

**VILLAGE OF CLARENDON HILLS  
MANAGER'S REPORT  
MARCH 15, 2013**

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- A. Policy Feedback –**
- B. Management Reports**
  - 1. Manager's Notes -- See weekly report**
  - 2. Finance Department -- No weekly report**
  - 3. Public Works Department -- See weekly report**
  - 4. Community Development 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 15, 2013

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1. The FY14 Budget Document was distributed last 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 17<sup>th</sup>**- Updated 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 day on the 17<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. We are currently conducting our bi-annual Compensation Study. Christina has pulled together preliminary data and we will be discussing it more in depth as part of the budget discussion.
3. Preparations have also begun for negotiations with our Police Union. Our current contract expires on April 30<sup>th</sup>.
4. Peg Hartnett and I meet this Wednesday to further develop future capital funding options for discussion at the March 25<sup>th</sup> Budget Workshop. Again, this will be a major focus of discussion. However, we believe final decisions on these issues will not be made until our biennial Village Board retreat, which we are planning for the coming fall.

5. I had a working lunch with Village Manager's Dave Fieldman of Downers Grove and Ron Searl of Westmont on Wednesday to discuss possibilities for a shared fleet maintenance and planning program. We all believe there are savings to be had by better coordinating our fleet operations and have developed some loose concepts for further exploration. We have scheduled another meeting with a broader work group for early April.
6. Another student from Hinsdale Central High School shadowed various Village employees this week. Tyler Drozd, a senior at Central, was completing observation hours for an AP Government and Politics class. Thank you to Chief Jenkins, Officer Talerico, Kelly Schildgen, Michael Millette, Dan Ungerleider and Susan Larson for spending time with Tyler and talking with him about how the Village operates.

Have a Great Weekend!

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

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** March 15, 2013  
**TO:** Randy Recklaus, Village Manager  
**FROM:** Mike Millette, Director of Public Works  
**SUBJECT:** Department Notes

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1. One crew was out first thing Monday to salt hills, curves and intersections to address the black ice that had begun to form. Fortunately, that has been the limit of our snow and ice effort this week – a welcome respite after the previous two week.
2. We began pothole patching on Tuesday, notably on Holmes and other streets south of the tracks.
3. The upstairs bathroom projects are nearing completion. It is worthy to note that we have removed the partitions and affirmed the past practice of these being single occupant facilities. We will be installing larger, ADA compliant lock handles on the doors to replace the smaller thumb latches which had been in place. Work will shift exclusively to the lower level next week. We expect to have that work completed by the end of the month.

# Village of Clarendon Hills

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## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Randy Recklaus, Village Manager  
**From:** Dan Ungerleider, Community Development Director  
**Date:** March 15, 2013  
**Subject:** Department Report

1. **88 Park Av (fka 103 S Prospect Av)** - Revised architectural plans were received and forwarded to the Downtown Design Review Commission for review at their meeting on March 19, 2013.
2. **Demolition of 227-231 Burlington Avenue:** We were able to obtain a copy of a 9-year old environmental study for the properties earlier this week. A new asbestos analysis report will not be required if the report is found to be viable. The bid documents were reviewed by our attorney this week and are being revised by our consulting engineer. Meanwhile, I continue to encourage the property owners to take over the work in hopes of minimizing the financial burden that will be tied to the property as a result of this demolition and restoration activity. I also continue to promote the property to the development community.
3. **Park Willow:** I met with residents of the Park Willow community to determine the current social and physical conditions impacting that community.
4. **Downtown Master Plan (DTMP) Update:** I continue to prepare for the upcoming March 20 Community Kickoff meeting to be held at the Clarendon Hills Middle School at 7pm. The previous unmarked orange signs were replaced by signs promoting the DTMP update activities. The new signs encourage downtown visitors to follow the project on Twitter and Instagram. They also include QR codes linked to relevant survey questions. In addition to the signs we mailed over 450 postcards to downtown area property owners and business owners, home owner association boards and other community organizations encouraging their participation with these village planning activities.  
  
The Clarendon Middle School invited their students to participate in Downtown Planning writing contest. These essays will be shared with the community and judged for prizes and glory (Chamber dollars). The Middle School program is finishing up with their Google Sketch project providing existing and potential images of downtown Clarendon.
5. **Special Use Text Amendments:** I provided the Village Manager recommendations for text amendments creating special use designations for fire arms sales and medical marijuana distribution facilities. Once reviewed by the Village Attorney, these recommendations will be forwarded to the Village Board and Zoning Board for appropriate review, hearings and action.
6. **Permits Issued:** So far this month we have issued 7 permits with estimated construction value of \$228,820. This represents a 16% increase in number of permits issued compared to this time last year.
7. **Code Enforcement Reports:** Please see attached reports
8. **Department Projects:** List of Projects, ongoing and future, is listed on page 2 of this report.

**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. **227 Burlington Av Demolition (3/15/2013 & 5/1/2013)**
- b. **Park Willow (35 foreclosures)**
- c. **2012 Property Maintenance Code**
- d. zoning text amendments
  - i. **Special Use - Firearm and Ammunition Retail Sales**
  - ii. **Special Use - Medical Marijuana Distribution Facility**
  - iii. **Special Use - Adult Entertainment**
  - iv. gravel driveway and parking lot standards
  - v. parkway maintenance
  - vi. floor area ratio calculations (attic space)

3. Planning and Development Review

- a. **DTDRC - 103 S Prospect (88 Park Av) - 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting scheduled 3/19/2013**
- b. **DTMP**
  - i. **Kick-Off Meeting (3/20/2013 7-9pm) - Project Intro & Pre-visioning Discussion (at CHMD)**
  - ii. **Visioning Meeting (tentatively scheduled for 4/24/2013 7-9pm)**
  - iii. Middle School Program (Art/LA/History)
  - iv. QR Surveys & Signs
  - v. Existing Conditions Update
- c. **develop GIS mapping - address, zoning, land use, utilities, inventory maps (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 15, 2013

To: Village Manager Randy Recklaus

From: Chief Ted Jenkins

Subject: Weekly Activity Report

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1. Officers handled seven weather related motor vehicle accidents on Tuesday. One 7 car accident, two 2 car accident and two 1 car accidents occurred between 5:30am and 8:00am on southbound Rt. 83 due to icy pavement. The accidents resulted in two arrests, one for no valid driver's license and one for failure to report an accident.
2. Last Wednesday our surplus squad car was put up for auction on EBay. Checker Cab of Bloomington, Illinois won the auction with a bid of \$3076.00. They are scheduled to pick up the car today. The FD's surplus vehicle was put up for auction on Thursday. You can follow the bidding at:  
<http://cgi.ebay.com/ebaymotors/ws/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&item=140933323466&ssPageName=ADME:L:LCA:MOTORS:1123>
3. Otis Elevator repaired the seals and packing on the PD elevator this week. The seals and packing leak has been a chronic problem due to the state's mandated annual pressure test that requires the hydraulic pressure to be tested to twice operating pressure. This test has routinely damaged the seals and packing. In February the PD contracted with a different company, Otis Elevator, to do the testing and maintenance. The new maintenance company is aware of the problem and has not experienced the same problems with our type of elevator using their testing procedures.
4. On Thursday, Randy, Peg, Christina and I met to discuss the upcoming FOP contract negotiations. The meeting was very preliminary and productive. A future date to meet with the FOP will be set in the near future.
5. I want to give a shout out to our Public Works partners for a job well done again this week. In addition to keeping the Village roadways clear, they helped out on Tuesday by salting our Rt. 83 accident scene which was a sheet of ice and very dangerous for emergency crews to work in. Thanks again, great job as usual.



**Significant traffic and criminal activity during the period March 8, 2013 through March 14, 2013**

1. On 3/11 Officers investigated a delayed domestic battery report. Pending
2. On 3/13, Clarendon Hills Middle School reported that two iPod touch devices were stolen from teacher's desks between 2/21 and 2/27. The loss is reported at \$600.00.
3. On 3/13 a resident on the 200 block of Holmes reported that her car was damaged while it was parked on the street in front of her home. Damages are reported to be less than \$500.00.
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 15, 2013

**TO:** Randy Recklaus  
Village Manager

**FROM:** Brian Leahy  
Fire Chief

**SUBJECT:** Weekly Fire Department Report 2013-10

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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 Illinois Accesability Code seminar in Rock Falls on Wednesday.
2. Training Report:
  - Today, on duty firefighters attended a 3 hour Hinsdale Hospital on site building pre-plan training drill at the Hospital.
3. Emergency Medical Services Report:
  - No report this week.
4. Clarendon Hills/Hinsdale FD sharing of services report:
  - This week myself, Dave Godek, Hinsdale Assistant Chief McElroy and their IT consultant Jim Halik completed a shared pre-plan/map ipad program that now shares all of the pre-plans and maps for Clarendon Hills and Hinsdale. These programs using Google docs integrates and shares documents that we place in the system. We are now in the process of presenting this to the Southwest Central Dispatch Fire Chiefs for possible funding of the hardware and monthly cellular costs.
5. Several area fire departments, including Clarendon Hills are researching a possible regional FEMA grant for enhancements to our existing SCBA equipment. This enhancement would allow an incident commander the ability to track firefighters on the scene and also monitor the amount of breathing air they have remaining in their SCBA units. More to come on this one in the future.

6. Incidents of Interest:

- During the past week Hinsdale FD responded to five (5) calls in Clarendon Hills.
- During the past week Clarendon Hills FD responded to seven (7) calls in Hinsdale.
- Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:08 PM. The fire department was dispatched for the smell of natural gas in the Hamill Lane area. Firefighters arrived and found significant gas odor and located the area believed it was coming from and notified Nicor.
- Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:41 AM. Ambulance 314 and Heavy Duty Rescue Squad 316 responded for an accident with injuries on southbound Rt. 83 south of Ogden Ave. One (1) injured patient transported to a local hospital.
- Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:13 AM. Ambulance 314 and Heavy Duty Rescue Squad 316 responded for an accident with injuries on southbound Rt. 83 south of Ogden Ave.
- Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:05 PM. Ambulance 314 and Heavy Duty Rescue Squad 316 responded for an accident with injuries in the front yard of a single family home on Western south of 55<sup>th</sup> St. Paramedics determined the driver was having a medical emergency and was treated and transported to a local hospital.
- Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:41 PM. Ambulance 314 responded to assist the Westmont Fire Department. One (1) patient transported to a local hospital.
- Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 4:12 AM. Heavy Duty Rescue Squad 316 responded to a MABAS Division 12 Box alarm for the Oak Brook Fire Department..

7. Fire/Rescue/EMS calls:

- During the past week the fire department responded to twenty seven (27) emergency calls.

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

[www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/suburbs/hinsdale\\_clarendon\\_hills\\_oak\\_brook/ct-tl-hinsdale-mergernixed-20130314,0,2674200.story](http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/suburbs/hinsdale_clarendon_hills_oak_brook/ct-tl-hinsdale-mergernixed-20130314,0,2674200.story)

# chicagotribune.com

## Hinsdale, Clarendon Hills give up on proposed police merger

### Deal fell apart over details of officer benefits, pay raises

By Annemarie Mannion, Chicago Tribune reporter

11:39 AM CDT, March 13, 2013

A proposal to merge the police departments in Hinsdale and Clarendon Hills has fallen apart over the question of Social Security benefits.

The merger was touted as a way to save both villages about \$760,000. The details of whether Clarendon Hills officers would maintain their Social Security benefits, along with a pay raise, was the deal-breaker.

Hinsdale Village President Tom Cauley said he was disappointed that the merger, which would have been the first for police departments in the state, had fallen through.

The proposal provided for Clarendon Hills officers to receive an 8 to 10 percent pay raise, he said..

"They wanted their pay raise and their Social Security. We couldn't swing it," Cauley said.

Clarendon Hills Village Manager Randy Recklaussaid an agreement wasn't possible.


"It would have been a significant loss to the officers in Clarendon Hills," he said.

In Clarendon Hills, police employees pay into Social Security as well as a pension. In Hinsdale, police employees pay only into a pension. Recklaus said the difference stretches back to 1983 when departments were offered a short window of time during which they could opt to pay into Social Security. Clarendon Hills opted in; Hinsdale did not.

The villages had been working about a year and a half on the merger idea. Over time, Clarendon Hills Trustee Ed Reid said he had grown disenchanted with it.

"As the process developed, I became against the idea of merging the departments," he said. "I had philosophical concerns over losing the autonomy of the police department."

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The merger would have required a new state law, which was to have been introduced by State Rep. Patti Bellock. Although it could have been adapted as a model for other communities, Bellock said since it was crafted for Hinsdale and Clarendon Hills, she will no longer pursue it.

Officials from both towns said previously they had looked at other options for cutting costs, but combining patrols and reducing administrative expenses would provide the only significant savings. The consolidation would have allowed one sergeant, deputy chief and chief positions to be eliminated through attrition.

Clarendon Hills has 13 police officers and Hinsdale has 25.


Recklaus had said the merger made sense because the villages have similar demographics and already have a strong working relationship. They established an automatic aid agreement for their fire departments in 2010, and they participate in various regional cooperative law enforcement efforts, such as dispatch, tactical response teams and major investigations assistance, he said.

Hinsdale's savings if the merger had occurred would have been about \$400,000 to \$500,000 over time, Cauley said.

He said he would be surprised if there were other communities so well matched for a police department merger.

"For a village of our size, it was a huge savings," he said. "It was a perfect fit. If we can't consolidate with Clarendon Hills, there are probably no other communities (in Illinois) that could consolidate."

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## Police & Fire

# Police Merger: Social Security Not Seen as 'Dealbreaker' Early On

Clarendon Hills Police Chief Ted Jenkins said the non-negotiable nature of the Social Security benefit makes it attractive to his patrol officers.

By [Joe O'Donnell](#) | [Email the author](#) | March 14, 2013

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**Clarendon Hills Police** Chief Ted Jenkins said he didn't imagine his patrol officers' Social Security benefits would be what killed talks of a Hinsdale-Clarendon Hills police-department merger.

"I don't think anybody thought that was going to be a deal-breaker from the beginning, but it turned out to be a major problem," Jenkins said.

The Clarendon Hills Police Department was among a minority of agencies that in 1983, when given a chance to opt out, decided to have its officers continue paying into Social Security and retiring with Social Security benefits on top of their standard, locally funded police pension, **Clarendon Hills** village manager Randy Recklaus said in January.

**Hinsdale Police Department** officers are among the majority of Illinois officers who do not pay into Social Security and do not receive Social Security benefits, and Recklaus said if the departments were to consolidate, the new department would not have legally been allowed to offer Social Security benefits.

The villages of Hinsdale and Clarendon Hills announced on March 6 that negotiations with the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) on behalf patrol officers in the two towns had reached an impasse over the Clarendon Hills Social Security issue, and merger plans were being scrapped.

### READ: [Police Merger Plan Scrapped After Negotiations Fail](#)

Village manager Randy Recklaus [told The Doings](#) he thought the total compensation package offered by the villages was enough to make up for the loss of Social Security, but Jenkins, who as chief is not an FOP member, said the non-negotiable nature of the federal benefit made it desirable to his officers.

"There are insurance policies that address those types of risk in your life," Jenkins said. "The problem is when you're giving those policies in exchange for Social Security benefits, those policies become a negotiable item in future contract negotiations. ... Those are on the table."

Jenkins said the patrol officers bargained in good faith, did not make any outlandish demands, and are not to be blamed for holding the line on Social Security.

"I can't fault them for that at all," Jenkins said.

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## Failed Hinsdale, Clarendon Hills police consolidation could mean layoffs

By DANNY CIAMPONE - [dciampone@shawmedia.com](mailto:dciampone@shawmedia.com)

Created: Sunday, March 10, 2013 7:00 a.m. CDT

 [Comments](#) (0)

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Text Size: Aa Aa Aa Aa Aa

HINSDALE — Negotiations to consolidate the Clarendon Hills and Hinsdale police departments recently came to an end as Hinsdale Police Chief Bradley Bloom expressed his discouragement.

Bloom thought both Clarendon Hills and Hinsdale were going into consolidation at the perfect time — doing it without any layoffs and having proper funding before talks fell through.

"I'm not sure if we're ever going to have this opportunity again and I think that consolidation is where we'll be eventually, but I'm not sure we're going to have the opportunity to have the funding and to have the time to be able to do it without layoffs sometime in the future," Bloom said.

The main hurdle facing consolidation negotiations was Social Security benefits received by Clarendon Hills police officers, but not Hinsdale officers. Bloom said he knew of the issue at the start of negotiations, but didn't see it as the pitfall.

"I thought it would be something we could address in negotiations, but I found out after all the research was done that it was something that couldn't be addressed to the satisfaction of the Clarendon Hills officers," he said.

The consolidation was estimated to bring an annual savings of \$700,000 to \$800,000 between the two municipalities. Now that negotiations have ended, Bloom said the department would look for more ways to reduce costs, but the department has taken significant steps already, including outsourcing its 911 center, bringing in volunteers and reducing the number of police officers by three since 2008.

"I'm not sure if there are any other areas we can cut," Bloom said. "The only thing left is to continue to research ways that we can share services to reduce expenses, but I think we've been pretty innovative in identifying areas up to this point where we can save."

Bloom said in the mid-1980s, communities were given the option to opt out of Social Security, which it did along with several other departments because it was covered by a government pension. Clarendon Hills opted to stay in and continue to contribute to Social Security.

"It's disappointing that we've run into a brick wall on an issue that I consider somewhat minor and never considered this would be the issue that derailed us," Bloom said. "I thought the time was right. I think the communities are very similar demographically and match up very well."

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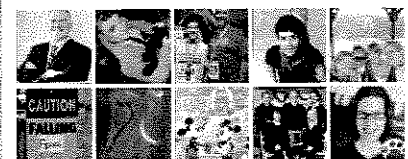
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## Police & Fire

### Police Chief 'Disappointed' After Merger Fails

Hinsdale Police Chief Brad Bloom and Clarendon Hills Police Chief Ted Jenkins both said police-department consolidation will likely become common in Illinois in the future.

By [Joe O'Donnell](#) | [Email the author](#) | 5:58 am

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After the villages of Hinsdale and Clarendon Hills announced police department merger talks were dead last week, [Hinsdale Police](#) Chief Brad Bloom said a chance to responsibly and thoughtfully consolidate was lost.

"I am disappointed," Bloom said. "I think we had a great opportunity given the fact that we weren't facing a huge budgetary shortfall."

Both Bloom and [Clarendon Hills Police](#) Chief Ted Jenkins said they think police consolidation, though currently unprecedented in Illinois, will become a common occurrence.

"I think in the future you're going to see police departments consolidating in Illinois to save money," Jenkins said.

After going public with a consolidation plan in October 2011, the villages of Hinsdale and Clarendon Hills announced in a joint release March 6 that they were scrapping the plan after reaching an impasse in negotiations with the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP), the patrol officers' union whose support was seen as important to the passage of state legislation allowing for the full merge.

#### READ: [Police Merger Plan Scrapped After Negotiations Fail](#)

The sticking point in negotiations was the loss and replacement of Social Security benefits received by Clarendon Hills officers.

Bloom and Jenkins both said the FOP negotiated in good faith and neither chief blamed the Clarendon Hills officers for not wanting to give up the Social Security benefit.

"They're acting within their best interests and looking out for themselves," Bloom said.

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

The Hinsdale chief did say that now is an ideal time to merge, considering the departments have time to standardize procedures without any fiscal pressure, and grant money is available from the [Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority](#) to perform the work.

"I'm just hoping that eventually some day we're not forced into consolidating when we are facing a huge budgetary shortfall," Bloom said, noting the lack



of standardization and quality of service that might accompany such a forced merge.

No matter how much time and thought go into them, Hinsdale's chief said he thinks mergers are the future because of the harsh realities of state and local budgets in Illinois.

"We're going to have to figure out new and innovating ways to deliver police services," Bloom said, "and one of those ways is consolidation."

Jenkins cited the [Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department](#) as one the Clarendon Hills chief said efficiently serves a number of municipalities.

"Once the first couple of departments [in Illinois] merge, I think it's going to become pretty common," Jenkins said.

It appears those first couple of departments, though, will be elsewhere.

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See also:

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## Clarendon Hills gets court order to demolish vacant buildings

March 12, 2013 | By Annemarie Mannion, Chicago Tribune reporter

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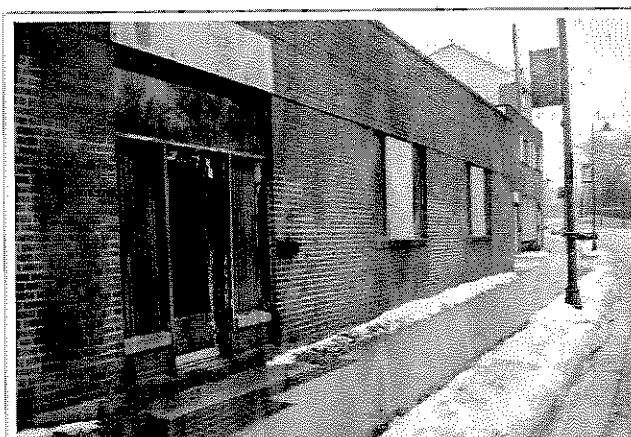
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The village of Clarendon Hills has received court approval to proceed with tearing down three vacant buildings in the village's downtown this [spring](#) [↗](#).

A DuPage County judge ruled recently that the structures pose a safety hazard and the village can tear down the boarded up, vacant buildings at 227-231 Burlington Ave.



A DuPage County judge has ruled that the Village of Claren...

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"They're vacant, dilapidated buildings. It's been determined they're not [safe](#) [↗](#)," said community development director Dan Ungerleider.

He said the village has the right to raze the buildings, restore the property, and put a lien on the

properties to recoup the costs ▯ possibly when the properties are sold.

The property owner will maintain ownership of the site, he said.

"We're not taking ownership. We're just clearing — getting rid of the blight," he said.

He said the row of red brick buildings have been a target for vandals.

"We've experienced ▯ a lot of vandalism at them," he said.

The property is zoned industrial, but the stretch of two-story building across from the Burlington Northern railroad tracks would likely be redeveloped for residential or multi-use, he said.

"The downtown used to have quite a bit of industrial or warehouses," he said. "This is a remnant from that time."

The owner of the properties ▯ had sought about six years ago to redevelop the area with residential units and first-floor retail, but the plans foundered when the economy took a downturn, he said.

Issues such as asbestos removal, determining whether the foundations of the buildings could remain in place, and selecting a firm to do the demolition will be done in the next couple of months, and the buildings could be demolished in May, Ungerleider said.

The owner of the property, Chris Everett, could not be reached for comment.

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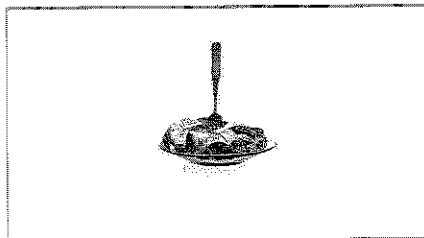
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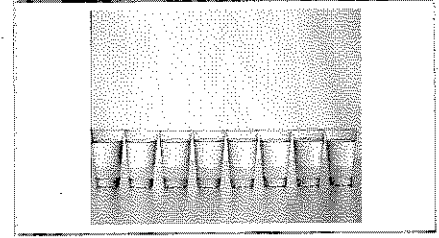
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## Clarendon Hills residents asked to provide feedback on downtown master plan

CLARENDON HILLS — Last week, the Village of Clarendon Hills launched a series of signs in the downtown area with actual comments from previous community needs surveys.

The comments, many of which were critical of downtown Clarendon Hills, were intended to spark discussion and get people engaged in the Downtown Master Plan Update process, according to a news release. This week, the signs were replaced with new ones letting people know how to become involved, including via social media and by attending the March 20 community meeting at Clarendon Hills Middle School.

In addition, people who follow the village on Twitter or Instagram and use #dtplan will be entered for a chance to win chamber dollars, good at local businesses. People can share their ideas, provide feedback or send a picture of something they would like to see or something they think would not be a fit for the community.

The feedback received from the surveys and social media will be used as part of the Downtown Master Plan Update visioning process and help guide discussions.

All residents, business owners and others interested in the process are invited to a community meeting to discuss and brainstorm the Downtown Master Plan Update process. The meeting will be at 7 p.m. March 20 at Clarendon Hills Middle School.

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Update: We've surpassed 700 Facebook likes! Onward to 800! »

## Schools

# D181 Admin Promoted to Assistant Superintendent for Learning

Kevin Russell will replace Janet Stutz this summer after a year of serving as District 181's director of curriculum, assessment and instruction.

By [Joe O'Donnell](#) | [Email the author](#) | March 12, 2013

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Related Topics: [Advanced Learning Plan](#), [District 181](#), [District 181 school board](#), [Janet Stutz](#), [Kevin Russell](#), and [gifted program](#)



Kevin Russell is on the move again.

The District 181 Board of Education approved by a 5-1 vote Monday night the appointment of Russell to the post of assistant superintendent for learning after the former [Walker School](#) principal served one year as director of curriculum, assessment and instruction.

Effective July 1, Russell will replace Janet Stutz, who will leave to become superintendent of Orland School District 135.

**READ: [Janet Stutz Leaving D181 for Orland Superintendent Job](#)**

Russell talked about his approach to the new position after Monday night's meeting at Elm School.

"I think when you look at what's on the horizon with the Common Core, with our advanced learning plan, which is really raising the bar for all kids," Russell said, "my goal in this position would be to give administrators, teachers, principals, parents and of course students everything they need to be successful with all these new initiatives."

When asked if he thinks he'll feel extra scrutiny in his new role while implementing the much-discussed advanced learning plan, Russell answered by saying he thinks every education job in 2013 has challenges and rewards.

"There will be challenging times ahead whenever you're implementing a whole new set of standards, but I'm looking forward to the challenge and to serving the district in a greater capacity," he said.

Superintendent Renée Schuster said in a district release that Russell is "an outstanding leader" who she thinks will succeed in the new role.

"[Russell] has a multitude of talents and a commitment to excellence and will continue to serve this community well," the superintendent said.

For Russell, who lives in Lisle with his wife Melissa and their six children, the assistant superintendent post will be position No. 4 since he began working for District 181 in 2007 as assistant principal at Walker. He was promoted to principal in 2008, then to his current director role in 2012.

**READ: Walker School Principal Promoted to New D181 Administrative Position**

Yvonne Mayer was the lone board member to vote against Russell's hiring. She said she thinks Russell is a "wonderful" administrator, but does not have the experience or training to take over the assistant superintendent role.

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◀ 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 Hills Middle School	21 7:30 p.m. - ZBA - cancelled	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	2	3	4	5	6	
	7 p.m. – Village board meeting						
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
		7 p.m. – Mosquito Abatement – Bd. Room			9 a.m. Fire Pension Bd. Mtg.		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
	5:30 – Police Pension Bd. Mtg. 7 p.m. – Village board meeting		9 a.m. – Chamber	7:30 p.m. – ZBA			
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
28	29	30	Notes:				