

Village of South Barrington

SUMMER
2016

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Village Clerk
Donna Wood

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From Mayor Paula McCombie

I hope you are enjoying the South Barrington newsletter series. The staff and I work together to try to report subject matter that we think will be of interest to you. We welcome your suggestions. If you'd like to see additional information, email me at pmccombie@southbarrington.org or call me at the Village at 847-381-7510. In this newsletter you will find information on taxes, the safety notification system, street parking regulations, rain barrels, bee colony problems, recreational fires, the road program, sprinkler systems and driveway sealants.

We have had numerous concerns from residents on standing water and lakes in regard to mosquitoes and the Zika virus. The government CDC site (www.cdc.gov/zika) states that the Zika virus has been reported in Florida. Even though Zika is not yet a concern in our local environment, we are concentrating on drainage issues throughout the Village and have designated a greater part of the Village budget to work on these improvements.

The Village has installed a monitoring well at the Village Conservancy on Bartlett Road. Since the water that we all use comes from aquifers, this well will show us how our shallow aquifer system is performing. This is done in conjunction with the Barrington Area Council of Governments, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and the Illinois State Water Survey. The water levels of many of the aquifers are decreasing and we are taking a proactive approach to monitor any changes in South Barrington.

We recently received some wonderful news in regard to the recognition of the Village of South Barrington. **We are ranked as the 4th best suburb to live in** out of the top 100 in the State by niche.com. We are truly fortunate to be residents here. I recently traveled to Peru to do volunteer work at an orphanage, and seeing the needs, poverty, and hunger along with unsanitary conditions, I was reminded once again how wonderful it is to live in South Barrington.

If you would like information on upcoming Village meetings and local events at our retail, restaurants or other businesses in town, please go to our web site www.southbarrington.org and open "Village Updates" in the left column. Every week, the Village sends this update to the Homeowners Association Presidents and we rely on them to email it to the residents in their subdivision. If you are not receiving them, please contact your HOA or go to our website.

I hope that you are having a great summer and if you have a suggestion to make your South Barrington life more enjoyable, please call me, email me or visit me. You can also use the drop box by the Village Hall door or bring it in. I am easy to reach, as I work for you as your full time Mayor. Thank you!

Paula



Administrator Bob Palmer

Summer means lots of outdoor activities. For the Village this includes tree care, road improvements and street sign painting – just to name a few. Right now we are evaluating trees, removing dead ones and planning for replacements this coming fall. Tree planting that began last fall is also coming to an end. As a reminder, trees recently planted appreciate your watering help!

Most of the dead trees are the result of the infestation from the Emerald Ash Borer. Even though we treated ash trees again last year, some of the untreated trees continue to decline and will unfortunately need to be removed. The Village has contracted for the removal of these dead parkway trees.

Residents are reminded that under Chapter 6 of the Village Code, Section 4-6-7, that dead, diseased or infected tree on private property are to be treated or removed as the case may call for. Refer to the Village Code on the website for further information regarding the procedures in place.

Your HOA may be interested to know that the Village is notified from time to time by ComEd and the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD) regarding saplings that they make available to a wide variety of community groups– if your HOA is interested please contact me at the Village.

I mentioned that this time of year the Village spends a lot of time on our roadways, but Village roads are not the only roads we have. The Village has basically four different jurisdictions of roadways – State Highways, County Highways, Village Roads and Private Roads. State Highways include Barrington Road, Algonquin Road and New Sutton Road. Cook County Highways include Bartlett Road, Penny Road, Mundhank Road and Freeman Road. All other roads fall under the Village’s jurisdiction with the exception of private roads (for example the roads in the Glen Subdivision and Hidden Lakes are private roads). The Village gets calls from time to time regarding trees to be trimmed or high grass and weeds along State and County roadways. Since these roadways don’t belong to the Village, maintenance is referred to the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) if it is a state highway, and to the Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways (DOH), if it is a county highway. Both the State and County have been very cooperative when maintenance work is requested by the Village.

The Village and the County work together in other areas besides roadways. When issues arise in unincorporated areas that impact the Village, the Village has worked with the County to resolve them. Cook County has jurisdiction over the unincorporated areas in the vicinity of the Village and they have been very helpful when questions from residents arise. For example, where there is a question about a business operation in the County that may have an impact on a residential area in the Village, the County has readily investigated these situations

Different jurisdictions and responsibilities are all part of the suburban fabric of communities. By all working together, the high quality of life can be maintained here in South Barrington.



Police Chief Thomas Roman

Parking on Village Streets: We have had some confusion about parking regulations. South Barrington Village ordinances ban parking on public streets between 1:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. This regulation improves safety and security in the Village by allowing officers to more easily identify vehicles that don’t belong in the area. If you need to park vehicles on the street because of a special event, for example, please call the Police at 847-381-7511 (after business hours call QuadCom Dispatch at 847-428-8784). We’ll put you on our overnight parking list.

Number both sides of your mailbox: Help the Fire & Police Departments find your home in case of an emergency. Please put 4 inch high numbers on both sides of your mailbox.

Police Chief Thomas Roman—continued

9-1-1 Is There for You! Don't ever think twice about calling 9-1-1 if you need a police officer, firefighter or paramedic. I sometimes talk with residents who tell me about something they saw that looked suspicious. When I ask if they called us, they say "No, I didn't want to bother you." You *never* need to worry about bothering us. If you see something that looks suspicious please call 9-1-1 immediately. Our officers are on duty 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. They're trained and equipped to handle these situations. You'll never get in trouble for calling 9-1-1 in South Barrington. Our officers would rather check a situation out and discover everything was okay than miss a chance to keep you and your neighbors safe.

Did You Hear the News? The Village of South Barrington offers a community alert system to provide you with timely safety-related information. These alerts are sent via a recorded telephone message and email. Sign up on the Village of South Barrington website at www.southbarrington.org by using the orange "Sign Up Now" button at the bottom of the page.

We Appreciate Your Kindness: During the past several weeks, the South Barrington Police have been touched by the appreciation we have received from our community. Even before the tragedies in Dallas and Baton Rouge, residents went out of their way to thank us for what we do each day. A number of thoughtful cards, letters and messages came in highlighting just some of the excellent work our officers perform. Delicious lunches were dropped off and countless treats arrived too. We are proud to serve the South Barrington community. With our community and the police working together, we continue to keep South Barrington an outstanding place to live.

REAL ESTATE TAXES

Treasurer Michelle Bodie

You should have received your 2nd installment real estate tax bill in the mail, as well as made your payment by the August 1st due date. Here is some important information about your real estate taxes.

Your property taxes are invoiced and collected by the Cook County Treasurer and distributed to the various taxing agencies listed on your bill. A Cook County Clerk press release on tax rates answered the question of "Where are the lowest tax rates in Cook County?" "Village of South Barrington is 3rd lowest."

The Village's share of your total bill is about 8% depending on where you live. The average total property tax bill for all residents in 2015 was about \$17,500 of which the Village share would be \$1,400. The Village primarily uses these funds to pay for Police and Village services.

The Village President and Board of Trustees approved a balanced budget for the current fiscal year May 1, 2016 – April 30, 2017 with **no increase** over the previous fiscal year.

Be sure you take advantage of all exemptions you are eligible for:

- Homeowner Exemption
- Senior Citizen Exemption
- Longtime Homeowner Exemption
- Home Improvement Exemption
- Senior Freeze Exemption
- Veteran Exemption
- Disability Exemption

Go to cookcountyassessor.com for more information on qualifications and applications for exemptions. If you find that you did not get the Homeowner or Senior Citizen Exemption you were entitled to on this tax bill, you can file a Certificate of Error. The form is available on the assessor's website and can be applied retroactively for up to 3 years.

Next year, the reassessment of your property will impact your 2nd installment tax bill. (The 1st installment is 55% of this year's total bill.) The Village does not have any input on your assessed value and fully supports your right to seek a fair assessment value. If you think your reassessment is too high, you should call your Township Assessor's office to get information on your valuation.





Village Engineer
Natalie Karney

Coal Tar and other driveway sealants with high PAHs are linked to cancer, so the Village prohibits its use. There are safer alternatives. Contractors are required to apply for a license from the Village prior to placement of the product. Ask for a copy of their license before you hire them. You can call the Village for the list of contractors that have received their licenses.

FREE Rain Barrels are available until December 31, 2016 through an MWRD (Metropolitan Water Reclamation District) program. The order form and instructions for installation are on our website, but I would welcome a call about these as well.

2016 Road Program: Prior to determining which roads to include in the 2016 program, the Village used the Pavement Maintenance Management System which provided a Pavement Condition Index number for each road. This system not only looks at the visual appearance and condition of the road surface, but also reviews the original construction data, age, drainage and previous improvements. Based on this analysis, a 5 year maintenance program was developed which will be updated each year upon inspection of all the roads. This year's program addressed some of the roads that had the lowest rating. These included Witt Road, Beacon Hill Drive, Windsor Court, Farmington Drive, Pembury Way, Ashford Court and Wellingborough Court. Also included in the program was patching at various locations, a watermain extension, culvert and drainage repairs. The contractor for this year's program was Schroeder Asphalt Services. Note that not all the above activities are done at the same time. For example, other patching is done after the main road resurfacing is completed. Crack sealing will be done in the fall.

Residents are encouraged to call and to notify us of any road damage, potholes or deteriorated street culvert crossings. We will inspect and evaluate these areas for necessary repairs.



Building Officer
Michael Moreland

Recreational Fires: Sitting around a recreational fire with family and friends is an enjoyable evening; however, risks exist. Burning wood & charcoal is only permitted in fireplaces, cookers, BBQ ovens, and chimeneas. Open burning of trash, debris, branches, and yard waste is prohibited.

Enjoy and Stay Safe:

- Do not build a fire during dry or windy conditions
- All fires must be in a non-combustible fire container as described above
- Never leave a fire unattended

Lawn Sprinkler Systems in Right of Way and Septic Fields: My responsibilities as your Building Officer take me throughout the Village at different times of the day. One of the distressing things that I have noticed is that many, many residents are over watering their lawns and landscaping. I routinely find sprinkler systems left on causing large ponds of water or streams of water flowing over the curbs and through the gutters. This is a terrible waste of water from the greater aquifer system. We all share the same aquifers that are under significant stress and endangered. I strongly urge all residents to reset their sprinkler clocks and/or heads to reduce the amount of water being used by at least 25%. You will likely find that this reduction in water has little or no detrimental impact on the appearance of your lawn.

Please be advised that it is a violation of Village Ordinance to have sprinkler heads in the Right-of-Way or ROW (the first 22 feet from the back of the curb or pavement edge) and in or near (within 25 feet) of your septic fields. The Village is experiencing a significant deterioration with premature failures of our roads and curbs due to excessive watering in the ROW. Repaving roads 6 to 8 years earlier than expected because of excessive water in the road bed is a waste of your tax dollars with no offset benefits.

(Continued on Page 5)

.....Continuation of Lawn Sprinkler Systems in Right of Way and Septic Fields

Premature failure of your septic field, due to irrigating your lawn, creates a public health hazard and becomes an expensive (\$7,500 - \$15,000) repair for homeowners simply trying to keep their grass green.

When I see a system operating which is not in compliance, I take photographs and send a letter to the owner to remove the non-complying sprinkler system.



WHAT ABOUT THE BEES?

Kristin Bilar is on staff at the Village as our part-time mapping technician. She has a Bachelors Degree in Zoology and an interest in Ecology.

In the winter of 2006-2007, beekeepers noticed unusually high mortality rates in their honey bee colonies. Losses between 30-90% were reported during this time. Honey bees are an important part of the U.S. agriculture industry adding more than \$15 billion in crop value per year. Without honey bees, we would not have foods like almonds, canola (seed), grapes, apples, cherries, blueberries or avocados.

Colony losses have since lowered to 30% per year, but this is still economically unsustainable. Current research has concluded that there is no single unique agent causing declines, but a variety of interacting stressors. These include: pests (parasites), pathogens (viruses and bacteria), fungi, pesticides and toxic chemicals, habitat loss, and changes in habitat quality (poor nutrition). Many of the stressors that are affecting honey bees are also causing declines in native bee and bumble bee populations. Figuring out ways to help honey bees may help bee populations in general.

Purchase plants that have not been treated with pesticides (neonicotinoids especially). Plant native flowers in your landscape that will bloom throughout the growing season to provide food for bees. Ask your landscaper to switch to organic fertilizers and pesticides that do not affect bees. One of the most important things to help the bee population is to reduce the use of broad spectrum insecticides. One popular pesticide used is Sevin which is very harmful to bees. Spread the word to others – every garden counts!

BACOG Water Testing

Pick up your water testing kit at the South Barrington Village Hall
September 26th-30th from 8 am to 4 pm for \$16 each

Drop off your water sample at The Garlands, 1000 Garlands Lane, Barrington
October 5th from 3:30 pm to 7 pm – One day only
Presentation at The Garlands - October 5th at 6:00 pm

Our Town Hall meetings have had great feedback. They will be held at 6:30 pm on the dates below for the remaining subdivisions, but you are welcome to come to any of them. In fact, please come back if you've already attended and bring a neighbor!

| | | | |
|----------------------|--------|--------------------------|--------|
| Farmington Ridge | Aug 11 | | |
| Forest Knoll | Aug 11 | Grey Cliffe | Oct 13 |
| Willowmere | Aug 11 | Preserves | Oct 13 |
| Windemere | Aug 11 | Terra Vita | Oct 13 |
| Glen | Sept 8 | Greensward | Nov 10 |
| Hunters Ridge | Sept 8 | Pheasant Ridge | Nov 10 |
| Barrington Homestead | Oct 13 | South Barrington Estates | Nov 10 |
| Bridlewood | Oct 13 | South Barrington Green | Nov 10 |
| Falcon Lakes | Oct 13 | Coves | Dec 8 |

Village of South Barrington
30 South Barrington Road
South Barrington, Illinois 60010
www.southbarrington.org

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VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER

Free Workshop by Cook County Recorder of Deeds

We are considering hosting a workshop for "Property After Death", presented by the Cook County Recorder of Deeds. This informational workshop will demonstrate how to transfer your home, car, and checking/saving accounts without a will or trust, and how to save yourself and your loved ones thousands of dollars in legal and court fees. Call us at 847.381.7510 if you are interested so we may contact Cook County to schedule it here.

South Barrington Shredding Event



in the back parking lot
of South Barrington
Village Hall – Police Dept.
Saturday, August 27, 2016
9 am – Noon

NO COST TO OUR RESIDENTS

Paper documents must be brought to the event in either paper shopping bags or file size boxes. Limit of 6. NO plastic bags. NO metal clips, plastic sleeves, folders, or binders. NO business waste accepted. Bring ID. Workers will help unload. Paper will be cross-shredded, baled and recycled. For additional information, go to www.swancc.org.

Mayor Paula McCombie can be reached at 847.381. 7510 or at pmccombie@southbarrington.org

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| Village Hall | villagehall@southbarrington.org | Police Chief | troman@southbarrington.org |
| Engineering Dept | nkarney@southbarrington.org | Administrator | rpalmer@southbarrington.org |
| Building Dept | mmoreland@southbarrington.org | Finance Office | mbodie@southbarrington.org |