



Barrington Township

REPORTER

November 2009

From the desk of Supervisor Gene Dawson

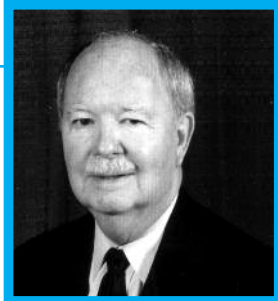
Dear Residents,

The holidays will soon be upon us, so we at Barrington Township would like to take this opportunity to wish you a safe and joyful holiday season.

Barrington Township continues to see an increasing number of residents looking to us for a variety of services. Job losses, home foreclosures, serious illness in the family . . . the reasons are as varied as the people who turn to us. As the holiday season approaches, needs will be felt even more acutely. We extend our thanks and appreciation to all those individuals and organizations who are reaching out to others in the community who have been impacted by the current financial crisis, health issues, or other difficult circumstances. Your gifts of food, clothing, and toys, and most of all your gift of caring, means more than you know.

That caring will continue in 2010 when we host our 9th annual Have a Heart Food Drive. The event will be held on Saturday, February 13, 2010 at Barrington Countryside Fire Station #1, Public Safety Building, 400 N. Northwest Highway in Barrington from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon. Again this year, Barrington Township officials will be on hand to assist in collecting non-perishable food, paper goods and personal care items donated by community organizations and individuals. Cuba Township Highway Commissioner Thomas Gooch will represent Cuba Township at the food drive.

*Gene Dawson,
Supervisor, Barrington Township*



**February 13, 2010
9:00 am -
12:00 noon**

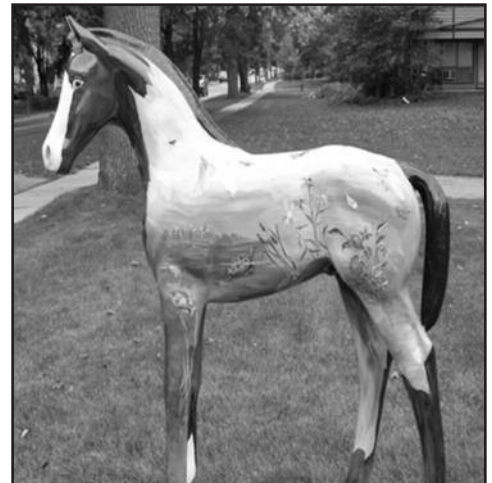
'Barrington Roundup' Brings Beautiful Public Art to Community While Raising \$100,000 for United Way

The beautifully decorated full size fiberglass horse sculptures that could be seen grazing at major intersections, in front of local businesses, shopping centers, and prominent locations throughout the Barrington area did much more than bring enjoyment to all who saw them. When auctioned off to the highest bidders on October 17th, the 26 horse sculptures raised over \$100,000 for the Barrington Area United Way.

Barrington Township was proud to have played host to one of the horse sculptures during the summer.

"Conserving Our Community," pictured to the right,

was created by Barrington artist Mary Lane, who painted a total of five horses for the Barrington Roundup fundraiser.



The idea for the Barrington Roundup came from Barrington Area United Way board member Dave Conroy. United Way officials felt that the project was not only an excellent fund raiser, but also a great way to celebrate the Barrington Area United Way's 50 years of service to the community. The organization was known as the Barrington Area United Drive, Inc. when it was formed in September of 1959. This year, the Barrington Area United Way's campaign goal is \$400,000, with the residential mailing campaign portion reaching homes the last week of October. Major recipients of funding from the organization include Barrington Youth and Family Services, the Barrington Area Council on Aging, and the Barrington Career Center.

Winter is On the Way ... And So Is Flu Season

Practicing the following good health habits will reduce the spread of the flu.



- Know the signs and symptoms of the flu: 100 degrees Fahrenheit or greater, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, and feeling very tired. Contact your physician with medical questions or concerns.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Do not share eating utensils, drinking containers, telephones, keyboards without cleaning or sanitizing first.
- Stay home from work, school, public gatherings and errands when you are sick for at least 24 hours after there is no longer a fever (without use of a fever-reducing medication).
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue (or your upper sleeve) when you cough or sneeze, and throw the tissue away.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaner is also effective.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.
- Get plenty of sleep, be physically active, manage your stress, drink plenty of fluids and eat nutritious food.

Need Help Paying Winter Heating Bills?

The State of Illinois has a program designed to help low income residents pay their wintertime heating bills.

There are specific income guidelines, based on the number of people in the family and the **total** household income from all individuals living in the home. **This program is based solely on gross income before taxes** – no other criteria apply. If you are struggling to make ends meet, you may qualify for this assistance.



Qualifying individuals will receive a credit on their gas and/or electric bill to help defray the cost of winter heating bills. This assistance is available to both homeowners and renters.

Senior citizens age 60 and over and disabled individuals may apply now; all others who think they may qualify may apply beginning on November 1.

Call the Township at (847) 381-5632 for further information.

Register by January 5th to Vote In February 2nd Election

Illinois residents will go to the polls on Tuesday, February 2nd to elect a U.S. Senator, and statewide offices including Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, Treasurer, Comptroller, and State Representatives. Voters will elect numerous Cook County officials including President of the Cook County Board, Cook County Clerk, Sheriff, Treasurer and Assessor.

Early voting will begin on January 11 and continue through January 28th. Early voting will conclude on January 28th. January 28th is also the deadline for requesting an application for an absentee voting ballot.

Those who have never registered to vote, or who have moved, changed their name or turned 18 years of age must register by Tuesday, January 5th in order to be eligible to vote in the election.

Registration is quick and easy. Just bring two pieces of identification, at least one of which must have your current address, to the Barrington Township office, 602 S. Hough Street. Voter registration is available Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m.-12:00 noon; and 12:30-4:00 p.m.

Be Heart Healthy When Shoveling Snow

- If you are inactive and have a history of heart trouble, talk to your doctor before you take on the task of shoveling snow.
- Avoid caffeine or nicotine before beginning. These are stimulants, which may increase your heart rate and cause your blood vessels to constrict, which places extra stress on the heart.
- Begin shoveling slowly to avoid placing a sudden demand on your heart. Pace yourself and take breaks as needed.

At the Township ...

Barrington Township offers a variety of services to the community and its residents:

■ Handicapped parking placards

Temporary cards available through the Township; permanent handicapped parking placards are available only from the Secretary of State's office.

■ Free notary service

■ Voter registration

Taken daily at the Township, 8:00 AM-4:00 PM Monday through Friday. Two forms of identification, at least one of which must show your current address, are required.

■ Food pantry

Available to qualifying Township residents. Donations of non-perishable food items are always appreciated.

Call the Township at (847) 381-5632 for further information about any of these services.

■ The Angel Fund

Money donated by individuals is available to Township residents who do not qualify for financial assistance elsewhere. Financial assistance is in the form of a voucher, and is available only once a year per family.

If you would like to contribute, make your tax deductible check payable to: "Angel Fund-Barrington Township", and send to Barrington Township, 602 S. Hough Street, Barrington, Illinois 60010

■ Drop-off center for old eyeglasses to be recycled by the Lions Club

■ Drop-off center for old flags to be disposed of properly

From the Assessor's Office

Second Installment Property Tax Bills Arriving in November

Second installment tax bills should be arriving in the mail early November and will be due 30 days from the date they are sent. This second installment bill will reflect any changes, increases or decreases, from the previous years bill. Also, please check your second installment bill for any exemptions you are entitled to. All exemptions you are receiving are listed on the second installment bill.

A new state law that will come into effect in the first installment bill for the 2009 tax year that is due in March will require taxpayers to pay 55% of the previous years tax bill instead of the traditional 50%. This law will give taxing bodies some cushion for funding to get them through to the fall.

Barrington Township saw a large number of taxpayers file an appeal with the Assessor's Office. Barrington Township was open for appeals with the Assessor's Office from September 6 to October 6. Taxpayers still have an opportunity to file an appeal for the 2009 tax year with the

Board of Review. We will not have dates until after the first of the year as to when Barrington Township will be open with the Board of Review. Please check back with us after the first of the year to see when Barrington Township will be able to file an appeal with the Board of Review.



Please call the Barrington Township Assessor's office at (847) 381-5632 for further information on any property tax related matter. We will be happy to assist you.

Amy Nykaza, CIAO, Barrington Township Assessor

Community Food Drives Filling Pantry Shelves, Feeding Struggling Township Residents

The need has been great, but the spirit of the community has been greater.

For some, it is the economy, For others, it is a death, divorce, or serious illness in the family. Whatever the reason, a record number of Township residents have found themselves turning to the Food Pantry in order to feed their families. And thanks to the many community groups and individuals who have cared enough to make a difference, there has been enough food for those who needed it.

Our heartfelt thanks to the following groups and organizations who have sponsored food drives to stock the pantry shelves:

Grove Avenue School
St. Michael's Episcopal Church
Salem United Methodist Church
Barrington High School Broncos Football Team
Barrington High School Math Department
Barrington Women's Club

In addition, numerous cash donations, including an extraordinarily generous gift of \$2,000 from the Arlington Heights Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star of Des Plaines, were also received.

Thanks to all those whose generosity keeps our food pantry shelves filled.

News of Interest From Cook County Commissioner Gregg Goslin

News of special interest to Barrington Township residents:

■ **Video gaming ban:** The amendment to prohibit video gaming in unincorporated Cook County was passed on October 6, 2009, a ban Commissioner Goslin supported.

"While I still believe video gaming is a predatory form of gambling and inappropriate as a revenue stream for public services, I also believe it is important for local units of government to have direct say about what is right for their communities," he said at the Board meeting.

Commissioner Goslin is working to re-craft the ban to allow each township the opportunity to decide whether video gaming should be permitted in their unincorporated areas. Barrington Township Supervisor Gene Dawson submitted testimony opposing video gaming.

■ **Crabtree Nature Center** offers "Budding Naturalist" - a chance to explore what is happening in nature, every Saturday and Sunday from 10:00 a.m. - 3:30. No registration required, just pick up an activity kit and enjoy!

■ **Volunteers are needed** for the Preserve Keeper Corps, ecosystem management, nature center assistance, trail maintained and more. It's a fun, fulfilling way to help care for our cherished resources. Call Commissioner Goslin's office to get linked to the group that interests you!

For more information about the items above or any Cook County related matter, Commissioner Goslin invites you to call him at (847) 729-9300 or email commissionergoslin@cookcountygov.com.



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This Barrington Township Reporter is published by Barrington Township 602 South Hough Street, Barrington, Illinois 60010

Printed on Recycled Paper

Non Profit Org
Presorted Standard
U S Postage
PAID
Barrington IL 60010
Permit No 126

ECRWSS
Postal Customer
Carrier Presort

Community Events & Information of Special Interest

Get Answers to Questions About Medicare Part D

The Barrington Area Council on Aging is now scheduling Medicare Part D consultation appointments from Monday, November 17 through Friday, December 11.

The annual open enrollment period for Medicare begins November 15 and runs through December 31. Enrollees can switch their Medicare Part D plan or enroll in a plan for the first time. All Medicare Part D plans are required to send out an "Annual Notice of Change" to all of their members by October 31. This package has information about the upcoming changes each plan has in store for 2010. Among the things that enrollees should look for:

- How much will the premium be in 2010?
- How much will the deductible be in 2010?
- Are the enrollee's drugs still covered by the plan? The plan may have certain restrictions in 2010 that it may not have had in 2009.
- Has overall cost changed?

If enrollees are satisfied with the changes to their current plan and feel that the plan fits their needs, they do not have to do anything; the plan will automatically renew January 1. For those who want to change their plan or need further information about their current plan, call BACOA at (847) 381-5030 to schedule a consultation appointment.

Thanks, Gardeners!

Over the summer months, a number of area residents and Smart Farm regularly shared the bounty of their vegetable gardens with clients who are receiving food from the Township food pantry. This year, over 1,000 pounds of cucumbers, squash, tomatoes, peppers and other fresh produce were donated. This program, known as the "Giving Garden," is a way for those who love to grow things to share their delicious home-grown harvest with those who otherwise would not have access to such wonderful fresh vegetables.

The Barrington Township gardeners who regularly shared their fresh produce never seek thanks or recognition. But we would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks, and the thanks of those who have received and enjoyed their gift of fresh produce.

Barrington Giving Day Underway

Each December Barrington Giving Day invites families on the Free and Reduced lunch program residing in Barrington 220 School District to a Giving Day. Families receive food, warm coats, books, blankets, and gifts. Members of Barrington churches, schools, businesses and civic organizations have always been generous in their support of this day. Giving Day 2008 helped 776 families, which included 2,400 children. These families live in our school district. They are our friends and neighbors. Volunteers for the Giving Day are always needed, and their time and effort is greatly appreciated. Without your continued help, Giving Day would not be possible.

Each year the need is greater. This year we expect to help 15% more families. Financial gifts are urgently needed and are used to purchase food, grocery food certificates, warm coats for children, books, blankets, and hygiene products. Checks may be made payable to Barrington Giving Day, c/o John Paul Hills, Barrington Bank & Trust, 201 S. Hough Street, Barrington, IL 60010. Go to www.barringtongivingday.org for further information.

Barrington Noon Rotary Brightening the Holiday Season for Underprivileged Kids

Again this year, members of the Barrington Noon Rotary will use their club dues and proceeds from fundraising activities to purchase holiday gifts for children served by the Barrington Township Food Pantry. The parent's are asked what gifts they would like their children to have. The parents will know that the gifts come from Barrington Rotary but the children will not. "We are trying to help families by enabling parents to provide Christmas gifts to their children," said Jane Washburn, the Noon Rotary's Director of Avenues of Service.