



Village of Clarendon Hills Trustee Topics

February 2015/March 2015

Message from the President and Board

Dear Neighbors,

I hope everyone had a great holiday season. I'm happy to report that our Public Works department has worked tirelessly during the holidays to keep our streets and sidewalks clear and safe. The Police and Fire departments also continue to serve us around the clock to keep our community safe. These men and women deserve our thanks for the time they commit away from their families to keep our Village running, especially during the holidays.

In other news, the Village Board soon will be hiring a new Village Manager. By the time this reaches your mailbox, I hope that we will have an announcement. As many of you know, the Village Manager acts as the CEO of the Village, managing operations while, we, the volunteer board work our day jobs. Marty Bourke has served us well as Interim Manager during our brief transition.

In May we will have a new President and as many as four new Board members. While this much change can be challenging, I'm excited to see all of the new ideas the new Board and President will bring. I also have faith in our Village Staff to continue to provide quality services in a cost effective manner. I am very hopeful for our community's future and know we will continue to work together to progress and evolve.

Sincerely,

Tom Karaba
Village President

Village Locks in More Electric Savings

The Village of Clarendon Hills established a municipal electric aggregation savings program in 2013 following the passage of a voter referendum authorizing the program. The purpose was to help residents purchase electricity at rates lower than ComEd, and it was very successful: the average participating household will have saved over \$285 on their electric supply versus the ComEd default rate, for a community-wide savings of \$680,000 by the end of the program's two-year term which previously expired on February 2015.

The Village sought bids last fall for a renewal program, but declined offers as the rates were higher than ComEd rates. Since the first of the year, however, the electricity price market has dropped to new 12-month lows. The Village therefore was able to extend the program for an additional three months through May 2015 at the rate of 6.8¢ per kWh, a savings vs. the ComEd price to compare which floats between 7.072 and 8.072¢.

Current program participants will receive a notice of the extension in the next week and need to take no action to receive the lower rate. Residents will continue to receive bills through ComEd. Residents are also free to look for their own contracts through independent suppliers. However, when seeking independent suppliers take care to read the fine print, as many contracts contain escalator clauses or high opt-out fees.

The base ComEd rate is re-set several times a year. The rate beginning June 1, 2015 is yet unknown. The Village may or may not seek competitive bids to renew the program before that time.

The Village took advantage of competition in the de-regulated electric market when it contracted the initial aggregation program rate in 2013. Electricity prices increased sharply in 2014, in large part due to an increase in capacity charges as established by State regulators, as well as last winter's "polar vortex." Since January 1, 2015, there has been a sharp drop-off in electricity pricing, thus the Village took advantage of the lower prices to enable residents to save versus the ComEd rate.

Residents with questions about the three-month extension are invited to contact the Village's consultant, NIMEC at 800-727-3820. (When calling NIMEC, please leave your call back number and you will be contacted within 1 to 24 hours.) Or contact Zach Creer, Assistant to the Village Manager at (630)286-5402 or zcreer@clarendonhills.us.

Quick Facts

-Since the program began the community has saved \$680,000 by locking in rates below the ComEd rate.

-Current extension is for three months.

-Residents should experience no changes in service, all billing and transmission (wires) are still owned and controlled by ComEd.

-The Village will continue to bid out the proposal to seek lower rates than the ComEd rate.

Reminders

Refuse Contract Reminder

As a reminder, refuse stickers are no longer required for extra bags of garbage or extra cans.

Concert Sponsorships Available

The Village's Special Events Committee has sponsorship opportunities available for the 2015 Dancin' in the Street summer concert series. Sponsorships are available at various levels to meet your needs, and are a great way to advertise your business and to give back to the community.

Concerts will run for six consecutive Wednesdays, beginning June 19 and ending July 24. The concerts are organized by the Village's Special Events Committee, which volunteers their time to plan and run the concerts, which are enjoyed by many in the community each year.

For more information about sponsorship opportunities, contact Zach Creer at zcreer@clarendonhills.us or 630-286-5402 to reserve your sponsorship spot or to learn more.

Electronics Recycling

Beginning January 1, 2012, electronics item were banned from Illinois landfills (Public Act 97-0287) from all sources under penalty of law. The closest location for electronics recycling is below:

Downers Grove Township Highway Department - 3rd Saturday of each month (except holiday weekends) from 8:00 a.m. to noon at 318 E. Quincy St., Westmont, (630) 719-6625

Prescription Drop Off

For your safety and the safety of the environment, the Police Department (448 Park Ave.) allows anyone to drop off any unused medications with no questions asked (during office hours of Mon-Fri 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.).

Emerald Ash Borer Update

This spring, the Village will continue to treat its public Ash trees with a commonly used insecticide in an effort to prevent the spread of Emerald Ash Borer. EAB was confirmed in the Village in 2011 by the Illinois Department of Agriculture.

Ash trees are marked with a silver tag. Residents with trees scheduled for treatment will be notified in advance.

As part of the Village's management plan, trained Public Works staff will again conduct soil drenching with a commonly used pesticide, Imidacloprid, which goes by the brand name "Merit" produced by Bayer Advance. The treatment will take place in April and May.

Imidacloprid is a widely used multipurpose insecticide that can be purchased at local hardware stores and has been shown in some cases to help prevent the spread of EAB. Even with the treatment, however, it may still be necessary to remove dead, dying or dangerous Ash trees throughout the parkways.

The Village currently has about 450 Ash parkway trees. Approximately 450 trees were

treated last spring at a cost of approximately \$8,000.

Because Merit is a widely available product, residents also have the option to treat ash trees on their private property in a similar manner. Treatment of more trees would help to deter the spread of EAB.

More information about EAB and Imidacloprid is available on the Village's website, www.clarendonhills.us/emeraldashborer.cfm. Contact the Public Works Department at 630-286-4750.

Do you have an Ash Tree?

Residents may have ash trees on their property that are susceptible to Emerald Ash Borer. Residents are encouraged to be familiar with the types of trees on their property. Check with a certified arborist or landscape professional to identify your trees. However, you may have an ash tree if your tree has the following characteristics:



- It has an opposite branching pattern (two branches come off the main stem, one on each side and directly opposite each other)
- Has compound leaves (a group of leaflets joined by a stalk to a woody stem)
- Has 5 to 9 leaflets with smooth or finely toothed margins

Residents should monitor any remaining Ash trees on private property for signs of infections. Infected trees will have D-shaped hole, but may not have any other symptoms until heavily infected. Infected trees are likely to die within a few years without treatment and can be dangerous for anything underneath them.



Sponsor your Planter Today!

This year the Village is again offering the opportunity to sponsor planting beds in downtown Clarendon Hills. Sponsorship includes a planter bed of your choice, plaque with inscription, and watering and maintenance through the summer. Large planters are \$375, medium planters are \$325 and small planters are \$275. Donations may be tax deductible depending on your tax situation. Locations are available on a first-come, first served basis. For more information, locations and Planting Partners form, visit www.clarendonhills.us or contact Vicki Pries at vpries@clarendonhills.us or 630-286-5401. Reserve your planter today and help bring beautiful color to downtown Clarendon Hills all summer long!

Continued on Page 3

FY 2016 Budget Workshop Announced

The Village Board of Trustees will hold a budget workshop for the Fiscal Year 2016 budget will be held Saturday, March 21, 2015, beginning at 8:00 a.m. in the Police Department training room. The Workshop gives Trustees an opportunity to review and discuss the proposed budget for the coming fiscal year, as well as the ten year capital plans.

Over the past several months, Village staff have reviewed anticipated revenues and expenditures for Fiscal Year 2016. Again this year, staff focused on cutting expenditures in order to present a balanced budget to the Board.

Village Board will review the proposed expenditures at the workshop to ensure the outlined budget meets with the Vil-

lage's needs and priorities. Copies of the draft budget will be available for public review online at www.clarendonhills.us, at the Village Hall and the Clarendon Hills Public Library.

As the Village started last year, Staff also will provide a simplified budget in brief document that is more user friendly than the

The budget is the single most important policy document for the Village and represents the goals and priorities of the Village for the next fiscal year.

Questions regarding the budget or budget process may be directed to the Finance Director Peg Hartnett at 630-286-5415 or phartnett@clarendonhills.us.

Around Town

Preschool Registration Open

The Clarendon Hills Park District's Active Learners Preschool, 315 E. Chicago Avenue, is currently accepting registration for the 2015-2016 program year. Fall "Terrific Threes" classes for three-year-old students will be held on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings, while the "Fantastic Fours Pre-K" program will meet on Monday, Wednesday and Friday afternoons. All activities at the Clarendon Hills Park District's Active Learners Preschool emphasize an early love of learning, skill development, positive self-esteem, kindergarten readiness, new friendships and fun. Kathy Forzley, the Director of the Clarendon Hills Park District's Active Learners Preschool, welcomes inquiries and is more than happy to schedule a visit with prospective preschool families. She can be reached at the Clarendon Hills Park District Community Center, 630-323-2626.

Daddy Daughter Date Night

Daddy-Daughter Date Night returns to the Clarendon Hills Park District on Friday, February 20 with a Wild West theme. Girls ages 4-10 and their dads will enjoy crafts, dancing, appetizers and desserts between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m.. Giddy up and grab your favorite cowboy and cowgirl hats and western clothes for a night out on the town. This event takes place at the Community Center, 315 E. Chicago Avenue, and has a \$40.00 fee per couple. Dads on a double date (more than one daughter attending the program) will pay an \$8.00 fee for each additional daughter.

Advance registration is required. For more information, please call the Clarendon Hills Park District at 630-323-2626.

Schedule Your Block Party

With spring approaching, now is the time to start thinking about submitting block party requests.

The Village makes every effort to accommodate requests. However, neighborhoods are encouraged to plan early in order to avoid conflicts.

Permits are required to close a street for a block party. As a reminder, there is no fee for a block party permit. Block party applications are available on the lower level of Village Hall or on the Village website, www.clarendonhills.us/administration.cfm.

We Want to Hear from You!

New Trustee Topic Poll

Starting this month, the Village will have a monthly poll asking the community for their input on a variety of issues. The Village will use this information to inform decision making and get a better understanding on where residents stand on different issues. The next Trustee topics will have a new question and provide results from the previous question. There are three ways to answer the poll:

Go to the Village Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/VillageofCH>

Twitter Account:

<https://twitter.com/VillageofCH>

Website:

www.clarendonhills.us.

The question for this issue is:

The Village is considering having an adirondack chair painting contest throughout the Village, would you be interested in participating?



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 2nd

Village Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

Monday, February 17th

Village Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

Thursday, February 19th

ZBA/ Plan Commission 7:30 p.m.

Monday, March 2nd

Village Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

Monday, March 16th

Village Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

Thursday, March 18th

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

VILLAGE BOARD ACTIONS – DECEMBER/JANUARY

Appointments: (1) Adam Stasica was appointed to the Special Events Committee; and (2) Vicki Pries was designated as the Village's Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Officer. (3) Chad Johnson was appointed patrol officer (4) Jordan Smith was appointed patrol officer.

Passage of Ordinances: (1) approving the 2014 estimated property tax levy and the 2014 estimated property tax levy for Special Service Area Number 7 for the fiscal year beginning May 1, 2014 and ending April 30, 2015; (2) providing for the abatement of portions of the tax levy for fiscal year 2014; (3) amending the Village Code regarding open burning; (4) authorizing the Police Department to sell two court-awarded vehicles by eBay auction; and (5) authorizing the Public Works Department to sell a surplus bucket truck by eBay auction.

Adoption of Resolutions: (1) authoriz-

ing the execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Villages of Clarendon Hills and Hinsdale regarding shared Fire Department services; (2) approving an Agreement with the TLC Group for snow removal services in the central business district; (3) approving a contract with AIS, Inc. for the purchase of a custom built server, accompanying system software, and installation; and (4) approving an amendment to the Engineering Services Agreement with Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd. for the 2013 Road Improvement Program.

Authorization to: (1) issue a raffle license to the Hinsdale Central Baseball Club for a raffle to be held on March 22, 2016; and (2) purchase a replacement Fire Department staff vehicle.

Contact

Village Board of Trustees

Village President:

Tom Karaba 630-286-5420

Trustees

Don Knoll 630-286-5421

Eric Stach 630-286-5423

Paul Pedersen 630-286-5424

Paul Flood 630-286-5425

Ken Hall 630-286-5426

Village Clerk

Dawn Tandle 630-286-5403

Contact the Village

www.clarendonhills.us

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

Village Manager: Martin J. Bourke

Director of Finance: Peg Hartnett

Director of Public Works:

Michael Millette

Directory of Community

Development: Dan Ungerleider

Police Chief: Ted Jenkins

Fire Chief: Brian D. Leahy

Community Numbers

Park District 630-323-2626

Public Library 630-323-8188