



Village of Clarendon Hills Trustee Topics

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February/March 2014



Spring Home Maintenance Checklist

Too many homeowners believe spring maintenance is all about the cleaning. Sure, spring cleaning comprises a big chunk of any spring home maintenance schedule, but maintenance aimed at various structures, appliances, and systems within the home is, arguably, just as important. Nearly all homeowners love to see spotless windows for that first sunny, 70-degree day, but you can't forget your roof and the possibility that ice dams formed over the winter. Indeed, just as much as that first spring day should provide an excuse to go for a hike or a picnic, it should also provide a reminder that your outdoor spring maintenance is waiting. Follow this spring maintenance checklist to ensure your home is in optimal condition for the rest of the year.

- **Gutters and downspouts.** Pull leaves and debris from gutters and downspouts. Reattach gutters that have pulled away from the house. Run a hose on the roof and check for proper drainage. If leaks exist, dry the area and use caulking or epoxy to seal the leak.
- **Siding:** Clean siding with a pressure washer to keep mold from growing. Check all wood surfaces for weathering and paint failure. If wood is showing through, sand the immediate area and apply a primer coat before painting. If paint is peeling, scrape loose paint and sand smooth before painting.
- **Exterior caulking.** Inspect caulking and replace if deteriorating. Scrape out all of the eroding caulk and re-caulk needed area.
- **Window sills, door sills, and thresholds.** Fill cracks, caulk edges, repaint or replace.

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Message from the President and Board

Dear Neighbors,

As we begin another new year I wanted to take the opportunity to reflect on some of the challenges we've faced over the last year, and look forward to the opportunities that can be embraced in the coming year. In April the Village faced unprecedented flooding. Many of us faced difficulties, but we were more fortunate than many neighboring communities. Through a series of studies undertaken after this event, the Village Board has increased its understanding of why flooding occurs in the various neighborhoods. Possible improvements to our storm water system and ordinance changes will be discussed as part of the Village's budget process this spring.

This past year has also seen a renewed focus on our downtown. A volunteer driven effort to develop a new Downtown Master Plan began this year. Eighteen volunteers and Village staff are looking at the economic, design, and land use aspects of our downtown

to develop a new plan for what is possible, to serve as a guide for decision makers as they modify Village zoning codes and priorities in downtown over the coming months.

This year, the Village received the first new downtown development proposal it has received since the 2008 economic downturn. The development would create eight new upscale condominium units on the corner of Park and Prospect to bring new life to a vacant lot. I believe this project will greatly benefit our community. The added living space will bring more people directly into the downtown area to shop and eat. Additionally,



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Downtown Master Plan Update

Since hosting its Community Kick-Off meeting last April, the Downtown Master Plan Steering and Subcommittees have been hard at work researching and devel-

oping an update to the Downtown Master Plan that better addresses the new economic reality effecting the downtown. In addition to regular night meetings, the 21 subcommittee volunteers have hosted multiple community meetings and workshops.



The result of their work thus far is a greater understanding of what the community wants for its downtown. Their work, which includes draft land use concept and design concept plans, can be found on the Village's website at www.clarendonhills.us/downtownplanning.cfm. Of course, this is just the beginning....

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Spring Checklist

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- **Window and door screens.** Clean screening and check for holes. If holes are bigger than a quarter, that is plenty of room for bugs to climb in. Patch holes or replace the screen. Save bad screen to patch holes next year. Tighten or repair any loose or damaged frames and repaint. Replace broken, worn, or missing hardware. Wind can ruin screens and frames if they are allowed to flap and move so make sure they are securely fastened. Tighten and lubricate door hinges and closers.
- **HVAC.** Have your furnace and air conditioner professionally cleaned. Don't forget that dirty filters cause your air conditioner to work harder, increasing energy costs and potentially causing damage to your equipment. Be sure to check your filters monthly
- **Foundation.** Check foundation walls, floors, concrete, and masonry for cracking, heaving, or deterioration. If a significant number of bricks are losing their mortar, call a professional. If you can slide a nickel into a crack in your concrete floor, slab or foundation call a professional immediately.
- **Roof.** Inspect roof surface flashing, eaves, and soffits. Check flashings around all surface projections and sidewalls.
- **Deck and porches.** Check all decks, patios, porches, stairs, and railings for loose members and deterioration. Open decks and wood fences need to be treated every 4-6 years, depending on how much exposure they get to sun and rain. If the stain doesn't look like it should or water has turned some of the wood a dark grey, it may be time to paint or re-stain.
- **Landscape.** This is a natural for spring home maintenance. Cut back and trim all vegetation and overgrown bushes from structures. Limbs and leaves can cut into your home's paint and force you to have that side of the house repainted. A little trimming can save a lot of money and time.
- **Sprinklers.** Check lawn sprinkler system for leaky valves, exposed lines, and improperly working sprinkler heads. If there is an area of your yard that collects too much water or doesn't get enough, run the sprinklers to figure out the problem. If it's not something you can fix yourself, call a professional before your lawn needs the water.

Sometimes small projects turn into larger undertakings, when this happens, you may want to consider contacting the building department to see if and when a permit is required...

Downtown Master Plan Update

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First, there are many more opportunities for residents, business and property owners to get involved. In addition to the open sub-committee meetings, there are two special meetings coming up in February:

On February 5 at 7 pm, the DTMP Economic Development Subcommittee will be hosting a Panel Discussion to review the economic viability of the draft long range land use and design concept plans developed over the past 10 months. The four panel members are seasoned professionals having experience with retail, mixed use and downtown redevelopment programs. Their comments will be used to refine and complete the proposed revised master plan for the Village.



COMMUNITY VISION FOR ITS DOWNTOWN

Encourage downtown public and private investment providing that such investment protects or creates: evolving/gradual change; small town charm; more retail choices; unique draw or destination; services for local residents; family friendly atmosphere; safe pedestrian; circulation; and active living; photogenic, vibrant, progressive, self-sustaining pleasant spaces.

inspire future public and private public space designs within the downtown planning area.

Later in March, the subcommittees will be presenting their findings and recommendations to the Village Board. If found acceptable, the Village Board will forward the newly drafted Downtown Master Plan back to the Plan Commission for public hearing review. The public hearing will not likely occur until April or May at the earliest. During the hearing, the general public will again have an opportunity to comment and provide feedback about the draft planning document.

The Plan Commission can request changes to the draft document or forward it back to the Village Board as is with a recommendation for approval and adoption.

As one might see, community involvement has been a priority throughout this planning process. In doing, the results should be a successful plan that should guide us long into the future.

Please contact Village Community Development Director, Dan Ungerleider, if you have any questions or would like to learn more.

On February 11 at 7 pm, Legat Architects will be conducting a workshop to develop illustrations of our downtown public spaces based on our current downtown master planning discussions. The resulting street-level illustrations could be displayed throughout the downtown in preparation for the comprehensive plan public hearings and later be incorporated into the final documents to



Message from the President and Board

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the new development will make the entire area a more attractive place for businesses and will help efforts to fill vacant storefronts.

Innumerable hours have gone into the careful planning process for this development to ensure that it reflects the true character of our community. The process has been extremely open with thorough public discussions over every aspect of the project, and plans have been revised several times based upon valuable feedback. The developer of the project, Mike Van Zandt, is also a resident of Clarendon Hills. He is making a sincere effort to invest back into the community.

However, a significant obstacle to the Village's plans for redeveloping the downtown area has recently arisen in the form of a lawsuit that has been brought against this project. Two of our neighbors do not agree with the efforts of the Village Board to carry out our duties. The lawsuit claims that the Village did not properly follow required processes and therefore the entire development should be prevented.

Innumerable hours have gone into the careful planning process for this development to ensure that it reflects the true character of our community.

Attorneys for both the Village and the property owner believe this lawsuit has no merit and will do everything within their legal authority to fight it. I believe this lawsuit was filed with the sole purpose of scaring off the developer, and not out of any legitimate concern about process. While there is always room for citizens to disagree on any issue; two residents should not be able to prevent the rest of the community from moving forward on such an important matter simply because they disagree with the decision made by the community's elected leaders. The Village believes this lawsuit will cost the taxpayers about \$75,000 to defend, and will likely delay the implementation of the project. However, the Village's resolve to improve downtown Clarendon Hills will not be lessened in the face of this frivolous lawsuit, as I believe we will ultimately prevail.

Here's to a prosperous and productive 2014!

Sincerely,
Village President
Tom Karaba

Village Board approves 2013 Tax Levy

In December the Village Board approved the 2013 tax levy. Property taxes are one of several revenue sources that fund core operations, such as police protection, fire protection, public works, general administration, retirement pensions and liability insurance.

The Village bases the tax levy on the prior year's levy, which can only be increased by the consumer price index and growth of the overall tax base (new construction). The 2013 levy is \$3,603,051. Based on the estimated total equalized assessed value of the Village, that results in a projected tax rate for 2013 of 0.7410, an increase of 0.0101 over the prior year.

The owner of a \$500,000 market value

home whose home value increased by the estimated 1.5% is estimated to pay \$1,213 to the Village, compared to \$1,174 the previous year. However, the change in the tax rate does not directly correlate to an increase in individual property owner's tax bill as the value of certain properties may increase or decrease relative to others.

The Village accounts for approximately 12 percent of a Clarendon Hills tax bill. School districts, DuPage County, and other units of local government make up the rest.

The tax levy is only a portion of the Village's overall financial picture. It is currently beginning to plan for the Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Process. The Fiscal Year begins May 1, 2014.

Reminders

2014 Safe Routes to School Public. The Village of Clarendon Hills invites comments from the public about our applications for the Safe Routes to School projects. The Village is working with Clarendon Hills Middle School, Prospect Elementary School, Walker School, and Notre Dame School to apply for funding under the Illinois Department of Transportation's Safe Routes to School Program for infrastructure improvements that increase safety and encourages students walking or bicycling to school. Visit www.clarendonhills.us for more information.

Special Events Committee Vacancy.

The Village invites interested and engaged residents to apply as a volunteer member of the Special Events Committee. This committee plans all aspects of our very popular Dancin' in the Street summer concert series. Social media skills with applications such as Facebook and Twitter are a plus. If you are interested in applying please provide a short letter of interest with some brief information about your background and why you would like to volunteer. For more information or to submit your letter of interest please contact Village Manager Randy Recklaus at rrecklaus@clarendonhills.us.

Online Payments Now Accepted. You can now purchase your Village vehicle sticker online and Blue Dot parking pass, as well as pay your water bill and parking tickets online. The service is offered through the Illinois e-Pay service using your MasterCard, Discover, American Express or electronic check. Go to www.clarendonhills.us to access the Village's e-Pay web page, hosted by the Illinois State Treasurer.

Business Expansion:

Vintage Confections
27-29 S Prospect Avenue
312-945-6559
vintageconfections.com
facebook.com/vconfections





Trustee Topics

Village of Clarendon Hills
1 N. Prospect
Clarendon Hills, IL 60514

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

ENHANCED CARRIER ROUTE PRESORT
POSTAL CUSTOMER
CLARENDON HILLS, IL 60514

Community Schedule | February/March

Monday, February 3

Village Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

Monday, February 17

President's Day, Village Offices closed

Tuesday, February 18

Rescheduled Village Board Meeting,
7 p.m.

Thursday, February 20

ZBA/Plan Commission, 7:30 p.m.

Monday, March 3

Village Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

Monday, March 17

Village Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

Thursday, March 20

ZBA/Plan Commission, 7:30 p.m.

Selected Village Board Actions Nov - Jan

Passage of Ordinances: (1) providing for the levy of taxes on properties located within Special Service Area Number 25; (2) amending two ordinances regarding Special Service Area No. 25 to correct a scrivener's error; (3) approving the 2013 estimated property tax levy for the fiscal year beginning May 1, 2013 and ending April 30, 2014; (4) authorizing the abatement of certain taxes levied for year 2013; (5) amending the Village Code to include a new chapter regarding hobby beekeeping; (6) amending the Village Code to decrease the number of available Class J Liquor Licenses (All Wined Up) and (7) Amending the Village Code regarding a special use in the O-R Office-Research Zoning District for a medical cannabis dispensing organization facility.

Adoption of Resolutions: (1) approving amendments to Sections 13.3 and 14.4 of the Village's Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual; and (2) approving an amendment to the contract between the Village and The Gasaway Company to resume sidewalk snow removal in the central business district; and (3) supporting a Grant Application to the Illinois Department of Transportation for two Safe Routes to School Program projects.

Authorization to: (1) Execute a purchase order for a replacement ambulance, declare the old ambulance as surplus and dispose of the surplus ambulance either by eBay auction or trade-in; and (2) purchase trees from the Suburban Tree Consortium for spring planting in the Village.

Contact

Village Board of Trustees

Village President

Tom Karaba 630-286-5420

Trustees

Don Knoll 630-286-5421

Edward Reid 630-286-5422

Eric Stach 630-286-5423

Paul Pedersen 630-286-5424

Paul Flood 630-286-5425

Steve Wallace 630-286-5426

Village Clerk

Dawn Tandle 630-286-5403

Contact the Village

Village Hall: 630-286-5400

Finance - Press 2

Building - Press 3

Administration - Press 4

Fax: 630-286-5409

Public Works: 630-286-4750

Non-emergency:

Police: 630-286-5460

Fire: 630-286-5430

Randy Recklaus, Village Manager

Peg Hartnett, Finance Director

Michael Millette, Public Works Director

Dan Ungerleider, Comm Dev Director

Ted Jenkins, Police Chief

Brian D. Leahy, Fire Chief

Community Numbers

Park District: 630-323-2626

Public Library: 630-323-8188



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www.clarendonhills.us/subscribe.cfm