Dear Residents,

As we enter the summer months and slowly begin to see the reopening of our local businesses, I am reminded how proud I am of the perseverance of our residents and business owners. We have experienced some of the most unpredictable challenging times in history. I am also grateful for the South Barrington Police Department and all of our municipal employees, which as essential workers, have worked (along with myself) each day of the shutdown due to the pandemic to provide continuous service to our residents and business partners.

At a time when people are encouraged to avoid public contact, our police officers are doing the opposite, as safely as possible, to continue their important work which includes interacting with the public. The police department's core values are Honor, Integrity and Respect for the safety and security of all South Barrington residents. I am proud of the courage and commitment our police officers exhibit - putting themselves in harm's way to protect each one of us.

The Police Chief, Village Board and I take our roles as overseers of public safety very seriously. We have made sure that officers have been well-trained above and beyond the state requirements. Our department is educated in how to resolve situations peacefully and calmly. Unlike other departments across the country, we require every officer to complete crisis intervention training to ensure that they continue to operate at the highest professional standard. If any of the public has a suggestion or comment on a specific incident involving any municipal employee that did not live up to your expectations, please take the time to contact me so that I am aware of it. We are installing two suggestion/comment boxes in the lobby areas of the Village building for the public and employees to leave a message to me anonymously. This will be another valuable tool for evaluating our service to residents.

I also would like to take this opportunity to inform our residents about the addition of two new recycling programs. The Village is now accepting cork (e.g. wine bottles), synthetic cork, and Styrofoam (e.g. Packing Peanuts, etc.) for recycling. The receptacle for cork is located in the main entrance vestibule of Village Hall and can be accessed during business hours. The receptacle for Styrofoam is located in the far west parking lot behind Village Hall, just west of the police department parking lot. Receptacles are labeled and more information on these recycling programs can be found in this newsletter as well as on our website at southbarrington.org.

The Village lobbies are now open to the public for walk-ins, but for your convenience we will continue to offer the no-contact drop box service at the main entrance. Staff will assist you with your needs and takes all safety precautions to make sure you are comfortable with the service you receive. Please do not hesitate to call the Village with questions about the no-contact service available at 847-381-7510.

I welcome residents to sign up for our weekly e-news by visiting our website at southbarrington.org. The weekly e-news is delivered every Friday to your email inbox and will keep you up-to-date on village information, opening of businesses and restaurants, and events. As always, I can be reached by phone at 847-381-7510 or by email at pmcombie@southbarrington.org. Please feel free to contact me to discuss any matters. I hope you have an enjoyable summer!

Sincerely,
Mayor Paula McCombie
Village Financial Position Is Strong Despite Pandemic

The Village Board approved the fiscal year 2020-2021 budget at the May 14 board meeting while the Village was still in Phase II of the Governor's Restore Illinois plan. Typically, preparing the annual budget is a straightforward process, however, 2020 has seen the addition of a new unfamiliar factor – COVID-19. The pandemic has impacted many aspects of the budget, from increased expenses for protective equipment to an unpredictable reduction of sales tax revenue. The Village is fortunate that our revenue sources are balanced between three categories: sales taxes, property taxes and “other income” from fees, fines and interest. This provides some security for volatility as we are seeing now.

Additionally, the Village Board follows an established Fund Balance/Net Assets Policy which supports long-term financial strategies and stability. Per policy, the Village maintains a three to six-month unrestricted fund balance in the general fund to allow the Village to respond to emergency situations, such as the pandemic. This fiscal strength has also allowed the Village to hold the property tax levy flat over the last several years.

Property tax rates have been finalized by Cook County and your 2nd installment bill will be available soon. You will see that the Village rate decreased 1.5% to 54.9¢ per $100 valuation and our share of your total bill is only about 7%. We are proud to have one of the lowest municipal rates in the northwest suburbs and all of Cook County. Another important note is that although the payment due date to Cook County is still August 3, 2020, because of the pandemic, you can pay your property taxes without penalty or interest on or before October 1, 2020. For more information on Village finances and budget, please go to our website southbarrington.org. Feel free to email or call the Mayor or me with any questions or comments.

Village to Host “Village Census Day” on Saturday, July 11

There is still time to fill out your 2020 Census Survey online! The U.S. Census Bureau has extended the deadline for online self-response to August 14. If you have not submitted your online response and would like assistance doing so, please join us for our “Village Census Day” on Saturday, July 11 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Village Hall located at 30 S. Barrington Road, South Barrington.

The Village will provide both internet access and computers for residents to use and staff will be on hand to help with census survey questions and provide non-English speaking resources, if needed. No appointment necessary. Walk-ins are welcome. This is a great opportunity for you to complete your online census survey and avoid having Census Takers knocking on your door!

Restaurants & Retail Shops Now Open

South Barrington restaurants and shops have reopened following Illinois’ Phase 3 regulations. Restaurants are offering new and expanded outdoor seating for their customers. Retail shops and salons are open for in-person shopping and services but will have requirements limiting capacity, requiring appointments, safe distancing and face covering.

Kindness and patience are appreciated now as these businesses resume their operations under challenging conditions. Your patronage is especially important to their success which will enhance the vitality of our community.

Please support South Barrington’s restaurants and shops. The South Barrington dining and shopping experience cannot be beat!
Do You Use An Alarm System?

We have updated our alarm ordinance to better serve you. All homes and businesses with a functioning burglar or panic alarm are required to fill out the free permit application. A free application can be found on our website at southbarrington.org or is available at the Village Hall Police Department. The information you offer helps us provide protection and timely dispatching should an incident arise. Residential permits are good for three (3) years and business permits are good for two (2) years. They expire on December 31.

Please remember to use your alarm system whenever you leave your home or business. This helps us to help you. If you have any questions, please reach out to Chief Roman’s Administrative Assistant, Nicole Vaccarello, at 847-381-7511 or email her at nvaccarello@southbarrington.org.

South Barrington: Number One in the USA!

That’s right! South Barrington is the number one Greenest Community in the United States. How could this be true you might be asking yourself, and what is the criteria?

According to the most recent quarterly report of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – South Barrington, IL is the number one Green Power Community for percentage of green power used. EPA ranks Green Power Communities (GPCs) according to two categories: total green power usage and percentage of green power used. It is for the latter category that South Barrington sits at the top of the mountain.

How does a community become an EPA Green Power Community? To become an EPA Green Power Community, the community must collectively use green power that meets or exceeds 5 percent of the community’s electricity use. This applies to all communities, regardless of the size of their community’s annual electricity usage. Five percent may seem like a low bar – but what percentage did the #1 community in America achieve (drum roll please) – 81.9%! That’s 81.9% Green Power of South Barrington’s total electricity use!

So how does this happen and what does it mean? As you may know the Village has an aggregation program for its electricity. This was put in place when a referendum was passed in 2012 to allow electric use to be collectively bid out. For many years the Village was able to get favorable pricing and save residents (who were signed up for the program – you do have the option to opt in or out) on their electric bills.

Though the ComEd rate became more competitive, there was an alternative that provided a different benefit for the same cost. The Village teamed up with electric supplier MC Squared to institute a program that positively impacts the entire Village. The rate is the same as the ComEd rate but MC Squared is able to purchase Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) that account for 81.9% of total electric energy used in the Village. The specific RECs purchased are for wind energy generated in Iowa. Be proud South Barrington and celebrate being #1!

Village Animal License

The Village requires a one-time registration of dogs and cats three (3) months of age or older which is good for the life of your pet. Residents are limited to three (3) pets per residence, $5 license fee per pet. An Animal License Application can be found online at southbarrington.org. To receive your pet tags, bring your license application and fees to Village Hall, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Holiday Reminder: Village Hall Will Be Closed the Following Dates

July 3  ●  September 7  ●  November 26 & 27  ●  December 24 & 25
Residents: New Recycling Opportunities Have Arrived!

As of June 15, residents are encouraged to bring real and synthetic cork to a receptacle in the vestibule of Village Hall marked “CORK ONLY” during regular business hours. All collected cork items will be shipped by a dedicated volunteer to industries that will turn the material into useful products like Yoga Mats, floor covering, shoe soles and more. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to keep cork out of landfills and help make a contribution to this recycling effort!

Another recycling initiative is available via the “STYROFOAM ONLY” container located in the far west parking lot in back of Village Hall and just off of Tennis Club Lane. Styrofoam of any color and size – with or without a recycle triangle marking, Packing Peanuts (must be bagged please) and even Bubble Wrap will all be accepted. If your material exceeds the available capacity of the container, please place it in a bag for easy transport. Collected Styrofoam will be “90% densified” into one pound bricks that can then be shipped to industries to be used for new products.

Thank you for helping divert this bulk waste from garbage disposal. Together, our effort clearly makes a big difference!

Coal Tar Use is Not Permitted for Sealing Driveways

Per the Village Code, coal tar is not permitted in the village. Coal tar base sealants and asphalt driveway sealants contain Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) which are a major concern for public health. PAHs are classified as carcinogens by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and have toxic compounds which have been linked to an increased cancer risk. Coal tar is sometimes a component of sealants used for driveways, parking lots, playgrounds, etc. Asphalt based products with low PAHs are an approved alternative. If you plan to have work done on your driveway, please be aware that all products and contractors must be licensed by the Village.

Contractors are required to obtain a license each year in order to apply sealants anywhere in the village. Insist on seeing the contractor’s credentials and Village license prior to sealing your driveway. For more information about current licensed contractors with the Village, please view our Village website at southbarrington.org/coal-tar-ban/.

Simple Recycling: Curbside Textile Recycling Resumed

The Village’s textile recycling program, provided by Simple Recycling, has resumed curbside pickup for old and used clothing, rags, and small appliances, etc. Place your items in the red/orange bags and set out at the curb on Mondays near your garbage carts for pickup. Simple Recycling will collect your items and leave additional bags for future use. If you need additional bags now, call Simple Recycling at 866-835-5068 or contact the Village.

SAVE THE DATE:
Residential Private Well Testing

Private well owners are encouraged to test their well water for bacteria and nitrates annually. Residents whose water is provided by a municipal well do not need to test individually since the water is required to be tested regularly.

Barrington Area Council of Governments (BACOG) will host residential private well testing on September 29, 2020. This level 1 test will screen for coliform bacteria, E. coli, and nitrates. Test kits will be available to purchase at the Village Hall. Details on the cost and availability of test kits will be finalized closer to the event and published on our website at southbarrington.org and in the weekly e-news.

Village Paper Shredding Event
Saturday, September 19

The Village of South Barrington and Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) will host an easy drive-up and drop-off shred event on Saturday, September 19, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Village Hall.

Residents will have an opportunity to destroy sensitive documents in a safe manner. Bring your ID and documents in a paper shopping bag or file-sized box (limit of 6 per vehicle). Remove any plastic, metal clips, folders and binders from documents to be destroyed. For more information or if you are interested in volunteering at this event, visit our website at southbarrington.org.
Mailboxes Must Display Numerical Address

The Village passed an ordinance in February 2020 that states that residences with individual mailboxes must display their numerical street address on both sides of the mailbox and/or on the support post. The fire departments serving South Barrington have recommended that numerals be in Arabic and be 4 inches in height and ½ inches in width. Numerals should also be in a contrasting color to the mailbox and reflective coatings are recommended.

In emergency situations, GPS technology may encounter difficulty from time-to-time on a precise location of the property. Numerical addresses listed on the mailbox or post will assist in locating your home. As a reminder, now is a good time to inspect your mailbox to make sure it’s in good condition.

Thinking of Renting Your Home? Residential Rental Licensing Required

In 2018, the Village adopted an ordinance prohibiting short term rentals of less than 4 months (e.g. AirBNB, VRBO, etc.). Recently, there have been cases in the northwest suburbs where rentals were used, unbeknownst to the property owner, for large parties or gatherings that resulted in personal injury, damage, and even death. For that reason, the Village passed an ordinance this year which requires owners, renting or planning to rent, to obtain a Rental License from the Village and renew their license annually.

The Rental License Application and fee of $150 will need to be submitted by April 1 of each year or prior to renting your property. Owners are also required to submit a copy of the lease and a copy of the Tenant Addendum, which can be found on our website at southbarrington.org/application-forms/. If you have questions regarding rental licensing, contact the Village Administrator at 847-381-7510.

Do You 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 without the required permit will receive a stop work order until the necessary permit is applied for. Some of the more common items that will require permits are below:

- Planting or removal of trees in right-of-way
- Driveway replacement
- Re-roofing
- Septic changes
- Interior remodel
- Use of the Conservancy for groups of 15 or more people

Unsure if you need a permit? Check with the Village!

Call 8-1-1 Before You Dig!

State law requires anyone who is digging to call the Joint Utility Locating Information for Excavators (JULIE).

Regardless of the project size or depth, you must call JULIE and wait two business days for JULIE to mark your digging location.

Call 8-1-1 or visit illinois1call.com to place a locate request. Both the call and JULIE’s services are free.

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:

- Regularly check the grates near your property, especially before a heavy rain.
- If you notice leaves, branches, needles and any other debris in a grate, remove them to prevent flooding.

The Village has contracted with Cuba Township to inspect and remove collected debris from the grates on a regular schedule, however your assistance will greatly help in this effort.
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 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 elected officials 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.