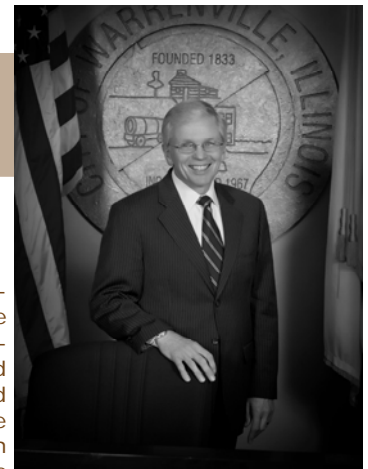


HOMETOWN HAPPENINGS



Mayor David L. Brummel

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MAYOR'S COLUMN

Towards the end of August, I participated in a panel discussion in Clarendon Hills. The topic was home rule, and I was invited to present the perspective of an elected official of a home rule community, specifically how home rule has affected Warrenville and how we have used it. The panel was hosted by a subcommittee of their village board charged with making a recommendation on whether to pursue home rule for their community. Clarendon Hills will never reach 25,000 in population, the point at which state statute automatically confers home rule on a community, so they would have to adopt home rule via a successful referendum, as we did here in Warrenville in 2004.

Non-home rule communities must operate using only powers specifically enumerated in state statutes, whereas home rule communities face less restriction by the state and have more local control and flexibility in their governance decisions. This local control makes a lot of sense to many of us who reason that those who live in a community are in the best position to determine how to handle community issues. Home rule makes others nervous because it makes possible additional taxes without referendum approval, as well as removing the property tax cap restriction. There is also more flexibility in dealing with property maintenance, inspection and occupancy issues, a sensitive area (the City is still in the process of investigating options, and has made no substantive changes to current policy).

Currently, roughly 70% of the people of Illinois live in home rule communities. Since the adoption of the latest Illinois constitution in 1970, only four communities that were home rule voted to return to non-home rule, which is also possible through referendum. Each of these towns had their own reasons for this reversal, specific to them. There is simply no evidence of frequent or widespread abuse of home rule powers throughout the state.

What has Warrenville done with home rule since 2004? First of all, we have abided by our promise to apply the State Property Tax Cap to the City's annual property tax levy, so that it would not exceed the non-home rule tax cap, and it is our intention to continue to do so going forward. In addition, in March of 2004 a home rule sales tax of .75% was adopted. This was increased to 1.5% in March of 2006, along with the adoption of a Food and Beverage tax of 1.5% on all prepared food and beverages served in restaurants. Also, in February of 2006 the City used its home rule authority to allow hotel/motel tax revenue for general operating costs instead of only for tourism as required by state statute. In April of 2008 the City broadened the use of hotel/motel tax to include capital expenses.

**Police, Fire, and
after hours Water &
Sewer Emergency
Dial911
City Hall Hours
8:00 a.m. to
5:00 p.m.
Monday - Friday**

All of these changes have helped Warrenville's financial stability by allowing us to avoid debt and continue to pay cash for our needs, they have helped make it possible to maintain staffing and service levels to a standard acceptable to the majority of our citizens, and have allowed us to shift a good deal of the local tax burden on to visitors to Warrenville, who after all, place additional strain on the services we are required to provide. For the City's General fund, home rule related revenues comprise \$2.3 million of the \$10 million in FY 2012 revenues, or approximately 23% of total revenues. Without this money, our financial situation would be far different!

Currently, the proposal to fund the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) includes two items (out of a total of five) that rely on home rule authority: adopting a 4-cent-per-gallon tax on fuel purchased at Warrenville gas stations, and additional use of hotel/motel taxes as outlined earlier. Again, the intent of these proposals is to shift some of the tax burden for maintaining our streets, equipment, and so on to visitors to our community and away from residents.

FEEDBACK:

*Please send your
feedback to:
Ana Vainisi, Editor
City Clerk's Office
28 W 701 Stafford Place
Warrenville, IL 60555 or
avainisi@warrenville.il.us*

These are the only actions that the City has taken, or is considering taking, that rely on our home rule authority. Nearly all the decisions made from week to week for the operation of the community are based on authority that the City had before home rule was adopted. Home rule has given us some options and flexibility which we have used with extreme care and, I think, quite responsibly – all in the service to the best long-term interests of Warrenville. The trust that nearly 60% of our citizens placed in us when they supported the home rule referendum in 2004 was not misplaced, and this added responsibility continues to be taken quite seriously by all of us at the City as we look forward.

Online Edition—Sign Up Today!

The editor of *Hometown Happenings* is taking requests from residents who would like to receive notice via e-mail with a link to connect to the bi-monthly online only edition of the newsletter. The October issue will be an online publication and the November 2011 issue will be published in hard-copy and mailed as well as online. Please contact Ana Vainisi at 630-393-9427 or avainisi@warrenville.il.us and request to be added to the e-mail list.

GOOD NEWS: Residents may now view current and past issues of *Hometown Happenings* on the City's Laserfiche system. Simply go to www.warrenville.il.us under News, Living or Business, and choose the Newsletter page from the General Information tab. There is a link on the bottom of that page to Laserfiche in a folder titled City Newsletter. Issues go back to 1997.

Volunteer Opportunity

Want to give back to the community by volunteering? The City of Warrenville currently has a volunteer opportunity in Ward 2 for a member of the Plan Commission. The Plan Commission is responsible for making recommendations to the City Council on planning and zoning-related requests, including new development projects, Planned Unit Development (PUD), PUD Amendments, Subdivisions, Special Use, Rezoning, Comprehensive Plan, etc. The Commission meets twice a month on Thursday nights and members are compensated at a rate of \$20 per meeting.

Letters of interest and resume should be addressed to Mayor David Brummel at davidbrummel@warrenville.il.us or 28W701 Stafford Place, Warrenville, IL 60555. Go to <http://www.warrenville.il.us/maps/wards-map.pdf> for a map of Ward 2.

Fawell Dam Study Final Report

The Fawell Dam Workgroup Final Report, addressing the longstanding question of whether Fawell Dam impacts flooding in Warrenville, was adopted by City Council Resolution on August 15, 2011. The report shows Fawell Dam has no impact on Warrenville under normal conditions and supports a partnership with DuPage County to reduce local flooding. The report also identified what actions the City should take to reduce future flooding along the West Branch of the DuPage River.

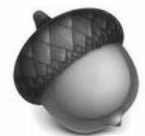
The Workgroup's comprehensive final report includes the following key conclusions:

- DuPage County possesses the permits required to operate Fawell Dam and is legally obligated to operate it in accordance with the 2001 State Approved Operation and Maintenance Plan.
- While Fawell Dam's operation could have some impact in Warrenville during *extreme* flood events, there is no impact in Warrenville during normal rain events and the Dam's regular operations.
- The implementation of the County's proposed \$5.4 million Watershed Plan "Preferred Alternative" flood mitigation projects would reduce flooding in Warrenville to a much greater degree than simply keeping the gates at Fawell Dam in the full open position all of the time.

The Workgroup's Final Report can be found at http://www.warrenville.il.us/includes/uploads/file/Final%20Report_2011-08-03.pdf and hard copies can be viewed at the Community Development Department, City Clerk's office or the Warrenville Public Library. Questions can be forwarded to the Community Development Department at (630) 393-9050.

SHOP WARRENVILLE PROGRAM

The City of Warrenville recently announced a new initiative called **Shop Warrenville** to promote Warrenville businesses. The service provides all local businesses the opportunity to have a link on the City's online business directory, offering access to new web pages designed and updated by each local business. By offering businesses the ability to display information such as new merchandise or services, current coupon offerings, available job openings, and other topical news, the City can help make its business community more available and more vibrant.



With **Shop Warrenville**, shoppers can go to one central location via a link by the same name on the City's website to search for local businesses, providing the ability to print out coupons, see menus, ask questions, determine store hours, join mailing lists, and find a business location, among a host of other capabilities. The program offers benefits to both businesses and residents. For those businesses that do not have websites, it can provide a micro-site with help from City staff. For those that do have a website, this program offers another avenue of exposure by linking their existing site to this directory. For residents who want to use local businesses to keep their dollars in town and support the community, the program offers confidence and a way to find a specific type of business with the confidence that it is a Warrenville-based business.

To find the business directory, go to www.warrenville.il.us, look for the "**Shop Warrenville**" link in the lower right corner and click on the acorn icon. Businesses looking to register their business, can go to the homepage under Bulletin and choose "Warrenville Business Directory." Anyone needing assistance with the program can contact Administrative Assistant Marie Lupo in the Community Development Department at (630) 393-9050 or mlupo@warrenville.il.us.

"I am a small business owner myself, and I do not have the staff or financial resources to build and maintain a website. The **Shop Warrenville** program is a great fit for small businesses like mine to market to the local community. From my perspective as Mayor, I support any effort we can make that helps our business community prosper," said Mayor Brummel.

ONLINE BILL PAY OPTION

Anyone using their own bank's online bill pay option to pay the City of Warrenville water and sewer bill should be aware that this "free" banking service could still end up costing money. The bank actually mails a check to the City to make these utility payments and a customer's bill is not to be considered paid on time until the City receives the check in the mail. If the City does not receive a payment on time, a ten percent penalty is charged to the customer.

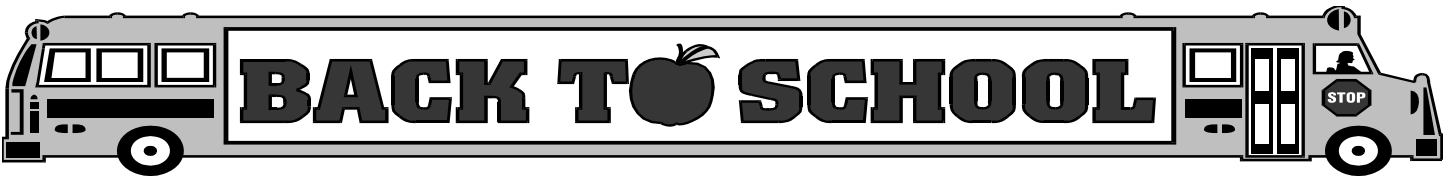
Here are the options available to avoid a late penalty: 1) allow sufficient time for the bank to mail the check and for the City to actually receive it at City Hall (not the P. O. Box) before the due date; or 2) take advantage of the City's own free direct debit program called "auto pay". With auto pay, the bank automatically takes the amount due for water and sewer bills directly from a checking or savings account of choice, on the due date, at no cost to the customer.

To sign up for auto pay, visit www.warrenville.il.us under *Forms & Documents*, or call 630-393-5753 for more information.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Natural disasters, such as tornados, floods, windstorms, blizzards, extreme heat and cold, and man-made or technical disasters, such as hazardous material or terrorism events, are all possible occurrences in this area. Helpful information for homeowners and businesses is available by visiting the FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) website at www.fema.gov or the IEMA (Illinois Emergency Management Agency) website at www.state.il.us/iema, or by requesting a copy of "Are You Ready?, an In-Depth Guide to Citizen Preparedness" from Warrenville Emergency Services Disaster Agency (ESDA) at esda@warrenville.il.us.

Warrenville ESDA is always accepting applications for membership from residents who are at least 18 years old and interested in helping the community. For information call 918-5119 or e-mail esda@warrenville.il.us.



School Zones: The speed limit in all school zones is 20 mph. According to Illinois law, the school day begins at 7:00 a.m. and ends at 4:00 p.m. Speeding in a school zone carries a minimum fine of \$150, with no option for court supervision.

Cellular phone use in school zones is prohibited by State law except in emergencies (i.e. calling police, fire, or ambulance.) Cellular phones may only be used in "hands free" mode in school zones.

Texting while driving is also prohibited at all times throughout the State. The law defines texting as "electronic mail, a text message, an instant message, or a command or request to access an internet site."

Stopping for loading and unloading school buses: Illinois law requires that drivers stop and not pass school buses that have their red lights flashing with the stop arm extended. Vehicles that are in oncoming traffic in relation to a stopped school bus on a four lane roadway are not required to stop. First offenders are subject to a mandatory minimum fine of \$150, are not eligible for court supervision, and will have their driver's licenses suspended for a period of three months.

Disobeying a crossing guard: Illinois law makes disobeying a crossing guard a moving violation. A minimum fine of \$150 and court appearance by the offender are required.

*The Warrenville Police Department asks that you protect the safety of all children ~
slow down, give yourself extra time on school days, and avoid distracted driving!*

Citizens Police Academy

The Citizen's Police Academy (CPA) is being offered by the Warrenville Police Department to its residents. Anyone interested in becoming a police officer, or just wanting to know more about how local police perform their duties should register for this ten week course. Receive instruction on topics like: *Police Officer Selection Process, Patrol Functions / Interview and Interrogations, Police Weaponry, Defensive Tactics, Crime Scene Investigations, K-9 Unit, Traffic Patrol / Accident Investigations / DUI Enforcement, and more....*

Classes will be conducted on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., beginning October 4, 2011, through December 6, 2011. Graduation takes place during the last evening of the course. This **free** opportunity is open to all adult Warrenville residents or business owners, age 21 and over.

Please complete and submit an application no later than September 13, 2011. Space is limited to the first fifteen applications accepted. To obtain a printable version of the application, please visit the City's website at: www.warrenville.il.us on the **Police** page. Applications are also available at the front counter of the Police Department, 3S245 Warren Avenue, or may be mailed upon request. Anyone with questions should call (630)393-2131 and ask to speak with Deputy Chief Schar.

City of Warrenville

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Warrenville, IL 60555

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Fax: 630-393-6948
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HOLIDAY REFUSE AND RECYCLING SCHEDULE

There will be no refuse or recycling collection on Monday, September 5, 2011, in observance of the Labor Day Holiday. Because this holiday falls on a weekday, pickup will be delayed by one day for all collections that week. Questions should be referred to Waste Management at 800-796-9696.

City Hall will be closed all day on Friday, September 30, 2011, for their bi-annual clean-up day for records, files, office spaces, and public areas of the facility. The City Hall closing will be posted at both entrance doors and customers will be directed to the Police Station to make utility payments in person or to leave them in the City Hall drop box at the Manning Avenue entrance. City Hall will re-open at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, October 3.

POWER OUTAGES

Electrical power outages should be reported immediately to Com Ed's toll free electric emergency center: **1-800-EDISON-1** (1-800-334-7661). According to a Com Ed press release: "The more calls that are received, the quicker the ability to identify the cause of an outage".

For example, if 10 customers call within the same time period, the outage management system will analyze the addresses in relationship to each other and to Com Ed's electric facilities and conclude that the outage is likely due to an isolated problem on a portion of the neighborhood's line.

If, on the other hand, 500 customers report an outage from the same general area, the analysis may indicate the outage is due to a problem on the entire line assisting the Com Ed crews in identifying the cause sooner.

Route 56 Widening Project

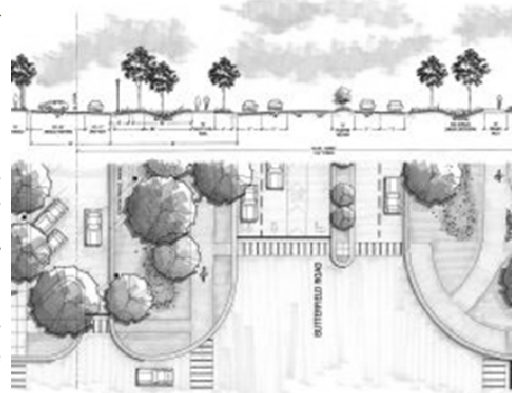
Construction began in May 2011. The completion date for both sections is October 26, 2012.

The initial stage of construction includes various utility companies relocating their facilities that are in conflict with IDOT's proposed improvements and the installation of temporary traffic signals.

During September, The utility companies continue to relocate their facilities. Route 59 at

Route 56 is now limited to one lane in each direction. It is anticipated that this configuration will remain until the end of September. When the project moves into the next construction stage, traffic will be opened back up to two lanes in each direction.

Most of the Route 56 construction activities in 2011 will occur in the south half of the right-of-way to build the proposed eastbound lanes. When those lanes are complete, traffic will be switched to the new pavement so the contractor can work on the new westbound lanes in the north half of the right-of-way. The final landscape plans for the project and other timely updates can be viewed at: http://www.warrenville.il.us/b_road_56expansion.aspx



EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES:

Congratulations to City employees celebrating anniversaries in September:
Officer Timothy Davis—20 years
Public Works Laborer John Satter—5 years

THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING TO DO?

Check out these local organization websites:

City of Warrenville: www.warrenville.il.us
Warrenville Public Library District: www.warrenville.com
School District #200: www.CUSD200.org
Warrenville Fire District: www.warrenvillefire.com
Warrenville Park District: www.warrenvilleparks.org
Warrenville Historical Society: www.warrenvillehistorical.org
DuPage Forest Preserve District: www.dupageforest.org