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**CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT &
THE BARRINGTON AREA
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

NOVEMBER 1975

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CIT
LOCAL
HISTORY

Citizen Involvement
and
The Barrington Area Council of Governments

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During the first one hundred years (1865-1965) of Barrington's regional development, a number of fortunate circumstances coalesced to impart a unique character to this area. A strong farming community developed on the rolling topography of this region. Because of the distance from Chicago and lack of local raw materials, no heavy industry, quarrying, or even railyards ever situated here. For decades farming continued unchallenged in importance and the town of Barrington thrived solely as a local retail and shipping center. In the 1920's a transition took place on the land as affluent families built five-acre estates as country retreats from the industrializing city of Chicago. Hunt clubs, horse farms, and country clubs began to evolve in the landscape surrounding Barrington. By the 1950's many of the residential estate areas had incorporated. But the farms did not yet disappear and both a rural economy and a residential area found themselves mutually concerned with the quality of the land. Area response to the environment, long before it became fashionable, had some effects in other ways. Tracts of land were purchased by the Cook County Forest Preserve District as nature preserves. The Jewel Corporation built a regional industrial plant here, but developed it in a park-like setting. This initiated a local precedent to aesthetically planned industrial site development. The Northwest Highway bypassed the downtown area of Barrington preserving its small town infrastructure.

But by 1965 things had changed. The near suburban areas of Chicago were filling up. Local residents of the Barrington area began to realize that development pressures were gaining momentum.

These pressures would probably include the proliferation of highway strip shopping and shopping centers, intense residential development with little respect for soil quality or floodplain siting, and overall destruction of the open space and small town character prized by local residents.

Citizen leaders began to meet, sharing their concern. They worked toward some common course of action. Barton-Aschman, a Chicago based consulting firm, was invited to participate in the planning. Four guiding principles were set before any outside planner would be engaged. These principles were to set the tone for BACOG's future and mark it indelibly as a citizen oriented planning organization: 1) the program would be locally sponsored and financed 2) the consultant would not prepare a plan for the Barrington area; this task would remain solely the responsibility of local citizens and elected officials. 3) public education was a necessity, and should relate to conservation vs. development and the potential effects and alternatives for the future, 4) the consultants role was to advise or suggest direction.

In April of 1966 an areawide, non-profit organization capable of representing varied interests was formed, the Barrington Area Development Council.

The consultants and citizens continued to meet throughout the winter and finally agreed on an approach to deal with area problems. The planning program published the consultant's study and suggested six initial courses of action.

- 1) a projection of area-wide growth
- 2) an identification of area-wide problems
- 3) an identification of resource inadequacies
- 4) an evaluation of growth and governmental alternatives with respect to the environment
- 5) an evaluation of growth and governmental alternatives with respect to costs and taxes
- 6) recommended courses of action

The following four years saw the development of a more and more intense level of citizen awareness. Initial membership in the BADC was opened to 100 citizen sponsors. The consultant's study was undertaken in two phases, and steering committees of concerned citizens began to meet regularly. In early 1968 the League of Women Voters became involved and effectively served to communicate to area residents the growing activity and commitment to meet the pressures. Soon after the second phase of the consultant's study came out, the League sponsored a public forum for all interested citizens in the Barrington High School Auditorium. The steering committees continued to meet. Property owners associations and conservation groups became more and more involved.

The local press gave excellent coverage to the developing events. One suggestion by the consultants' study was to develop a Council of Governments composed of elected officials of all the villages within the Barrington area. This kind of organization would more effectively insure a comprehensive viewpoint on selecting goals for the future.

Just before this proposal was released in February of 1970, Centex-Winston Corporation applied for a zoning change in an unin-

Corporated area of Barrington Township. The proposal was for a 463 acre, 1,300 residential unit development. Public reaction against the project developed immediately. Petitions, newspaper editorials, the BADC and local officials all opposed it. By April of 1970 BACOG was formed and began to deal with the Centex-Winston proposal. The Centex-Winston case provided an immediate test for the Barrington citizens concerning their land use goals. After years of litigation, the Centex-Winston proposal was defeated. Other incompatible development proposals were to follow necessitating more legal action by BACOG.

By February 1971 an executive director for BACOG was hired and within six months an area wide comprehensive plan was under development. Citizen subcommittees, were appointed dealing with land-use, environment, transportation, and housing. The work of these subcommittees and of the citizen committees and task forces to follow have been outstanding examples of the potential effectiveness of citizen participation in the planning process.

As noted in the following organizational chart of BACOG, the Council of Governments is composed of seven regular member villages, five special district liaisons, an executive director's office and staff, and a large number of committees. The executive board is composed of the seven village presidents or their designated alternates. The special district liaisons are invited to all BACOG meetings because they fulfill important governmental roles within the BACOG boundaries. Most of the day-to-day coordination of activities and direction takes place in the BACOG office under the guidance of the executive director.

But it is in the committee structure of BACOG where much of the work has evolved over the past four years resulting in policies and goals for the future of the Barrington area. This region is tremendously rich in human resources and it was through citizen participation on the committees that thousands of hours of volunteer work have been accomplished. These committees have been indispensable to BACOG, providing impetus behind the vast amount of research and program development which must be accomplished before developing a comprehensive plan.

The Administrative Committees are responsible for legal, financial, and nominating matters, as well as other administrative duties.

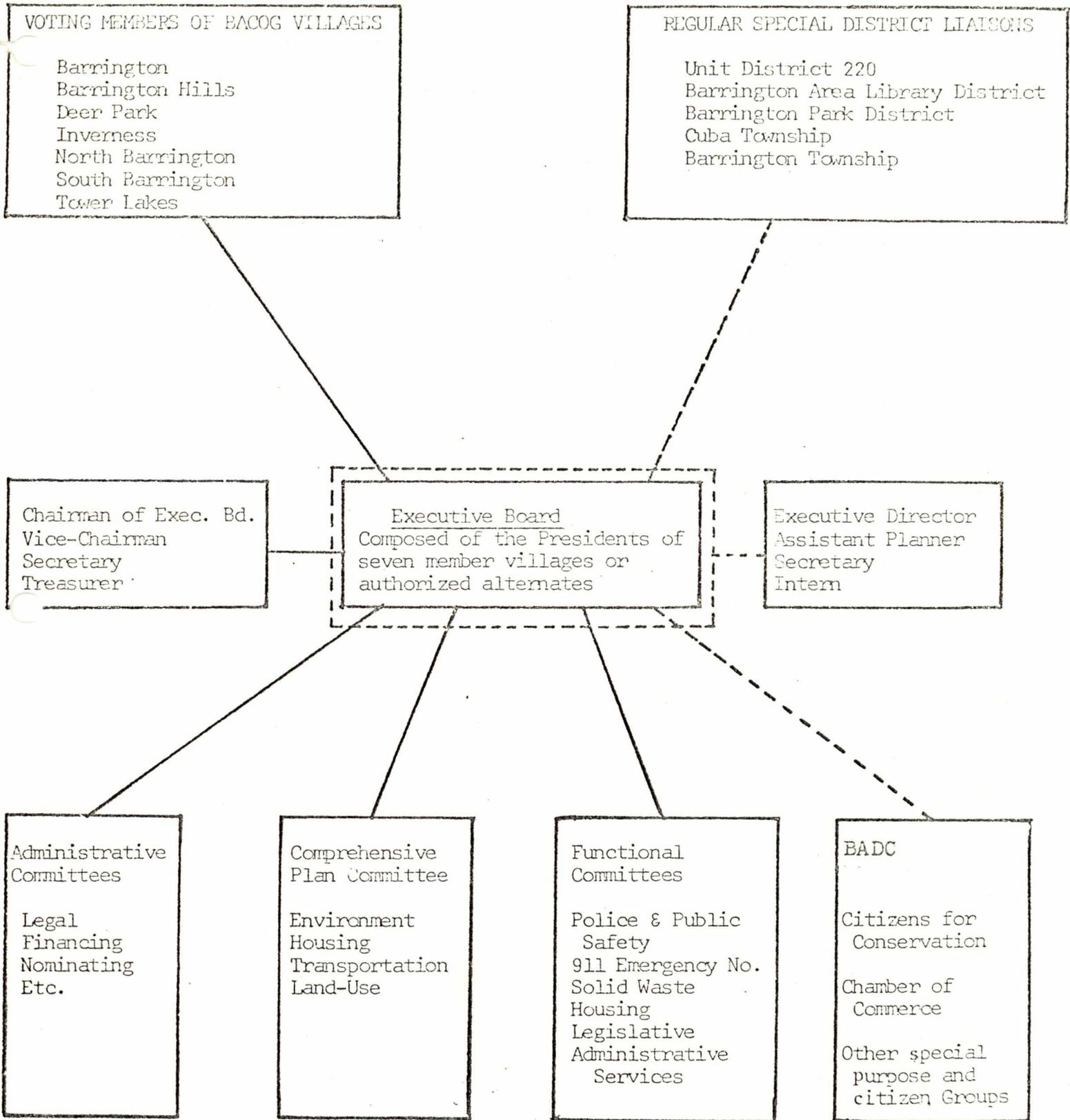
Subcommittees on the Environment, Land Use, Housing, and Transportation were established in 1972. These four topics now form the core of the Comprehensive Plan adopted in July, 1975.

Functional committees provide the essential information

utilized by the BACOG staff for planning and coordination of BACOG's action programs.

Special purpose groups maintain a strong liaison with BACOG. These include organizations such as the BADC, Citizens for Conservation, and the Chamber of Commerce. Each lobbies for recognition and plan development of their specific area of interest.

BARRINGTON AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS



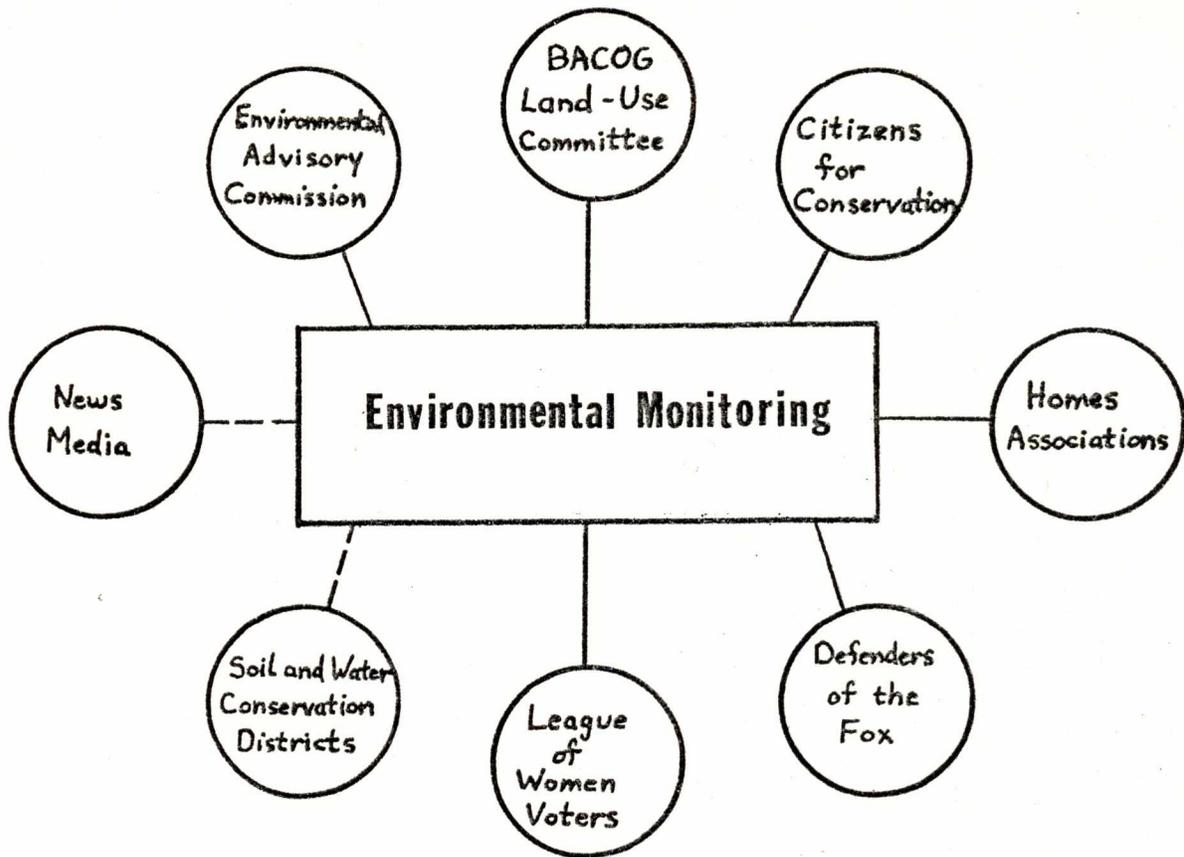
The following pages list the current action programs with which BACOG is involved. A chart is shown on each page to show how citizen organizations, committees, task forces, and information systems can relate to each program in particular. A short explanation of the program and an example of how citizens have been involved is also described. The programs are categorized in the order in which they appear in the recently published Comprehensive Plan.

It is important to note that these charts show only organized structures of communication. There should always be a channel for unstructured communication. If one develops a sudden idea or criticism, it wouldn't be practical to join a special committee just to express it. This is why citizen participation at open hearings is very important to the planner, consultant, or elected official. The importance of letters, phone calls, or visits to the BACOG office shouldn't be underestimated. The same is true of letters to the editor in local newspapers.

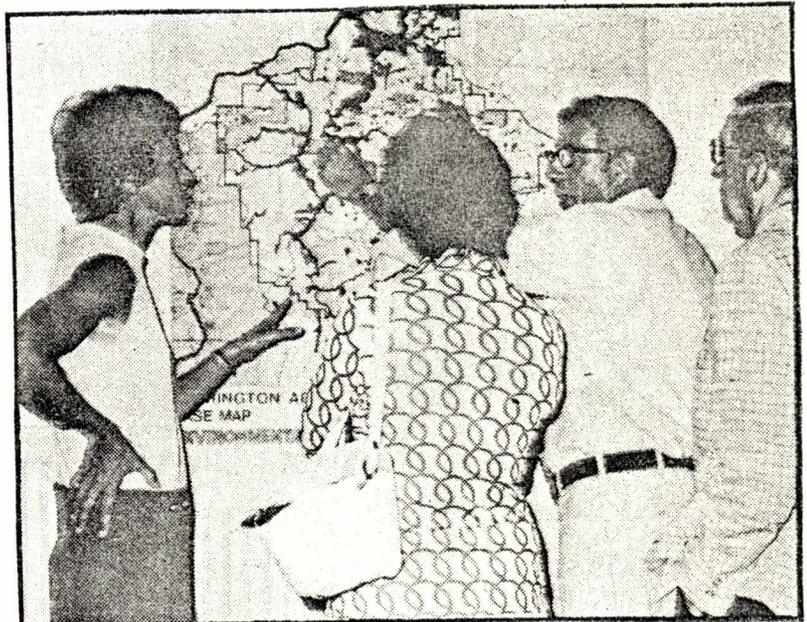
But for penetrating, organized work into specific problem areas, committee and topical organizational efforts are recognized solutions.

**CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT &
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES**

Environmental Monitoring



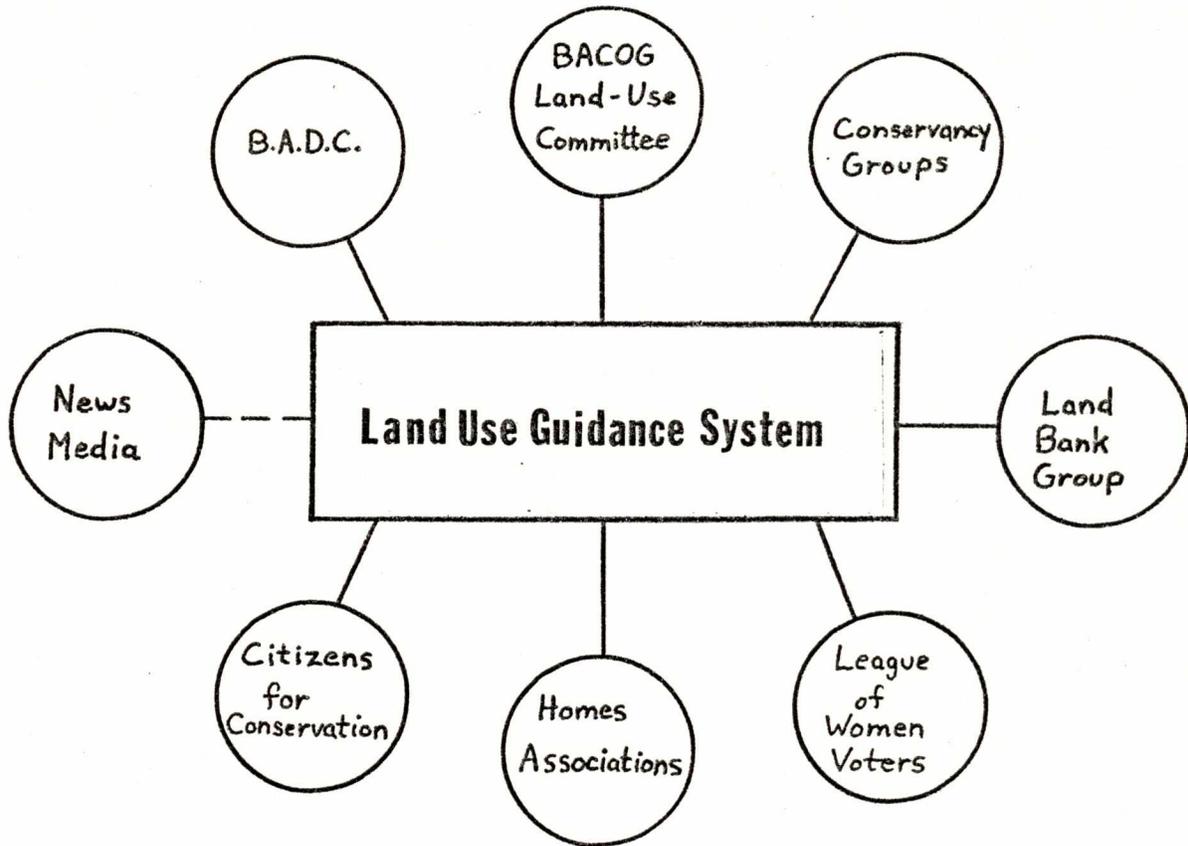
Environmental monitoring helps to insure the implementation of the environmental policies of the comprehensive plan which involve the ecology and character of the BACOG area. Citizen environmental groups have been instrumental in pointing out our critical land areas and ecosystems. Recognition, protection, and maintenance need to become normal operations if these areas are to retain their important character.



Barbara Hansen, Linda Siegel, Don Klein, and Larry Knouff comment on aspects of the Natural Resource map of the comprehensive plan.

CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT & LAND USE

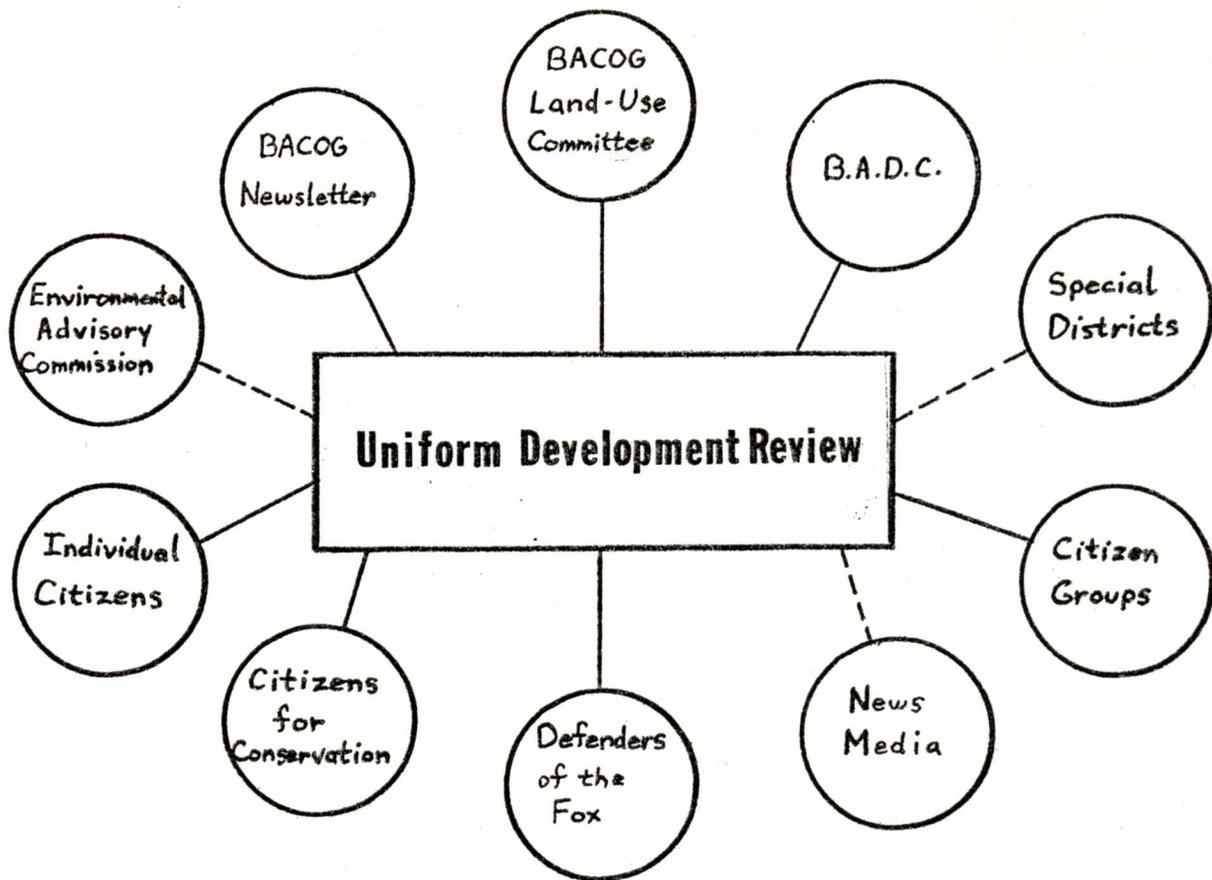
Land-use Guidance System
Uniform Development Review
Housing
Economic Development
Community Services
 Shared Services
 Regional Law Enforcement
 911 Emergency Service
 Regional Health Care
 Resources Exchange/
 Education Institutions
 Culture and Fine Arts
 Solid Waste Study
Transportation



Developing a land-use guidance system is a basic step in implementing the open space and development goals of the comprehensive plan. An effective information system, legal reviews, shared services and strong liaisons with governmental agencies are necessary activities involved in the background of land-use control and guidance. Citizen volunteers provided much necessary research input on the original land-use committee. Local citizens continue to contribute their time.



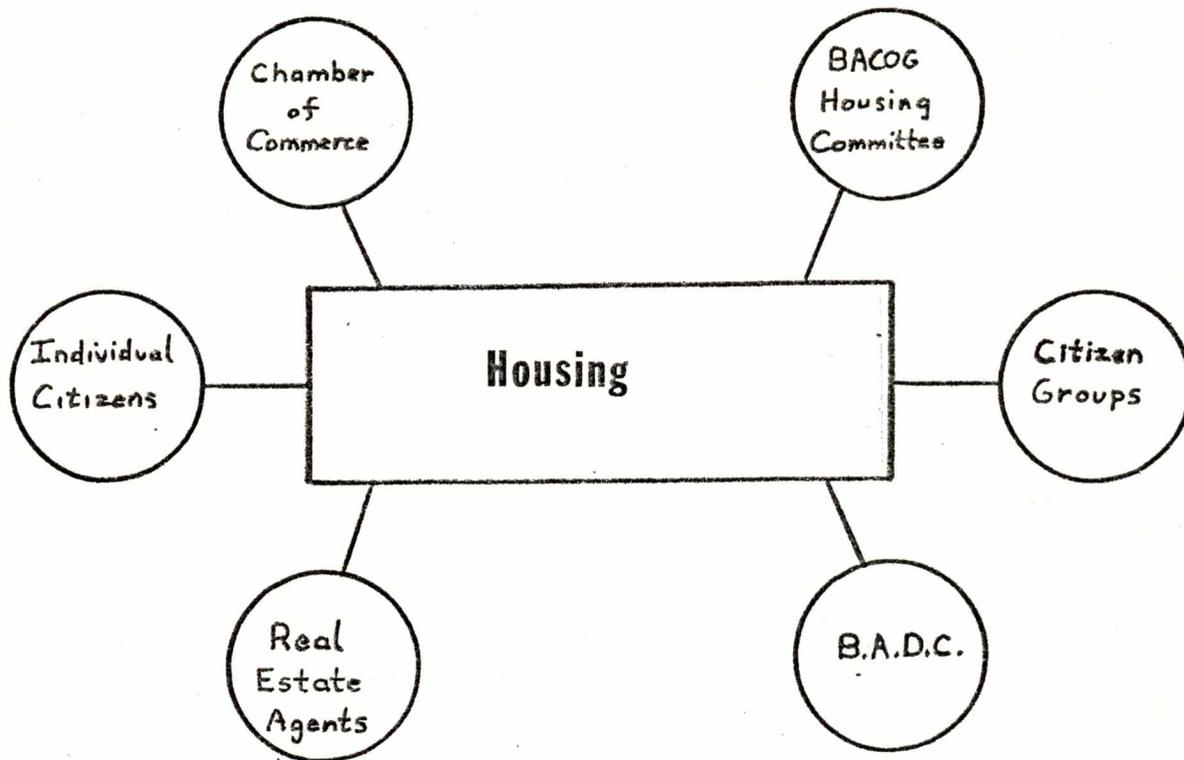
Barrington Hills Planning Commission member Mary Garre clarifies a point on a map to be included in the Comprehensive Plan, while Ed Lafferty, North Barrington Planning Commission member looks on.



Uniform development review also importantly relates to the environmental policies of the Comprehensive Plan. "Uniform" implies an agreement on the siting, quality, and the review of new developments throughout the BACOG area. Citizen participation came to the forefront during cases such as Centex, Draper, Bartlett and La Buy proposals. Important Legal standing of BACOG resulted. Continued involvement of this kind will insure a unique natural environment for the future.



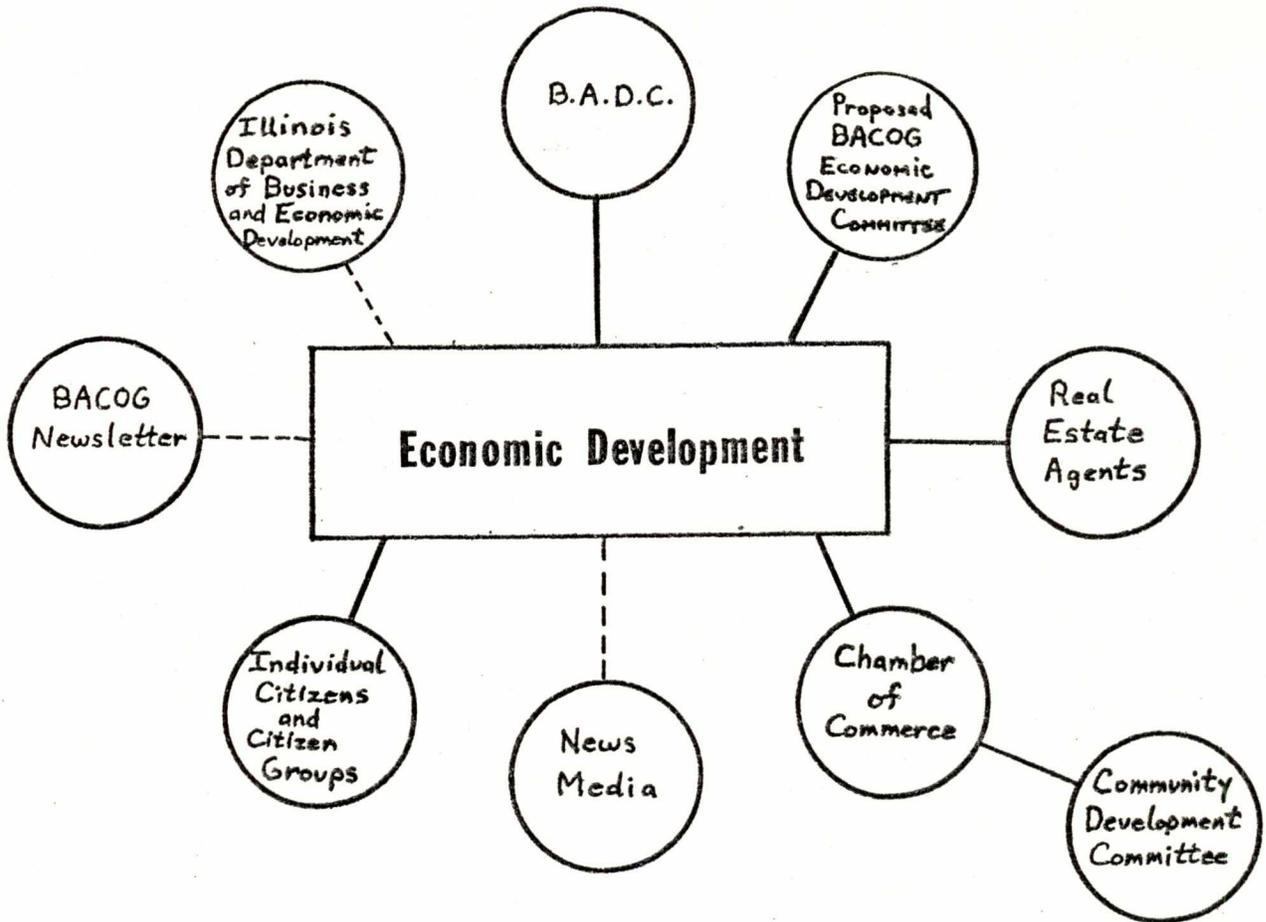
Members of the Barrington Area Development Council's ordinance committee meet in the home of Fred Pendleton (left), chairman. Members are (from left) Mrs. Ruth Moor, Mrs. Wayne Johnson, William Miller, Mrs. Richard Brannon, and Mrs. Fran DuVal.



Housing needs by 1985 will convert 5,400 acres of existing vacant land into residential use. Composed of local citizens, the Housing Committee suggested a framework of housing priorities which passed through several citizen and board reviews and in its final form was adopted into the Comprehensive Plan last July.



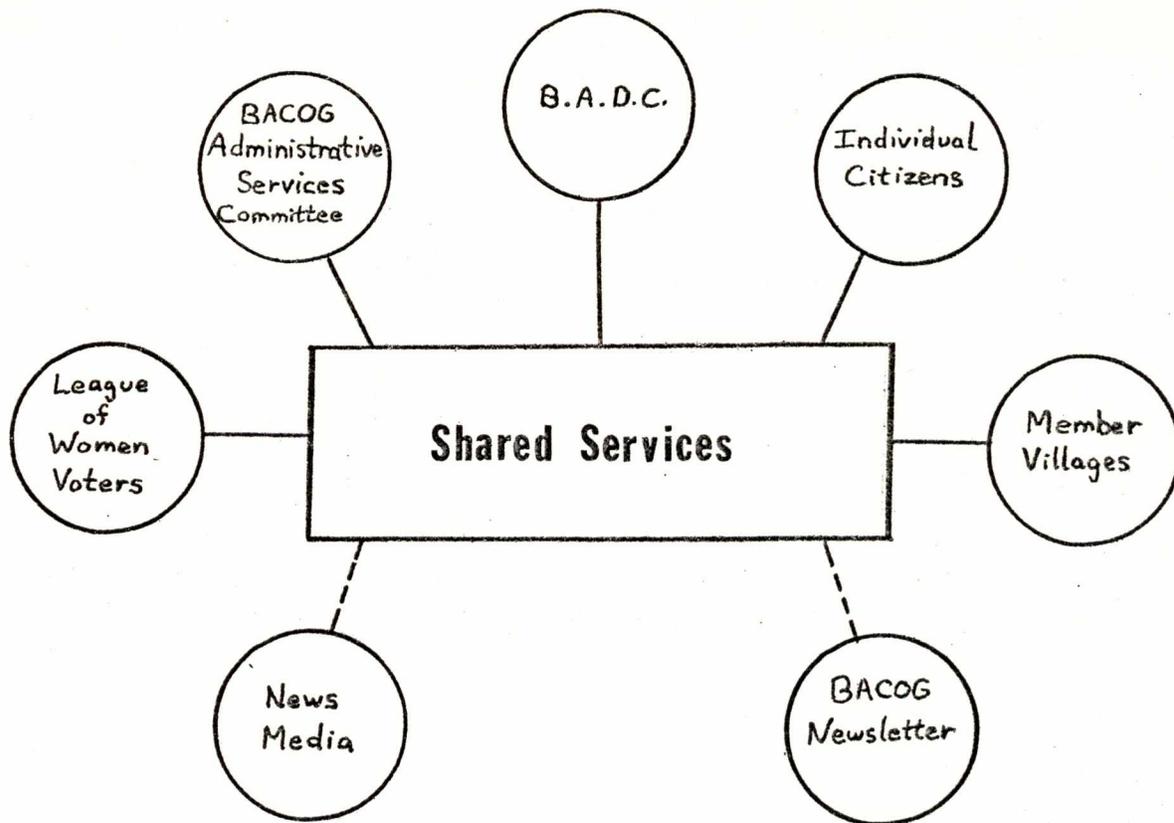
Bill Kirk and John Rockwood, BACOG housing committee members review material for the Comprehensive Plan at a recent housing committee meeting.



Economic development is directed through the Community Development Committee of the Barrington Area Chamber of Commerce with whom BACOG maintains a liaison. To retain the character of the Barrington area, yet provide for the future increase in employment, special emphasis is placed on the search for light industry, research and office facilities. Private citizen initiatives in attracting firms or memberships in local organizations have traditionally spurred our commercial-industrial base.



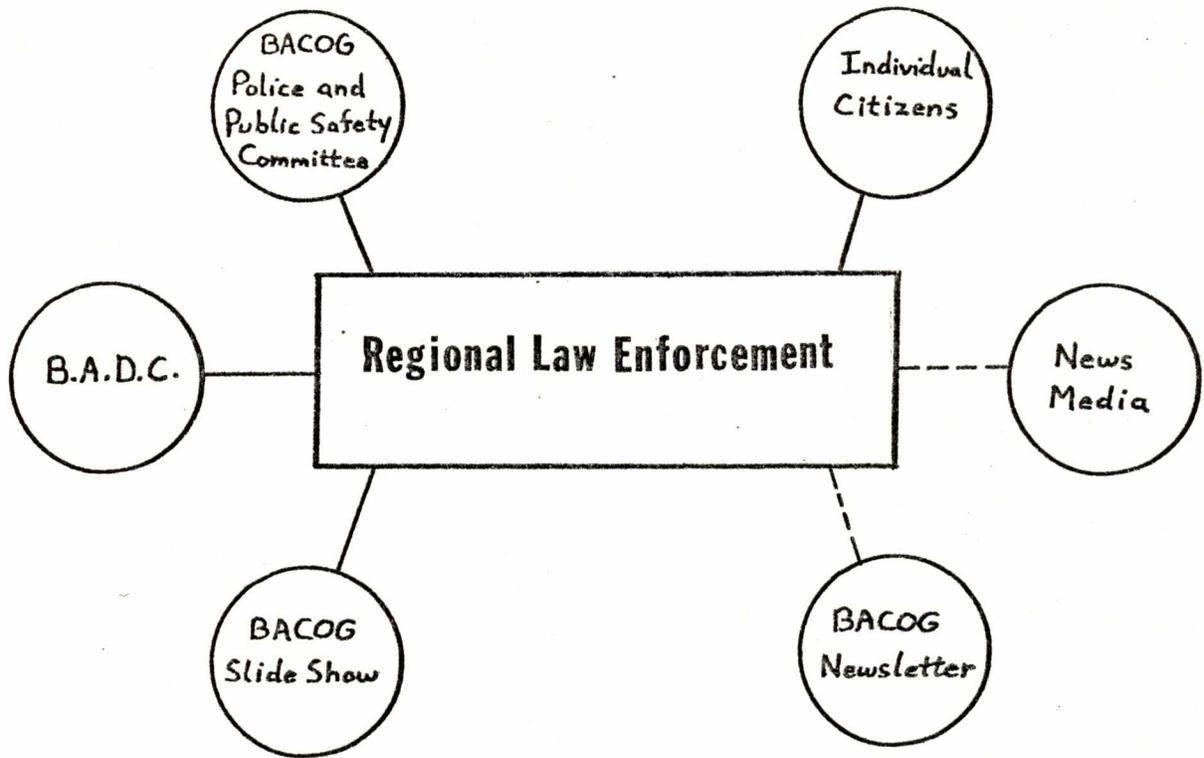
Reviewing land use data for BACOG's comprehensive plan update are, left, Don Klein, BACOG Director, Nelson Forrest, North Barrington President, and Jean Ost, Deer Park Trustee.



Shared services is the method suggested in the Comprehensive Plan for delivering necessary community services. It is a system in which the BACOG members would enter contracts cooperatively to provide police and fire protection, health care, waste collection, governmental and management facilities and cultural opportunities. Citizens involved on the Administrative Services Committee helped determine the feasibility of which services would be most easily implemented.



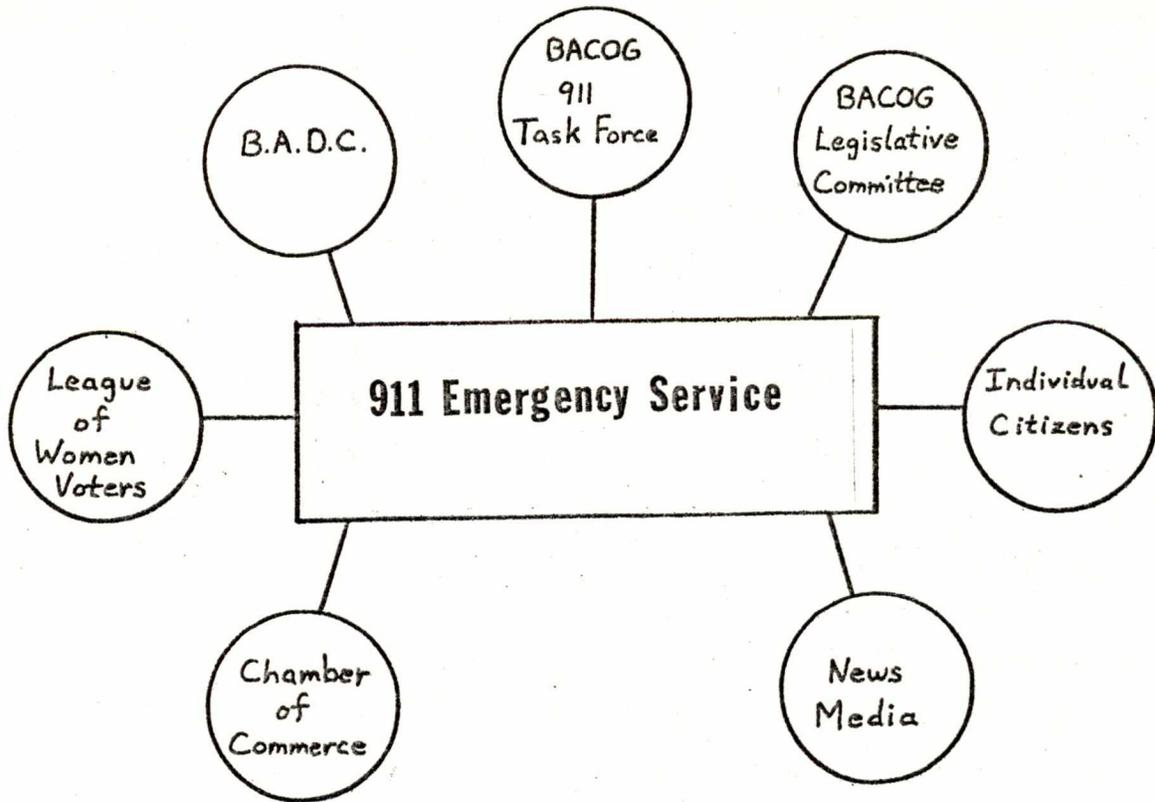
Officer Steve Graham prepares to enter a Barrington squad. Police services to other villages is thus far the most far-reaching of the potential shared services.



Regional law enforcement, one of the shared services, has just recently made a strong stride forward with the beginning phases of work under the \$128,000 ILEC grant. Citizen participation on the Police and Public Safety Committee was instrumental in developing this concept to a workable stage through their research, organization and recommendations.

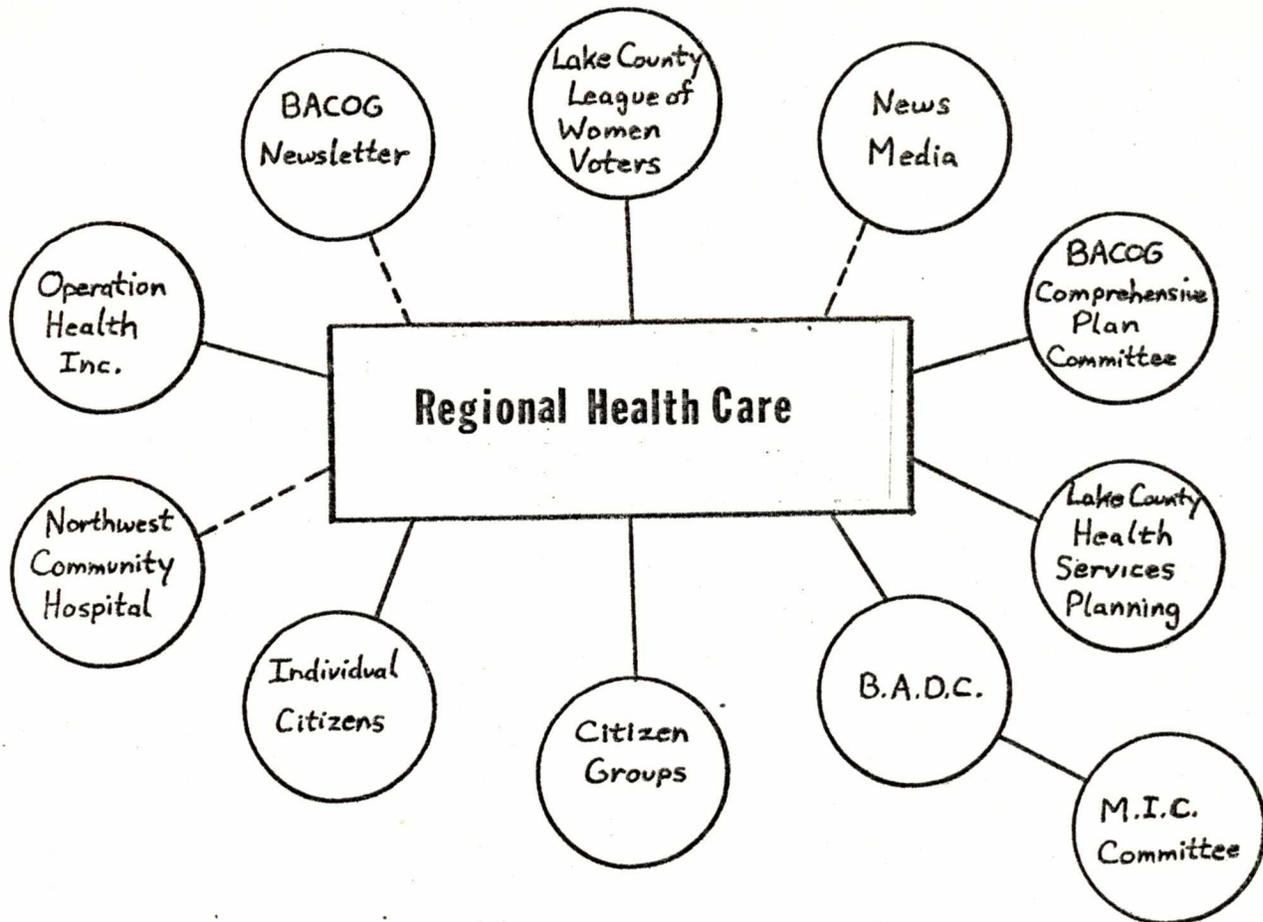


Reviewing BACOG's police grant forms are, Dean Maiben, Barrington Mgr., Barbara Drabek, Lake-McHenry Law Enforcement Commission, Walter Pugh, Chairman of BACOG's Police Committee and Bob Doran, Assoc. Director Crescent Region Criminal Justice Commission.



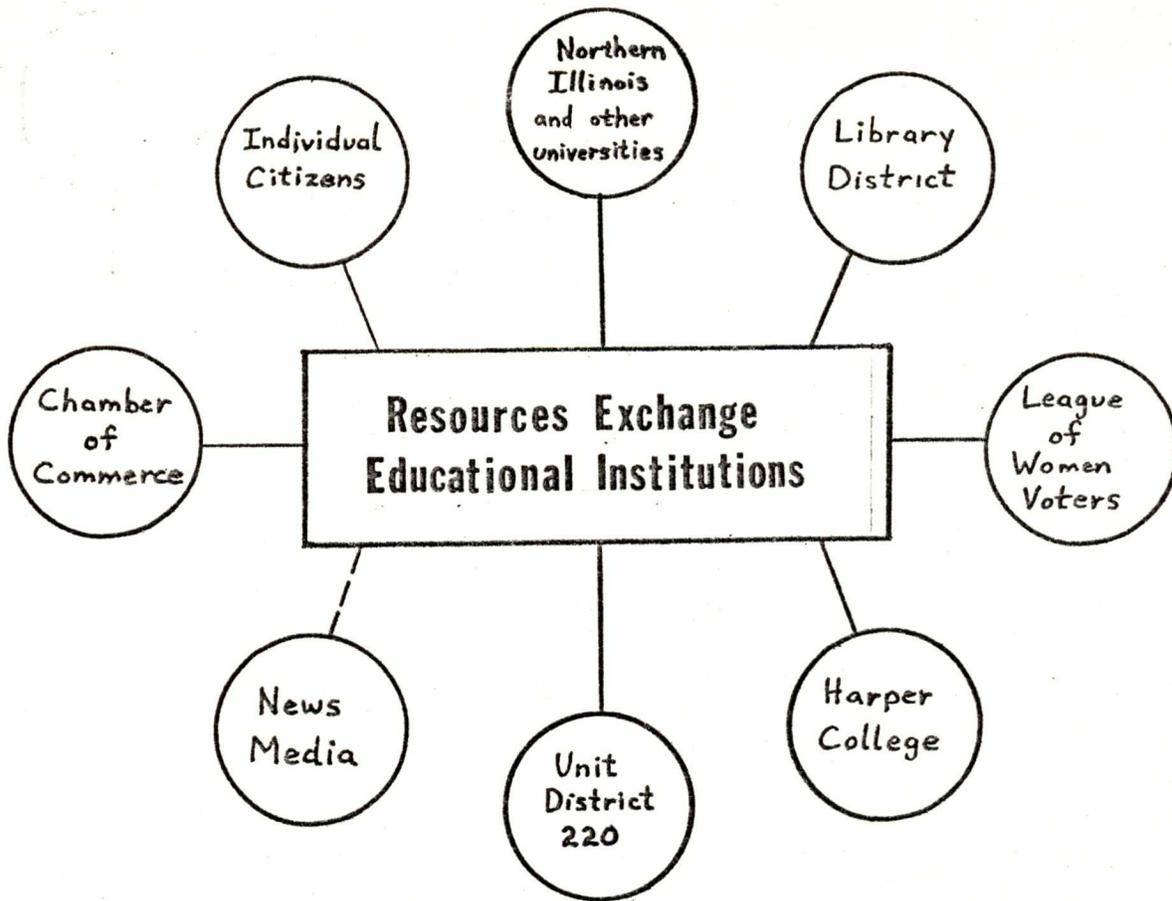
John Kilpatrick, left, Ralph Ohlers, survey committee chairman, center, and Jim Hawthorne offer suggestions on the problems and needs of the Barrington area.

911 Emergency Service is closer to becoming a reality with downstate legislation recently approved establishing this emergency number throughout the state. A BACOG task force composed of area citizens accomplished much research and presented their findings so effectively that Illinois Bell Telephone suggested last July that the BACOG area be set up as a pilot project.



Mrs. Ruth Moor, president of the BADC, addresses herself to a question from the audience during one of the council's well attended meetings.

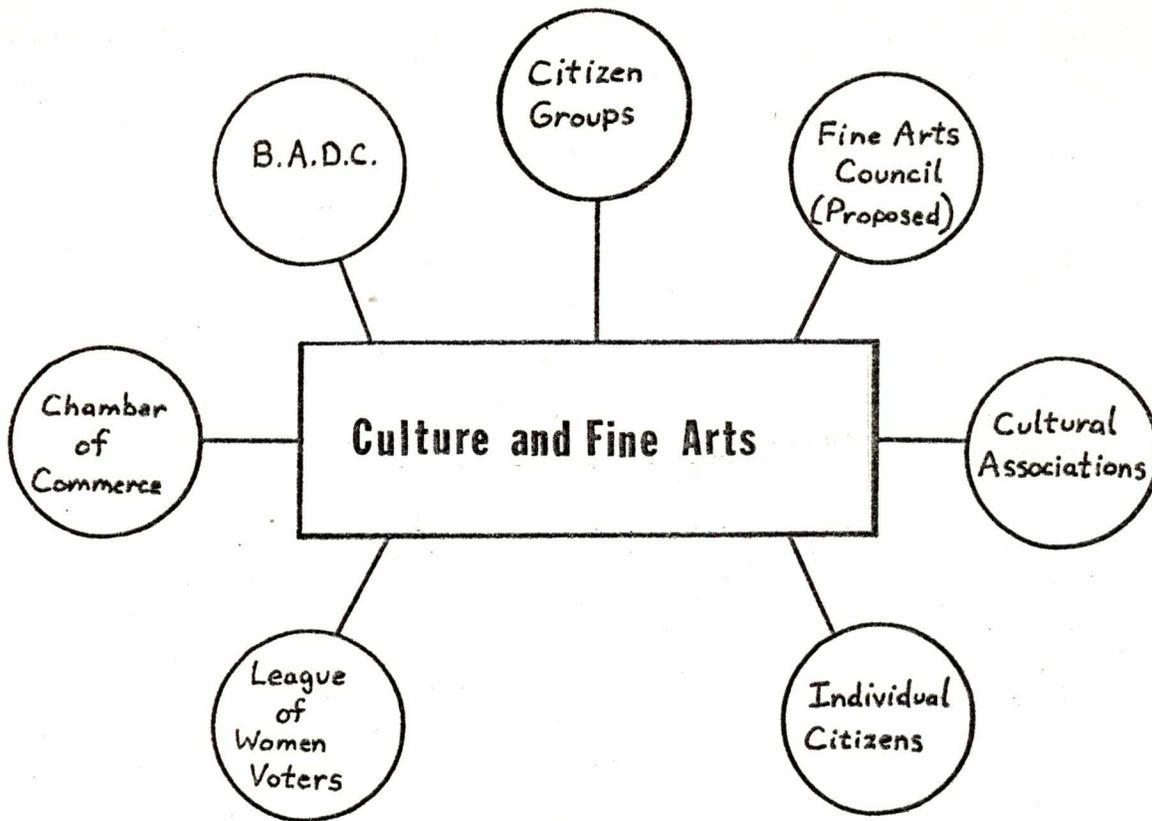
Regional Health Care is also one of the goals of the Comprehensive plan. BACOG has supported MIC program and BADC's Blood Bank Assurance Program. Most recently, the proposed Good Shepherd Hospital development has focused BACOG's attention. Citizen input at committee meetings and open hearings has been valuable in establishing recognition that this area was in need of intensifying efforts to provide quality health care.



Resource Exchange/Educational Institutions is an active program occurring primarily with Harper College, through a Community Leadership Training Center established in a large part through the efforts of BACOG. Seminars are offered to citizens, governmental officials, and staff to help them become more aware of the various phases of governmental decision making which affect the community. It provides an opportunity to meet and share ideas and questions with citizens, governmental officials, and staff.



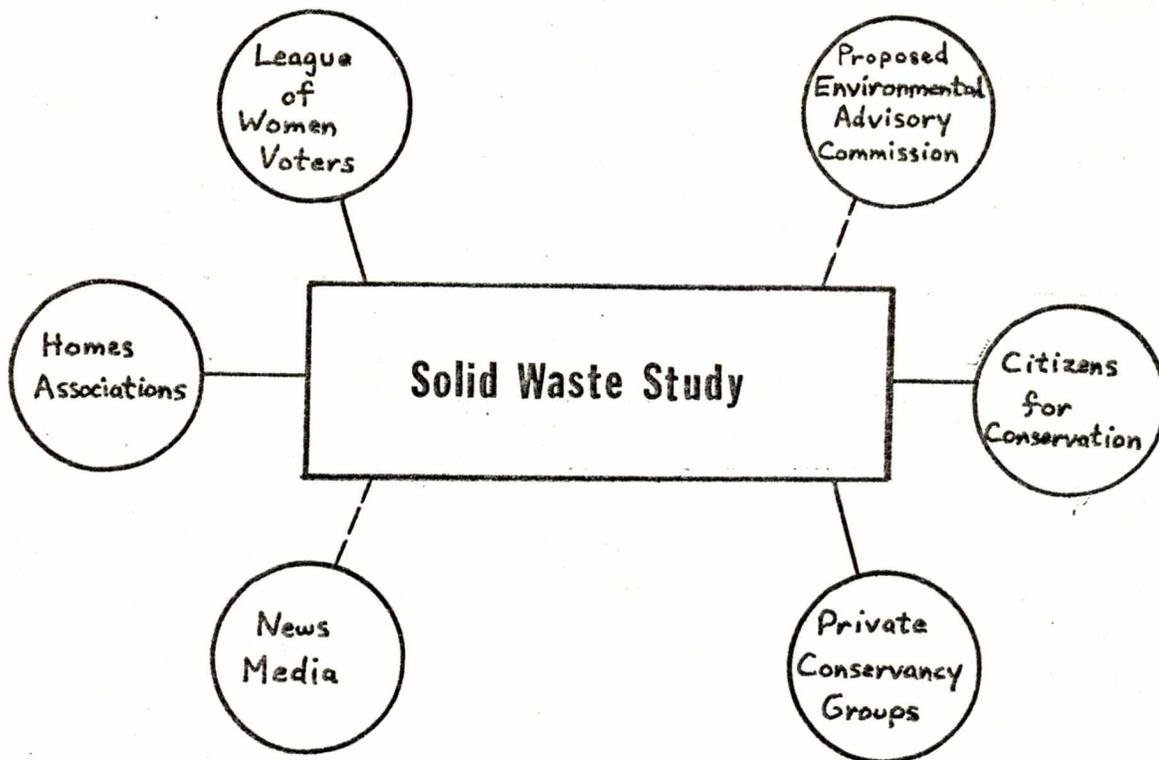
Discussing plans for proposed clerk's meeting are from left, Ann Connors, Dept. of Local Government Affairs, and Joan Marsh, and Doe Hentshel, Harper College.



Culture and Fine Arts are areas in which citizen participation is integral to the range and quality of what can be offered. BACOG has cooperated with programs focused on local history and cultural heritage. Local organizations and educational institutions provide a creative background in which to enhance opportunities in the fine arts. Many citizens are already involved with planning Bicentennial activities next year.



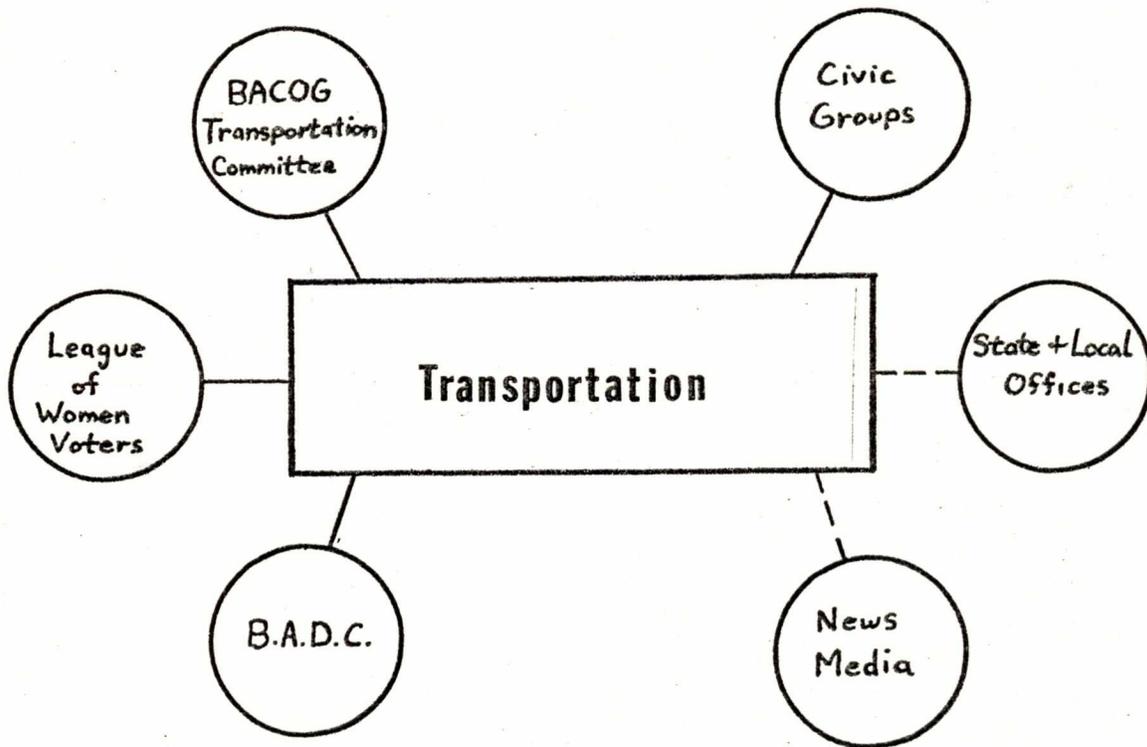
Barrington High School is responsible for many of the outstanding local programs involving culture and the fine arts.



The Solid Waste Study program evolved in response to the pressures for waste disposal which expanding populations put on diminishing open areas of land. Though both the environment and land-use is intertwined here, the BACOG citizens Committee on Environment handled the issue and, with citizen representation, was instrumental in researching and eliminating as unfeasible various techniques of disposal, and finally determining that landfill is the only viable short term solution, with future disposal probably necessitating regional solutions with adjacent suburban communities.



Cora Lee checks a few of her latest additions to the slide collection.



Transportation policies are concerned with two separate problem areas. Planning a network of roads and highways must result in reasonable accessibility for residents but at a level which insures respect for the environmental character of this area. There is also a need to determine what level of mass transportation service must be incorporated into the traveling needs of areawide citizens. Citizen input is necessary at hearings and during surveys to develop this planning information.

Chuck Allen lists the concerns of residents during last September's community survey meeting hosted by the Barrington Area Development Council.

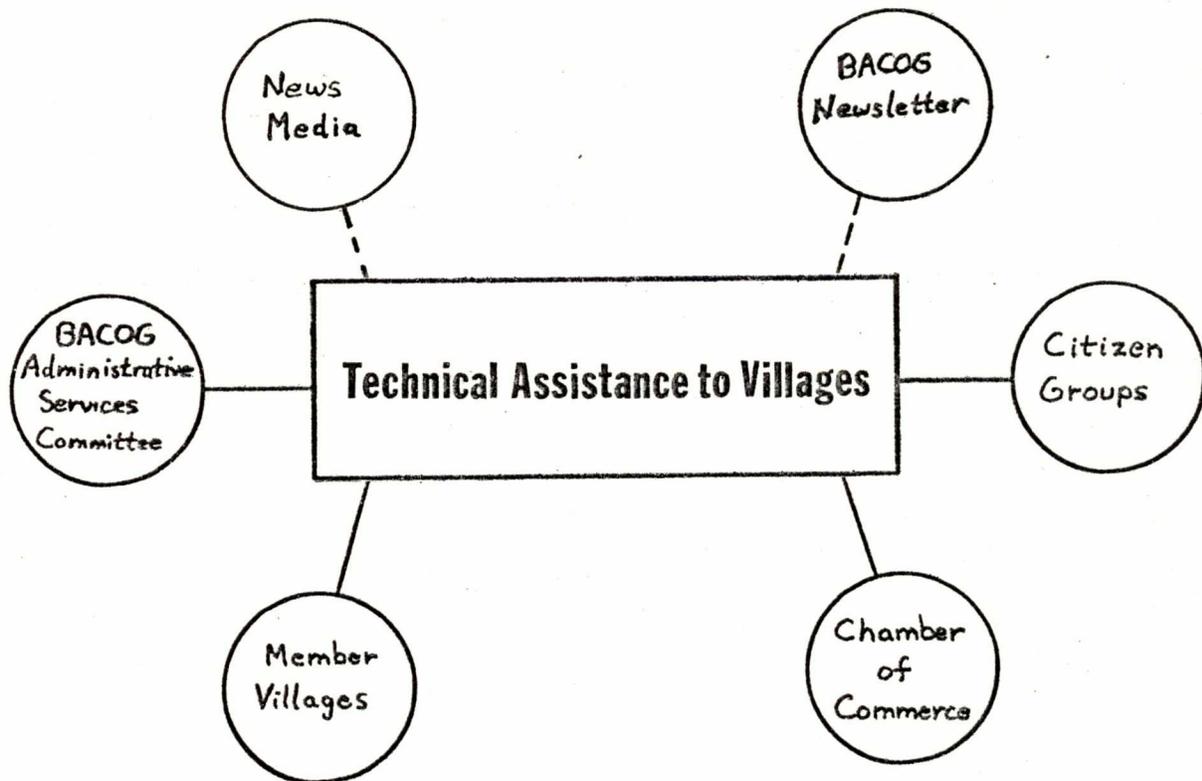


TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE & PUBLIC INFORMATION

Traveling Manager

Annexation

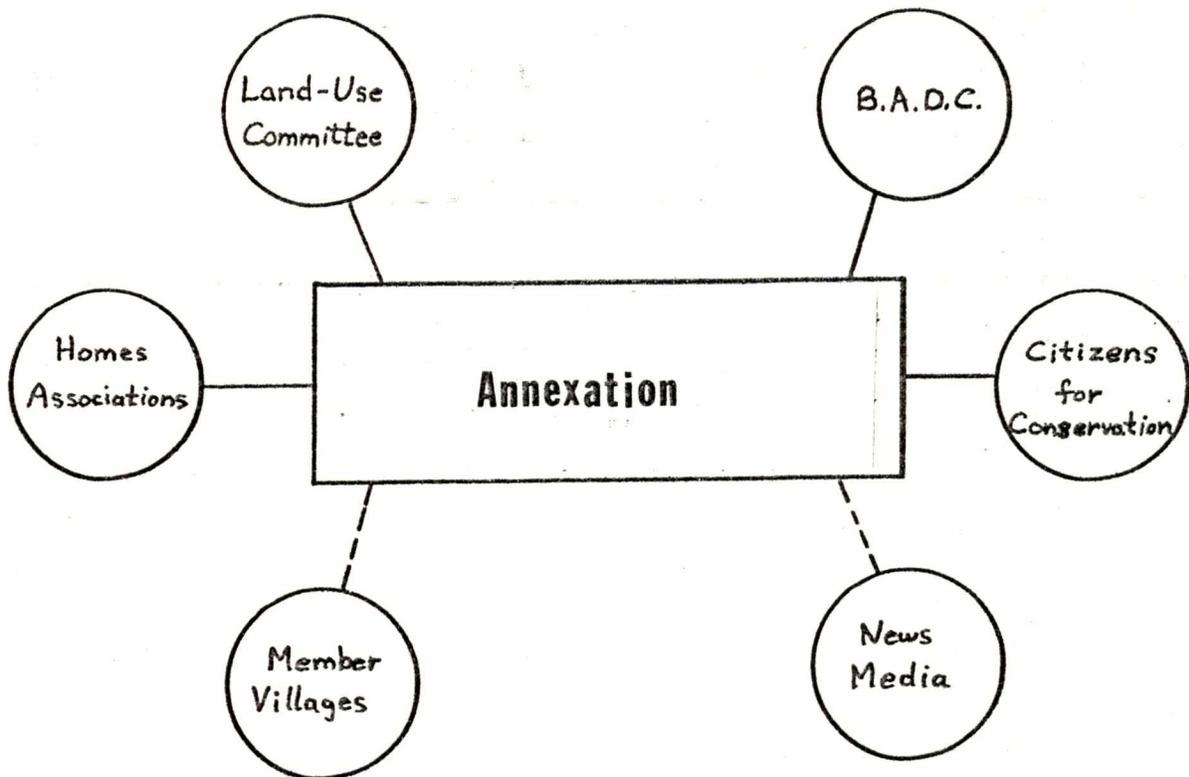
Public Information/Education



Technical assistance to villages is a concept which is meant to facilitate communication between member villages and the BACOG office. The assistant planner will fill the staffing role involved, and, on request, he will bring research assistance to member villages. Citizens on the Administrative Services Committee discussed developing the idea into a workable project.



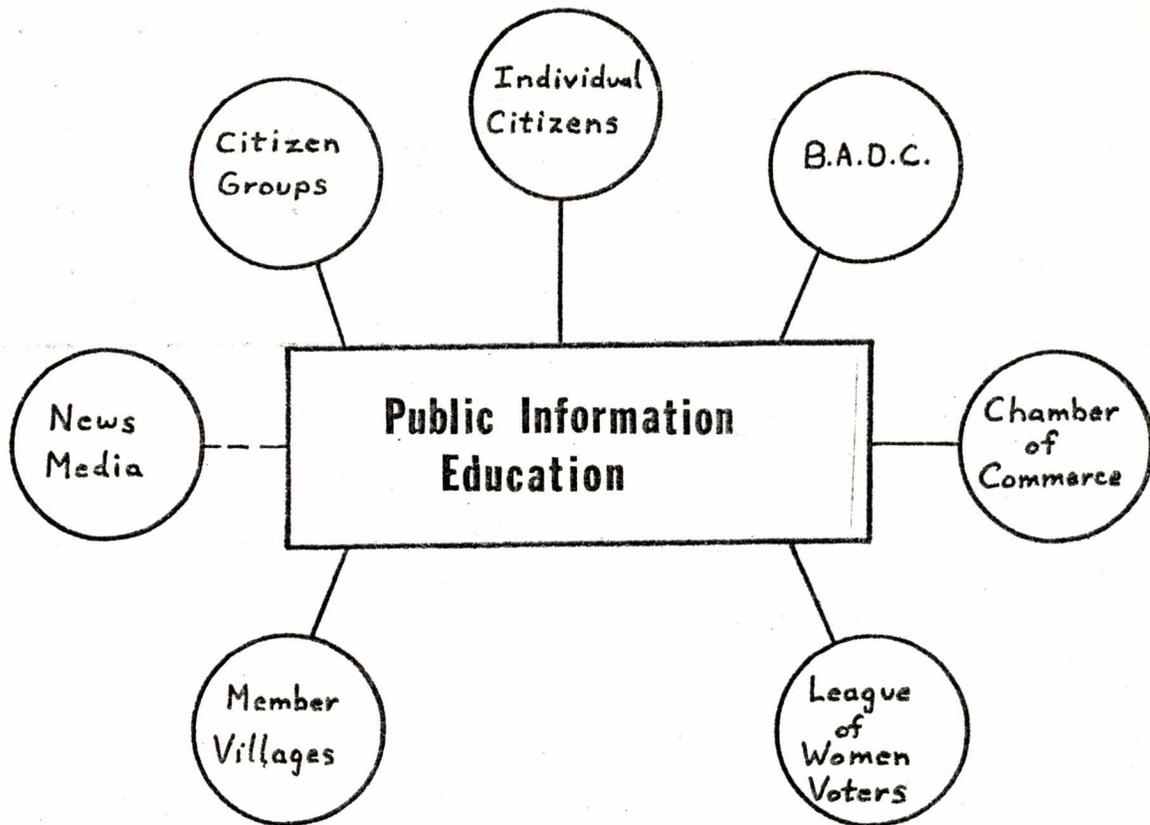
Members of the audience at the July BACOG meeting included: Chuck Kincaid of NIPC, Ethel Jacobson, BADC and Larry Knouf, Chairman BACOG legal committee.



The annexation program is a normal village operational procedure, but, because of the overview provided by the Comprehensive Plan, policies developed by the Land-Use and Environmental Committees must also be considered. Thus, citizen input through committee work, hearings, and individual research will have a strong influence on the future character of this area.



Tower Lakes Village President Cyril Wagner was re-elected as Chairman of the BACOG Executive Board July 29. Also elected at the monthly meeting were, Barb Hanson, Barrington Hills, as Vice Chairman and Keith Pierson, Barrington as Treasurer.



Public information and education is the crux of the whole community planning procedure. An effective dialogue must be maintained between citizens and operating boards, organizations, committees, agencies, and commissions. BACOG maintains an open office for visits, calls, or letters from area citizens. Agenda time is provided during BACOG meetings. A library of planning materials is open for public use. BACOG also works closely with BADC which has developed a creative variety of programs to insure clear channels of communication.



Anne Rodgers, Harper College counselor and Tower Lakes resident, and Ruth Moor, BADC president, prepare their lists of area concerns at the BADC community survey meeting.

The Comprehensive Plan is only a document, a booklet of paper, if it ends here. The most important part of the planning process for the Barrington area will be seen in the implementation of the programs and techniques suggested. This is a difficult step because in many cases innovative programs must break through old structures which would otherwise constrict them. Citizen participation must continue if these programs are to be effective.

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