

Dear fellow residents,

I am a life-long Barrington/ Barrington Hills resident. Over my lifetime I have seen many changes in our community, often a direct result of newer residents' lifestyles that vary from the original (rural/equestrian) lifestyles of our village founders. This is to be expected and welcomed as our community matures and evolves. After all, we have only been an incorporated village since 1957.

As you are aware, there is a highly contested village election coming up that has caused many residents to wonder what all the consternation is about. Well, in a nutshell, the opposing views of the candidates seem to be two-fold. The amount of time and money spent on protecting our 5-acre zoning ordinance, and the choice to use our properties as originally designed by our village incorporators. Both are important issues that are intertwined and affect all of us.

Although we are a community comprised of individuals with varied interests, there is common ground we must all support. That is, protecting our open-space, 5-acre zoning. With regard to that, here are some important facts:

- Barrington Hills is comprised of some 1500 households**
- Our village population is approximately 4,000**
- The Fritz Duda Corporation has purchased 450 acres, more or less, in Barrington Hills and is proposing to build a 500+ house subdivision**
- The Duda Corp. has de-annexed the 450+ acres from Barrington Hills into unincorporated McHenry County with the expectation of getting zoning changed to accommodate the density of over 500 houses on 450+ acres.**
- Barrington Hills has successfully opposed the Duda development for over 11 years.**
- For the past 8 years, Village President Bob Abboud has taken the lead in our village's opposition to the proposed development, along with many dedicated residents who have given their time and talent in defense of our 5-acre zoning.**
- To date, our Barrington Hills community has prevailed in convincing the McHenry County Board of the merits of our zoning, and no ground has been broken on the 450+ acres.**
- The Duda Corp. has not given up the fight to break our zoning.**

Mr. Abboud's opponents in this election believe too much time and money have been spent in opposition to the proposed 500+ house subdivision. Are they suggesting they have neither the time, money or interest in continuing our successful opposition to this development?

With regard to the choice to use our properties as our founders intended, maybe too few of us realize how integral a part our horses play in defense of our 5-acre zoning. Without the need for space to pasture our horses, one might argue that 5 acres is far too excessive for our home sites, given the housing density of the surrounding villages and towns. Should we lose our ability to keep horses, we play right into the hands of the developers who have run out of ground to build and sell their "product". Just imagine how they must lust over our open space and dream about how many rooftops might someday cover 5 acres.

Trustee George Schueppert, a candidate for village president, recently introduced a zoning change that would have drastically reduced our ability to own and enjoy horses in this community. The community response caused such uproar that Mr. Schueppert quickly withdrew his proposal, after admitting he knows nothing about our equestrian lifestyle. Had that proposal passed, arguably the number one defense of our 5-acre zoning would have vanished. Were it not been for president Abboud, trustee Ramesh, trustee Gohl and trustee-candidate Wessel, who rallied the Riding Club of Barrington Hills membership, Mr. Schueppert's proposed changes to the village zoning ordinance might well have passed.

We have read and heard statements that indicate more of a personality conflict than substantive discussion of the opposition to the goals of our current village administration. Mr. Schueppert made it clear at the candidates' debate on March 10, and I'm paraphrasing, "this election is not about issues, it's about the person". Mr. Schueppert's closing comments in the debate attempted to link Mr. Abboud to the Communist Karl Marx. Character assassination is shameful and cowardice and has no place in Barrington Hills politics.

Mr. Schueppert publicly admits he is an amateur with regard to the business of village politics and considers that a "badge of honor" while stating that Mr. Abboud is a "professional politician". That, Mr. Schueppert, became abundantly clear during the debate.

De-annexation, finance, security, inter-governmental relationships, road maintenance, 5-acre zoning: all village issues. An amateur or a professional, who do we want in a leadership role to keep our village on message and financially strong?

We have in place the nucleus of tested, successful village management. Please consider the backgrounds and experience of incumbent president Bob Abboud, incumbent trustee Elaine Ramesh, incumbent trustee Fritz Gohl and trustee-candidate Peter Wessel as you determine which candidates have the vision, commitment and community interest at heart to manage our village business in the difficult days ahead.

Sincerely,

David Buckley, Sr.