



PHOTO: JIM PRISCHING

Good News and Growth in the Village of Barrington

NOW THAT SPRING IS UPON US, you have probably noticed that there is a lot of activity happening in and around the Village of Barrington. Our 10 new downtown restaurants are getting set to open their outdoor seating areas; construction is occurring on a new luxury apartment community downtown on Hough Street; and our dedicated Public Works crews are out and about repairing roads and sprucing up the Village after the winter snows.

I must say that I've never been more optimistic about the direction our Village is headed. In 2016 alone, we had 49 new businesses open in Barrington, our retail occupancy rate is now at 90 percent, and we experienced a 24 percent sales tax growth rate from 2011 to 2015.

Just in the past two years we've been able to enjoy many improvements in the heart of the Village: the addition of the Hough/Main Village Center development has attracted numerous new restaurants and businesses; the renovation of Barrington's White House is providing many wonderful cultural and event activities; and our various streetscape improvements throughout downtown

have made Barrington an even more beautiful environment in which to live, work, and play.

In addition, we have several important infrastructure projects that will be getting underway in the next year or two that will improve the safety of our community and enhance our quality of life. They include many new bike path connections; additional turn lanes, and a sidewalk at the Hart Road/Route 14 intersection (with a sidewalk extending past the Field of Dreams parking area all the way around BHS stadium and campus and onto Main Street in the works); a new north commuter entrance to the train station (with a traffic signal) directly from Route 14 near Barrington Animal Hospital; a new traffic light and dedicated turn lanes at Dundee Road and Grove Avenue; and a sanitary sewer replacement project along Liberty Street, North Avenue, and across Main Street along Miller Park to Russell Street. This project will include mitigation of the flooding concerns in the neighborhood near Miller Park.

Also, the planning phases are still ongoing to construct an underpass at Route 14 and the CN tracks to mitigate the increased traffic issues that

the railroad has brought and will continue to bring to our community. You should know that of the proposed \$62 million price tag for this long-term infrastructure project, the Village of Barrington will only be spending \$400,000 due to grants and funding received from federal and state agencies, as well as CN to some degree. That's less than one percent of the total project cost!

It has always been my goal to represent our community and our residents in such a way that we can continue to move Barrington forward in important ways, while still maintaining the charm and small-town character that we all enjoy. I think you'll all agree that our many new restaurants, shops, and wide-ranging events throughout the year provide our residents with numerous opportunities to participate in all the great things that Barrington has to offer.

It is my privilege to serve as your Village President, and I hope that you will reach out to me directly at 847-304-3445 or kdarch@barrington-il.gov should you have any comments, questions, or concerns about anything happening in the Village.

Karen Darch is president of the Village of Barrington.