I hope that you have had an enjoyable summer! The Village has been very busy. Some of the things that we have been working on include the current proposed VA Columbarium, ways to keep your South Barrington Village taxes low, new training for our police department and sustainability initiatives as part of a nationwide effort. We are now recognized as one of the EPA’s top USA green energy municipalities. Also, if you notice unshaven police and other staff during the month of November, note that we are participating in “No Shave” November to raise funds for cancer. Please consider supporting our police department’s effort and help us make a difference. Further information about this is under Chief Roman in this newsletter as well as on our Village website.

We have some serious issues facing us:

1. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has targeted land in South Barrington on Mundhank Road to place up to 50,000 ashes of Veterans and their families which will include funeral processions and honor rifle salutes. A public comment period to express your opinion to the VA is rapidly ending on November 18. Visit the Village website for information.
   a. We have tried for well over a year, without success, to communicate to the VA that we should work together, as partners, to find an appropriate site in our village. We have asked them to work with us to find a more dignified spot in South Barrington for both the Veterans and our residents, but our call for partnership and inclusion has been rejected.
   b. A South Barrington Town Hall meeting will be held on November 7 at 7:30 p.m. to educate and answer questions as well as take comments on this issue. Please RSVP if you plan to attend by calling 847-381-7510. We have included additional information in regards to the Columbarium Cemetery in this newsletter and on our website.

2. Another serious issue we are facing is how to treat the new recreational cannabis law, effective January 2020, and recently signed by Governor Pritzker.
   a. Municipalities must make their decision before January 2020. Some of our neighboring towns are allowing the sale which will provide them with additional tax revenue.
   b. Our Police and Fire Departments are expected to be impacted with additional calls. Please attend our next Board meeting on November 14 at 7:30 p.m. and express your opinion on how we should address this new law in regards to the sale of recreational cannabis products in South Barrington.

We hope to see you soon at Village Hall!

- Thursday, November 7 at 7:30 p.m. for the Town Hall regarding the Columbarium
- Thursday, November 14 at 7:30 p.m. for the Board meeting for comment on cannabis

Thank you.
Paula
A Misguided Way to Honor the Nation’s Veterans

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has proposed building a columbarium in South Barrington to accommodate the remains of area Veterans.

Proposed as a 5,000-niche structure, the site would grow to 50,000 niches over 100 years. The VA has identified a small, 15-acre site at 10 South Freeman Road in South Barrington as its desired location for the Columbarium.

Finding a Better Place for Veterans and Their Families

- South Barrington President and Village Board would be honored to have a Veterans Memorial Columbarium located in the Village, but do not believe this location is a good fit.
- The VA's goal should be to find the **best** location for a columbarium in the Chicago area that exhibits the proper respect, dignity and calm—a place with inspiring surroundings, ease of access and minimal distractions from odor, noise and wildlife.
- Veterans and their families deserve more than what this proposed location offers them.

What Can You Do?

- The VA has issued a Revised Draft Environmental Assessment (EA), which is now open for review and public comment.
- A copy of the revised EA and instructions for contributing public comment by **November 18, 2019** are available at [www.southbarrington.org](http://www.southbarrington.org).
- The Village is hosting a Town Hall meeting regarding the proposed Columbarium on Thursday, **November 7, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.** at Village Hall, 30 S. Barrington Road.

A Problematic Location

The site is problematic for Veterans and their families who seek a quiet, private place of reverence to honor a life of service to the United States. In the immediate vicinity of the parcel of land under consideration are:

- A retired landfill that spews methane gas and leads to a “rotten-egg” smell.
- A residential neighborhood abutting the property, with typical suburban activity, including large-scale mowing and landscaping, children playing outdoors, music, BBQ grills and celebrations.
- A major mixed-use development in the works that includes 1.2 million sq. feet of office space, 60,000 sq. feet of retail, 80,000 sq. feet of conference space, 375 new apartments, 175 new townhouses and a possible 200-room hotel.
- Willow Creek Church, one of the largest places of worship in the U.S., attracts significant traffic, causing considerable backups on nearby roadways.
- The Paul Douglas Forest Preserve, home to large populations of deer and other wildlife that will both affect and be affected by the proposed columbarium.
- A two-lane road with no room for expansion given the landfill and forest preserve.
A Rammed-Through Process

The VA has demonstrated a complete lack of respect for Village Officials, the Community and Veterans:

- The VA has continued to ignore requests to communicate with Village officials and others who have contacted them. The VA has not been transparent in their process. The VA has either not responded, or has miscommunicated when asked for more information or documents under the Freedom of Information Act.

- The VA’s official answer to questions raised by the community in the Revised Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) are rote, dismissive and unresponsive. Too frequently, the VA listed “Comment Noted” for their response to concerns.

- The revised EA does not include or address numerous letters sent by Veterans and other concerned community members received after the comment period closed, however a letter in the VA’s favor delivered well after the comment period closed is included.

- Both of the draft EAs are riddled with errors and incomplete or unreferenced studies. The revised EA fails to account for factors raised by the Village and the community such as Hindu religious belief.

- The Village has provided alternative locations in South Barrington and the surrounding area for VA consideration, including many sites with the better access and visibility this landmark deserves.

- The VA held a public meeting on November 8, 2018, in a small room at the Hilton Garden Inn to unveil its plans for South Barrington, however most residents were not informed of this event until the day before. When the response to the meeting was overwhelming, VA representatives ignored requests to move the meeting across the street to Village Hall to allow all attendees to see the presentation and participate in the meeting.

- For this revised EA, the VA is NOT holding a public meeting to hear directly from the community despite a request from Village Officials to do so and our offer to host the meeting in Village Hall.

Concerns of Neighbors

While fully respecting the service of Veterans, nearby residents question whether a normal life is possible in such close proximity to the proposed columbarium.

- Several Hindu families living adjacent to the plot and their religion prohibits them from living in close proximity to a cemetery.

- As many as five rifle volleys per day, five days per week, will cause disruption to neighbors who work at home, emotional distress to children, and worry for those suffering from diagnosed stress-related health issues.

- Residents are worried about their ability to balance their everyday lives without paying due respect to Veterans.

Other Factors Against the Location

This particular site is not appropriately reverent for our Veterans for several other reasons:

- Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia, and Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, Illinois, are set on expansive properties that convey a sense of awe and appreciation for the sacrifice our veterans have made for our country. This 15-acre plot on a back road near a landfill will not convey such dignity.

- This location is prone to flooding and mosquitoes, and over the course of 100 years, conditions may make it difficult for the columbarium to operate.

- There is no public transportation to the site or nearby, contrary to the VA’s stated goal of making the cemetery accessible to families.
Mark your calendar for Census Day
April 1, 2020

The 2020 Census begins officially on April 1, 2020—Census Day! Our goal is to raise awareness and make sure South Barrington has an accurate count in order to receive our share of tax revenue:

- Most households will start receiving Census survey invitations beginning March 2020
- By April 1 every household will have received the 2020 Census materials
- You can respond online, by phone, or by mail

Census Takers will be canvassing the neighborhood in an effort to collect information for the American Community Survey and other ongoing surveys. Verify their identity:

- Make sure they have a valid ID badge, including their photo, a U.S. Department of Commerce watermark, and expiration date
- Contact the Chicago Regional Census Center at 312-579-1500 if there is any question about their identity

The Census is conducted every ten years and is a very important tool for the Village, as well as for the State:

- Determines the number of congressional seats for each state
- More than $675 billion in federal funds are distributed back to the state and local communities every year for services and infrastructure
- Illinois will receive $1,800 per year per person in federal funds
- The Village will receive their share of allocated funds from State Income Taxes, Use Taxes and Motor Fuel Taxes based on population determined by the Census

It is vitally important that EVERYONE is counted to maximize the funding to be received for the next ten years. Getting an accurate count is a benefit to EVERYONE because it eases up the total tax burden.

If you have any questions or concerns about the upcoming Census, please contact Village Hall at 847-381-7510.

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Mark Your Calendar, 2020 Elections!

The Presidential Primary Elections will be held on March 17, 2020. We have Deputy Registrars on staff to help you with your voter registration or to obtain information regarding:

- Upcoming election dates
- Precinct and polling places
- Voter information
- Mail ballot applications

There are several ways to register to vote. The deadline for voter registration for the next upcoming election is the following:

- Last day for In-person voter registration at Village Hall is February 18, 2020
- Last day for mail-in paper voter registration is February 18, 2020
- Last day for online voter registration cookcountyclerk.com is March 1, 2020

You will need to bring with you two forms of identification (one showing your current address) when registering to vote in-person.

For more information visit southbarrington.org/voter-registration/ or cookcountyclerk.com, or you may call the Village at 847-381-7510.

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Village Snowplowing

Cuba Township will once again provide snowplowing services to the village for the 2019/2020 winter season:

- Village routes remain the same as last year. You can find a listing of routes on our website at southbarrington.org/south-Barrington-roads/

Check your mailbox before the snow season begins:

- Repair mailboxes and posts that are not securely fastened or in the ground
- Heavy snowfall can lead to mailboxes falling over
- Make sure to clean off snow from your mailbox numbers as this may be vital for emergency responders

If damage to your mailbox and/or turf is a result from snowplowing:

- Contact the Village at 847-381-7510 immediately
- Mailboxes will be replaced with a standard mailbox if not able to be repaired

While best efforts are made to avoid damage to both mailboxes and turf, it does sometimes happen.

The Village and Cuba Township will work as quickly and as efficiently as possible to respond to these incidents.
Village Tree Programs Ends for 2019

Village tree planting and trimming has ended for the 2019.
- The Village planted 68 trees this year and removed 41 dead trees
- Late requests for tree trimming were received and the Village will include those requests in the 2020 Tree Program

HURRY! Private Well Water Testing

- Residents will need to purchase their private well water testing kit for $15 from Village by 12:00 p.m. on Monday, November 4!
- You will need to drop off your well water sample at The Garlands of Barrington, 1000 Garland Lane, between 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Tuesday, November 5!
BACOG is offering a FREE prescription drug take-back on November 5. Don’t forget to bring your unused medication!

News from the Village Treasurer

Michelle Bodie, Finance Director/Village Treasurer

How Does Your Property Tax Compare?

- Local governmental taxing districts (such as the County, Library, Forest Preserve, Fire, Park, Village and all School Districts) request the necessary funds to balance their budget as a levy on property.
- About 70% of your property tax is paid to school districts while the Village’s share is just over 7%.
- Often people think that the Village is responsible for large increases in their property tax bill, when in fact the Village of South Barrington has NO input in any other taxing district’s levy amount, which you can see accounts for almost 93% of your total bill.
- The combination of all the municipal tax rates for your property can be referred to as the composite tax rate. In South Barrington, your composite rate is affected by which school districts you are in (CUSD 220 or CUSD 300 and Harper or Elgin Community College), which fire district serves your property (East Dundee or Barrington Countryside) and whether you are on municipal sewer (MWRD).
- It is also useful to look at the debt owed by a municipality in conjunction with the tax rate. Many municipalities finance projects and repairs with long term debt which will be paid over time. It is important to note that the Village of South Barrington owes $0 in bonds and long term obligations.
- As a comparison, the chart below shows the village tax rate and the average composite tax rate for South Barrington and a few of our neighboring municipalities in Cook County for last year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2018 Tax Levy Paid in 2019</th>
<th>Estimated Population</th>
<th>Total Equalized Assessed Valuation</th>
<th>Village Rate</th>
<th>Average Composite Rate</th>
<th>2018 Reported Total Indebtedness</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>South Barrington</td>
<td>4,993</td>
<td>487,745,069</td>
<td>0.557</td>
<td>7.770</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inverness</td>
<td>7,438</td>
<td>483,783,961</td>
<td>0.551</td>
<td>9.206</td>
<td>$4,400,000</td>
</tr>
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<td>Barrington Hills</td>
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<td>466,421,343</td>
<td>1.218</td>
<td>8.090</td>
<td>$706,503</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barrington</td>
<td>10,274</td>
<td>629,423,800</td>
<td>0.535</td>
<td>7.544</td>
<td>$60,747,440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hoffman Estates</td>
<td>51,197</td>
<td>1,370,685,728</td>
<td>1.528</td>
<td>11.067</td>
<td>$358,691,841</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Check out the Cook County Treasurer website [cookcountytreasurer.com](http://cookcountytreasurer.com) using your PIN or address. Using the Property Tax Overview box, taxpayers can print, pay or request emailing of your tax bill. More importantly, you can verify the exemptions filed for your property (such as homeowner and senior) and check to see if there is a refund due to you.

Feel free to email Michelle Bodie mbodie@southbarrington.org or call at 847-381-7510 with any questions.
Safety News For Winter Season

As we move from fall into winter, just a reminder about changing road conditions:

- Roads can change from wet to icy without warning
- Be especially careful on bridges and overpasses that can freeze before warmer surface roads
- Please slow down, we want you to arrive to your destination safely!

South Barrington is home to many lakes and ponds:

- Ice may look thick but may not be safe to walk on
- If you see someone fall through the ice, call 9-1-1 immediately
- Do not go onto the ice yourself or you may become a victim too
- Reach out to the victim with a branch, pole, rope or ladder

Our patrol cars carry water rescue kits for these situations.

The days are getting shorter so students, dog-walkers and joggers will be out in dark:

- Pedestrians should wear reflective items to help motorists see them

Helpful Crime Prevention Tips

Help us help you this holiday season. Here are some steps you can take to reduce your chances of being the victim of a car burglary.

- Always lock your car and take the key or key fob with you
- Park in your garage whenever possible
- Don’t leave valuables in your vehicle in plain sight
- Don’t leave your car running unattended

Most car burglaries have involved unlocked cars. Simply locking your car can make a big difference!

The holidays present opportunities for house burglars too. Here are some steps you can take to improve security around your home.

- Keep your doors and windows locked
- If you have an alarm system, use it when you leave
- Turn on outside lights at night
- Stop newspaper and mail delivery if you’ll be away
- Consider taking advantage of our vacation house watch program. Complete the form on the Village website at southbarrington.org or stop by the Police Department to fill one out.

Please always remember, if you see something that looks suspicious call 9-1-1!

Help Us Welcome, Nicole!

The South Barrington Police Department welcomes Nicole Vaccarello as the new Administrative Assistant to the Chief of Police. If you visit the Village, please make sure to give her a warm welcome as we are excited to have new talent join the ranks!
Please Help Us.....CodeRED Village Emergency Notification

The Village of South Barrington is moving to a new emergency notification system on Friday, November 1. Please help us by registering on our website at southbarrington.org in order to be included in our new emergency notification system. South Barrington will use CodeRED for all emergency notifications after November 1.

- Most land-line telephone numbers for homes and businesses in South Barrington should be pre-loaded in the CodeRED database. Not all cellphones, VOIP lines, or emails will transfer automatically.
- A CodeRED test message will be performed by the first week of November.
- If you’d like to receive these notifications on your mobile phone, VOIP line or email you’ll need to visit the Village’s website at southbarrington.org to sign up to receive the CodeRED messages.
- If you previously signed up for emergency notification messages under the former Blackboard Connect you will need to enter your information in the CodeRED system.

News from Building & Engineering

Mike Moreland, Building Officer

Before You Start A Project... Make Sure You Do Not Need A Permit!

Please call the Village before starting any project as we require different permits, not only for your safety, but also to make sure that your contractor is performing the services by Village Code. Projects have received a stopped work order due to a lack of the required permit.

One of our newest Code changes that you may be interested in, Ordinance O-2019-1214, is for at-grade spas & hot tubs that are manufactured off site and designed to sit on the ground.

Requirements include:
- Must be located behind the main house structure;
- Edge of water must be less than 12 feet from the foundation of the main house;
- Not larger than 8’x8’x39” in height;
- Must be screened from view from adjacent homes by masonry, hardscape materials and/or landscaping;
- Must have a lockable cover capable of supporting 200 lbs;
- Color must be compatible with the main house colors;
- HOA approval and building permits required.

Please call Mike Moreland at 847-381-7510 with any questions regarding your project.

Natalie Karney, P.E., Village Engineer

Reduce Neighborhood Flooding Risks

There are many benefits of having trees in our landscape; however, debris from trees can clog storm drains causing flooding and icing of the roads. To reduce flooding, we ask residents to do the following:
- If you notice leaves, branches, needles and any other debris in the grates in front of your property, please help us by removing them.
- Checking the grates near your property is important, especially before a rain event.

The Village has contracted with Cuba Township to inspect and remove collected debris from the grates on a regular schedule. If you see a grate build-up, please help us keep it clean.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding flooding, please call Natalie Karney at 847-381-7510.
Meet the Village Board

Get to know your Village Board by attending the Board meetings on the second Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m., at Village Hall located at 30 S. Barrington Road.

Board meeting agendas are posted on the Village website at southbarrington.org at least 48 hours in advance and can be found under Agendas & Minutes. Topics up for discussion or to be considered for approval are listed on the board agenda.

Your Village Board is made up of an elected Mayor and six elected Trustees. Mayor McCombie and the Village Trustees are residents of South Barrington. Their time as unpaid volunteers is focused on running the Village effectively, efficiently, and with fiduciary responsibility.

If you are interested in meeting your Mayor and Trustees or would like to learn more about municipal government and the functions of the Village of South Barrington, we encourage you to join us for our Board meetings each month.