



VILLAGE OF CLARENDON HILLS

TRUSTEE TOPICS

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September/October 2019

Message from the President

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

With summer in the books and school back in session, I wanted to take a moment and thank the community for what has been an outstanding season. Between Dancin' in the Street being packed with neighbors, your cooperation as we complete the Road Improvement Program, the recoating of the Burlington Avenue Water Tower and the continued planning of the Downtown Revitalization Project, it has been a fun and productive summer.



Village President
Len Austin

On Saturday, August 10th the Village Board met for its biannual Goal Setting Session. A lot of important issues were discussed, two which I want to bring special attention to: small cell sites (for 5G wireless technology) and tax increment financing districts (TIFs).

Over the next few years our Village will have to work with cell carriers to help them deliver 5G service to residents of Illinois. Our part involves administering the permitting process of these sites. The sites, which most likely will look like long aluminum poles coming up from the ground, will be on the parkways, typically on corners throughout the Village. While I think we are all looking forward to faster internet service on our mobile devices, legislation passed in Springfield has taken away our ability to regulate the sites in terms of their height and their location. These poles may change the makeup of our parkways and we may begin to see quite a few of them within the next couple of years. We are not unique in that this lack of local-control was decided by the Federal Government and Springfield while the communities of the State are left to figure out how to operate within their parameters.

Secondly, the Village Board further discussed creating a (TIF) district to support business development in our Downtown. TIFs, short for Tax Increment Financing, work by designating an area (the district), setting a "base" property tax value to properties within the district, and reinvesting any increase beyond the "base" value into improvements for the district. Taxing bodies, including the schools and the Park District, still receive their share by taxing the "base" value of the properties throughout the TIF's lifespan while the increases are used for economic or infrastructure purposes. TIFs are a common tool used by communities. We have had success with our existing TIF on Ogden Avenue, which was used to bring in Infiniti of Clarendon Hills. I believe a TIF will be useful to maintain, renovate, and sustain the character of our Downtown.

Before I sign off I wanted to invite residents to our Recycling Extravaganza taking place on September 14th at Prospect School. See the details within this newsletter. I also want to extend a thank you to the Special Events Committee, Public Works and Police Department staffs who put on another great Dancin' in the Street concert series. With school now in session, please remember to keep your eye on the road and obey the speed limits!

See you around town,

Len Austin
Village President

For questions, contact the Village Hall at (630) 286-5400