

# Village OF RINGWOOD

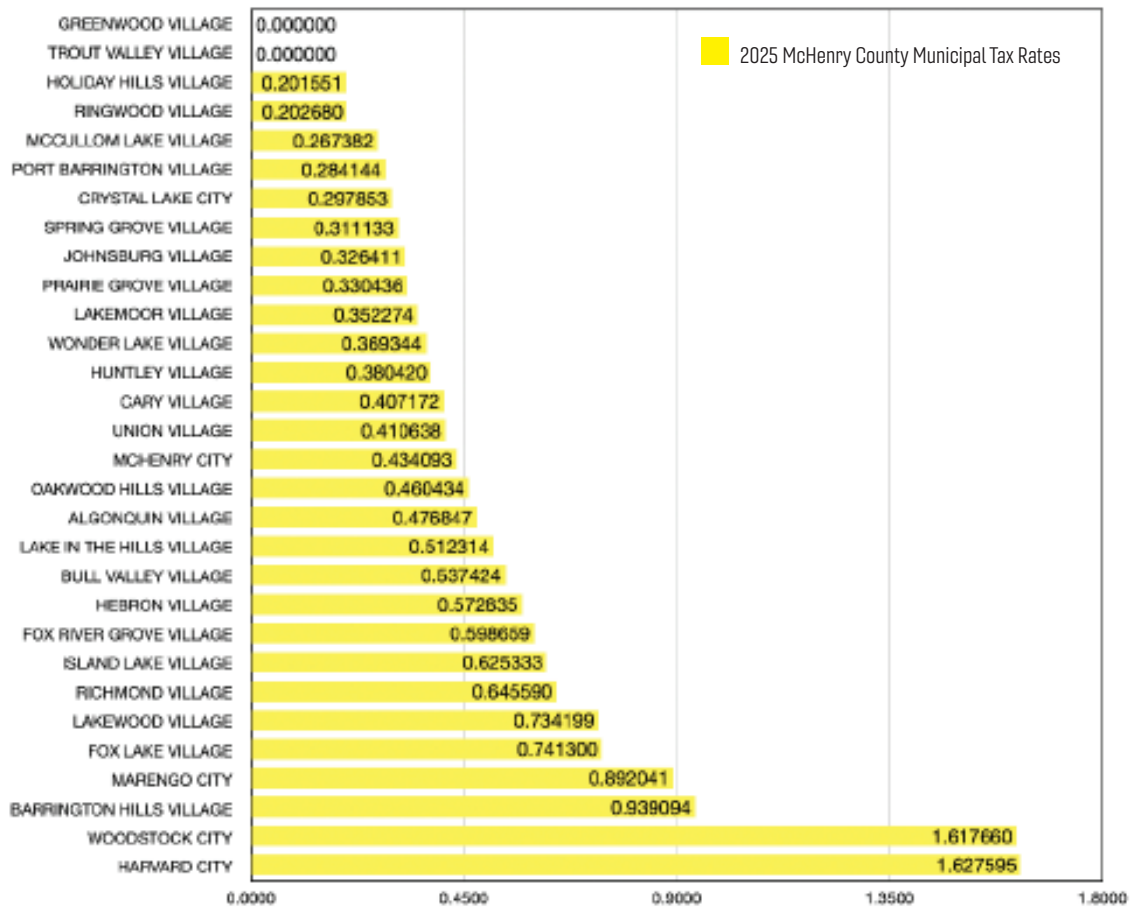
JUNE 2026



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Dear Neighbors:

I am pleased to report that Ringwood has one of the lowest municipal property tax rates in McHenry County. (See chart below).



A couple of reasons why this is possible-

1. Your Village officials have been very successful in acquiring approximately \$5 million in infrastructure grants, allowing us to reduce our reliance on property taxes.
2. Your Village officials do not get compensated for the offices we serve in. In addition, elected, appointed officials and Village residents donate time working on public works, parks and other projects. This saves our community thousands of dollars each year.

Sincerely,

Richard E. Mack  
Village President



## 2026 Ringwood Community Garage Sale Days

On Thursday, Friday and Saturday, June 11th - 13th, your Village officials will be advertising the Ringwood 2026 Garage Sale Days. Anyone interested in having a garage sale this year should consider having their sale during the above three days in June. Your Village officials will purchase ads in the Northwest Herald, publish the information on the Village website and place signs throughout the Village advertising the sales. Anyone planning to participate in the 2026 Ringwood Garage Sale Days should contact Village Clerk Elaine Fung at 815-355-6680 or Jamie Decker at 815-353-0343 to ensure we have signs and maps advertising the garage sale locations. Thank you to Ringwood ZBA member and Real Estate Broker Jamie Decker for sponsoring this event.

## Ringwood's 2026 Annual Town Picnic

On Sunday, August 23rd, Ringwood will hold its Annual Town Picnic. The Picnic will begin at noon at the Village Hall. Back by popular demand will be the "Moon Walk", rock climbing wall, DJ entertainment and much more. The menu includes a pig roast, hamburgers, hot dogs, side dishes, sweet corn and ice cream. All of which is catered by Ringwood's own Rusty Nail Bar & Grill. Preliminary schedule: Food will be served from 12:30 P.M. till 1:30 P.M., and the raffle drawing will begin at 2:15 P.M. There will be raffle prizes and you must be present to win. If you have any ideas to improve the picnic, feel free to reach out to share those ideas with Village Clerk Elaine Fung at 815-355-6680.

In addition, we are sponsoring a food drive to benefit the FISH food pantry of McHenry. We are asking that each person bring a non-perishable food item to donate. Monetary donations for the FISH food pantry will also be accepted. Anyone interested in helping with the picnic set-up should be at the Village Hall at 8:30 a.m. on the 23rd.

Since we have a limited amount of parking spaces at the Village Hall, we would like to keep the parking lot at the Hall available for the elderly and handicapped. Therefore, we are asking that if you able, please park in the east lot adjacent to the tennis/pickle ball courts.

Our Annual Town Picnic is a great opportunity to relax with old friends, meet new friends, enjoy some great food and have an old-fashioned good time. We look forward to seeing you on the 23rd!

### RINGWOOD TRICK-OR-TREAT

Saturday, October 31, 2026 from 3:00-7:00 pm.

**FALL BRUSH PICKUP** - Thursday and Friday, November 5th and 6th. The Spring Brush Pickup was so well received, we are happy to report that we are adding a Fall 2026 Brush Pickup. To participate, please have your brush out by the side of the road no later than Wednesday, November 4th.  
\*\*Important Note: No branches with a diameter larger than 6" round will be accepted.

**SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN** - Santa promised to be at the Village Hall on Saturday, November 28, 2026 from 9:00 - 11:30 am. If you provide a camera, we will take your family's picture with Santa. Refreshments will be served.

## 2026 Public Works Report

The Village Board has planned for the following infrastructure projects in 2026:

- Flashing LED Stop Signs - At the March Village Board meeting, the Village Board voted to purchase solar powered Flashing LED stop signs to be installed at the intersection of Barnard Mill and Ringwood Roads. Over the past 3 years (especially in 2025), there has been a concerning uptick of bad accidents at this intersection. Public safety is always a top priority for your Village officials, and we are hopeful that this investment will improve the public safety at this intersection.
- Patty Lane - Resurface the west and south half of Patty Lane. Geske and Son's was the low bidder for this project. Top soil will be used for the shoulders.
- Crack seal all the roads in Glacial Trails, Oakview Estates, Christina Court, Tall Oaks Drive, Patty Lane (Area not previously crack sealed) and Ringwood Road from Route 31 to just south of the Ringwood Corporate Center.
- Road striping:
  - Crosswalk at the Prairie Trail on School Road
  - Stop lines and crosswalks at the intersection of Ringwood and Barnard Mill Road
  - White and yellow lines on Barnard Mill, Ringwood and School Roads.

## Steven Spraker to be Promoted to Fire Chief

We are so happy to inform you that Ringwood resident Steve Spraker will be promoted to Fire Chief of the McHenry Township Fire Protection District this coming June 18th, 2026.

Getting to know Steve:

- Hired by the MTFPD on 1/5/2015 as Deputy Fire Chief
- 27 years in Fire Service
- Illinois State Certified Chief Fire Officer & Illinois Department of Public Health Certified Paramedic
- Bachelors Degree in Computer Science from Governors State University
- Masters Degree in Business Administration from Governors State University
- Ringwood resident since August 2015 (almost 11 years)
- Wife - Vicki, an elementary school teacher at Crosby Elementary School in Harvard
- 3 Children - Alex (12), Carly (8), Ryan (6) - All attend District 12 Schools

Future fire department projects:

- Opening of Station #6 on the south end of the district
- Building a fire department training facility
- Hiring additional firefighter/paramedics to handle the increasing call volume (8,137 calls last year)

Outside activities:

- Attends Shepherd of the Hills Church in McHenry and serves as Treasurer there
- Coaches Johnsbury Spring Flag Football for 6th & 7th grade.

Join us in congratulating Steve on his promotion to Fire Chief. A well earned and deserved promotion.

## Ringwood History

Although Ringwood was settled in 1837, it was not until the arrival of the railroad in 1855 that Ringwood began to develop as a significant business center for the surrounding area. At that time Ringwood was the end of the line of the railroad. The brick home located across the street from the present-day Rusty Nail Restaurant was a hotel and stage stop from which departing passengers could catch the stage coach to Lake Geneva.

In July 1871 the railroad line was completed north to the City of Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. After the great Chicago fire in October of 1871, many wealthy Chicago residents sought housing on Geneva Lake. This developed the need for reliable train service between City of Lake Geneva and the City of Chicago.

In the era before we had roads, the railroad allowed commerce between the rural farming villages and Chicago. The rural community received vital merchandise in a reliable manner while supplying milk and other agricultural products to Chicago. Ringwood quickly became a major business center with a bank, post office, general store, grocery store, community center/dance hall, doctors office, drug store, meat market, black smith shop, cheese factory, a Bowman Dairy bottling plant, along with the requisite barbershops and taverns. The trains also brought the mail and daily Chicago newspapers to the Village, keeping Village residents connected to the outside world. The Methodist Church was established in 1855 and a large two room school was constructed in 1862 to serve the growing population.

At the height of the railroad era during the first half of the 20th century, Ringwood was serviced by as many as four passenger trains running weekdays in each direction between Chicago and Williams Bay, Wisconsin. In addition, to the commuter trains, there were daily milk/passenger trains and two freight trains running daily in each direction.

The Bowman Dairy Bottling Plant was located just across Barnard Mill Road where the present-day chemical plants are located. Part of the original Bowman Dairy building still stands facing Barnard Mill Road. At one time there was a railroad siding that serviced the stockyards, feed mill, lumber yard and coal business which were all located where a parking lot is currently located on Barnard Mill Road just east of the post office.

A plaque has been installed on the Prairie Trail between Barnard Mill and Ringwood Roads to mark the location of the former Ringwood Train station and to tell this story as to how Ringwood developed around the railroad.

### Highlights of action taken by the Village Board at the following Village Board Meetings: March 2026

- Approve a resolution for maintenance under Illinois Highway Code regarding the use of Motor Fuel (MFT) for the resurfacing of Patty Lane.
- Approve a resolution assigning of addresses to property index numbers 09-04-400-024 and 09-09-277-015.
- Approve Return-to-Work policy required by the Risk Management Association.
- Approve a resolution pledging in good faith and guarantees that all work on IDOT Right-of-Way will be performed in accordance with

conditions of the permit granted but the Illinois Department of Transportation.

- Approve purchasing 4 blinker flashing LED stop signs for the intersection of Barnard Mill and Ringwood Roads.

*All Trustees present at the March Village Board meeting voted unanimously to approve the above action, except Trustees Herdus and Morgan who was absent.*

### April 2026

- Approve an ordinance making Appropriations for fiscal year beginning May 1, 2026 and ending April 30, 2027.
- Approve General Engineering Consultation Contract between the Village of Ringwood and HR Green for FY May 1, 2026 to April 30, 2027.
- Approve Building Plan Review and Inspection Services between the Village of Ringwood and HR Green for FY May 1, 2026 to April 30, 2027.
- Approve assigning address for the Boulder Hill of Ringwood residential subdivision.

*All Trustees were present at the April Village Board meeting and voted unanimously to approve the above action.*

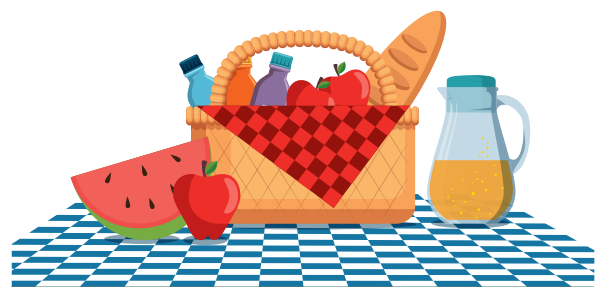
### May 2026

- Approve an Ordinance Repealing Ordinance 95-4-2 and 2006 -5-2 and updating and revising the Village of Ringwood's Dram Shop/Liquor Control and Liquor Licensing Regulations. The update included: Adding a CLASS C License for a Banquet Facility. Authorize the retail sale by a Banquet Service. The update requires that no retail sale of alcoholic beverage shall be made at any time to the general public, other than those in attendance at the banquet event. Outdoor sports activities, outdoor festivals and outdoor music entertainment events shall not be conducted by a licensee, or by anyone acting on behalf of the licensee, on the property of the licensee. All exterior windows and doors shall be closed when music is playing inside the principal building within which the Banquet Service is situated.
- Approve the Issuance of a Class C Liquor License to Mike and Jen Siudak limited to retail sale within the subject banquet facility at 4800 School Road and no outdoor liquor service until such time that the Board of Trustees approves a designed patio area outside such banquet facility to which outdoor liquor service would be limited.
- Approve hiring S.K.C. Construction Inc. ( Low bidder) to crack seal and paint crosswalk and stop bars on various roads (See public works report for list of roads).

*All Trustees were present at the May Village Board meeting and voted unanimously to approve the above action.*

### Possible Future Action by the Village Board

- Consider updates to Downtown and Long Range Land Use plans.
- Consider amendments to the Village Building Code.
- Consider amendments to the Village Sign ordinance.
- Consider designed patio area outside future banquet hall.



# Ringwood Village Hall

6000 Barnard Mill Road, Ringwood, IL 60072

Phone: 815-653-5511 • Fax: 815-653-9571 • Website: ringwood-il.us

## VILLAGE OFFICIALS

President

Richard Mack - 815-321-1898

Clerk

Elaine Fung - 815-653-5511

Treasurer

Shelly Spata - 815-653-5511

## VILLAGE TRUSTEES

Katie Herdus - 847-644-5963

Tim Meseck - 414-745-4525

Jason Meyer - 815-482-3698

Karen Morgan - 847-638-2009

Gary Reinwall - 815-728-0223

Missy Robel - 815-347-8916

## VILLAGE HALL HOURS

### CLERK

First Saturday of every month 9a - 11a, or by appointment.

### BUILDING INSPECTOR

HR Green - Building Inspection and Permitting questions or appointments

Tina Williams 815-759-8344

Village Board meets on the 3rd Monday of the month

Village Zoning Board of Appeals meets on an as needed basis.

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*Village of Ringwood  
6000 Barnard Mill Road  
Ringwood, Illinois 60072*

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