

Village OF RINGWOOD

MARCH 2026



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Dear Neighbors:

Governor JB Pritzker in his annual State of the State address proposed statewide zoning laws to spur homebuilding, and limit local control. The Governor's proposal would establish statewide zoning standards, including minimum lot sizes, increased residential density allowances, legalization of accessory dwelling units, limitations on parking requirements and changes affecting local development review and inspection process.

While this proposal still has to be approved by the General Assembly, we have to now ask ourselves how will this proposal affect Ringwood? For starters, the Governor's proposal would bar local zoning boards from requiring minimum lot sizes greater than 2,500 square feet for a detached single-family dwelling. This would not even come close to meeting the minimum requirements for private well and septic systems. Ringwood's current square feet minimum is closer to 43,560 or 1 acre. As you can see, just this one provision in the Governor's proposal would have a drastic impact on Ringwood's land-use plan goals and objectives, which is to keep Ringwood a small rural community. In addition to taking our local authority away to regulate solar, this is another example of where one-size-fits-all statewide mandates are unworkable and will damage communities. As I mentioned in the December Village Voice, it was a slippery slope when the State of Illinois took away our local authority and ultimately your voice to regulate solar. Its now starting to look more like a very steep cliff. Local authority is essential to ensure responsible and well planned development.

In this edition of the Village Voice, you will find important updates on legislation to restore local authority to regulate solar, the Governor's proposed statewide zoning laws to spur homebuilding, and the Governor's proposal to reduce the Local Government Distributive Fund. I know this is a lot of information to digest. After reviewing this information, please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions on these or any other Village issue. I would be happy to talk to you on the phone or meet you in person if you would prefer.

In other Village news, I am happy to report that the Village plans to resurface the west and south half of Patty Lane (area that has been crack sealed). In order to get the biggest bang for our buck, the Village is partnering with the McHenry Township Road District (MTRD) to bid Patty Lane with the MTRD 2026 road resurfacing program. We were informed in early March that Geske & Sons is the apparent low bidder for this project. I would like to thank the MTRD for partnering with Ringwood on their 2026 road resurfacing program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rick".

Richard E. Mack
Village President

Springfield Update

Village President Rick Mack went to Springfield in mid-February, along with the mayors of Algonquin, Cary, Crystal Lake, Lake in the Hills and Richmond. The purpose for going to Springfield was to meet with legislators to discuss the impacts to municipalities regarding the loss of local control as it relates to solar farms, local residential zoning authority, cuts to the Local Government Distributive Fund and McHenry County infrastructure projects. When in Springfield the mayors had the opportunity to meet with the following elected state officials: Senate President Don Harmon, Senate President Pro Tempore Bill Cunningham, Senate Republican Leader John Curran, House Republican Leader Tony McCombie, Senator Craig Wilcox, Representatives Steve Reick, Tom Weber and the Illinois Department of Transportation staff. Village President Rick Mack will continue to work with our state and local officials, McHenry County Council of Governments, other collar county council of governments, Metropolitan Mayor Caucus, and the Illinois Municipal League, to oppose legislation that would harm Ringwood and support legislation that would benefit Ringwood.

Solar Update - Senators Koehler and Wilcox Co-Sponsor Solar Senate Bill (SB 3450)

As you know, Illinois Legislature passed and the Governor signed energy bill Senate Bill 25 (SB 25) which preempts local authority over solar within municipal boundaries. Ringwood has at least 33 locations throughout the Village that would be good potential sites for solar. Without local control, Ringwood is very vulnerable of being overwhelmed by the installation of solar farms. The Village of Ringwood is not opposed to solar. We have an ordinance that regulates solar farms and protects the public health and welfare, as well as protecting the property values for existing and future residential developments.

Your Village officials are pleased to report that Senators Koehler and Wilcox are cosponsoring Senate Bill 3450 (SB 3450) that would restore local control back to municipalities to regulate solar farms. If passed by the State Legislature and signed by the Governor, this bill permits municipalities to regulate or prohibit the installation of low-voltage solar facilities in a way that is consistent with comprehensive plans or zoning authority. Thank you to Senators Koehler and Wilcox for co-sponsoring SB 3450.

House Bill (HB 5626) statewide zoning laws to spur homebuilding and limit local control

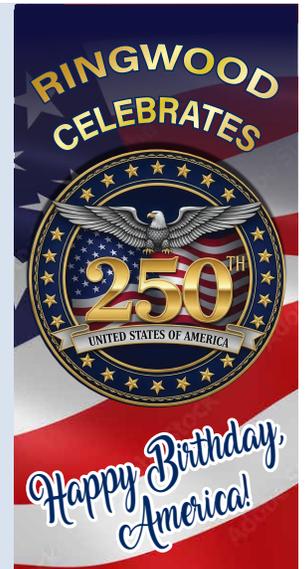
In late February, Village President Rick Mack met with Governor Pritzker's staff regarding the Governor's proposal to limit local residential zoning authority. The Governor's staff reached out and wanted input on the Governor's plan regarding statewide zoning laws to spur local homebuilding. President Mack informed the Governor's staff that small communities like Ringwood rely on private wells and septic and have no access to a public sewer or water systems. The 2,500 square feet requirement would not even meet the minimum requirements for a private septic and well for a detached single-family dwelling in McHenry County. As a result, President Mack sent a letter on March 7th to the Governor's staff, requesting that communities like Ringwood who depend on private septic and wells be exempt from the 2,500 square feet requirement.

Governor Pritzker Proposes Cuts to LGDF

Your Village officials are disappointed to report that Governor Pritzker in his State of the State address proposed a reduction in the Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF) from 6.47% to 6.28%. The LGDF is the designated portion of the state income tax revenues that municipalities and counties receive on a per capita basis. Prior to 2011, 10% of total state income tax collections was dedicated to LGDF; today the local government share has been reduced to 6.47%. LGDF is an especially important source of funding for small non-home rule communities like Ringwood, who have limited resources and rely heavily on LGDF. For example, the LGDF is Ringwood's second highest source of revenue. It currently represents approximately 22% of Ringwood's total revenues. LGDF is critical for keeping our infrastructure in a good state of repair and to keep our local property tax burden low.

Ringwood to Celebrate America's 250th Anniversary

To celebrate America's 250th Anniversary, your Village officials will install banners in downtown. A ceremony at the Village picnic to recognize this important milestone and honor our veterans and active service members is also being planned.



2026 Brush Pickup

Your Village officials have hired Century Tree Service of Grayslake, IL to pick up and chip brush throughout the Village in 2026. The Village of Ringwood brush pickup days will take place on Thursday and Friday, April 23rd and 24th. To participate, please have your brush out by the side of the road no later than Wednesday, April, 22nd.

**Important Note: No branches with a diameter larger than 6" round will be accepted.

2026 Ringwood Community Garage Sale Days

Mark your calendar! 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 to ensure we have signs advertising the garage sale locations.

2026 Annual Ringwood Community Picnic

Mark your calendar! On Sunday, August 23rd, Ringwood will hold its Annual Community Picnic. The Picnic will begin at noon in the Village Hall Park. More picnic details to follow in a next edition of the Village Voice.

2026 Golf Cart/UTV Sticker Renewal or Registration

If you are the owner of a golf cart or UTV, and have not done so yet, please remember to renew or register your vehicle for 2026. Please visit the Village of Ringwood website at ringwood-il.us to obtain the new 2026 renewal registration form. If you have any questions, please contact Village Clerk Elaine Fung at 815-355-6680. The cost is \$10 to renew your sticker or \$50 for a first-time registration. Please make your check payable to the Village of Ringwood. No cash or credit will be accepted. A copy of the Non-Highway Vehicle ordinance can be found on the Village website.

Golf Carts/UTVs - Illinois State law and Village ordinance requires the following:

- You must have a valid drivers license to operate a golf cart or UTV upon the roadways in the Village of Ringwood which are owned by and under the jurisdiction of the Village.
- Any licensed driver operating a golf cart or UTV upon the roads in Ringwood shall comply with the provisions of the Illinois Rules of the Road and the Illinois Vehicle Code.
- Golf carts and UTVs must be inspected and registered annually with the Village. Please contact Village Clerk Elaine Fung at 815-355-6680 if you have not had your golf cart or UTV registered and inspected.
- State of Illinois law prohibits the use of ATVs on public roads.

Utility Work in Ringwood

As many of you know, there is lots of utility work being done in Ringwood. Your Village officials want you to know that the utility companies are required to restore the right of way areas that have been disturbed in front of your home or business with top soil and seed as result of the utility companies improvements. If the right of way in front of your home has not been restored by May 1st, then please email Village Clerk, Elaine Fung at elaine.fung@ringwood-il.us and include your name and street address. Elaine will forward your email to HR Green (Village Engineer) who will then contact the utility company to get them out to restore the right of way in front of your home or business.

IDOT Studying the intersection of Route 31 and Ringwood Road

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is currently performing a Phase 1 engineering study on the intersection of Route 31 and Ringwood Road. This project is in IDOT's FY 2026-2032 Proposed Highway Improvement Program. IDOT is evaluating both a standard traffic signal and a roundabout alternative for the proposed intersection improvement. The phase 1 study will evaluate the various design options, including the potential benefits and impacts of both alternatives, to identify the most effective solution to improve safety and traffic flow at this intersection. The study will consider factors such as traffic volume, crash history, pedestrian and bicyclist access, and overall feasibility to ensure that the final design aligns with needs of the community and motoring public. Construction on this project will depend on plan readiness, land acquisition and funding availability through annual legislative appropriations process. IDOT will host a public meeting to present and get public feedback on these two alternatives sometime in 2026.

Public Works Report

In addition to resurfacing and crack sealing Patty Lane and Tall Oaks Drive in the Country Crossing subdivision, this spring your Village officials will identify additional roads in the Village that will need to be crack sealed or patched. We will also be identify signage that needs to be replaced or repaired. Finally, the following roads will be striped in 2026 - Barnard Mill, Ringwood, School and Pioneer Roads.

Highlights of the Village Board Meetings - December through February

December 2025

- Approved an ordinance amending section 307, of the Village of Ringwood Zoning ordinance pertaining to fences.
- Approved ordinance amending section 3-7, "Fences" of chapter 3, Building and Code regulations of the Village of Ringwood.
- Approved ordinance amending chapter 3 (Building Code and Building Regulations) of the Village of Ringwood Municipal Code and Amending the Subdivision Control ordinance of the Village of Ringwood.
- Approved Village President Rick Mack's appointment of Gregg Romano to the Village of Ringwood Plan Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals.

All Trustees present at the December Village Board meeting voted unanimously to approve the above action, except Trustees Reinwall and Robel who were absent.

January 12, 2026 - Committee of the Whole (COW) Meeting

- A COW was held to discuss and answer questions from the public regarding the Rusty Nail Banquet Hall. No new or old business was considered at this meeting.

January 19, 2026

- Approved Professional Services Agreement between HR Green and the Village of Ringwood for the 2026 roadway resurfacing program preliminary, design and construction engineering.
- Approved landscaping contract between the Village of Ringwood and Landcare & Lawn Maintenance Inc. for the 2026 growing season.

All Trustees present at the January Village Board meeting voted unanimously to approve the above action, except Trustee Reinwall who was absent.

February 2026

- No new or old business was considered at the February Village Board meeting.

Possible Future Action by the Village Board

- Consider Appropriations Ordinance.
- Consider hiring a contractor to patch and crack seal various roads in the Village.
- Consider amendments to the Village of Ringwood Dram Shop ordinance.
- Consider updates to Downtown and Long Range Land Use plans.
- Consider amendments to the Village Building Code.
- Consider amendments to the Village Sign ordinance.

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 - 815-355-6680

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

Every Tuesday and Thursday 8:00 am to 11:00 am

First Saturday of the month (April thru November) 8:00 am to 10:00 am or by appointment.

BUILDING INSPECTOR

Hr Green - Kathryn Melnick 815-320-7131

Village Board meets on the 3rd Monday of the month

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

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

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