merger: Clarendon Hills Board Says No to April Referendum](#)
- [Police Merger Would Eliminate 5 Positions, Save Villages Up to \\$800K, Officials Say](#)

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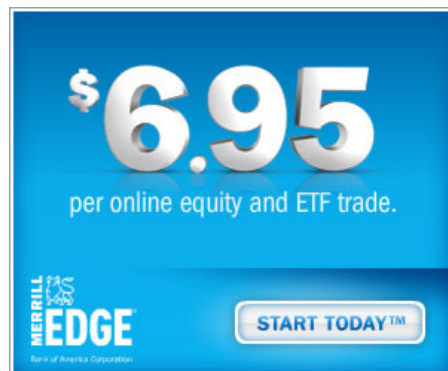
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**Breaking:** [Darien Man Charged With Robbing Juvenile Near Clarendon Hills](#) »

## [Business](#)

### Vacant Buildings 'Blight' on Area, Demolition OK'd

The three buildings at 227-231 Burlington Avenue in Clarendon Hills have become an "attractive nuisance" and could be coming down soon.

By [Joe O'Donnell](#) | [Email the author](#) | March 7, 2013

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**Related Topics:** [Economic Development](#), [Redevelopment](#), [Teardowns](#), and [downtown clarendon hills](#)



The [Village of Clarendon Hills](#) has gotten permission to demolish three vacant Burlington Avenue buildings near downtown Clarendon Hills, director of community development Dan Ungerleider said at Monday's Village Board meeting.

A DuPage judge has ruled the village has the right to tear down the buildings at 227-231 Burlington, which have become an "attractive nuisance" for vandals, according to village manager Randy Recklaus, and overall unsafe places.

"That thing has to come down," Recklaus said of the stretch of buildings.

Ungerleider, who referred to the buildings as a "blight on that area," said the village is currently working with its engineering firm on getting an asbestos report while planning and reviewing bids for the potential demolition. All costs incurred by the village would be placed into a lien on the property, Ungerleider said, "with the hopes we'll be paid back when the property is sold for redevelopment."

The community development director said the demolition might be split into parts and might only do the minimum amount necessary to keep away trouble.

"We might only remove the buildings and leave the foundation, depending on the costs and also depending on risks we would be taking dealing with environmental issues," Ungerleider said, referring to issues like contaminated soil that could be beneath the buildings.

He said the property owners are motivated to sell the property and met with village officials regularly last week. The owners, Ungerleider said, have said they want to take over the demolition process, but village officials don't want to wait long.

"If they can show evidence that they'll take care of it in a timely fashion, I'll certainly work with them to pass that on," Ungerleider said. "Until then we're going to follow the court order and proceed."

Have you noticed these buildings before? What types of businesses should replace them? Tell us in the comments!

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## Clarendon Hills readies for 2013 road improvements

BY CHUCK FIELDMAN | [cfieldman@pioneerlocal.com](mailto:cfieldman@pioneerlocal.com)

Last Modified: Mar 5, 2013 04:00PM

CLARENDON HILLS — The village is gearing up for its 2013 road improvement program.

The Village Board approved a \$92,500 contract March 4 with Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd., for design, public meeting, bidding assistance, and construction observation for the road program.

Roads included in planned work for 2013:

- Allen Court
- Ann Street, from Eastern Avenue to Sheridan Avenue, including the alley
- Bonnie Lane, from Eastern Avenue to Short Street;
- Eastern Avenue, from Ann Street to Harris Avenue
- Holmes Avenue, from 55th Street to Harris Avenue
- Powell Street, from Eastern Avenue to Sheridan Avenue
- Sheridan Avenue, from Prospect Avenue to its eastern limit
- Short Street, from Eastern Avenue to its dead end

Work is to include resurfacing along with installation of 2-foot concrete shoulders, which became the standard in Clarendon Hills a few years ago. Shoulders already are in place along Allen Court and Holmes Avenue.

Mike Millette, Clarendon Hills' director of public works, said he recommended the proposal from Burke Engineering because the firm has an existing, satisfactory professional relationship with the village and because of Burke's knowledge of roadways conditions, assistance with the development of a road condition survey, and familiarity with the village's procedures and specifications.

Plans call for a Special Services Area once again to be set up in the effected road improvement area; that will be done after bids are received.

Clarendon Hills started a five-year road improvement cycle in 1995 under which several roads in the village have been repaired and resurfaced with the use of special service areas.

The special service areas result in an increased property tax bill for residents in the area the roads being improved are located. The additional money from residents is used to help cover costs of the new curbs. Resurfacing work is paid for out of funds budgeted by the village.~.

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## Clarendon Hills student likes the look of local politics

BY CHUCK FIELDMAN | [cfieldman@pioneerlocal.com](mailto:cfieldman@pioneerlocal.com)

Last Modified: Mar 7, 2013 11:46AM

CLARENDON HILLS — Alden Leader has a great name for politics.

And the 18-year-old Clarendon Hills resident is interested in possibly pursuing a career in that field.

“I do like politics because I think it can give you a chance to help people,” she said. “You can do things with other types of jobs to help people, too, but I think politics can be a great way to help.”

Leader didn’t go far recently when it came time to complete a required project for the Advanced Placement course, United States Government and Politics, in which she is enrolled.

Taking advantage of a day off at Hinsdale Central, Leader made arrangements to spend the day getting an inside look at the workings of government in Clarendon Hills. Her day included some time at the Police Department, including a ride-along, and the opportunity to spend time with some village staff.

“We were supposed to observe a government agency and do a report, including an interview, so we could get a better idea of how government works,” Leader said.

She said she chose her local government in Clarendon Hills because it’s close to home.

“I thought there’s probably a lot more going on there than I realized,” Leader said. “I’ve gone by (Village Hall) so many times, and it looks so quiet, like nothing is going on, but I found that isn’t true at all.”

Leader said she found quite a bit going on.

“I went to a planning meeting about community development, and they talked about ways to get more people from the community involved,” she said.

Leader said she would be interested in getting involved with a local committee, if time permits.

“I think it’s important to be aware of what’s going on in your community and to get involved,” she said.

But along with her academic responsibilities, Leader has been a four-year member of both the girls swimming and water polo teams. Her final season of water polo just started. She came from her first match of the season March 4 to Village Hall to see the board in action.

“I like swimming and water polo; there two very different sports,” she said. “Swimming is really more individual,

and water polo is a nice change of pace because you're part of a team playing together."

After graduating this spring from Central, Leader plans to follow the path taken previously by her mother and grandmother.

"I'm going to Northwestern (University)," she said. "I plan to study political science and biology. I'm excited about going to Northwestern; it's a great school, and I like the idea that I can come home if I want to because it's close enough."

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# Repealed taxes could force service cuts

By Jonathan Samples Staff Reporter | Posted: Monday, March 4, 2013 5:01 pm

When residents voted to rescind Westmont's home rule status last fall, they may have inadvertently voted to nix a number of village services, according to the overwhelming sentiment of the Village Board.

Based on that vote, Westmont will be required to repeal a 2.5 cent-per gallon gas tax approved in May, a 0.5 percent sales tax approved in September 2008 and the Village's Multi-Family Licensing Program. They will formally vote to repeal the ordinances at their March 4 meeting.

"The concept behind the gas tax was to try and capture revenue from people coming through town buying gas," Village Manager Ronald Searl said. "The gas tax; the sales tax, they apply to everybody, but the idea is to try and get revenue from people doing business here."

Searl estimated the loss of the gas and sales taxes would amount to a \$2.1 to \$2.3 million reduction to annual revenues. An additional \$450,000 to \$600,000 will be removed from Westmont's general fund and deposited into the Hotel/Motel Tax Fund. Home rule communities are allowed to use Hotel/Motel revenue in its operating fund, but non-home rule communities must use that money to promote overnight tourism.

"Unfortunately, this significant reduction in annual revenues will impact our current village budgeting process," Mayor Pro-Tem Susann Senicka said.

Trustee Ellen Emery also was critical of the repeals required by the loss of home rule, and cautioned residents from directing their complaints about stagnant gas prices to the village.

"You need not call our village manager and ask him why the price of gas hasn't dropped 2.5 cents, because it's not going to drop," Emery said. "That 2.5 cents is going to drop into the pocket of the station owner, not into Westmont's pocket."

Senicka recognized the significant impact the reduction in revenues is going to have on the budget process, which is why she encouraged residents to attend the upcoming budget meetings.

"With the budget coming up quickly, fasten your seatbelts," Senicka said.

Trustee Bob Scott echoed her appeal, saying it will be up to residents to decide what they can live without.

"Once we do the budget and the residents see the services that will be cut, it will be up to them to decide if they want them back," he said. "And if so, taxing might have to be the way to do it."

The village achieved home rule status in 2007 when a special census showed the population had reached 26,211. Communities that have a population over 25,000 are automatically granted home rule

authority, according to Illinois law.

When the 2010 census showed that the population dropped to 24, 685, the village was required to put their home rule status up to referendum. Residents voted to cease home rule status during the Nov. 6 General Election by 51.5 percent.

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~ March 2013 ~							Apr 2013 ▶
◀ Feb 2013	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1	2
3		4 7 pm. - Village board mtg.	5	6	7	8 8 A.M. - Downtown Plan Update Steering Comm. Mtg.	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
17	18 7 p.m. - Village board mtg.	19	20 9 a.m. - Chamber 7 p.m. Downtown Plan Update Community Mtg. - Clarendon Hillis Middle School	21 7:30 p.m. - ZBA	22	23	
24	25 6 p.m. - Village Budget Workshop - Police Department meeting room	26	27 6 p.m. - Historical Society - Bd. Room 7 p.m. - Special Events Comm. Mtg. - conference room	28	29	30	
31 Easter	Notes:						



~ April 2013 ~							May 2013 ▶
◀ Mar 2013	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 7 p.m. – Village board meeting	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9 7 p.m. – Mosquito Abatement – Bd. Room	10	11	12 9 a.m. Fire Pension Bd. Mtg.	13	
14	15 5:30 – Police Pension Bd. Mtg. 7 p.m. – Village board meeting	16	17 9 a.m. – Chamber	18 7:30 p.m. – ZBA	19	20	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
28	29	30	Notes:				