

TRUSTEE TOPICS

www.clarendonhills.us

March / April 2017

Message from the President -

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

Isn't it nice that we are starting to see economic development in our downtown again? The 88 Park Avenue Condo development construction has benefited from a warm winter. The Walker Avenue Development completed their utility work, with construction expected to start this Spring. While we lost two of our businesses downtown at the end of last year, I am hearing there is a lot of interest in those properties as well as the other vacant properties. Our Village's downtown retail stores don't have the benefit of large numbers of vehicles passing by, so they have to be unique and create a product that local citizens are loyal to and people from other communities seek out. We as a Village need to be extra business friendly to keep old businesses and recruit new businesses. Much of the effort of our Community Development Department is to speed up the permit process and work with businesses to minimize regulatory costs. In partnership with the Chamber of Commerce, the Village works to increase events that get people downtown. I am excited to announce the Chamber is planning a Farmer's Market for this spring. With increased residential development downtown, we look forward to adding new residents and customers to the market. Overall, I believe things are headed in the right direction and that ultimately the improving market will fill the retail space.



Village President
Len Austin

Our biggest project for this new year is exploring ways of improving the train station. A recent facilities study showed that the station needs a lot of maintenance work. We are concerned about the appearance of our current station, the landscaping surrounding the station and the need for more covered space for commuters headed into the City of Chicago. We would also like better drop off areas for commuters on both sides of the tracks and room for more bicycle parking. The Village Board and I will of course be cautious with the amount of money we spend. We are hopeful that we can obtain grants to defer some of the cost on local taxpayers. Go to Clarendonhills.us/train station for up-to-date news and additional progress updates.

On Wednesday, February 15th, I was invited to attend Governor Rauner's budget address in Springfield. The speech included some positive proposals concerning local revenues. The Governor is not proposing any reduction in the Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF) and is recommending full funding for Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) distributions in FY2017. Governor Rauner restated his previous support for a permanent property tax freeze. The speech also discussed school funding, possible revenue increases and the package of budget and reform bills introduced last month in the Illinois Senate. A new Tier 3 pension plan is being proposed for state employees and teachers. A number of the other proposals are similar to those the Governor introduced last year and has been proposing since he assumed office. These reiterated policies include an expansion of various aspects of public safety and correctional services, human services, veterans' affairs, public health and transportation infrastructure.

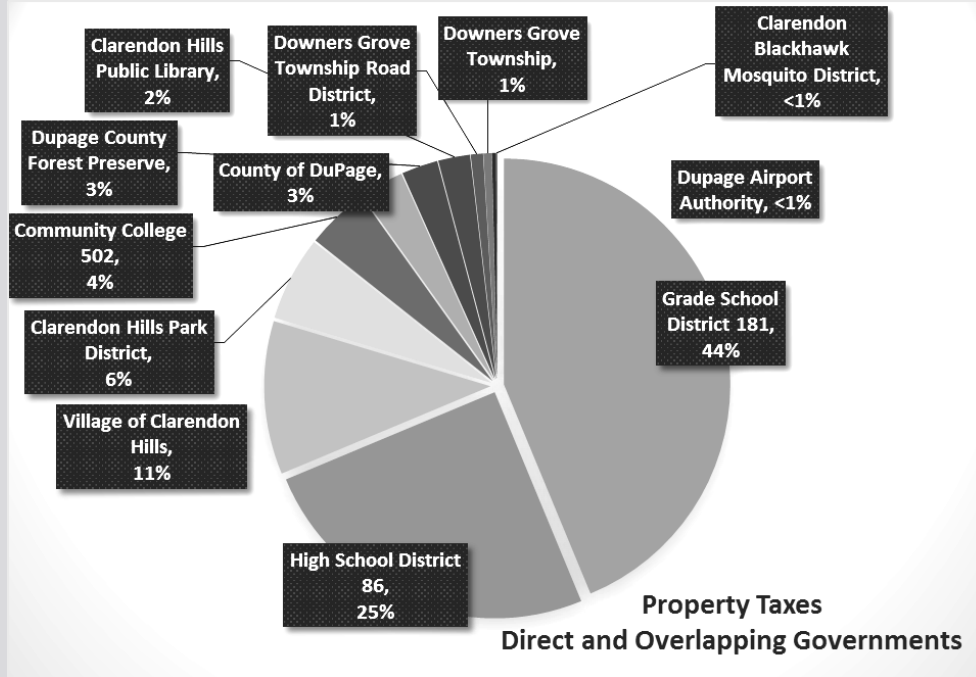
I was hosted in Springfield by the DuPage Mayor's and Manager Conference that arranged private meetings with the architects of the "Grand Bargain", Senate Majority Leader John Cullerton and Minority Leader Christine Radogno. I expressed to both of them my gratitude in their efforts to re-instill confidence in our state by creating a budget that is real and balanced.

Enjoy Spring Break, and the improving weather. I look forward to seeing you all around town.

Len Austin
Village President

Understanding Property Taxes

One of the top comments we get on our annual survey is to keep property taxes low. The Village of Clarendon Hills portion is only 11% of an average property owner's real estate tax bill. For that 11%, the Village provides road maintenance, plowing services, storm water system maintenance, police services, fire protection, ambulance services, and various miscellaneous services such as building permits, zoning oversight, and special events. As the chart below illustrates (for residents in District 181, though other areas would see very similar results), the remaining 89% supports the various school districts, along with smaller contributions to the park district, DuPage County, and Downers Grove Township.



Tax Levy: Property taxation can be confusing. Every year, each taxing district levies a set amount which is divided between each parcel within each district. To add to the confusion, the property taxes that you paid in 2016 were for what is called the "2015 Tax Levy Year". The Tax levy is what individual governments have direct control of. In Clarendon Hills, the Village is limited to increasing the levy by the consumer price index (CPI), plus any additional new construction. This year the Village Board voted to only increase the amount for the new construction which, all things being equal, effectively freezes Village taxes for existing homeowners.

Assessed Value: Every three years, each property is assessed by the Township Assessor in an effort to determine that property's value. The Assessor allows each property owner to appeal the assessment, which can then be appealed to the County, and eventually to the State. The equalized assessed value (EAV) is the assessed value divided by 3 for residential properties.

Tax Rate: The tax rate is the result of dividing the tax levy (the amount set by each taxing district) by the EAV (the value estimated by the Township) and multiplying that number by 100. It is the common factor applied to a property's billing value to determine their tax contribution. Given the aforementioned EAV and the recommended tax levy, the Village's 2016 tax levy rate (exclusive of the Library) is estimated to be 0.7371, a decrease of 0.0247 from the prior year.

The estimated increase in the Village's 2016 EAV would be the third increase since the 2014 levy after the overall EAV declined in levy years 2010 through 2013. The following is a five year history of the Village's tax rates and assessed valuations:

Tax Levy Year	Year	EAV	Tax Rate
2016	Calendar Year 2017	500,245,058	0.7371
2015	Stub Year 2016	494,185,193	0.7618
2014	Fiscal Year 2016	457,578,882	0.7809
2013	Fiscal Year 2015	453,437,001	0.7687
2012	Fiscal Year 2014	463,340,982	0.7309

Tax Bill: The actual bill for each resident is the tax levy multiplied by the EAV (less any exemptions) of their property. How much a resident pays depends on how much each taxing district raises taxes, how much growth (or shrinkage) in equalized assessed value all properties have had in the district, and if the property has been reassessed this year. Because of the tax cap, the amount tends to fluctuate mostly from changes in the total EAV of all properties and if the individual's property has been reassessed. To add to the confusion the effects of any reassessment do not take place until the second property tax bill.

Around Town

Board Meetings

March 6th at 7 PM
 March 20th at 7 PM
 April 3rd at 7 PM
 April 17th at 7 PM

ZBA/Plan Commission

March 16th at 7:30 PM
 April 20th at 7:30 PM

Public Works Open House

SAVE THE DATE!!!!
 May 19th from 2 PM - 6 PM
 452 Park Avenue

www.clarendonhills.us

Library

Belle's Book Party (Ages 3-7)
 March 18th at 10 AM
 Registration Required
Meet Princess Belle, share a story, do a craft and take your picture with her!

www.clarendonhillslibrary.org

Park District

Pool Passes
 March 13th Season Pass Registration for Lion's Park Pool starts at the Community Center located at 315 Chicago Ave.

Spring Fling for Seniors (50+)
 Tuesday, April 4th Noon to 2 PM
 Lunch at the Community Center
 Registration required at 630-323-2626

Easter Egg Hunt (Ages 3-12)
 Friday, April 14 10:45 AM
 Prospect Park and CH Middle School
 Free - Bring your own basket

www.clarendonhillsparkdistrict.org



Village Hall Closed

Weekdays from Noon to 1 PM for lunch.

Understanding Property Taxes (Continued)

EXAMPLE 2016 LEVY YEAR PROPERTY TAX BILL

Based on a home value of \$500,000 in Clarendon Hills, taxes paid to the Village in 2016 would decrease by \$27 to \$1,197. This estimate assumes an increase of 1% in the property's EAV from one year to the next and a residential exemption of \$6,000.

	Actual 2015 Tax	Estimated 2016 Tax (1% increase in EAV)
Average Sale Value [A]	\$500,000	\$505,000
Equalized Assessed Value [A/3=B]	\$166,667	\$168,333
Residential Exemption [C]	(\$6,000)	(\$6,000)
Billing Value [B-C=D]	\$160,667	\$162,333
Tax Rate/\$100 of Assessed Value [E]	\$0.7618	\$0.7371
Property Tax Paid to the Village [DxE/100]	\$1,224	\$1,197

If you have further questions, please feel free to contact the Director of Finance, Maureen Potempa at 630-286-5414.

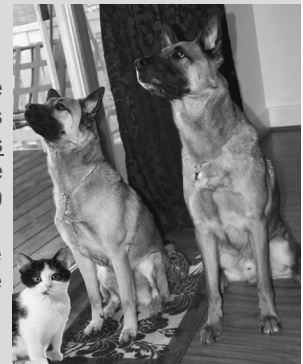
Coyotes

Coyotes have been seen in Clarendon Hills at times. Thankfully, attacks on humans are extremely rare, but residents with small pets should supervise their pets when they are outdoors especially at dawn and dusk. Keeping food and garbage out of reach is helpful, as well as keeping yards clean of debris which can be a source for hiding dens.

Find out more on our website at www.clarendonhills.us/coyote

Annual Reminders

Animals: All residents are required to have a Village Animal License for all cats and dogs more than 4 months old. You must present a current certificate of rabies inoculation from a veterinarian in order to obtain the license. New residents must obtain a pet license within 30 days of moving to the Village. The License fee to be paid annually is \$15 for each dog and cat. The annual license period begins **July 1st** of each year and ends on June 30th of the next year.



Vehicles: Residents are required to purchase a village sticker for each vehicle they will have housed in Clarendon Hills (*Toy cars excluded*). The stickers can be purchased beginning **May 1st** of each year. The annual license period begins July 1st of each year and ends on June 30th of the next year. New residents must obtain a Village Sticker within 30 days of moving to the Village.

Passenger Car \$40, Motorcycle \$30, and Seniors (62+) 50% off. An additional 50% late fee will be added to stickers purchased after July 1st.

Trustee Topics

Village of Clarendon Hills

1 North Prospect Avenue
Clarendon Hills, IL 60514

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

Spring Cleaning

Spring is upon us and gives most of us the urge to take care of some household cleaning prior to enjoying our summer days.

Yard Cleanup usually includes not only grass clippings but weeds, leaves and other brush. These items should be placed into biodegradable paper bags or bins clearly marked "Yard Waste". Tree trimmings should be tied into bundles no larger than 4 feet long and 18 inch in diameter. Each bin, bag or bundle requires a Yard Waste Sticker. You can purchase these stickers at the Village Hall, Clarendon Hills Hardware or the Jewel-Osco on 55th Street. Yard waste pickup begins with the April 4th pickup.

Large Bulk Items (Items that don't fit in your can) can be set out on regular refuse pickup day, but only one large item each week without a refuse sticker. Additional items would require a sticker each or arrange a special pickup for multiple items by contacting Republic Services at www.republicservices.com or 630-964-3232.

Hazardous Waste items requires special care and is not acceptable in your weekly refuse pickup. Household Hazardous Waste facility in Naperville (1 of 4 statewide) is open and available to all residents of Illinois. They are located at 156 Fort Hills Drive, Naperville. Contact (630) 420-6095 for more information.

Acceptable items: Aerosol cans
Automotive fluids (including oil, gasoline and anti-freeze)
Asbestos materials (in a size that will fit in a 55-gallon drum and not in excess of 50 pounds)
Batteries (including automotive, marine and sump pump)
Fire extinguishers
Flammables
Fluorescent bulbs, CFLs (sealed, unbroken only)
Household cleaners, drain openers and pool chemicals
Mercury
Paints and stains (oil-based only)
Peanut oil
Poison, pesticides and fertilizers
Non-controlled prescription and over-the-counter medications
Propane tanks (20 pounds)
Solvents and strippers
Thermostats

Contact Us

Village President:

Len Austin 630-286-5420

Village Trustees:

Don Knoll 630-286-5421

Greg Jordan 630-286-5422

Eric Stach 630-286-5423

Carol Jorissen 630-286-5424

Paul Flood 630-286-5425

Don McGarrah 630-286-5426

Village Clerk: (Tues & Fri AM)

Dawn Tandle 630-286-5403

Village Hall: 630-286-5400

Finance Dept.: Press 2

Building Dept.: Press 3

Administration: Press 4

Public Works: 630-286-4750

Non-Emergency:

Police: 630-286-5460

Fire: 630-286-5430

www.clarendonhills.us

Community Numbers:

Park District: 630-323-2626

Public Library: 630-323-8188

Online Transaction Safe

Zone Location:

Police Station (448 Park Ave.)

Find Recent Village Board Actions at

www.clarendonhills.us/AgendaCenter

March / April 2017 Trustee Topics