

**VILLAGE OF CLARENDON HILLS
MANAGER'S REPORT
JANUARY 25, 2013**

- 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 -- No 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: January 25, 2013

1. Discussions continued with the Fraternal Order of Police this week on outstanding issues related to the Police Consolidation Discussion. We hope to have another meeting in the next few days. The lack of a resolution to the social security issue remains the biggest obstacle at this point. Rep. Bellock has indicated that she is continuing to work on forwarding the enabling bill through the legislature without referendum language. We hope to have more information on this issue soon.
2. The Community Survey report will be ready for review next week. The Village Board will get an advance copy early next week with the final public report going out later in the week.
3. The Village will be putting our janitorial services out to bid next month to cover the Village Hall, Public Works, and Police Facilities. The RFP document is going through a final review by staff prior to being issued.
4. Implementation of the new Public Works restructuring recommended by Staff and approved by the Village Board on Monday is underway. Mike Millette and I conducted interviews for the New Public Works Operations Supervisor on Thursday afternoon. We hope to make a hiring decision quickly and then begin selection for the new Lead Maintenance Worker positions after that. This restructuring will not increase the size of the staff, but will save the Village \$10,000 to \$20,000 annually due to the elimination of the Assistant Public Works Director Position.
5. The Village Hall hosted a mobile Secretary of State Driver's license office on Friday. This has been a popular program and is sponsored by Clarendon Hills Bank.
6. Peg and I will be meeting with individual Department Heads to review their budgets beginning next week.
7. The weekly Code Enforcement report is attached for your review.

Have Great Weekend!

Community Development Department
One North Prospect Avenue, Clarendon Hills Illinois 60514

Village of Clarendon Hills
Department of Public Works

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 25, 2013
TO: Randy Recklaus, Village Manager
FROM: Mike Millette, Director of Public Works
SUBJECT: Department Notes

1. We have isolated the water infiltration situation at the Ann Street reservoir and at the project status meeting on Tuesday we developed a work-around. We are still holding firm on the budget and are reassessing the impact to the project schedule.
2. Yesterday, we repaired a leak on our water system last at Columbine and Naperville. This was again caused by bolt failures. The leak was difficult to find owing to previous repairs performed at the same intersection. We were able to complete the repair and clean-up by 4:30 p.m.
3. A quick look at our current snow response for today's event:

Two trucks were dispatched to begin plowing and spreading salt at 6:00 a.m. The train station crew hit the platforms just after 7:00 a.m. The second crew and our downtown contractor also started working just after 7:00 a.m.

As of this writing (9:30 a.m.) four trucks are plowing and salting and our two man crew is touching-up around the library. The snow is very light which actually makes it harder to plow – it doesn't clump together and slide off of the plow blade, so will need salting at a higher rate than normal.

VILLAGE OF CLARENDON HILLS
POLICE DEPARTMENT

DATE: January 25, 2013
To: Village Manager Randy Recklaus
From: Chief Ted Jenkins
Subject: Weekly Activity Report

1. Recent training:
 - 4 officers completed in house use of force training.
 - 2 officers completed online "Addressing Deviant Behavior" training.
2. Administrative hearings for admin tows were held at the PD on 1/17. 8 hearings were scheduled, 4 were no shows and the Village prevailed in the other 4.
3. On 1/21 Clarendon Hills participated in an ILEAS (Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System) callout for a missing Clarendon Hills youth. A 16 year old Clarendon Hills resident was last seen intoxicated and leaving a party in Willowbrook at 10:30 pm. He was reported missing by his family 3 hours later. Thirteen officers from Willowbrook, Woodridge, Darien, Hinsdale, Westmont, Downers Grove, Oak Brook and Clarendon Hills searched an area between 55th and 63rd streets in the bitter cold. The youth was located at 3:30 am when he called a friend from the area of Tennessee and 63rd. He had entered an unlocked residence and passed out. The residents were asleep and did not know he was in their home. The youth was transported to CHPD where Willowbrook PD charged him with criminal trespass and possession of alcohol by a minor. He was released to a parent.
4. On Tuesday I attended the FOP labor negotiations with Randy and our Hinsdale counterparts. An offer was made to the union and a future meeting will be scheduled for their response.
5. Work continues on the PD budget.
6. I completed Department traffic stop data compilation for 2012. The results are sent to the Illinois Department of Traffic Safety in compliance with the Illinois Racial Profiling study. Clarendon Hill's officers made 2,816 traffic stops in 2012 and our results are well within the expected ranges again this year.

Driver profiles:

- 81.12% white, 18.8% minority
- 54% male, 45.9% female
- Average driver age was 43.19 years
- Average vehicle age was 8.31 years

Traffic stop profiles:

- 75.15% were for a moving violation
- 18.88% were for equipment violations
- 5.97% were for license or registration violations
- 51.25% resulted in a citation, .66% resulted in a written warning, and 48.08% resulted in a verbal warning.

7. There are still openings for our roadside safety class. The Class will be on Saturday, February 16 from 9 to 11 am. Instruction on changing a flat tire, jump starting a car and basic automotive maintenance to avoid roadside emergencies will be offered. Harbor Freight Tools of Lombard has offered class giveaways at cost in support of our efforts. The class will be offered to the public free of charge. Anyone interested should contact the Department at 286-5460.

Significant traffic and criminal activity during the period January 18, 2013 through January 24, 2013

1. On 1/18 a resident on Reserve Circle reported that the fence between 5510 Western and Tracy's Tavern had been damaged. The resident related that this is the fourth time the fence has been damaged. Damage is estimated at \$250.00
2. On 1/19 a 17 year old Hinsdale resident and a 17 year old Oak Brook resident were stopped on Rt 83 near Chicago Ave. During the stop the officer noticed the smell of burnt cannabis in the car. Additional investigation resulted in the discovery of cannabis and a white powder that field tested positive for heroin. The two youths were transported to the PD and released to parents. Charges are pending.
3. On 1/21 a resident reported the theft of a UPS delivery from the ten block of Walker Ave. UPS reported the package as delivered on 1/4 and valued at \$150.00.
4. On 1/16 a resident on the 300 block of 55th street reported that an intoxicated subject had damaged their screen door by pounding on it. It was determined that the subject was not known to the resident but was identified by CHPD. The subject was contacted and agreed to pay \$111.08 to fix the door. Restitution was made and no charges were filed.

5. On 1/21 a resident on the 300 block of Harris reported that a vehicle struck the utility pole in front of their home and knocked out the cable TV service. Vehicle debris was found around the pole but the vehicle was gone. Pending.
6. On 1/24 a resident on the 200 block of Columbine reported that he was contacted and sent a check for \$3987.10 as part of a Publishing Clearing House prize. He was to deposit the check and sent a processing fee back to the sender. He deposited the check but became suspicious about sending money to the sender and called the PD. There was no dollar loss.
7. Clarendon Hills' officers made two arrests for driving with a suspended/revoked driver's license and served one arrest warrant in last week.

VILLAGE OF CLARENDON HILLS

FIRE DEPARTMENT

DATE: January 25, 2013

TO: Randy Recklaus
Village Manager

FROM: Brian Leahy
Fire Chief

SUBJECT: Weekly Fire Department Report 2013-03

1. Fire Prevention Bureau Activity during the past week.
 - Nine (9) Fire-Life Safety inspections were completed this week.
 - On Thursday, FPO Dave Godek spent considerable time working with the management at 245 Burlington to bring their sprinkler system back into service after a sprinkler head activation that day.
2. Training Report:
 - Wednesday evening, Twenty four (24) firefighters attended Incident Command System (ICS) NIMS refresher training.
3. Emergency Medical Services Report:
 - Recruit Firefighter Brian Fennell has been enrolled in the Loyola EMT-B program. He is scheduled to complete this program in June and will then be certified as an EMT-B.
 - POC Firefighters Scott Wallace, Jon Placzek and John Morris are now in paramedic training programs that they are taking on their own. Congratulations to them for taking on this big commitment for their future advancement.
4. Clarendon Hills/Hinsdale FD sharing of services report:
 - Attached to this weekly report is a detailed report about the fire services sharing between Clarendon Hills and Hinsdale. We have been operating under the shared services arrangement since August of 2010.
5. Captain Mark Rediehs has completed the required paper work and we have filed for a grant from the Illinois State Fire Marshal in the amount of \$15,850 for 10 sets of firefighter protective clothing. A few years ago we received this same grant and purchased 25 sets of protective clothing. We are always looking for grant opportunities for the fire department.
6. Last night the fire department responded to a single family home in the 0-100 block of Norfolk Ave. for a sprinkler system water flow alarm. Upon arrival firefighters found a single family home with a water flow alarm going. Upon investigation it was found that the home was about 1-2 years old and was not occupied. The owner decided to turn the heat off to save money not realizing that the water pipes in the house would freeze. Both domestic water and sprinkler pipes in the home were frozen and burst causing extensive water damage to the home. The water also leaked onto the electrical panels in the

basement. We had Com Ed come out and power to the house was disconnected. The building department was notified because of the extensive damage and large amount of repair work that is needed.

7. Incidents of Interest:

- During the past week Hinsdale FD responded to ten (10) calls in Clarendon Hills.
- During the past week Clarendon Hills FD responded to three (3) calls in Hinsdale.
- Friday, January 18th at 10:36 PM. The fire department along with Hinsdale Engine 1013 responded for an attached garage on fire in the 0-100 block of Blodgett Ave. Upon arrival firefighters found a small fire in the garage which was extinguished quickly. Very little damage.
- Monday, January 21st at 9:12 AM. The fire department along with Hinsdale Engine 1013 responded for a large gas leak in a multi family building in the Park Willow complex. Several gas leaks were detected along with a tenant code violation. Nicor was called to the scene to assist and supervise the repairs by the management.
- Monday, January 21st at 3:28 PM. The fire department was dispatched for 2 people trapped in an elevator in the 0-100 block of Walker Ave. Firefighters followed elevator rescue procedures and removed 2 people from the elevator.
- Tuesday January 22nd at 10:11 AM. The fire department was dispatched for 2 people trapped in an elevator in the 300 block of Holmes Ave. Firefighters followed elevator rescue procedures and removed 2 people from the elevator.
- Tuesday, January 22nd at 10:49 AM. The fire department along with Hinsdale Engine 1013 responded to the 300 block of Holmes Ave. for smoke coming from a mechanical room. Upon arrival firefighters found malfunctioning and overheated elevator electrical equipment. Electrical power to this equipment shut down. Firefighters used smoke fans to remove smoke from the building.
- Tuesday, January 22nd at 2:14 PM. The fire department was dispatched to the 0-100 block of Golf Ave. for Carbon Monoxide detectors activated in a single family home. Upon arrival firefighters found high levels of Carbon Monoxide. The source was traced down to a cracked heat exchanger in the furnace. Furnace shut down and home owner advised to seek HVAC repairs. Home ventilated by firefighters.
- Due to the extreme cold, the fire department has responded to several CO alarms in homes.
- Thursday, January 24th at 4:38 PM. Hinsdale ambulance 314 responded to assist Clarendon Hills for a patient who fell down in the 200 block of 55th St. Hinsdale 1014 was needed because Ambulance was on another EMS call at the time of this call.

8. Fire/Rescue/EMS calls:

- During the past week the fire department responded to thirty three (33) emergency calls.

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

VILLAGE OF CLARENDON HILLS

FIRE DEPARTMENT

DATE: January 18, 2013

TO: Randy Recklaus
Village Manager

FROM: Brian Leahy
Fire Chief

SUBJECT: Sharing of Services with the Hinsdale Fire Department

After about one year of work an IGA was approved and the Hinsdale and Clarendon Hills fire departments formally began the sharing of fire/ems services in August of 2010.

We have now been sharing these services for more than two (2) years.

DISPATCHING SERVICES

- In April of 2010, the Hinsdale Fire and Police Departments moved all of their 9-1-1 and dispatching functions over to Southwest Central Dispatch (SWCD). Their fire and police departments moved their operations over to the respective fire and police radio systems used by Clarendon Hills.
- Certain specified calls in the SWCD Computer Aided Dispatch CAD system at SWCD are dispatched to both fire departments at the same time automatically to reduce response time and provide more resources on the emergency scene quicker.

FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

- In April of 2011, an automated-remote control fire lane gate was installed at the Lions Park Pool on Byrd Ct. All Clarendon Hills and Hinsdale fire department vehicles are equipped with a remote control to open and close this gate. This gate is used for emergency purposes only and reduces response times to the south portions of Clarendon Hills and Hinsdale. The Clarendon Hills Public Works Department provides snow removal through this fire lane gate area. Three (3) Public Works vehicles are also equipped with remote controls for this gate.
- With the beginning of the shared fire-ems services in August of 2010, part-time on duty staffing for the Clarendon Hills Fire Department was increased from 2.5 firefighters on duty to 3 firefighters on duty. The number of personnel on duty now is less than recommended in the PAR Staffing Study report that was done in 2007. This report recommended staffing the Clarendon Hills Fire Department with 4-5 firefighters at all times. This shared services arrangement has allowed us to keep our staffing at 3 firefighters per shift at this time. If the number of emergency calls increase in the future, this staffing number will need to be evaluated.

- Fire-Rescue call response on scene times have been reduced by almost one (1) minute because of the increased staffing and also the automatic response from Hinsdale FD. At the end of this report I have attached a listing and graph showing response times for 2009, (before sharing) and then for 2010, 2011 and 2012 with the sharing in place. Below that you will see a listing of area fire department response times.
- In April of 2010, the villages of Clarendon Hills and Hinsdale restructured their ambulance response fees to be identical. Also residents of both Clarendon Hills and Hinsdale are treated as residents in both villages for billing purposes, (reduced fees).
- Fire Chiefs from both Clarendon Hills and Hinsdale are constantly working together to refine procedures for standardization purposes. This is an ongoing project.

TRAINING

- Training Officers from both the Clarendon Hills and Hinsdale Fire Departments meet or speak weekly to discuss training drills and explore joint training exercises.
- As time progresses, additional joint training is being scheduled and conducted. Recently live fire training was conducted with the two (2) departments at 421 E. Ogden Ave. in Hinsdale for two (2) days.
- Personnel from both fire departments continue to perform building familiarization at many buildings in both Clarendon Hills and Hinsdale.
- Personnel from both fire departments also perform street and address familiarize exercises and drive arounds with fire apparatus to become more familiar with the streets in both villages.
- Personnel from both departments also become more familiar with the equipment each department carries on their vehicles and how to use it.
- Training Officers are currently researching Officer Development training for both departments.
- Both departments share their NIMS instructors.

FIRE PREVENTION

- Fire Prevention Officers from both Clarendon Hills and Hinsdale assist each other from time to time on various projects.
- Fire Prevention Officers have helped each other on large building fire inspections where it is more efficient to have two (2) inspectors on site when testing systems.
- Firefighters from both departments attend the fire prevention open houses in both villages that are held in October of each year.
- The Hinsdale Fire Department loans the child safety trailer to us when we need it for Public Education Purposes.
- In April of 2010, the villages of Clarendon Hills and Hinsdale restructured their fire and life safety inspectional fee schedules. Both villages now have identical fee schedules.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

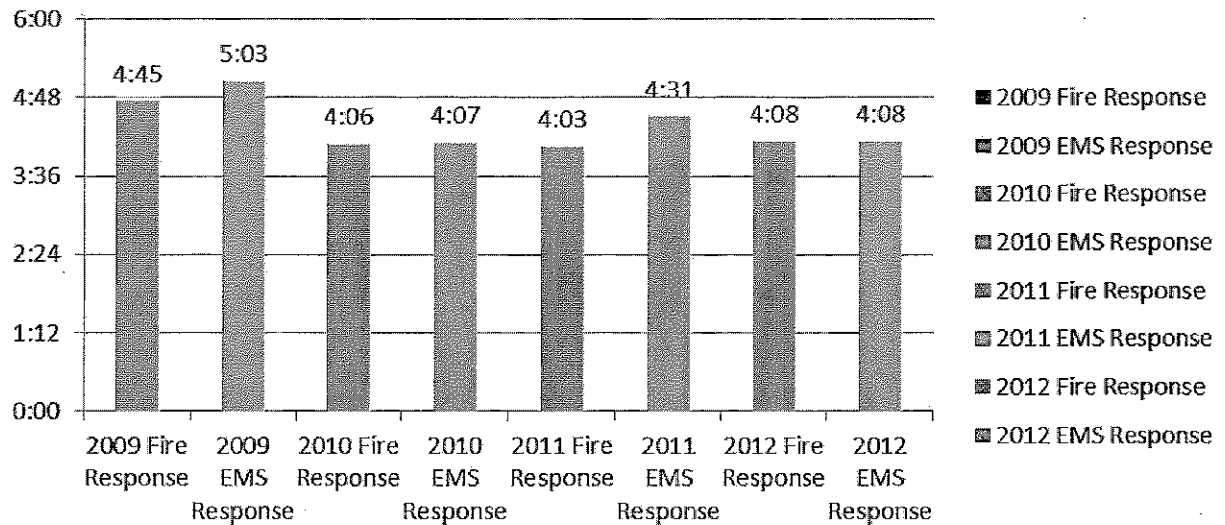
- Both fire departments have taken the lead on the development of coordinated Emergency Operations Plans (EOP) for both villages.
- Both villages now have their EOP's loaded on the DuPage County Emergency Management Program (CEMP) server.
- Soon representatives from either village will have access to the CEMP's for Clarendon Hills and Hinsdale.
- Outdoor warning sirens for both villages have been placed on the same radio frequency for remote activation. SWCD can now activate the outdoor sirens in both villages at the same time. As a back-up each fire station has the same remote capability.
- Emergency Management Coordinators are now working together to try and develop joint Emergency Operating Centers (EOC). These joint EOC's might be used when or if an incident covers or affects the resources of both villages. Doing this could create more efficiency and better delivery of emergency services to the residents of both villages.

FUTURE PROJECTS

- In the future we are looking into the possibility of having both villages amend their building and fire prevention codes so that they can be as similar as possible. This will be a big project and the estimated time to achieve this is unknown at this time.
- The two (2) Fire Chiefs are currently looking at various equipment and vehicle inventories to see if any equipment can be shared and possibly vehicles shared in some way. Right now the Hinsdale FD is in the process of possibly purchasing a new Engine to replace two (2) older engines. This would reduce their fleet by one vehicle. We are also looking at purchasing a new Heavy Duty Rescue Squad in Clarendon Hills in 2016 and providing space in this vehicle to place various pieces of specialized equipment that could be utilized by both departments.

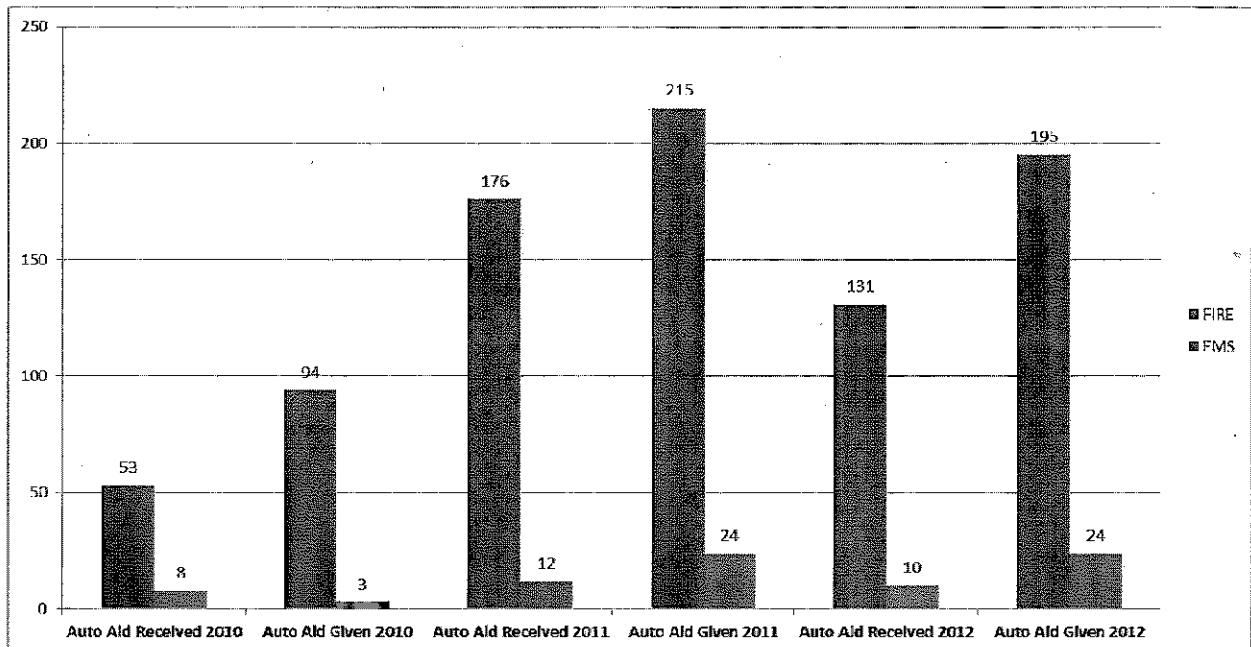
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Average Response Time in Minutes



AREA FIRE DEPARTMENT AVERAGE RESPONSE TIMES

<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>FIRE</u>	<u>EMS</u>
Hinsdale	4:06	4:06
Tri State	5:00	4:30
Westmont	4:46	4:25
Oak Brook	4:51	3:51
Average	4:44	4:08





Editor [Joe O'Donnell](#) joe.odonnell@patch.com



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Government

Trustee Opposing Police Merger: 'I'd Like to Keep My Police Station in this Village'

Clarendon Hills village trustee Ed Reid voiced opposition to the proposed Hinsdale-Clarendon Hills police merger at Monday night's Clarendon Hills Village Board meeting.

By [Joe O'Donnell](#) | [Email the author](#) | January 24, 2013

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While several [Clarendon Hills](#) trustees seemed open to the fact the Hinsdale-Clarendon Hills police merger may not happen, only one voiced clear opposition to further exploring the idea.

Trustee Ed Reid made a motion Monday night to cease all work on the merger after he said its potential financial benefits are not worthwhile, its potential structure is a source of stress for officers, and its support in Springfield is waning.

Reid's motion was defeated, 5-1.

"I can see outsourcing a finance department, maybe a public works department, even," Reid said prior to his motion. "I think when you outsource a police department, it seems odd.

"I don't consider it out of the ordinary for me to say I'd like to continue to have my own police department in my town."

While commending Village President Tom Karaba for his work on an ambitious, "Daniel-Burnham-esque" project, Reid said the roughly \$350,000 to \$400,000 that the village's staff has said would be saved each year with a consolidated department is not enough to sway him.

He calculated that the average household in Clarendon Hills would see \$118.72 in savings each year.

"For \$118.72, I'd like to keep my police station in this village," Reid said.

Reid agreed with trustee Allan Alongi that the ongoing negotiation and research has left Clarendon Hills officers in a state of limbo. Though the village has said no layoffs would come directly from the merger, Reid said other parts of the job are subject to change.

"There are pay issues, there are issues of retirement benefits, a whole host of issues that effect a person's employment," Reid said. "This has been in their head for two years. It's a difficult situation to operate under."

Officials from both villages have said that the dropping of Social Security benefits for Clarendon Hills officers has been the biggest hurdle in negotiations with the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP).

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

Clarendon Hills Police Chief Ted Jenkins addressed the morale of the officers during Monday's meeting.

"They'd like to see this thing solved one way or another, but in the end they're troopers and they do their job," Jenkins said.

The FOP's support for the merger is seen as important to the fate of legislation in Springfield that would allow the villages to pursue the unprecedented merger. Officials from both villages **visited Springfield last March** in an attempt to get out of committee the bill sponsored in the House by Patti Bellock and in the Senate by Kirk Dillard.

An FOP objection kept the bill from advancing then, and Reid said he takes that the fact that it hasn't resurfaced since to mean it doesn't have a whole lot of support in the General Assembly.

"I feel they don't want to do this," Reid said. "I feel we're being told no."

Karaba said the bill has only been considered once in Springfield and that it was unrealistic to expect it to be acted on during the fall veto session because of the other business that was going on then, such as the pension debate.

Reid's motion Monday showed that the other five trustees are not ready to abandon work on a merger entirely. Paul Pedersen, the board's finance committee chair, sounded support for continuing work on the merger.

"I do want to keep this as an option to us because I think our village's financial position isn't going to be as strong going forward," Pedersen said. "We need to find something that's a relatively big-ticket item—a double or triple instead of a bunch of singles."

Neither the Clarendon Hills or Hinsdale village boards approved placement of a merger-related, Bellock-supported referendum on the April 9 ballot this week. Officials from both villages had a negotiation session with FOP representatives Tuesday and hope to hold another session next month.

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and I don't want to tie my anchor chain to a larger sinking ship

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I do not know the right answer to this, but to Ed's point, it seems very odd to not have a police station in Clarendon Hills.. part of feeling like a small town is having a connection to your police department. I never liked moving it to the outer limits of Clarendon Hills. Maybe we are not Mayberry after all..but that was certainly was one of the reasons we decided to move here 20 years ago. The bigger point is what an incredible waste of money building that existing police station if we do consolidate. We were all promised that selling that old building would be easy. That lot sits empty today in the center of town. Looking forward, if consolidation is inevitable, we need to be mindful of that for future project considerations.

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Government

Police Merger: Social Security Benefits 'Big Hurdle' in FOP Negotiations

Clarendon Hills officers currently pay into Social Security and receive Social Security benefits when they retire, a practice that would have to change if consolidation happens.

By [Joe O'Donnell](#) | [Email the author](#) | January 23, 2013

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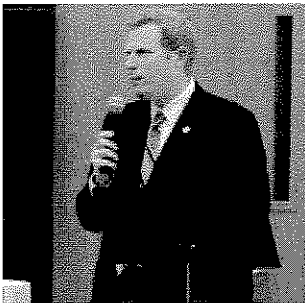
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Determining retirement benefits for officers serving a proposed Hinsdale-Clarendon Hills consolidated police department, and particularly how they would differ from those currently received by Clarendon Hills officers, is the biggest challenge in merger negotiations that resumed Tuesday between the two villages and the Illinois Fraternal Order of Police (FOP), officials from both villages say.

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, and Clarendon Hills officers continue to contribute today.

[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 legally be allowed to offer Social Security benefits.

"Our current understanding is that Social Security would not be an option for the merged department," Recklaus said.

Reaching compromise on Social Security, and therefore on a general merger agreement with the FOP seen as important for the passage of needed state legislation, is not proving easy.

Hinsdale village manager David Cook said Tuesday, after participating with Recklaus in the latest negotiation session, that researching the Social Security issue and finding possible solutions is taking some time.

There are other items still to be negotiated between the villages and the FOP, Cook said, "But there's no question [Social Security] is the big hurdle."

The FOP represents patrol officers only, but all Clarendon Hills officers, including the chief and his sergeants, pay into Social Security and receive those benefits.

Clarendon Hills Chief Ted Jenkins, who is also participating in negotiations along with Hinsdale Chief Brad Bloom, declined to give a personal opinion on the Social Security issue.

"At this point my job is to look at the feasibility of consolidating the police department with Hinsdale and not so much how it effects me personally," Jenkins said. "We're trying to negotiate this contract with the bargaining unit. That's our focus right now."

Jenkins and Recklaus said that though the Clarendon Hills department is in the minority of departments that have the Social Security benefit, there are

other local departments that opted-in in 1983, including those of Addison, Burr Ridge, Countryside and Westmont.

Recklaus said that, if a compromise was reached and current Clarendon Hills officers dropped Social Security participation, they would get some Social Security benefits upon retirement based on money already paid. But those benefits, Recklaus said, would be proportionally less than those they officers would receive if they continued paying into the system because some of the benefits are determined by factors other than the amount employees have deducted from their paychecks.

For the sake of private negotiations, Recklaus said he did not want to discuss what offers have been and could be proposed that would prompt the FOP to drop the Social Security benefit for Clarendon Hills officers.

"Aside from laying out the problem, I don't want to get into potential solutions," Recklaus said.

It's a challenge, the village manager said, but Tuesday's session did not result in the determination that the merger wasn't feasible—the villages are aiming for another negotiation session in early February—so Recklaus hasn't given up.

"It's something that we're working through in good faith with the union and we'll see if we can find a solution for everyone involved," Recklaus said before reflecting on the difficulty of the entire process of merging departments, which officials say could save both villages significant money in the future.

"There's a reason nobody has ever done this before in the state."

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The Doings Clarendon Hills

Meeting fails to settle issues on Hinsdale/Clarendon Hills police merger

BY KIMBERLY FORNEK | Kornek@pioneerlocal.com January 23, 2013 12:22PM

Updated: January 23, 2013 3:02PM
HINSDALE

A meeting Tuesday between representatives of both Hinsdale and Clarendon Hills and the police officers failed to satisfy concerns regarding a potential merger.

One thorny issue in the police consolidation discussion is the fact that Clarendon Hills police officers, unlike Hinsdale officers, have been paying into Social Security, in addition to their police pension, for the past 30 years. In 1983, the Hinsdale Police Department left the Social Security system when the federal government offered the opportunity to do so.

When they retire, employees of the Clarendon Hills Police Department will be entitled to Social Security benefits, such as disability and survivor benefits, in addition to their pension, Hinsdale Police Chief Bradley Bloom said.

Village officials are exploring how they could compensate the Clarendon Hills officers for their reduced benefits should the merger take place.

But Social Security benefits are beyond the scope of a collective bargaining agreement, Bloom said. And any contract between the villages and the police officers will be for a limited period of time, while Social Security benefits are expected to be for life.

"They want the same guarantees they have under Social Security," Bloom said.

Cauley is strongly in favor of merging the two departments, believing it's in the best interest of both villages, in that "it keeps the same level of public safety and saves our communities substantial money. This is the only (place) where we could save close to \$500,000 as a village without affecting the level of service," Cauley said.

The savings would come because a consolidated department would have one police chief, one deputy chief and three sergeant positions.

Yet, the salaries of Clarendon Hills police officers would increase about 8 to 10 percent to match the Hinsdale police officers' salaries, Cauley said.

Still, he realizes that the 14 officers in the Clarendon Hills Police Department are "a close-knit group," who may think a merger would mean Hinsdale taking over their department.

"There is always the perception that one is taking over the other," Cauley said.

The villages tried to address that upfront. The plan was for the cost of operating a merged department would be split between the two villages according to a formula based on population and the number of calls. But the consolidated police force would be governed by a joint committee consisting of the same number of representatives from each town.

"Hinsdale would not have the deciding vote," Cauley said. "It would be a partnership of equals."

The contracts of both Hinsdale and Clarendon police officers expire April 30.

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Government

Police Merger: Patti Bellock Says Referendum Idea Came From Residents

The state representative who sponsors legislation in the Illinois House that would make the merger possible said she heard support for a referendum from Citizens for Clarendon Hills and other community members.

By [Joe O'Donnell](#) | [Email the author](#) | January 22, 2013

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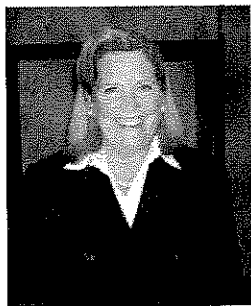
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State Rep. Patti Bellock (R-Hinsdale) said Tuesday she would continue to work on legislation that would clear the way for a Hinsdale-Clarendon Hills police merger even after the [Clarendon Hills Village Board](#) voted Monday night against the placement of a Bellock-supported advisory referendum on the April 9 ballot.

READ: [Police Merger: Clarendon Hills Board Says No to April Referendum](#)

Bellock said the idea for a referendum came from her constituents. She had a meeting last year with members of Citizens for Clarendon Hills (C4CH), a resident group who opposed the merger without a referendum, but said support for the idea came from more than just one group.

"It wasn't just from them," Bellock said of C4CH. "There were some other citizens who called concerning a referendum also."

She said the referendum idea was "just a suggestion" and that she, as the House-originating bill's sponsor, would continue to work on the legislation.

"We're just trying to move forward to make it a bill that we can pass," Bellock said.

The state representative said that Clarendon Hills Village President Tom Karaba and Hinsdale Village President Tom Cauley both said they would support the referendum during a meeting with Bellock over the holidays.

Karaba, a supporter of the exploration of consolidation, said Monday he would vote to place the referendum to accommodate Bellock's request but didn't support it in principle.

"If that's what it takes to get this done, I'll vote for it," said Karaba, whose vote was not needed because trustees voted 5-1 against the referendum.

Karaba said after Monday night's meeting he thinks Bellock's support of the referendum was a political move.

Bellock disputed that notion, saying she simply wants to make sure the residents of Hinsdale and Clarendon Hills are on board before an unprecedented proposal such as the police merger goes forward.

"It was nothing political, it was just an answer to constituents in both communities," Bellock said.

The [Hinsdale Board of Trustees](#) meets Tuesday night and [the same referendum question remains an agenda item](#) as of 11:35 a.m. However,

Hinsdale village manager Dave Cook said it is likely to be pulled from the agenda in light of Monday night's Clarendon Hills vote.

Clarendon Hills village manager Randy Recklaus said in a Jan. 17 memo to village trustees that a "critical stage" has been reached in the villages' negotiations with the Illinois Fraternal Order of Police (FOP), the union that represents patrol officers in both Hinsdale and Clarendon Hills.

FOP support is important, Recklaus said, to get Bellock's legislation beyond the committee stage in Springfield, where it's been since last year. The FOP objected to the bill when local officials presented it to the House in March.

The two sides are meeting Tuesday, the memo said, and the sticking point has been officer wages and benefits.

"It's conceivable that we'll discover the project is not feasible in the next couple of days," Recklaus said.

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Government

Police Merger: Clarendon Hills Board Says No to April Referendum

The referendum was requested by state Rep. Patti Bellock, who has sponsored House legislation that, if passed, would allow for the merger.

By [Joe O'Donnell](#) | [Email the author](#) | January 21, 2013

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Related Topics: [Clarendon Hills Village Board](#), [Election 2013](#), [Elections](#), [Hinsdale Police](#), [clarendon hills police](#), and [police merger](#)



A request by the sponsor of the Hinsdale-Clarendon Hills police merger legislation that the villages gauge public opinion via a referendum this spring did not get the support of [Clarendon Hills](#) trustees Monday night.

The Clarendon Hills Village Board voted down Monday night the placement of an advisory, non-binding referendum question on the April 9 municipal election ballot that would have asked voters if they'd support the merger, a move village officials say state Rep. Patti Bellock (R-Hinsdale), the sponsor of House legislation that would clear the way for the merger, has pushed for since a meeting with the local officials over the holidays.

"In the event that the Clarendon Hills Village Board determines that it is a legally viable option, and that it is to the Village's financial benefit to do so without adversely impacting public safety," the proposed question would have read, "shall the Village of Clarendon Hills consolidate its Police Department with the Police Department of the Village of Hinsdale, to form a Consolidated Joint Law Enforcement Department that serves both the Village of Hinsdale and the Village of Clarendon Hills?"

Only trustee Paul Pedersen voted to place the referendum on the ballot. Allan Alongi, Paul Flood, Ed Reid, Steve Wallace and Mary Williams voted against placing the referendum that would ask residents about a project that is still being negotiated and that still needs state legislation to be passed allowing for it.

The board held another vote to place a modified referendum that would remove the qualifying language at the beginning regarding the legal viability and financial benefit, and all but Wallace voted no.

The deadline for municipalities to approve referenda for the April 9 ballot is Tuesday. As of Monday night, the Hinsdale Board of Trustees is scheduled to vote on placement of the same original question.

The villages of Clarendon Hills and Hinsdale are still in negotiation with the Illinois Fraternal Order of Police (FOP), the union that represents officers in both police departments, so exact cost savings have not been released by the villages.

And until the FOP is on board, Recklaus said, it will be difficult to pass the Bellock-sponsored state legislation that would give the two villages the power to consolidate departments if they so choose.

Alongi said that because the financial benefits and the legal status are still not known factors despite the [villages original hopes to have legislation in place by the end of 2012](#), and because it seems Bellock's support appears to need some bolstering, he did not support the April

referendum.

"This referendum question is appropriate when we have our ducks in line, not when we're in the middle of fighting for the ducks," Alongi said.

Said Reid, a trustee who opposes the merger in general, "The referendum has a certain vagueness to it that the whole process has in my mind."

Village President Tom Karaba, a strong supporter of the exploration of consolidation, said he did not support the referendum in principle, but would vote for it to accommodate Bellock's request.

"I am totally opposed to the referendum," the village president said. "You're not voting on anything. You're voting on, is it a good idea? Well of course it's a good idea. But that doesn't solve the problem.

"The good idea is only a good idea if there is substantial savings, if there are good, strong controls so that we don't lose our autonomy. All those questions are not answered yet and won't be answered necessarily when this goes to referendum."

But shortly after, Karaba said of the referendum, "If that's what it takes to get this done, I'll vote for it. It's not important enough to me to stop the process simply by a referendum question."

Karaba's vote, only used in tiebreak situations, was not needed Monday night.

Citizens for Clarendon Hills (C4CH) steering committee member Eric Stach, one of three unopposed village board candidates this spring, was one of several resident speakers Monday and said the group felt the qualifying language about the merger's legality and financial benefit might inappropriately steer voters to answer a certain way.

"That language is not a neutral question; that language is not nonbiased," Stach said.

C4CH, a group that opposed home rule in 2012, sent a message to those on its email list last month that said the group did not support the police merger because of a lack of information provided by the village and the lack of a referendum component.

Stach said members of the group's leadership met with Bellock last fall and expressed these concerns directly to her.

Even if it did get board approval, it's possible the referendum wouldn't have stayed on the April ballot if discussions with the FOP scheduled this week don't go well.

According to a Jan. 17 memo from Recklaus to trustees included in Monday's agenda packet, officer wages and benefits have been the sticking point in the discussions with the FOP. The union is expected to meet with Hinsdale and Clarendon Hills officials on Tuesday.

The memo said, "FOP has indicated that if a settlement is not reached on wages and benefits, they will be unable to remove their opposition to the proposed legislation in Springfield."

The village manager said Monday night that, referendum-talk aside, "It's conceivable that we'll discover the project is not feasible in the next couple of days."

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- Meeting set on Hinsdale-Clarendon Hills police merger
- Police department merger would make history

Updated: January 21, 2013 9:26PM

CLARENDON HILLS — Social Security may be the death of a merger of police departments for Hinsdale and Clarendon Hills.

That's because personnel in the Hinsdale department quit paying into Social Security when the federal government offered a one-time opt-out in 1983, while Clarendon Hills police continued paying into the system.

That is one of the contract-related issues to be discussed at a Tuesday meeting with the Fraternal Order of Police, the organization that represents officers in both departments.

"The Social Security issue is a big hurdle for this issue of a merger," Clarendon Hills Village Manager Randy Recklaus said. "We're definitely at a critical state in negotiations."

Recklaus said village staff has been looking into options that would allow for Clarendon Hills officers to be compensated for what would be lost to them in Social Security benefits if the departments merge. A merger would result in a new contract for all officers of the new department and would not include Social Security contributions.

The Clarendon Hills Village Board voted Monday against placing an advisory referendum on the April 9 ballot. The Hinsdale Village Board is scheduled to vote on the same measure Tuesday night.

"We don't know enough at this point to hand it to the community and ask what they think," Clarendon Hills Trustee Mary Williams said.

The advisory referendums were requested by state Rep. Patti Bellock, R-47th, of Hinsdale. Bellock was the chief sponsor of legislation to eliminate obstacles for police departments in Illinois to merge.

The possible Social Security roadblock isn't new, Recklaus said.

"We've been working on this Social Security issue for months," Recklaus said. "We have had several conversations with the Social Security office, but there have been a lot of unknowns."

Hinsdale and Clarendon Hills first announced Oct. 27, 2011 that they were engaged in discussions about a possible merger of police departments in an effort to save money.

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Hinsdale Village Board also steps back from merger referendum

By KIMBERLY FORNEK | kfornek@pioneerlocal.com January 22, 2013 10:56PM

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Updated: January 22, 2013 11:59PM

HINSDALE — The Hinsdale Village Board chose Tuesday not to discuss putting an advisory referendum on the April ballot asking voters if they support consolidating the Hinsdale and Clarendon Hills police departments.

The board was scheduled to consider a resolution to proceed with the advisory referendum, but Village President Thomas Cauley, Jr. asked the item be removed from the agenda, because the Clarendon Hills Village Board voted Monday against a referendum.

The idea of asking voters' opinions on the police consolidation question came up at a meeting earlier in January with state Rep. Patti Bellock, R-47th, and Clarendon Hills officials and residents, Cauley said.

"I thought if Clarendon Hills was going to have a referendum, we would too," Cauley said, although he is not sure that the complexity of a merger is suitable for a single question, albeit non-binding, on the ballot.

Clarendon Hills officials said it would be premature to ask for voter input as more information is needed on the proposed merger.

Following their lead, the Hinsdale Village Board neither voted, nor discussed the police merger and possibility of a referendum Tuesday.

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Updated: January 22, 2013 1:50PM

CLARENDON HILLS — Clarendon Hills resident Donald “Taps” Gallagher will talk about the book he co-authored, *Stolen Glory*, at 2 p.m. Jan. 26 at the Clarendon Hills Park District Community Center, 315 Chicago Ave.

Gallagher’s presentation is sponsored by the Clarendon Hills Historical Society. Admission is free.

Stolen Glory, released July 27, 2012, is about the historic Sept. 9, 1972 Olympic Gold Medal basketball game between the United States and the Soviet Union.

Gallagher will talk about the book and its story — how the gold medal was taken, as many believe, from the U.S. team.

In the game, the U.S. team appeared to have secured a 50-49 victory. However, the Soviet team was awarded three opportunities with the ball in the final 3 seconds because of direction from an official of the International Basketball Federation. On the third attempt, a Soviet player scored the winning basket, while knocking down a U.S. player in a 51-50 decision.

To this day, the 12 silver medals declined by the American team lay unclaimed in a storage room maintained for the Olympic Museum in Lausanne, Switzerland.~

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The Doings Hinsdale

Hinsdale-Clarendon Hills District 181 adds security measures

BY CHUCK FIELDMAN | cfieldman@pioneerlocal.com January 25, 2013 8:22AM

Updated: January 25, 2013 8:22AM

BURR RIDGE — District 181 is implementing a few changes in hopes of making school buildings safer, following the December school shootings in Connecticut.

Along with the addition of a double-buzzer building entry system that will be required for visitor entry in to all school buildings, the number of lockdown drills completed during each school year has been increased from one to three in each building.

A unified communication system, which will improve communication during emergency situations, is to be installed. And there will be additional staff training.

These changes were suggested in a recent report, School Safety in District 181, completed by The Hinsdale-Clarendon Hills Elementary District 181 Safety and Crisis Committee.

That group, which is made up of school personnel along with representatives of police and fire departments from Hinsdale, Clarendon Hills and Burr Ridge, meets on a monthly basis.

"We are always discussing ways to keep our students, teachers and staff as safe as possible," Superintendent Renee Schuster said.

Each of the district's nine school buildings hosted a lockdown drill in the fall. After deciding earlier in January to increase the number of those drills, The Lane School had another lockdown drill Jan. 15. It was not announced in advance to all school personnel; parents were made aware of it via email about an hour before it took place.

"It went exceptionally well," Schuster said. "We want to make sure that everything is working properly. We want our students and teachers to practice lockdown drills so that knowing what to do becomes automatic and the students learn to do what the adults tell them to do."

The planned double-buzzer building entry system will be installed in each building as soon as possible, Schuster said.

Currently, to gain entry into District 181 school buildings, visitors walk into a building through an unlocked door and must be buzzed into the school office to sign in.

The new system will require visitors to be both buzzed into the school buildings and again into the office. Cameras will be installed so that office staff can see who is seeking entry into the building before buzzing.

"That slows the process down of people coming into the buildings," Schuster said.

She said the District 181 Board also will consider the purchase of systems for each building that allow for the scanning of drivers licenses of visitors and issuance of a printed visitor's pass sticker. Hinsdale Central uses such a security system.

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Address: 427 Ogden Ave.

Phone number: 630-654-8900

Hours of operation: 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday-Friday; 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday

Updated: January 22, 2013 7:46AM

CLARENDON HILLS — Colin Fuller is still excited about the auto repair/tire business he and his family opened nearly 10 months ago in Clarendon Hills.

The Fullers have been operating an auto repair business in Hinsdale since 1946, Colin, 37, started working there when he was a teenager.

When Fuller's Tire Center opened last April on Ogden Avenue, it put life back into a vacant building that previously had housed Dragos Auto Service.

"I definitely thought there would be more foot traffic here faster, but things are continuing to get better all the time," Fuller said. "This building had been empty for a while, but people are starting to realize that we're here. I'm definitely happy that we opened here."

Along with selling tires, Fuller's Tire Center takes on any type of mechanical repair needed.

"About the only thing we really don't do is body work, unless it's something very basic," Fuller said. "Oil changes are the biggest business for us, and we do a lot of repairs, too."

Repair work is done on the likes of brakes, exhaust, electrical systems, and air conditioning, along with maintenance.

"Tires sales are getting bigger all the time, but you can't really make much money on that; the mark-up is very small," Fuller said.

With so many options available in the area when someone needs an oil change, brakes, or repair work done on their vehicle, good service is the key to developing good business, Fuller said.

"It's all about service," he said. "Everyone can change oil and do brakes. You have to do everything you can to give your customers great service, and we always work to do that."

Fuller said he is well aware that many people have little or no trust of those doing mechanical work on their vehicles.

"People are very skeptical because they worry about being told something needs to be fixed when it really doesn't, or that they're going to be charged more than they should be," he said. "You have to earn trust from people. We show them as much as we can and explain what we're doing and why it needs to be done."

Fuller said it's also very important to stand behind the work done at his business.

"Everyone makes mistakes; the key is how you react to the mistakes you make," he said. "We want people to be satisfied with the work we do. The best compliment is when they come back when they need something else done, or tell others about us."

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6		7 7 p.m. – Village Board Meeting -- CANCELLED	8	9	10	11 9 a.m. – Fire Pension Bd. Mtg.	12
13		14 7 p.m. Special Events Committee meeting	15	16 9 a.m. – Chamber meeting	17 7:30 p.m. – ZBA meeting - CANCELLED	18	19
20 Inauguration Day		21 5:30 p.m. – Police Pension Bd. Mtg. 7 p.m. – Village Board Meeting	22	23	24	25 C. H. Bank – Drivers License Mobile Unit – Board Room	26 Noon – 3:30 Historical Society Program VOCH Board Room
27		28	29	30	31	Notes:	

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◀ Jan 2013	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1	2
3		4 7 p.m. – Village Board mtg.	5	6	7 6 p.m. – Village Board Room in use by library	8	9
10		11 7 p.m. – Special Events Comm. Mtg. – Board Room	12	13	14	15	16
17		18 Presidents' Day Village offices closed Board meeting rescheduled to February 19th	19 7 p.m. – rescheduled village board meeting	20 9 a.m. Chamber	21 7:30 p.m. - ZBA	22	23
24		25	26	27	28	Notes:	