

Village of Port Barrington Newsletter

Summer 2020

69 South Circle Avenue, Port Barrington, IL 60010

847-639-7595, villagehall@portbarrington.net, www.portbarrington.net



Bee City USA is an initiative of the XERCES SOCIETY for Invertebrate Conservation

Village Hall Hours:

Monday: by appointment
Tuesday-Thursday: 8AM to 4PM
Friday: 8AM-Noon
Closed for the lunch hour
Noon-1PM

Building Permit Reminder:

Fences, decks, additions, alterations, tree removal, etc. must be permitted through the Village Building Department. Applications are available on the Village website, www.portbarrington.net Also, check with your individual Homeowners' association for their requirements.

Building Department Hours:

Tues, Wed & Thurs
8AM – 2PM Or by appointment
Inspections by appointment with 48hour notice. Call or email Frank for assistance! 847-639-0498

bz@portbarrington.net



Bee-utiful Port Barrington: Bee City USA

The Village Board of Port Barrington unanimously voted on May 20, 2020 to accept certification as a Bee City USA, joining many other cities and campuses across the country united in improving their landscapes for pollinators. The Board's action is the culmination of months of effort by a Pollinator Committee appointed by Village President Shannon Yeaton to accomplish this certification. We thank President Yeaton for facilitating this movement to promote pollinator conservation. Bee City USA is an initiative of the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, a nonprofit organization with offices across the country. Bee City USA's mission is to galvanize communities to sustain pollinators by providing them with healthy habitat, rich in a variety of native plants and free of insecticides. Pollinators like bumble bees, honeybees, butterflies, moths, beetles, flies, hummingbirds and many others are responsible for the reproduction of almost **ninety percent** of the world's flowering plant species and **one in every three bites of food we consume!**

How each city completes the steps to conserve pollinators is up to them," said Bee City USA Coordinator Molly Martin. "To maintain their certification, each affiliate is expected to report on their achievements and celebrate being a Bee City affiliate every year." Thus far, Port Barrington has installed several pollinator-friendly gardens around the Village Hall. In addition, shore stabilization efforts are underway at Nichols, Friendship and Pregoner Beach Parks that will incorporate pollinator species—Thank you Trustee Dawn Cillo! The Pollinator Committee includes Trustee John Grothendick, Port Barrington Waterway Commissioner Jody Thelin and project liaison, Donna Erfort. The Committee invites all residents of Port Barrington to offer their ideas for pollinator-friendly initiatives. The more people and organizations are involved, the sooner pollinator declines will **BEE** reversed!

\$10,000 ComEd-Openlands Grant Award

As information was being gathered to become a BEE City USA, President Yeaton and the Pollinator Committee applied for and were awarded a 2020 ComEd Green Region Program \$10,000 grant for a project entitled "Village Hall Rain Garden and Bee Habitat." This project will convert a patch of former asphalt and a swale of culvert into a bountiful bee & butterfly nectar bar! For a great added bonus there are native plantings incorporated in the project that will help draw rainwater back into the ground quickly as it filters out pollutants such as oil and road salt residues from the parking lot. Formerly these pollutants would be captured by a storm sewer draining to Hermann Park Pond. Watch for more information on our website and future newsletters as these educational stormwater retro-fits take shape! **Supported by generous funding from ComEd and Openlands!!** www.openlands.org

Support Our Local Businesses!

Crossroads Community Church
<https://crossroadspb.org/>

Broken Oar
www.brokenoar.com

BruceSki's Marine Construction
www.bruceskismarine.com

Hermann's Rest-a-While
<https://www.facebook.com/hermannsrestawhile/>

No Wake Bar & Grille
www.nowakebarandgrill.com

Port Barrington Motor Sports
www.portbarringtonmotorsports.com

Rogers' Automotive
www.rogersautomotiverepair.com

V.R. Serio Excavating

Participate in the Census: Getting a complete and accurate census count is critically important! That's why your response is required by law. If you do not respond online or by phone, the U.S. Census Bureau will follow up in person to be sure you're counted. Participate online now at <https://my2020census.gov/>



What are those black spots on my maple tree??!!

It's *maple leaf tar spot*, known scientifically as a species of *Rhytisma* fungi. Leaves that are infected with this fungal disease have small light green to yellowish-green spots that eventually blacken. Heavily infested trees may lose their leaves prematurely. Trees infected with maple leaf tar spot are unsightly, but the fungal disease does not affect the overall health of the plants. Fungal spores can overwinter--therefore, it is important to remove all leaves as soon as they fall to lessen the impact of the disease next year. Because maple leaf tar spot is primarily a cosmetic disease, fungicide treatments are not necessary.

R.E.C. Love

The Port Barrington R.E.C. Committee has resumed meeting to plan for our future. Due to COVID-19, we've missed our Spring activities--the Village Egg Hunt and Community Garage Sales and Splash Day, usually held in July. Thank you to those who helped out with our Village Clean Up Day with Adopt-a-Highway volunteers cleaning up Roberts Road while keeping a great distance between each other! We are hoping to plan something in conjunction with "It's Our Fox River Day" on September 19th including a kayak/canoe channel clean up with perhaps music, food and fun afterwards, following the COVID protocol. Check for updates in the next newsletter and on our website homepage.

We've missed you!

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

may be able to assist you with money towards your utility bills if you are income eligible!

LIHEAP provides assistance for those who cannot afford their cooling and electric bills by granting a benefit to those who qualify. The amount of the benefit is determined by income, household size, fuel type, and geographic location. Applicants do not have to be behind on their utility bills to apply for LIHEAP assistance!

www.liheapassistance.org/resource/guide

Get Rid of that Buckthorn!!!

Buckthorn is a shrub on Illinois' exotic weed list due to its high germination rate. In woodlands it can completely replace existing understory plants; including native wildflowers. Seeds remain viable in soil for 2 to 3 years which contributes to the invasive nature of this plant.

Why is buckthorn bad?

- it is very detrimental to wildlife. It's berries can actually kill small birds and make other wildlife ill.
- it quickly crowds out good plants and alters the soil encouraging other invasives such as the dreaded garlic mustard.
- because it shades out and out-competes native groundcover plants, it's bad for water quality. Native groundcover helps stabilize the soil and filters pollutants out of our groundwater. Soil in and around buckthorn allows water to erode and flush pollutants directly into waterways.

To eradicate: You must be persistent! Pull young plants out by the roots and mark the area to watch for regrowth. For older shrubbery, cut trunk at base and brush with a systemic herbicide. Tie a plastic ribbon around the treated stump to find it easily and reapply if needed. Bag all cuttings prior to disposal.



FLOOD MAPPING INFORMATION AVAILABLE

The Village of Port Barrington participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and has adopted flood hazard area protection standards. As a public service, the following information is available upon request:

Basic flood map information"

- Whether a property is in or out of the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA)
- Zone, base flood elevation, and panel reference information from the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM)

Additional flood Map information:

- Floodways designations and regulatory requirements in a floodway.
- Historical flood information
- Information regarding wetland and open space areas
- Regulations prohibiting development in certain areas

To request flood map information, please contact the Village Hall:

Donna 847-639-7595 villagehall@portbarrington.net or Frank 847-639-0498 bz@portbarrington.net

Ordinance Updates:

The following ordinances were passed or updated since the beginning of 2020:

Updates to the Zoning Code:

Sections 154.02 Definitions; 154.016 Structures Exempt, and Appendix B, Table of Uses: updates were made as to what types of businesses can be built on properties zoned for general business use. (BG Zoning)

Chapter 153.047 ComEd Easement Agreement:

For new subdivisions, the ComEd utility easement must be located in the front of properties instead of in the back of properties as it was previously.

Chapter 53.12 (grass/veg) and 91.016 (snow/ice removal.) Sidewalk encroachment: clarifies property owners' care and maintenance responsibility of sidewalks located in front of their homes.

As always, the Village Code may be viewed on the Village Website, www.portbarrington.net under the home page dropdown menu entitled "Rules and Regulations" choose "Ordinances". A hard copy is also available at the Village Hall.



MOSQUITOES: PRACTICAL ADVICE FOR HOMEOWNERS

Lifted from an article by M.F. Potter, Lee Townsend and F.W. Knap and
McHenry Co. Department of Health pamphlet Mosquitoes: Questions and Answers.

Two major groups of mosquitoes reside in our area- Culex and Aedes. They have somewhat different egg-laying habits. Culex mosquitoes lay groups of eggs on the surface of water in rain barrels, bird baths, tin cans, old tires, cisterns, roof gutters and any other containers which hold water. Aedes mosquitoes place their eggs at the base of vegetation in low lying areas that flood periodically. However, they also can deposit their eggs above the water line in artificial containers or in tree holes that hold water. These eggs will hatch when inundated with rainwater.

Unfortunately, there is no easy solution for managing mosquitoes. Countless products on the market claim to be effective and easy to use but few have appreciable value in lessening the annoyance and incidence of bites. The most effective way to reduce the number of mosquitoes around homes and neighborhoods is to find and eliminate their breeding sites—standing water. Adults of some mosquito species remain near their breeding site (Culex). Others can travel long distances and because of this, problem mosquitoes may come from breeding sites some distance away. The Village of Port Barrington applies larvicides regularly to storm sewers and catch basins as recommended by McHenry Co. Health Department. Floodwater areas are also treated as needed. Retention ponds are monitored and treated if mosquito larva are present. Barrier sprays are done prior to Village events as they are temporary—sometimes lasting only a day or two depending on wind and rain conditions.

There are effective steps that **individuals** can take to minimize mosquito breeding on their property.

Reduce mosquito breeding sites by:

1. Dispose of old tires, buckets, tarps or other refuse that can hold water. Empty accumulated water from trash cans, boats, wheelbarrows, pet dishes and flowerpot bottoms. If possible, turn these items over when they are not in use. Drill holes in pier bumpers so they don't hold water.
2. Clean debris from rain gutters and unclog obstructed downspouts. Clogged rain gutters are one of the most overlooked breeding sites for mosquitoes around homes. Remove any standing water on flat roofs or around structures. Repair leaking faucets and air conditioners that produce puddles for several days.
3. Change water in birdbaths and wading pools at least once a week and keep swimming pools cleaned. Ornamental pools can be aerated and/or stocked with mosquito-eating fish. Aeration / water movement helps deter mosquito egg laying.
4. Fill tree holes and stumps with sand to prevent accumulation of water.
5. Irrigate lawns and gardens carefully to prevent standing water.

Protect yourself by:

1. Avoiding the outside during peak feeding times—just before and after dusk and just before dawn.
2. Wear light colored, tightly woven clothing and keep trouser legs tucked into boots or socks.
3. Use mosquito netting to protect young infants
4. Apply mosquito repellent to clothes and always follow label directions. Wash your hands before eating and after applying repellent. It is recommended that children use product with 10% deet on their clothing, adults, 50% deet. Avoid applying to bare skin. Products containing picardin also provide protection.

Other possibilities??????

Do “bug zappers” work?

No, bug electrocutors are ineffective in controlling biting mosquitoes. “Bug zappers” have an ultraviolet or “black light” that is supposed to attract mosquitoes. Studies indicate that mosquitoes make up only a tiny percentage of the insects killed in such traps. The majority are moths, beetles, and other harmless night flying insects, some of which may actually be beneficial to your garden. Also, the zapping sounds may be annoying to your neighbors.

What about **carbon dioxide-or fan-type traps**?

Mosquitoes are attracted to humans and mammals as they exhale carbon dioxide. Some traps use Co2 as attractants. Such devices seldom have been shown to reduce populations of biting mosquitoes on a property. Again, in fan-type traps, many beneficial insects may be killed along with mosquitoes. In some situations, these traps actually attract more mosquitoes into the area one is hoping to protect.

Letter from the Village President....

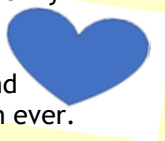
Covid-19 has changed the world. Face masks, hand sanitizer and social distancing have become part of our everyday lives, and I believe will be with us for a good while longer.

One thing that this pandemic has made perfectly clear - this is not a "volunteer" job. The Village President and Village Board are not volunteers, they are municipal officials. When the news talks about "State and local government" they are talking about us. Port Barrington may be small, but we are still held to the same standards of any other municipality. We are still obligated to provide services to the residents regardless of stay at home orders, flooding, and global protests.

Various people have commented how lucky we were that we did not have to furlough employees and were able to keep Village Hall running. The Building and Zoning Department still took on new permits for all the people at home that started new projects and home improvements. The Village Board adapted to the telephone/remote meetings and conducted municipal business like passing new ordinances and our yearly budget.

I have been doing my part, too. Starting in mid-March that meant twice weekly phone conferences with the County Health Department and the Governor's Office. April added a weekly briefing for mayors and tribal leaders with the White House on the Federal response. Working with our neighboring towns and village mayors for a coordinated re-opening plan to be sent to the Governor's Office that benefitted small business and still protected public health. Further, while working with our congressional representatives, I was a co-signer on a letter to Federal Leadership in Washington DC asking that municipalities are included in the next round of relief efforts to make up for any losses due to Covid-19.

During these unprecedented times we all need to be prepared for more change. I do not know a single person that has not been touched by this virus. I, like thousands of others, have lost a loved one that my family has yet to be able to grieve for in the normal way. If one of you have lost someone, you have my heartfelt condolences. Please know that you are not alone. Lean on your neighbors - they understand. This pandemic is far from over and we need to support each other more now than ever.



-President Shannon Yeaton

Village of Port Barrington
69 South Circle Avenue
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Permit 400



What's the buzzzz...?



BEE CITY, that's what!
Details inside.....