

The Electronic Park District: We're Talking to You!

New Service for eNewsletters and eSurveys has Great Potential

Barrington Countryside Park District has begun using a service to send electronic newsletters and surveys. This is a remarkably cost-effective method to reach constituents. It offers the benefit of being able to send frequent communications at a very low cost. We have started using the service at the Park District Riding Center to send eBulletins to our users to provide up-to-date information on maintenance issues,

scheduling, and news. We have also held our first electronic survey. The service allows us to ask any question and the results are instantly returned tabulated in bar graph format. It also allows us to collect text answers. You can sign up for the Park District eNewsletter at <http://www.bc-pd.org>. For the Riding Center eBulletin you can sign up at <http://www.bc-pd.org/ridingcenter.htm>. We're listening!!!

New Park Board

Continued from front page

John Rosene is a newly elected Commissioner. He and his wife, Karen, have lived in Barrington Hills for 14 years. John is President of the Barrington Hills Polo Club and an active member of the Riding Club of Barrington Hills. He is President of Lydia Marketing, a full-service advertising, marketing, and media agency in Chicago. As a new Park Board Commissioner his primary interest is supporting the equestrian heritage of Barrington Hills and maintaining the Riding Center, which he feels is the jewel in the crown for the entire community.

Rounding out the Park Board are Peter Wessel and Maureen Crump who are finishing their terms in office. Both are first-time Commissioners. District Treasurer, **Peter Wessel**, is President of the Riding Club of Barrington Hills and a Master Steward of the Spring Creek Forest Preserve. He also hopes to continue the process of integrating the Park District into the Equestrian/Conservation community and developing

programs for all residents to enjoy our unique opportunities. He is committed to developing long-term budget models in conjunction with our comprehensive plan. **Maureen Crump** serves as head of Communications. She has developed and maintains the District web site. Most recently she has implemented a service that allows the District to send electronic newsletters and surveys. She believes this will be a valuable tool in helping the District to reach out to all residents. She continues to be active in the District Riding Center and is involved in developing policies and procedures so that the center can run smoothly and safely with our increased usage.

Fred McMorris retired from the Board in 2007. The entire Board thanks Fred for his many valuable contributions and insights. His many accomplishments include co-chairing the committee that completed the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Forest Preserve District of Cook County.

Barrington Countryside Park District

P.O. Box 1393
Barrington, IL 60011

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■ After our Spring Creek Stewards cut back the dismal invasive brush at Steeplechase Prairie, the sunlight now shines on the beautiful bottle gentian (*Gentiana andrewsii*), here seen blooming after being absent for many years.

Barrington Countryside Park District Newsletter



Volume 3, Edition 1

Spring 2008

Barrington Countryside Park District

P.O. Box 1393
Barrington, Illinois 60011
(847) 783-6772
www.bc-pd.org

The 2007-08 Park District Board meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at

The Riding Center
361 Bateman Road
Barrington Hills, IL

Scheduled Meeting Dates

2 0 0 8

January 9 • February 13
March 12 • April 9 • May 7
June 11 • July 9 • August 6
September 10 • October 8
November 12 • December 10

Commissioners

Richard Lamkey, *President*
Jean Maddrell, *Vice-President*
Peter Wessel, *Treasurer*
John Rosene, *Secretary*
Maureen Crump, *Communications*

Administrative Assistant

Rosemary Nero
e-mail: bcpdoffice@comcast.net

From the President

Your Park Board takes time once a year to write to you, our constituents, to let you know what we have been working on, to let you know we are always interested in hearing from you, and to thank you for your support.

We have found that the most effective method to positively reach our goals is to partner with other public and private agencies. In today's complex and very expensive world, we believe partnering with other agencies will produce a greater result than if each tries to go it alone. We are currently working with the Forest Preserve District of Cook County to construct an equestrian trailhead behind the Park District Riding Center on Bateman Road. This trailhead will provide convenient access to the Spring Creek Forest Preserve for equestrians, hikers, cross country skiers, restoration groups, and nature lovers. Our 15-acre equestrian center takes much of our attention and a significant percentage of our tax dollars. Located at Bateman Road and Route 62, the Riding Center has developed into a popular and well-maintained facility operating 365 days a year. As the site borders the Forest Preserve, we believe our Intergovernmental Agreement with the Forest Preserve District of Cook



County is a landmark agreement which provides a communication channel and working relationship with the Forest Preserve District. We believe this relationship will benefit our District and the Forest Preserve far into the future. On a beautiful day, be sure to stop by the Riding Center to visit. You will be proud of this unique facility in our community. We are currently developing new policies to address increased use at this facility and to plan for the future of this wonderful center.

We hope our constituents are enjoying the baseball diamond we have installed at Countryside School. We also have built and maintain the six tennis courts at Countryside School, which we are happy to see are well used. Working with District 220 is another example of a successful partnership.

Finally, I, and the entire Park Board, are always eager to hear your opinions and suggestions. Visit our web site at <http://www.bc-pd.org>. You can find contact information for all Commissioners on the site and each page has a contact form so you may easily submit ideas over the web.

— RICHARD LAMKEY

New Park Board

In the Consolidated Election in April 2007, Barrington Countryside Park District elected a new Board of Commissioners. Three positions were up for election and three individuals ran to fill the posts. Incumbents Richard Lamkey and Jean Maddrell were re-elected. **Richard Lamkey** serves as President of the Park District. Lamkey states his goals include advancing and solidifying the relationship between the District and the Cook County Forest Preserve District, successful completion of the trailhead project behind the Riding Center, and continuing development of policies and plans that will serve the District well to face the complex future. **Jean Maddrell** serves as Vice-President. Maddrell states that this is an exciting time for the District. She wants to develop a strategic plan to guide the



■ Pictured left to right: Peter Wessel, John Rosene, Jean Maddrell, Richard Lamkey, Maureen Crump.

direction of the Park Board and allocate time, resources, and funding.

Continued on back page

Spring Creek Forest Preserves: The Heart of Barrington Hills

Barrington Countryside Park District continues to support restoration at the Spring Creek Forest Preserves on behalf of our constituency. Conservation, preservation, and restoration are included in the mission of your Park District. This 4,000-acre preserve in the midst of our Village truly is the heart of Barrington Hills. Without the preserve, our Village would be a completely different place simply in terms of open space. The Spring Creek Forest Preserves are undergoing the most ambitious ecological restoration project ever undertaken in Cook County. It is one of the few remaining preserves large enough to sustain populations of rare grassland birds and other animals. The preserve is an especially rich mosaic of habitats, with large tracts of prairies, oak savannas, oak woodlands, shrublands, fens, sedge meadows and other wetlands.



■ *Spring Creek Stewards and volunteers spread precious prairie seeds.*
Photo credit: James Root

Our local “Spring Creek Stewards” are doing the heavy lifting. Their accomplishments include rescuing an oak woodland from decades of illegal dumping. Over 15 tons of metal refuse was recycled. Guided by Audubon-Chicago Region, the Cook County Forest Preserve District, and Citizens for Conservation, our Stewards are sophisticated, organized, and knowledgeable. The Spring Creek Stewards conducted 65 work days at six sites logging 2,964 hours of work. Activities included

pulling weeds, cutting and burning brush, gathering native seeds from local sites, and spreading native seeds at prepared sites. Time is also spent scheduling, planning, learning, meeting, and outreach to the community. Bird species not seen for years are returning as the land is rehabilitated. Contact **Ginger Underwood** at **847-381-5567** or email **info@springcreekstewards.org** for information about joining a work day or to learn more about Spring Creek. Visit their web site at **http://www.springcreekstewards.org** for information. Participating in the restoration can be a spiritual experience, leaving a legacy for generations to come. It is also fun, a chance to meet wonderful people, and an opportunity to experience a special camaraderie with your fellow workers.

OAKS, FLAMES & BOBOLINKS Conservation and Restoration of the Spring Creek Forest Preserves

Thursday, April 10th
7:00 to 9:00

Countryside School
205 W. County Line Road

Join experts and volunteers for an introduction to the rare and beautiful animals and plants of our own Spring Creek preserves. These 4,000 acres of woodlands, prairies and wetlands were in poor shape before a partnership of organizations and neighbors began to cut the invasives, conduct controlled burns, and re-seed the natural grasses, wildflowers, shrubs and trees. Many species of wildlife have rebounded impressively. Speakers, tools, slides, displays — and savory refreshments afterward.

*Sponsored by Spring Creek Stewards,
Friends of Spring Creek Forest Preserves,
and Audubon – Chicago Region.*

Barrington Countryside Park District Hosts Friends of the Forest Preserves

On October 6, Friends of the Forest Preserves hosted its first fundraiser ever at the Spring Creek Forest Preserves. Under the stars and with nearly perfect weather, it was held behind the Park District Riding Center and attracted over 250 people. A barbecue, band, and bonfire were highlights of the evening. Nature walks, astronomer-led stargazing, and hayrides through the forest preserve made the evening extra special. The bonfire was huge and straight up to the stars—not a breeze to ruin its perfection. Plan to attend this great party next fall!!!



■ *A very popular attraction was the wagon rides over the forest preserve equestrian trails.*

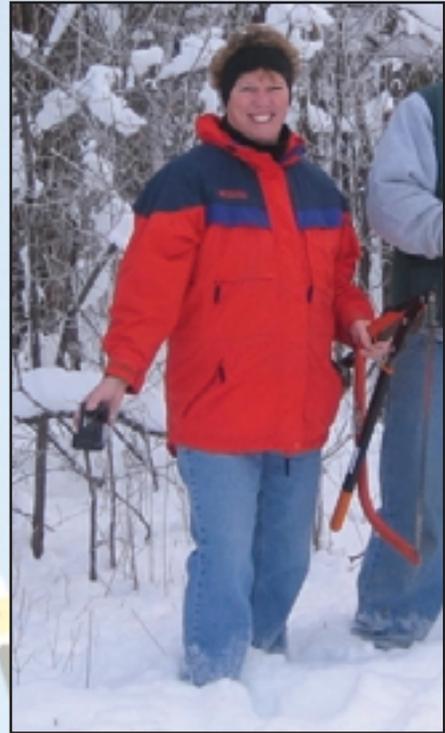
Friends of the Forest Preserve was formed in 1998 and is a volunteer Board of Directors composed of individuals from different backgrounds who share a passion for the forest preserves. They advocate for the preserves and provide oversight for the Forest Preserve District that is charged with preserving, protecting, and restoring them. Initiatives include policy work, volunteer and constituency organization, and coordinating resources to benefit the preserves.

We are pleased to have a relationship with this important Board and encourage all constituents to join Friends of the Forest Preserves so that they are aware of how we all value the Spring Creek Preserves. The membership starts at \$20 and you can join on their web site at **http://www.fotfp.org**.

Ginger Underwood Named Volunteer of the Year

Barrington Countryside Park District awards its 2008 Community Service Award to **Ginger Underwood**. The award is presented by the Illinois Park and Recreation Association and Illinois Association of Park Districts with the Barrington Countryside Park District.

The Board selected Ginger for this award because of her outstanding contribution to the community in her restoration efforts at the Spring Creek Forest Preserves. Ginger early on recognized the importance of restoring Spring Creek and has become a community leader in this regard. Her efforts have been directed to preserving the 4,000-acre Spring Creek as a natural area. Her involvement is “hands-on” cutting brush, connecting prairie fragments, and seeding. She is an official “Spring Creek Steward.” When she isn’t being “hands-on” she is busy talking with community members, Forest Preserve associates and officials, and others about the importance of Spring Creek. She has been awarded a seat on the Friends of the Forest Preserves Board (Forest Preserve District of Cook County) where she is able to provide input for our community regarding the future of Spring Creek. This Fall she headed up the first “Ignite the Night” fundraiser held at the Spring Creek Preserves for the benefit of the Friends of the Forest Preserves. She has been instrumental in establishing Friends of Spring Creek, which holds great promise to assure the natural future of the Spring Creek Preserves, which is a direct benefit to everyone in Barrington Hills. We salute you and, thank you, Ginger!



■ *Ginger Underwood at a winter work day.*



■ *Ginger Underwood participates in a controlled prairie burn.*

District Examines Fee System for Riding Center

The Park District will begin exploring a tag/fee system for users of the Park District Riding Center. The Riding Center has grown into a very popular facility. Activity has grown from an occasional trail rider stopping by in 1986 to a 365' x 7' facility used and enjoyed heavily by our constituents today. It is a 15-acre site with a main barn holding an indoor arena and 36 stalls. There is also a small barn holding 16 stalls. A large outdoor arena, several fields for riding and jumping, and two paddocks complete the facility. It is contiguous to the Spring Creek Forest Preserves of the Cook County Forest Preserve District. With the great interest and use of the facility, our funding budget has steadily increased over the years. Updating, repairs, groundskeeping, and maintenance have all been greatly improved, resulting in higher costs. Overseeing the facility also takes a significant amount of Commissioner time and effort. We now have a part-time groundskeeper and our Administrator spends a significant portion of her time servicing the Riding Center. Assuring that the Riding Center continues to be cared for properly in the future is a priority for the Commissioners. Some benefits of a tag/fee system are:

- Establishes a communication channel for the Park District to communicate directly with its users
- Provides a potential means to establish a revenue stream
- Provides a mechanism for out-of-district users to contribute financially to the District
- Provides a tool to plan for the future by understanding the numbers and demographics of Riding Center users

A trainer policy and program would work together with the user tag/fee system. Trainers will be required to register with the Park District before training students at the Park District Riding Center.

The Riding Center is a unique and beautiful facility and we treasure it. We encourage you to visit. It also makes an excellent trailhead to hike through the beautiful Spring Creek Forest Preserves.