



Message from the President

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

One of the reasons new residents choose our Village is Metra's BNSF line which stops in the heart of our Downtown. Waking up and walking to the train station, seeing your neighbors grouped together, coffee in hand, is one of the many reasons I love this Village. I also know that this tremendous asset also presents safety concerns. I am talking about collisions and injuries that occur between commuter/freight trains and pedestrians and vehicles.



Village President  
Len Austin

Preliminary data from the Federal Railroad Administration estimates 2,105 collisions between vehicles and trains occurred in 2017 alone. Illinois suffered the third highest number of collisions in the United States with 109 collisions and 29 injured. It seems like we read stories of Metra collisions on a monthly basis. It is important to stress to new and old drivers alike, make sure you look for a train's flashing lights and listen for its whistles. Make sure drivers come to a complete stop when the train gate is going down and wait for the gates to go completely upright before driving through the crossing. There may be times when the gates begin going up only to go back down as another, faster train runs through our Village. Safety is our top priority. Please take all of this into consideration the next time you are waiting for a train to pass.



With all of this being said, I am happy to announce upgrades to our current train gates are coming. The Village has received a grant from the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) for the installation of new train crossing gates. The ICC will cover 85% of the costs of these improvements, with BNSF picking up another 5% and the Village picking up the rest. The gates will provide a safer environment for pedestrians and vehicles alike.

The ICC grant is not the only grant we have received for Downtown improvements this year. In case you have not heard the Village has secured over \$3.5 million in outside funding for our Downtown Revitalization Project including \$2 million from the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program and \$750,000 from the West Suburban Mass Transit District Board. The Downtown Revitalization Project seeks to create a safer, more pleasing Downtown by way of improved streetscapes, as outlined in our Downtown Master Plan and a new Metra Station and shelters. The safety upgrades include reconfiguring the north and southbound lanes on Prospect Avenue at the railroad crossing and reconfiguring the Burlington Avenue and Golf Avenue intersection into a "T" intersection. They also include "bump outs" on Prospect Avenue which will create shorter crosswalks at Burlington and Railroad and Burlington and Eastern. The new train station will replace our old station which is in need of hundreds of thousands of dollars of improvements to expand its useful life a few more years. Because of this, the decision was made to replace it with a modern station that will catch the eye of everyone who comes through our Village. Throughout 2018, the resident-lead Downtown Design Review Commission has reviewed and refined architectural design plans for the proposed station. Let me tell you, those talented individuals did a terrific job and it will be a station we can all be proud of. You can learn more by visiting our website at [www.Clarendonhills.us/DTrevitalization](http://www.Clarendonhills.us/DTrevitalization).

Happy holidays and a Happy New Year to you and your loved ones. And don't forget, on Friday December 7, our annual Christmas Walk will take place. Can't wait to see you there!

See you around town!

Len Austin  
Village President

# Be Aware of Contractor Scams

The best way to avoid contractor scams is to first do your homework. Here are a few tips for choosing a contractor:

- Visit the Village of Clarendon Hills business directory at [www.clarendonhills.us/golocal](http://www.clarendonhills.us/golocal)
- Get recommendations from friends, relatives, neighbors, co-workers, insurance agents, or claims adjusters.
- Deal only with licensed and insured contractors. Ask for copies of their general liability and worker's compensation insurance.
- Check with the local Better Business Bureau and Home Builders Association to see if complaints have been lodged against any contractor you are considering.
- Be skeptical of contractors who encourage you to spend a lot of money on temporary repairs.
- Get a written estimate that includes any oral promises the contractor made. Remember to ask if there's a charge for an estimate before allowing anyone into your home.
- Take your time about signing a contract. Ask for explanations for price variations, and don't automatically choose the lowest bidder. Resist dealing with any contractor who asks you to pay for the entire job up-front. A deposit of one-third of the total price is standard. Pay only by check or credit card and pay the final amount only after the work is completed to your satisfaction. Don't pay cash.
- Ask a knowledgeable friend, relative or attorney to review a home repair contract before you sign. Get a copy of the final, signed contract before the job begins.
- Ask the contractor you choose to provide a lien waiver before starting your job. This is a receipt that says the workers and suppliers of material will not ask you for money once you have paid the contractor. In any case, don't sign a consent of owner statement: it says you, the property owner, will cover the costs of materials and labor if the contractor doesn't pay.
- Contact the police if you suspect a con.

If you have questions or concerns about the making repairs to your home, contact the Village of Clarendon Hills at 630-286-5410.

**If you get a package delivered to you, that is not addressed to you, it is not yours to keep. Kindly deliver to correct address or contact the deliverer. FedEx, UPS and USPS will pickup miss delivered items and deliver them if you cannot.**

## Luminaria History

*This story is from the Clarendon Hills Historical Society. Learn more about Clarendon Hills History by visiting [www.clarendonhillshistory.org](http://www.clarendonhillshistory.org) or visiting the Historical Society building, the second Saturday of the each month, at 50 Sheridan.*

Every Christmas Eve, shortly after dark, the Village of Clarendon Hills is transformed by the glow of thousands of candles lighting sidewalks, driveways, and hearts as far as the eye can see. Luminaria is a simple candle set placed on top of sand in a brown paper bag. This tradition is so popular that most of the houses in Clarendon Hills participate and the village as a whole becomes so luminous that visitors flock from all over to bask in the glow of a transformed Clarendon Hills.

Originally from Mexico, the tradition was introduced to Clarendon Hills in 1965. The Infant Welfare Society brought this tradition to the village as a way to help fund their full-service clinic in Chicago for mothers and children that cannot afford health insurance. While the original purpose was to light the way for the Christ child to one's home, it has evolved in modern times and taken on the role of secular Christmas decorations much like Christmas lights or wreaths. Although there are still many people who celebrate it, and set it up each year, for its original religious purpose. Even now, Clarendon Hills residents are especially dedicated to this long-standing tradition.



**FIND OUT HOW TO GET YOUR LUMINARIA KITS FROM THE INFANT WELFARE SOCIETY ON THE BACK PAGE OF THIS ISSUE.**

## Around Town

### Board Meetings

November 5th at 7 PM  
 November 19th - Cancelled  
 December 3rd at 7 PM  
 December 17th at 7 PM

### ZBA/Plan Commission

November 15th at 7:30 PM  
 December 20th at 7:30 PM

[www.clarendonhills.us](http://www.clarendonhills.us)

### Christmas Walk - Chamber Event

Friday, December 7th 6 PM  
 Starting with Tree Lighting in front of Village Hall then continues Downtown on Prospect Ave.

[www.clarendonhillschamber.com](http://www.clarendonhillschamber.com)

### Library

December 6th 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM  
 Kids K-5th Grade Read to the Dogs  
 Registration required.

[www.clarendonhillslibrary.org](http://www.clarendonhillslibrary.org)

### Park District

December 18th 12 PM to 2 PM  
 Senior (50+) Holiday Luncheon  
 At Park District Community Center  
 FREE event for CH residents  
 Bring a \$10 non-gender grab bag gift  
 Register by December 10th



## Holiday Lights Recycling!

The Police Department is accepting worn out strings of holiday lights and extension cords starting December 1st until February 1, 2019. You can find the collection bin in the lobby of the Police Department located at 448 Park Avenue.

This program is part of the Elgin Recycling program. This is their 10th year of running a holiday light recycling program along with 49 Villages. Last year, the Village of Clarendon Hills collected 484 lbs of holiday lights! Elgin Recycling recycled a total of 98,056 lbs of holiday lights that would have otherwise ended up in landfills. You can find out more at [www.elginrecycling.com](http://www.elginrecycling.com)

*Your lights may have lost their twinkle but they can still help make for a bright future!*

## Christmas Clean Up

Republic Services offers free recycling for Christmas Trees and other live garland during the first two collections in January. All decorations must be removed. Place trees and greenery for recycling at the curb.

## Holiday Refuse/ Garbage Pickup

The following holidays alter the collection schedule:

- New Year's Day
- Memorial Day
- Independence Day
- Labor Day
- Christmas Day

If any of these holidays fall on a Monday or Tuesday, all refuse, recycling and yard waste will be collected on Wednesday of the same week.

Clarendon Hills Historical Society  
 Discover Heritage

**OPEN HOUSE**  
 Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month from 12-2pm

**CHRISTMAS WALK**  
 Visit our booth at  
 Clarendon Hills Village Hall  
**Friday Dec 7<sup>th</sup>**

630.988.2850  
[clarendonhillshistory@gmail.com](mailto:clarendonhillshistory@gmail.com)

## Village Hall Closed

November 12th in observance of Veterans Day

November 22nd and November 23rd in observance of Thanksgiving

December 24th and December 25th in observance of the Christmas Holiday

January 1st, 2019 in observance of New Year's Day!



## Parking Reminder

Residents are required to park off the Village streets if the weather predicts 2 or more inches of snow fall. This is to allow for proper snow removal.

Please note, no person shall dump snow onto any public road, public sidewalk or fire hydrant. *(It's recommended snow be removed from the top of your vehicle prior to driving!)*

## Snow Removal Safety

When removing snow remember to know your limits. Push snow instead of lifting whenever possible. When scooping up snow, bend your knees and lift with your legs. Try to avoid twisting to throw snow. Take breaks. If using a snow blower watch your scarf and never clear the exhaust chute while the snow blower is running. Stay safe.

## 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

## Christmas Walk is December 7th!

The Chamber of Commerce's Annual Christmas Walk will be held Friday, December 7th. This tradition begins with the Tree lighting at 6 pm in front of the Village Hall. Afterwards, stroll through town where the shops stay open late. The Christmas Walk features refreshments, cookies, a visit from Santa, caroling and sleigh rides. Everything needed to kick off the holiday season. Event ends at 9 pm. Find more info at [www.clarendonhillschamber.com](http://www.clarendonhillschamber.com)

## Luminaria Sales

The Clarendon Hills Auxiliary Chapter of the Infant Welfare Society of Chicago (CHIW) invites you to participate in the annual tradition of Luminaria Lighting this Christmas Eve. Once again, the CHIW will donate hundreds of Luminaria to the Village and the members of Cub Scout and Boy Scout Troops #51 will light the luminarias in downtown Clarendon Hills on Christmas Eve.

CHIW luminaria kits will be sold in December during the Christmas Walk; regular business hours at the Clarendon Hills Bank and Kramer Foods; as well as the Lions pool parking lot during specific hours; Check for times at the Lions Pool parking lot [www.clarendonhillsinfantwelfare.org/Luminaria.html](http://www.clarendonhillsinfantwelfare.org/Luminaria.html)

Standard kits consist of five candles and bags being sold for \$6.00. The funds raised through the sale of CHIW Luminaria in Clarendon Hills help support the Infant Welfare Society of Chicago's full-service clinic for mothers and children that cannot afford health insurance. Please join the community and light each candle for a child on Christmas Eve.

## Christmas Tree Sales

The Clarendon Hills Lions Club sells Christmas Trees starting the Friday after Thanksgiving (Nov. 23rd) at the Lions Park Pool located at 100 Byrd Court. The lot is open Monday - Friday from 6 PM to 8 PM and Saturday and Sunday 9 AM to 6 PM.



**Find Recent Village Board Actions at**  
[www.clarendonhills.us/AgendaCenter](http://www.clarendonhills.us/AgendaCenter)

November / December 2018 Trustee Topics

## Contact Us

### Village President:

Len Austin 630-286-5420

### Village Trustees:

Don Knoll 630-286-5421

Greg Jordan 630-286-5422

Ken Hall 630-286-5423

Carol Jorissen 630-286-5424

Wil Freve 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](http://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.)