

Village OF RINGWOOD Picnic

SEPTEMBER 2026



Dear Neighbors,

I'm happy to report that your Village officials were successful in obtaining a Federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) grant in the amount of \$1.8 million dollars to resurface Barnard Mill Road, from Route 31 to the bridge over the Nippersink Creek in Wonder Lake. This is a 80/20 grant. This project is an excellent example of intergovernmental cooperation and collaboration. Your Village officials teamed up with the McHenry Township Road District and the Village of Wonder Lake for this resurfacing project. The 20% will be divided according to the percentage of Barnard Mill Road that is within each jurisdiction's boundary. We are targeting 2028 or 2029 for construction on this project.

Since incorporating in 1994, Ringwood has been successful in acquiring approximately \$7 million dollars in funding for infrastructure projects. As a small town with very limited resources, I cannot overstate the importance of this accomplishment. STP funding has not only helped us maintain roads like Ringwood and Barnard Mill roads, but it has freed up other funds to maintain other roads in the Village, like the section of Patty Lane that was resurfaced this summer. It has also has played an important role in helping Ringwood have one of the lowest municipal property tax rates in McHenry County and has contributed to the overall financial success of the Village.

On behalf of the Village Board, I would like to thank everyone who help make the 202 Community picnic a success. A very special thank you to the following for participating in Ringwood's America 250 celebration. Great Lakes Naval Base Honor Guard, Johnsbury Junior High School Band members, Remington Farm for providing the two horses, and our veterans for their service and sacrifice. A complete list of those who contributed to the success of this year's picnic can be found in this newsletter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick".

Richard E. Mack
Village President



McHenry Township Fire Protection District Ice Cream Social

Thank you to the McHenry Township
Fire Protection District for hosting
the Ice Cream Social at the Village
Hall park on August 5th.
It was a fun event for all who attended.



Village Board Dedicates Village Hall Pathway to Kevin Bauer

At the 2026 Village picnic, Village President Rick Mack, on behalf of the Village Board and entire community, officially dedicated the limestone path in the Village Hall park to Kevin Bauer. Kevin was a life long resident of Ringwood, multi-generational farmer, served 22 years on the Village Board and Co-Chaired the Citizens for Ringwood Organization. This path connects the Village Hall with the Bauer Farm, two things Kevin loved dearly and dedicated his life serving and protecting. A special thank you to C&S Fabrication for donating the posts and frame for Kevin's plaque.



Solar Farm Proposal - Message from Village President Rick Mack

Ringwood has received its first formal proposal for a solar farm and we can expect more to follow since the State of Illinois preempted our local authority for Solar Developments and Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) within municipal boundaries. The proposed solar farm is located on the far north end of our Village limits, west of the Glacial Trails subdivision, east of Route 31 and south of the McHenry County Conservation District property. It's approximately 17 acres in size and Horizon Solar Power is the company proposing the solar farm. At this time, a public hearing is expected to be held on this proposed solar farm in November or December.

Senate Bill 25 (SB 25), which preempted our local authority for solar and BESS energy systems, became effective on June 1, 2026. SB 25 revised the municipal code as follows: The Municipal Code now provides that municipalities cannot exercise its authority in a way that prohibits, or has the effect of prohibiting the installation of solar energy systems. Senate Bill 25 places no limits on the number or zoning districts a solar farm or (BESS) can be located. Land use planning around this type of State mandate can be very challenging to put it mildly. Regardless of how you feel about solar farms or (BESS), I believe we all can agree that local land use decisions need to be left up to local elected leaders and the citizens they represent - not elected officials that live in Chicago, vote in Springfield and that have never set foot in Ringwood. Land use decisions are fundamental to what we do as local municipal leaders. It's simply wrong that the State of Illinois has preempted our local authority for solar or (BESS) energy system within our municipal boundaries.

So what can your Village officials do?

- I continue to work with the Village Board, Zoning Board and Village Attorney to work on ideas to mitigate the impacts of SB 25 on Ringwood. Ringwood's Solar ordinance requires an ornamental fence, landscaping/screening that has to be maintained throughout the life of the solar farm and lot coverage and setback standards. We also have very strong decommission requirements. While SB 25 takes away our local authority for solar or BESS energy facilities, we will do everything we can under the law to regulate them in a manner that will protect the residents of Ringwood.

- In August, I met with a lobbyist who represents the energy companies to explain the impact that too many solar farms would have on Ringwood's residents and land use. In addition, I met with Rockford Mayor Tom McNamara, who will be starting his new role as Illinois Municipal League (IML) CEO. The IML will be pivotal in any future amendment to Senate Bill 25. I will continue to talk to anyone who will listen and will leave no stone unturned.

I will be at the Village Hall on Saturday, October 3rd from 8:00 to 10:30 am for anyone who would like to discuss this or any other Village issue. If October 3rd is not convenient for you, please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or to set up another time to meet with me.

Thank you!

2026 Ringwood Community Picnic Wrap-Up:

Fun was had by all at the 2026 Ringwood Community Picnic held on Sunday, August 23rd. Good food, music, raffle prizes, appearances by the Great Lakes Naval Base Honor Guard, Johnsburg Junior High School Band, Remington Farm horses, 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 2026 Ringwood Community Picnic: Aal Chem; C&A Service Center, Inc.; Bostik; Busy Bee Restaurant; Central Boring Inc; City Limits Escape Room; C&S Fabrication; Geske and Sons, Inc.; Heathers Senior Homes Assisted Living & Memory Care; HR Green; Halftime Bar and Grill; J. Hunstman; Condon & Associates, Inc.; Joseph H. Huemann & Sons; Nature's Scholars; Richardson's Farm; Spartan Roofing; Stade's Farm & Market; Zukowski, Rogers, Flood and McArdle; and residents Chad & Michelle Bauer, Lynnea Fung, Kevin & Dana Kaminski, Mark and Kim Kunkel, Dennis and Lynn Leet, TJ and Danielle Nelligan, Glen & Vicki O'Halleran, Terry & Kathy Porter, Debbie Schultz, Zoning & Plan Commission Chair Steve Cencelewski and wife Miranda, Zoning Board & Plan Commission member Gregg Romano and wife Diane, Village Clerk Elaine Fung, Village Trustee Karen Morgan and husband David and Village President Rick Mack and wife Barb.

Picnic Setup and Take Down - A very special thank you to ZBA Chair Steve Cencelewski, Trustees, Katie Herdus, Tim Meseck, Jason Meyer, Gary Reinwall, Karen Morgan and husband David, Village Clerk Elaine Fung, Village President Rick Mack and residents Lynnea Fung, Danielle Nelligan and Matt Turner.

Kids Raffle and America 250 Celebration -

A very special thank you to Village Clerk Elaine Fung, Trustee Katie Herdus and Ringwood resident Danielle Nelligan for spearheading the Kids Raffle. In addition, thank you to Trustee Missy Robel and husband Bill for their assistance with the America 250 celebration and arranging the Great Lakes Honor Guard and Remington Farm horses.





Bostik - Annual Evacuation Drill

On September 21st, Bostik will perform their annual evacuation drill. During the evacuation drill times, residents will hear sirens and horns. Thank you in advance for your understanding.

Curb Side Waste and Recycling Services Contract

The Village of Ringwood's 5 year contract with Flood Bros. Disposal Co. for curbside waste and recycling services expires at the end of 2026. As a result, to get the best possible price for the residents of Ringwood, your Village officials issued a request for proposals for a new 5 year contract (January 1, 2027 - December 30, 2031). Request for proposals were sent to Flood Bros., LRS and Waste Management. The Village received formal proposals from Flood Bros. Disposal Co. and LRS. After carefully reviewing both proposals, it was determined that Flood Bros Disposal Co., had the lowest cost proposal at the beginning and end of the new 5 year contract. As a result, the Village Board at its August board meeting voted unanimously to hire Flood Bros. Disposal Co. for another 5 year contract (January 1, 2027 - December 30, 2031).

40 Other States Preempting Local Land Use Authority

Preempting local land use decisions is not unique to Illinois. A report by the Nation Association of Counties found more than 500 bills with clauses preempting county land use authority were introduced across 40 states in 2025. Preemption is occurring in both blue and red states. Land use preemption bills seek to curb local decision-making in a variety of policy areas, including housing, economic development and energy generation.

Highlights/Actions from Previous Village Board Meetings:

June 2026

- Approve an ordinance Amending Section 3-1, Adopting of codes, of chapter 3, Building Code and Building Regulations, of the Village of Ringwood.
- Approve pay raises for the Village Clerk and Public Works Employee Austin Frazier.

The Village Board unanimously voted to approve the above action.

July 2026

- Approve Phase I final plat for the Boulder Hill of Ringwood residential subdivision.

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

August 2026

- Approve a 5 year contract (January 1, 2027 - December 30, 2031) with Flood Bros. Disposal Co.

The Village Board voted unanimously to approve the above action, except Trustees Morgan and Reinwall who were absent.

Possible Future Action by the Village Board

- Consider updates to Downtown and Long-range Land Use plans.
- Consider Solicitation Ordinance.
- Consider Levy Ordinance.
- Consider proposed solar development.
- Consider designed patio area outside future banquet hall.



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.

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.

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

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