



# Barrington Township

## REPORTER

October 2011

### From the desk of Supervisor Gene Dawson

Dear Residents,

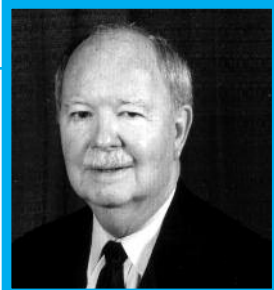
The holiday season will soon be upon us, but at Barrington Township we find that every day is a day to be grateful for the many residents and local groups who reach out to help others throughout the year. Our thanks go out to the numerous individuals and organizations that have helped keep our food pantry shelves stocked in recent months:

**Area residents** donated food at the 4th of July parade. **St. Matthew's Lutheran Church** held a food drive in August. **ChiroFit** collects and donates food for our pantry on a regular basis. **The Barrington Area Library** accepted food donations during April, May and June. **Barrington High School** gave a free red t-shirt to those bringing five cans of food to the first football game of the year. **Three children from a local family** distributed flyers in their subdivision asking for donations for the food pantry, then collected and delivered the items. **A local family** asked relatives and friends for food pantry donations instead of gifts for their child's birthday party.

Barrington Township is proud to be able to provide immediate help for residents in crisis who need food to feed their families. Job loss and illness or injury bring an ever increasing number of people to the Township for assistance. We are proud to be the first line of defense for residents in crisis.

But our community involvement doesn't stop there. We proudly support "green" initiatives such as the new rain garden at the Township (see page 2), community events such as the Cash Dash (see column to the right), and the Angel Fund to help people in special situations. We are, and always have been, the government closest to the people.

*Gene Dawson, Supervisor, Barrington Township*



### Does the State Have Money That Belongs to You? Come to the Cash Dash on November 2 to Find Out!

Illinois State Treasurer Dan Rutherford is encouraging residents to come to the Cash Dash at Barrington Township on November 2 from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon to determine if the state is holding any of their money or unclaimed property.

"People are thrilled to find out they have money just waiting for them through Cash Dash," says Rutherford. Residents can attend local Cash Dash events, or check the State Treasurer's website at least once a year to look for money or valuable assets that the state is holding for them. The treasurer's Unclaimed Property Division has \$1.5 billion in cash, plus contents from Illinois bank safety deposit boxes that have been abandoned for at least five years. The Cash Dash program helps reunite owners with their unclaimed property. On average, the Cash Dash program returns about \$80 million dollars annually to owners. People sometimes lose track of their assets when they move or when loved ones pass away. Businesses and banks are required to turn over unclaimed accounts to the treasurer's office.



Examples of unclaimed property currently held by the treasurer's office include:

- Money in inactive savings and checking accounts
- Unpaid wages or commissions
- Stocks, bonds and mutual funds
- Money orders and bill overpayments
- Paid-up life insurance policies
- Safety deposit box contents

To look for unclaimed property, visit the treasurer's website at [www.treasurer.il.gov](http://www.treasurer.il.gov) and follow the Cash Dash link. The website is updated weekly to reflect new properties remitted to the office. Additionally, Cash Dash teams conduct regular outreach across the state, place twice-annual inserts in major newspapers and send direct mail to new single-owner claimants with property worth more than \$100. You can contact the Unclaimed Property Division by calling (217) 785-6998 or emailing [info@cashdash.net](mailto:info@cashdash.net).

## Barrington Township is Going Eco-Friendly

The Township is going green with a rain garden, designed to capture runoff from the Township building's roof and sidewalk. The 300 square foot demonstration rain garden was created in partnership with the Flint Creek Watershed Partnership. The objective is to keep rainwater where it falls in order to reduce stormwater runoff, improve water quality, and replenish groundwater supplies.

The Flint Creek Watershed Partnership received a Barrington Area Community Foundation grant that paid for the installation of demonstration rain gardens at the Barrington Area Library, Lines Elementary School, and Lake Zurich's Paulus Park in 2009-2010.

Barrington Township is proud to be the first to step up to the "every village and township rain garden challenge" issued by the Flint Creek Watershed Partnership in 2010. A \$900 Illinois Rain Garden Initiative grant paid about half the cost of establishing the rain garden.

Township resident Patsy Mortimer has volunteered her time to oversee the rain garden, which was dug and planted in July. It includes 300 plants: 15 different native Illinois flowers, grasses and sedges which will grow roots 5-15 feet deep and provide channels for rainwater to follow into the ground. The garden captures about 600 square feet of the roof runoff, and two 14-16 foot sodded swales capture sidewalk and yard runoff. Once the garden is mature, it is expected to divert about 1,200 gallons of water a year from storm sewers.



*Volunteer Patsy Mortimer with the Township's new rain garden*

## At the Township . . .

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

### ■ Disabled parking placards

Temporary cards available through the Township; permanent disabled 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.

## NEWS TO KNOW—

**Townships now coordinating Pace bus service:** Barrington and Cuba Townships have assumed direct responsibility for negotiating the contract and overseeing billing for Pace Dial-a-Ride services. The Village of Barrington had previously handled these functions. Pace provides in excess of 3,000 rides a year for area residents.

### **Relay for Life Cupcake Tower a sweet treat:**

The 2011 Barrington Area Relay for Life featured a multi-tier cupcake tower to honor those affected by cancer. At the conclusion of the event, organizers donated 300 plus cupcakes to the



*Photo courtesy of the Barrington Courier Review*

Township's food pantry. Food pantry clients were delighted with the unexpected and much appreciated treat!

**Generous gardeners:** Again this year, Barrington area gardeners generously shared the bounty from their gardens with the Township's food pantry clients. This year, volunteer gardeners from the Smart Farm, located at the back of Beese Park, donated its harvest of about 900 pounds of food to local food pantries, including Barrington Township. While food donations are a major part of the Smart Farm's mission, the group also educated people on sustainable gardening and how to live off of locally grown food. In addition to the Smart Farm volunteers, our thanks also go to the Ogners, the Berkenstocks, and the Voss's, and the many anonymous individual gardeners who left their donations at the Township.

**Mark your calendar for our annual 'Have a Heart' Food Drive:** The date is Saturday, February 11, 2012. Be watching for complete details in local newspapers.

**Help with winter heating bills:** The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program is designed to help low income residents, senior citizens and disabled individuals pay their winter-time heating bills. This assistance is available to both homeowners and renters. Call the Township at (847) 381-5632 for further information.

# Community News, Events & Information

**Senior Lunch Celebrates Fabulous Future:** Carole Parker will be the guest speaker at the Barrington Area Council on Aging's fourth annual luncheon, "Celebrating the F Words: Your Fabulous Future." Dr. Parker, a psychologist and executive coach, will speak on "Thriving in the Second Half of Life." The event will be held Thursday, November 10, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Makray Memorial Golf Club, 1010 S. Northwest Highway, Barrington. Whitehall of Deerfield will sponsor the event. Cost is \$40 per person; a cash bar will also be available.

Reservation deadline is Friday, October 29; for more information or reservations, call BACOA at (847) 381-5030 or visit BACOA's Web site at [www.bacoa.org](http://www.bacoa.org).

## Learn About Medicare Part D

**Options:** The Barrington Area Council

on Aging is now scheduling Medicare Part D consultation appointments from October 18 through December 7. The annual open enrollment period for Medicare begins October 15 and runs through December 31. Enrollees can switch their Medicare Part D plan or enroll in a plan for the first time.

Among the things that enrollees should look for:

- How much will the premium be in 2012?
- How much will the deductible be in 2012?
- Are the enrollee's drugs still covered by the plan? The plan may have certain restrictions in 2012 that it may not have had in 2011.
- Has overall cost changed?

If enrollees are satisfied with the changes to their current plan, they do not have to do anything; the plan will

automatically renew January 1.

For those who want to enroll, review or change their plan, call BACOA at (847) 381-5030 to schedule a consultation appointment.

**Barrington Giving Day:** Again this year, Barrington Township will be a drop off location for this event that provides food, warm coats, books, blankets and gifts for low income families and senior citizens in the Barrington School District 220 area. Residents are invited to participate in this grass roots program by donating a turkey or ham, purchasing gift cards from local groceries and retail stores, or bringing new, unwrapped toys, games, winter hats and mittens to the Township. The drop-off deadline is December 7. Questions? Call Barb at the Township, (847) 381-5632.

## From the Assessor's Office Upcoming Dates To Remember

Barrington Township closed for appeals for the 2011 tax year with the Assessor's Office on August 26. We will open for appeals with the Board of Review within the coming weeks, although do not yet have an opening date. Taxpayers may watch our web-site, [www.barringtontownship.com](http://www.barringtontownship.com) for opening date announcements. This will be another opportunity to appeal your assessment for the 2011 tax year. Once open, taxpayers will have 30 days to file an appeal.



Second installment of the 2010 property taxes will be tentatively due the first week of November. Once the bills are mailed, property owners can pay online at [www.cookcountytreasurer.com](http://www.cookcountytreasurer.com), at any Chase Bank by mail or in person, or at the Treasurer's office downtown. This second installment will include any exemptions taxpayers are entitled to. Once you receive your bill, please check it carefully to be sure you are correctly receiving all the exemptions you are entitled to. If you have any questions regarding your bill please contact us at 847-381-5632.

Just a reminder that the Senior Exemption must be applied for every year. In the past this exemption, which is available to all taxpayers over the age of 65, was an automatic renewal, but legislation changed that this past year. All seniors must reapply every year for this exemption.

*Amy Nykaza, CIAO, Barrington Township Assessor*

## News of Interest From Cook County Commissioner Gregg Goslin

News of interest to Barrington Township residents:

■ **Mortgage Foreclosure Mediation Program:** The Circuit Court of Cook County Mortgage Foreclosure Mediation Program helps families throughout Cook County who are in foreclosure. A workshop will be held in the 14th District in October to help residents understand how the program works. A specific date and time will be coming shortly. For more details, call Commissioner Goslin's office at 312-603-4932 or check the website [www.commissionergoslin.com](http://www.commissionergoslin.com).

■ **Performance Management and Lowering the Cost of Government:** Last February, Commissioner Goslin sponsored legislation requiring that budgeting be linked to performance indicators. Recently Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle released the first quarterly performance management report from Set Targets, Achieve Results (STAR), the program inspired by this legislation. Data from STAR will be used to drive the budget process, structure government operations and create an improved forum for public feedback on county operations and the reports are online for any who wish to view it. To download a full copy of the report, visit [www.cookcountyl.gov](http://www.cookcountyl.gov). The report is an interesting glimpse into county operations.

■ **Making Tough Choices:** A new interactive budget feature on the Cook County website is designed to shed more light on the County budget. Residents are encouraged to use this site to offer suggestions on how to address the \$315.2 million shortfall in the General Fund. A preliminary budget is also at that site and public hearings will be later this year.



**Barrington Township**  
**602 South Hough Street**  
**Barrington, Illinois 60010**  
**Phone: 847/381-5632 Fax: 847/381-0623**  
**[www.barringtontownship.com](http://www.barringtontownship.com)**

Eugene R. "Gene" Dawson . . . Supervisor  
 D. Robert Alberding . . . . . Town Clerk  
 Amy Nykaza . . . . . Assessor

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**Fall Chipping  
 Schedule for  
 Unincorporated  
 Barrington Township**

Chipping in the unincorporated area is scheduled for Thursday, October 6.

- Brush and branches must be loose, not tied.
- Brush must be dirt-free (no stumps).
- No leaves or grass clippings will be collected.
- Brush should be stacked along the roadway with thick end toward the street.
- DO NOT stack brush higher than 12 inches.
- Branches must be no thicker than six inches in diameter.

**Safeguard the Environment and the Water You Drink: Dispose of Pharmaceuticals Properly**



Pharmaceutical components are increasingly being found in drinking water. Currently the levels are not known to affect human health, but studies show that some aquatic species are negatively reacting to pharmaceuticals in the water. The Barrington Area Council of Governments (BACOG) advocates taking steps now to protect our groundwater from contamination before it becomes a health issue.

**Don't flush or toss!**

Flushing old and unused medication creates an easy avenue for groundwater contamination. Septic tanks and wastewater treatment plants are unable to remove all pharmaceutical components during treatment. The water released from the treatment plant or your septic system still contains remnants of flushed medication, contaminating the water we pump into our homes for drinking.

Putting medicines in the trash is not a safe alternative, either. Landfills create a liquid composed of everything in the landfill. This liquid may be treated at a wastewater treatment plant but will still contain pharmaceuticals that can contaminate our water.

**Dispose of your pharmaceuticals at a reputable take back program.**

The Barrington Police Department, in cooperation with the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County, collects expired and unused medications the first Saturday of every month from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Public Safety Building, 400 N. Northwest Highway, Barrington. If you have questions, contact the Police Department at (847) 304-3300.

**Barrington Area Bird Hikes This Fall**

The Audubon Chicago Region and Barrington Citizens for Conservation are sponsoring a series of bird hikes at local nature areas this fall, led by Barrington area bird expert Wendy Paulson.



Walks are free and open to the public though spaces are limited and RSVPs are required. Waterproof boots are strongly recommended for these hikes. And don't forget your binoculars!

**Schedule:**

**October 21, 8:30AM**—Gallop Hill (meet at Penny Road Pond parking lot, less than a mile west of Old Sutton/Penny Rd intersection)

**October 28, 8:30AM**—Bakers Lake (Meet at Beese Park, east end of Cornell Avenue)  
 Please RSVP to: Janis Wesley (847) 328-1250, ext. 10 or [jwesley@audubon.org](mailto:jwesley@audubon.org) and let us know how best to get in touch with you should that be necessary.