

# Village OF RINGWOOD i C e

DECEMBER 2025



Dear Neighbors,

We are ending 2025 with very heavy hearts. On November 9th, former Trustee Kevin Bauer passed away. Kevin served for 22 years on the Village Board. In addition to serving on the Village Board, Kevin served as Co-Chair of the Citizens for Ringwood Organization. This organization was responsible for the successful incorporation of the Village of Ringwood in 1994. Without a doubt, Kevin's biggest impact on Ringwood happened even before he spent one day on the Village Board. Kevin played a pivotal role in preserving Ringwood for this and future generations.

In 1995, Kevin was elected to the first Village Board. He worked tirelessly to establish Ringwood's legal and financial foundation. In the early days of the Village (1995 through 2006), the Village Board had many ordinances to pass, and very limited resources to operate on. In addition, because this time period saw significant growth in McHenry County, Ringwood had developments like Country Crossings, Oakview Estates, Pioneer Oaks, Glacial Trails, Whispering Meadows, Ringwood Corporate Center, Gaylor Business Park, the construction of Ringwood's first Village Hall, and so much more. Through it all, Kevin was a relentless and steady hand in making sure these developments would be quality developments that this and future generations would be proud of. Kevin loved our annual community picnic and would spearhead and promote it at every opportunity.

Even after retiring from the Village Board in 2019, Kevin never stopped thinking about ways to improve Ringwood. So much so that the Village Board affectionately gave Kevin the nickname "Concerned Citizen Bauer." I have no doubt that Kevin's legacy will live on for generations. For this and so many other reasons, the Village Board will dedicate the limestone path in the Village Hall park to Kevin. This pathway connects the Village Hall with the Bauer Farm, two things Kevin loved dearly and dedicated his life serving and protecting. This winter we will work with Kevin's family to come up with the most appropriate message on the plaque to honor Kevin and host a dedication ceremony later in 2026. In closing, I am personally grateful that I had the opportunity to know and serve with Kevin. He was a tremendous public servant, passionate lifelong farmer, and an even greater friend and family man.

On behalf of the Village Board, we would like to wish you and your entire family a very happy holiday season and an especially happy, healthy 2026!

Sincerely,

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

Richard E. Mack  
Village President



# AN AMAZING SEND-OFF FOR KEVIN BAUER

Very impressive show of support as this tractor salute traveled down Barnard Mill Road, filed through the Bauer farm field and lined the cemetery perimeter for Kevin Bauer's funeral.

*Rest easy our friend.*





# Senate Bill (SB 25 Solar) Call to ACTION

Recently, the Illinois Legislature passed an energy bill Senate Bill 25 (SB 25) that has language in (Section 11-15.5-10) that preempts local authority for solar within municipal boundaries. This is an issue that McHenry County has been grappling with in unincorporated areas and it looks to be an issue soon for municipalities as well.

The purpose of this provision seeks to expand access to solar energy, it also prevents municipalities from making important zoning decisions that protect their communities and that align with existing development plans and goals. 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. Unfortunately, SB 25 preempting solar within municipal boundaries would not protect these values. Instead, it takes our authority away to regulate solar farms and ultimately your voice.

It is a slippery slope when the state starts to take local authority away from local governments. Will our building codes be next? Local governments are best positioned to balance development opportunities with land-use priorities, public safety and other important community considerations. Local authority is essential to ensure responsible and well planned development. What can you do? All hands on deck! Please contact Governor Pritzker and object to the state taking local authority away from local governments to regulate solar within their municipal boundaries. If this legislation stands, we could very well be looking at solar farms in Ringwood similar to the one at the intersection of Route 31 and Solon Road.

Three ways to voice your opinion to the governor:

- Go online at <https://gov.illinois.gov/contact-us/voice-an-opinion.html>
- Call the governor's office at
- Phone: 217-782-6830 or 217-782-6831
- Write the governor's office at
- Office of the Governor  
401 S. Spring St.  
Springfield, IL 62704

## Actions currently in process across local municipalities:

- McHenry County municipalities are sending letters and passing resolutions to send to the Governor and legislative leaders objecting to this provision.
- Informing residents and asking them to join us in objecting to this provisions that take away our local control.
- Village President Rick Mack will be talking to anyone who will listen: McHenry County officials, McHenry County Council of Governments, other collar county council of governments and the Illinois Municipal League, to oppose this provision.

Thank you in advance for your attention and support for this very important call to action.



## Around

### **The Rusty Nail Plans Banquet Hall in Ringwood**

The Rusty Nail plans to build a banquet hall on School Road, just north and adjacent to the Ringwood School Primary Center. To that end, on October 13th, the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) held a public hearing to consider the proposed banquet hall and recommended that the Village Board approve the conditional use for the banquet hall. At the October 20th, Village Board meeting, the Village Board considered the ZBA recommendation and approved the conditional use ordinance for the banquet hall. The conditional use spells out certain conditions required for the property's development and operations. You can find the complete banquet hall conditional use ordinance on the Village website's home page at: [ringwood-il.us](http://ringwood-il.us)

Remaining approvals:

- Site civil engineering
- Stormwater approval
- McHenry County Health Department approval for septic and well
- Building permit
- McHenry Township Fire Protection District approval

Additional notes to keep in mind:

- This is not a restaurant or bar. It is strictly a banquet hall for special events.
- No outdoor events or music. Village ordinances prohibit outdoor events and music without a special permit.
- Rusty Nail hopes to open the banquet hall in the fall of 2026.

### **2026 Golf cart/UTV Sticker Renewal or Registration**

If you are the owner of a Golf cart or UTV, you can now renew or register your vehicle for 2026. Please visit the Village of Ringwood website at [ringwood-il.us](http://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. It will cost \$10 to renew your sticker or \$50 to register your Golf cart/UTV for the first time. 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.





# Town



## **Decorating the Ringwood Commons for the Holidays**

A very special thank you to Trustees Jason Meyer, Karen Morgan and husband David, Trustee Katie Herdus, Village President Rick Mack and wife Barb, and Village Clerk Elaine Fung for decorating the Ringwood Commons for the holidays.



## **Ice Rink**

A very special thank you to Trustee Jason Meyer, Zoning Board Chair Steve Cencelewski, Jason Buchert and Glen O'Halleran for installing the ice rink at the Village Hall for the 2025-26 winter season.



# 2025 Ringwood Community Picnic Wrap-Up:

Fun was had by all at the 2025 Ringwood Community Picnic held on Sunday, August 24th. Good food, music, raffle prizes, appearances by the McHenry Township Fire Protection District and children's activities provided an afternoon of enjoyment for kids and adults alike. A special thank you to everyone who made a donation to the McHenry Township Food Pantry.

A very special thank you to following local businesses and individuals for their very generous support of the 2025 Ringwood Community Picnic: Bostik, Busy Bee Restaurant, C&A Auto Body, Hunstman, HR Green, Halftime Bar and Grill, J. Condon & Associates, Inc, Joseph H. Huemann & Sons, JVS Plumbing, L & R Plumbing and Electric, Lockers Flowers, Nature's Scholars, Pavement Solutions, Richardsons Farm, Rusty Nail, Upland Construction and Maintenance, and residents Terry & Kathy Porter.





# 2025 ANNUAL PICNIC





# Santa's 2025 Visit from the North Pole

Santa flew in to Ringwood on Saturday morning November 29, 2025 to visit with the little children from Ringwood and the surrounding area. He welcomed over 60 anxious little ones with their Christmas wishes. Village Clerk Elaine Fung, Village President Rick Mack and Barb Mack created a festive atmosphere with cheerful Christmas decorations. Santa promised to be back again next Christmas.









# The Village of Ringwood 2026 Regular Village Board Meeting Schedule

Third Monday of the month

January 19	May 18	September 21
February 16	June 15	October 19
March 16	July 20	November 16
April 20	August 17	December 21

***All meetings will be held at the Ringwood Village Hall, 6000 Barnard Mill Road and are scheduled to begin at 7:00 p.m.***

## **Highlights/Actions from Previous Village Board Meetings:**

### **June 2025**

- Approve Upland Construction and Maintenance proposal to repair the sidewalk along Barnard Mill Road between School Road and the intersection of Barnard Mill and Ringwood Road.
- Approve Pavement Solutions proposal to paint and stripe stop bars, crosswalks, parking spaces on Barnard Mill Road.

*The Village Board unanimously voted to approve the above action.*

### **July 2025**

- Approve Pavement Solutions proposal to crack fill Ringwood Road, between Route 31 and Pioneer Road.
- Approve updates to the Village of Ringwood Subdivision Ordinance.

*The Village Board unanimously voted to approve the above action.*

### **August 2025**

- Approve Tentative and Final Plats for the Boulder Hill of Ringwood residential subdivision, conditioned upon engineering improvements, legal and McHenry County Health Department approvals.

*The Village Board unanimously voted to approve the above action, except Trustee Reinwall who was absent.*

### **September 2025**

- Approve Village President Rick Mack's appointment of Steve Censelewski to Chairman of the Plan Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals.

*The Village Board voted unanimously to approve the above action.*

### **October 2025**

- Approve conditional use ordinance for a Rusty Nail banquet hall and existing kennel.
- Approve annexation ordinance, annexation agreement and zoning ordinance for Home State Trust 4527.
- Approve a contract between the Village and Upland Construction and Maintenance, to provide snowplowing and ice control services for the 2025/2026 winter season.
- Approve 2026 regular Village Board meeting schedule.

*The Village Board voted unanimously to approve the above action, except Trustee Herdus who was absent.*

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## November 2025

- Approve an ordinance annexing Laino and Dream Life properties to the Village of Ringwood.
- Approve a Professional Services contract between HR Green and the Village of Ringwood for grant writing and phase I Engineering associated with Barnard Mill Road.
- Approve Intergovernmental agreement between the Village of Ringwood, McHenry Township and the Village of Wonder Lake regarding a grant writing and funding request to resurfacing Barnard Mill Road.
- Approve annual Tax Levy ordinance for the Village of Ringwood for the fiscal year beginning May 1, 2025 and ending April 30, 2026.
- Approve annual Village Audit.

*The Village Board voted unanimously to approve the above action.*

## Possible Future Village Board Action

- Consider/act on Appropriations ordinance.
  - Consider updates to the Village Long Range and Downtown plans.
  - Consider updates to the Village Fence Ordinance.
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## Public Works Report:

**Parking Ordinance Reminder** – At all times of the year, parking is prohibited on all Village of Ringwood roads, except Barnard Mill Road near the post office (15 minute limit). After a snowfall of two inches or more, parking is not permitted in the spaces along Barnard Mill Road near the post office until after the road has been plowed shoulder to shoulder. This parking prohibition is in effect 24 hours a day. If a 2-inch or greater snowfall occurs and your vehicle is parked along the road, you must move it or have it moved immediately so plows can get through. By doing so, you will avoid being ticketed and towed. In that scenario, an individual would not only have to pay the ticket, but the towing charge as well. Your compliance with our Parking Ordinance is appreciated.

**Mailbox Post** – With winter on its way, this would be a good time for residents to check their mailbox and post to be sure that they are sturdy and can handle the snow roll off from the plow. If repair or replacement is needed, please take the time now to do it. If your mailbox or post falls down during the winter months, only a temporary fix can be performed and mail delivery may be disrupted.

**Blitzed Mailboxes** – If your roadside mailbox becomes a casualty during the Village's war with the wintertime elements, the Village will only repair or replace it if it was damaged from direct contact

with a Village contracted-and-operated snow plow. However, ***if the damage is caused by a wind-row (wall of flying snow) hurled by a passing plow, the Village will not repair or replace it.*** Sturdiness should be a consideration when you purchase and install your mailbox in a legal manner. It should be able withstand the force, weight, and sweep of snow flung by a passing plow. ***Replacement of mailboxes damaged as a result of being struck directly by a Village contracted snow plow will be a standard unit set on a wolmanized 4x4 wooden post.*** Please bear in mind, however, that sometimes downed mailboxes cannot be reinstalled immediately. In that case you will be required to pick up your mail at the post office.

**Salt Caution** – It's important to be aware that the effectiveness of road salt diminishes as the temperature drops. The lower the temperature, the less effective the salt will be. Road salt effectiveness is also reduced during freezing rain, because it's washed off the pavement by the traffic as the rain continues falling and freezing on impact. In any weather, even when salt is spread, drive as if there was no salt at all. Reduce your speed and allow plenty of space between your vehicle and the one in front of you. Also, begin stopping well in advance of any stop sign or traffic signal.

## 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

First Saturday of every month, April thru November 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. or by appointment.

Every Tuesday 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. • Every Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

#### BUILDING INSPECTOR

Hr Green - Building Inspections and Permitting

Contact: HR Green staff 815-759-8344 with questions or an appointment

Village Board meets on the 3rd Monday of the month. Meetings begin at 7:00 p.m.

Village Zoning Board of Appeals meets on as needed basis

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Village of Ringwood  
6000 Barnard Mill Road  
Ringwood, Illinois 60072

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