On the Bluff is a publication of the Village of Lake Bluff, the Lake Bluff Park District, and Lake Bluff School District 65 as part of ongoing efforts to cooperate, provide mutual support, and share services to increase efficiencies for our shared taxpayers.

Please let us know what you think, and what you’d like to read about. Email or call any of the contacts listed inside.

Village News

Village President’s letter

Dear Neighbors,

Summer may have been a bit tardy this year, but I am writing to you pleased that our Village government is running right on time. The last few months have been full of big news for our community.

Infrastructure investment

This year’s Village budget included almost $5 million of capital improvements. This year is as busy as any I can remember when it comes to reinvesting in our public assets. More details about this year’s projects are included later in this newsletter.

Moody’s recently affirmed the Village’s Aaa bond rating, the highest achievable, in recognition of our excellent financial management and stability. Their rating update was one part of issuing bonds to improve our water system.

President’s message continued on page 2

Park District News

Sunrise Beach erosion control proposed options

The Lake Bluff Park District hired AECOM to evaluate current and anticipated damage at Sunrise Beach as well as study an outgrowth of erosion impacts caused by high lake levels. The Park District thanks NSWRD for financial support related to the report. The results included several options to prevent future erosion problems specific to Sunrise Beach.

All options include armor stone breakwaters and groin repairs to improve the beach plan-forms and address erosion issues with the goal of slowing the progression.

The base option includes improvements in each beach cell, targeted towards reducing wave energy to reduce erosion potential and stress.

The expanded base option includes the same improvements and an 80-foot armor stone.

continued on page 4

School District News

Community input needed for new Superintendent profile

Consistent with school district best practices, the Board of Education has retained educational search firm School Exec Connect to assist in a national search to replace Dr. Jean Sophie, who retires June 30, 2020.

The first step in the process – and the one the School Board members believe to be the most vital – is to create a new Superintendent Profile based on what the community says it wants in the person who will lead its schools.

Specifically, what do community members feel are the District’s greatest strengths and challenges? What do they think are the most important characteristics of their next Superintendent? What do they see for the future of their schools?

Online survey goes live September 4

Every community member, whether or not they have school-age children, is urged to complete
and replace most water meters in the Village later this year.

Senator Julie Morrison recently announced that the State has allocated $61 million to reconstruct the interchange at Illinois Route 176 and U.S. Route 41 as well as west on Route 176 to Waukegan Road. Improving traffic and safety in this area has been a Village priority for years, and we are grateful that this project will finally be constructed. More information will be forthcoming as the State updates its multi-year construction program.

While all of us should celebrate this positive step for our Village, we have also learned of another new challenge ahead. An engineering study of Sunrise Park and Beach estimates that over $5 million will be necessary to protect our beach for future generations. We look forward to partnering with the Lake Bluff Park District to explore a path forward for these important investments in the Village’s most significant natural asset.

Familiar faces, trading places

We are pleased that Michael Hosking has agreed to serve as the Village’s interim Chief of Police for an extended period of time following the retirement of David Belmonte. Chief Hosking has served in a similar role for the Village before Chief Belmonte’s appointment, and we are confident that he will continue to improve upon the excellence demonstrated by Lake Bluff’s police officers.

It was also my privilege to award Pam and George Russell with the Phyllis Albrecht Award for distinguished community service. Pam has served tirelessly with the Lake Bluff History Museum for over ten years, and George coordinates many of our cherished community events even after retiring as our Village Engineer in 2015.

Next up

The return of Bluffers to school in August may seem like the end of summer, but there are still events to enjoy around town. One event to mark on your calendars: the downtown Block Party on Saturday, August 24 will also be the celebration of the Lake Bluff Library’s centennial!

This occasion is also a good reminder that the Village’s Quasquicentennial – Remember, “Kwos-Kwee-Centennial” – is almost upon us. The members of our Quasquicentennial Committee have been planning diligently over recent months and have prepared a program of events worthy of our Village’s 125th birthday. We would like to thank the Lake Bluff ELCO Mutual Life Insurance & Annuity Company for its community spirit in sponsoring the celebration’s fireworks display.

Stay tuned for information on special occasions throughout 2020 to celebrate. And, if you are interested in volunteering to help with any of the activities please go to LakeBluff125.org to sign up.

Yours truly,
Kathleen O’Hara, Village President

Public Safety Day

Join our Fire, Police and Public Works staff September 14th from 11 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for Lake Bluff’s annual Public Safety Day!

Experience many fun events including hands on fire extinguisher demonstrations, a children’s fire pole and obstacle course, an appearance by the Flight for Life Helicopter, and a corn roast!

Kids will learn a lot about fire prevention and safety in addition to having a great time at this community event.

The festivities are located at the Public Safety Building (45 E. Center Ave.) as well as Artesian Park.

Compost on us

Every household in the Village receives FREE take-away composting service. We use your leftovers to create nutritious mulch that helps improve Lake Bluff landscapes and reduces fertilizer runoff. Just place any food scraps at the curb with your landscape waste on trash day. You can use a kraft paper bag or rent a landscape waste cart for $60 per year.

Include

- Branches, brush, vines
- Fruits and vegetables
- Breads, grains, pasta, cereal
- Non-liquid dairy products
- Eggshells, coffee, tea leaves

Do NOT include

- Man-made materials
  (paper, glass, plastic, Styrofoam)
- Liquids, grease, oil
- Meat, poultry, seafood
- Pet litter and waste
- Teabags and coffee filters
Construction update

So far this year, the Village has…

- Completed the reconstruction of the Moffett Road land bridge.
- Repaved the Metra train station parking lot.
- Built new tree grates in the Central Business District.
- Held public outreach for the upcoming reconstruction of Green Bay Road south of Route 176.
- Crack-sealed two miles of streets with over six tons of asphalt.
- Resurfaced 9,600 feet of streets – five times the height of Sears Tower. (Yes – Sears Tower.)
- Replaced 3,500 square feet of sidewalk.
- Removed and replaced 2,200 feet of water mains to stop main breaks.
- Built 1,300 feet of new storm sewer to stop residential flooding.

A Sustainable Lake Bluff

The Village Board recently adopted a roadmap to achieve environmental sustainability for our Village. The Sustainability Plan identifies key areas of concern, documents current conditions and best practices, and challenges Bluffers to be more sustainable through action in seven key areas:

- **Solid Waste Management and Recycling.** Achieve recycling rates over 60% through a combination of waste reduction, materials reuse, and active promotion and expansion of recycling.

- **Energy Conservation.** Leverage improvements in energy efficiency and alternative energy to reduce Lake Bluff’s single largest source of carbon emissions.

- **Water Conservation.** Continue to reduce per capita usage of Lake Michigan water.

- **Stormwater Solutions.** Become more resilient to natural hazards and our changing climate by implementing professional stormwater management practices that incorporate natural features.

- **Natural Spaces.** Restore and protect Lake Bluff’s valuable, unique, and native natural resources.

- **Light Pollution.** Balance economic and security needs with our small-town character and charm.

- **Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation.** Promote transportation methods that impose lesser impact on our environment, promote our health, and improve our recreational opportunities and quality of life.

You can view the plan online, including actions you can take today, at: [http://lakebluff.org/SustainabilityPlan](http://lakebluff.org/SustainabilityPlan)
News from Lake Bluff Park District

Sunrise Beach update – continued from front

revetment buttress just south of the NSWRD parking and adjacent to the north beach in the south beach cell. In addition, the plan includes a fishing pier overlook structure which was included as a potential amenity in the Park District 2013 Waterfront Master Plan.

A Lakefill option includes 0.3 acres of usable space on the east side of the parking lot. This option was developed to address a potential collaboration with the North Shore Water Reclamation District (NSWRD). The NSWRD proposes to construct a buried reservoir under the boat storage area. The NSWRD would also seek to construct building improvements on the east side of their facility including fence and entry improvements on the outside of the buildings.

The Park District is exploring the possibility of using some of the excavated soil to save costs and create a park amenity. The lakefill would create some usable space on the east side of the parking lot. The Board will spend significant time discussing this important erosion issue. You can view the report at lakebluffparks.org.

Sand replenishment project update

A project to benefit Sunrise Beach and six other local sites has been selected by the Army Corps of Engineers. It was the only project selected in the Great Lakes region, and one of only ten awarded in the country.

The proposed Shoreline Protection Pilot Project would replenish sand at Sunrise Beach and six other local sites, and work to reduce potential future damage by placing clean sand from the Waukegan Harbor approach channel onshore. This action would protect a total of 54,560 yards of shoreline.

The Army Corps of Engineers is still studying the feasibility, design and potential environmental impacts of the project. Although the Park District was awarded the Pilot Project, it requires a signed Project Partnership Agreement. The Park Board will need to officially decide whether to approve a contract in order to receive the sand. This would occur only after this study is complete. The Army Corps of Engineers is waiting for funding so implementation may not occur until 2021.

The Board will hold public meetings when more details are finalized which may not occur until 2020 or even 2021. The Park District will continue sharing progress, timelines and information about Pilot Project 1122.

Beach Accessible Project (entry ways and stairs) – $350,000 Secretary of State grant

The Park District received a $350,000 Grant for Sunrise Park & Beach to provide access to the environment and shoreline for people with disabilities and residents. Since 2013, the District has been planning enhancements to access points, paths and stairs at Sunrise Park and Beach. Funding for these projects has been a challenge and for many years the District has been seeking grants for these improvements.

State Senator Julie Morrison was instrumental in securing this $350,000 grant within the State of Illinois budget. Thanks to the Village of Lake Bluff Board and staff for working with the Park District on the grant. The Park District has received the funds and will begin the public planning process in late 2019, with projects hoped to be completed by the end of 2020.

Health & Fitness

Focused Results, the premiere personal trainers in Lake Bluff, has become part of our Health & Fitness Center team.

This year, all new and current members receive a complimentary evaluation and training session with one of their degreed, accredited and certified trainers. Work your body back to health and fitness from your inner core. Visit the fitness desk for more information or schedule an appointment with one of the trainers today with no pressure or obligation!

Our all-inclusive memberships are $42 per month and include all Silver Fit, Group X and Yoga classes.

With membership options and family discounts you must see why the Lake Bluff Health & Fitness Center is the place where healthy happens!

Preschool playground

Thank you for your support of programs like the Go Color Lake Bluff where proceeds are used to support friends of Lake Bluff Parks. Friends is currently fundraising for a new Lake Bluff Preschool playground.

With your help we hope to have the new playground in 2020! You can donate to this or other specific Park District funds on the Friends website www.friendsoflbparks.org.
Park Board President’s message

Dear Lake Bluff Park District Residents,

North Shore communities are facing beach erosion caused by rising water levels, and Lake Bluff is no exception. That’s why the Lake Bluff Park District’s primary focus this summer has been determining how to best preserve Sunrise Park and Beach – one of our most beloved features. In 2014, the beach experienced significant erosion damage. Since then, storms and high lake levels have added to the problem, prompting the Park District to commission the engineering firm AECOM to develop a Coastal Engineering Erosion report, which provided detailed information on beach erosion at Sunrise Beach.

The Park Board will closely review the short, and long-term solutions provided in the report and meet with key stakeholders to seek options and partnerships. Preserving and protecting Sunrise Park and Beach is a priority, as noted in many community surveys. Choosing the most effective and fiscally responsible way to do that will require the Park District, residents and other partners to work together so we can all enjoy this community jewel for years to come. We will continue to update you on our progress. I invite you to review the report on our website and look forward to your input.

Regards,

Chris Mosbarger, Board President

School of Dance

The Lake Bluff School of Dance provides the highest quality dance instruction in a fun and inspiring atmosphere.

Our program offers a variety of dance styles for all ages to enjoy. We take pride as a community in proper technique while building and developing a student’s confidence, self-image and self-awareness.

Whether students are beginning their career as a dancer or experienced competitive, Lake Bluff School of Dance will help all dancers meet their goals to their fullest potential.

With our new multiple class discount, we make becoming a well-rounded dancer affordable.

Lake Bluff Park District

355 W. Washington Avenue  Lake Bluff, Illinois 60044
Phone 847-234-4150  •  www.lakebluffparks.org  •  info@lakebluffparkdistrict.org

Your Park District Board
Chris Mosbarger, President
Kauri McKendry, Vice President
France Pitera, Treasurer
Emily Lane
Jennifer Beeler
Paul Greenfield
Niki Walsh
Ancel Glink, P.C., Attorney

Park Board Meetings
The Park Board meetings are scheduled at 6:30 p.m. the fourth Monday of each month at Lake Bluff Park District Recreation Center at Blair Park, 355 W. Washington Avenue in Lake Bluff.

The public is invited to attend meetings. Please visit www.lakebluffparks.org for Committee meeting agendas and to view all regular Board meetings online.
Community input needed for new Superintendent profile

an online survey. Answers will be anonymous and confidential. The survey will be available at www.lb65.org/boe/superintendent-search through September 30. Paper versions of the survey will also be available at the District Office, Lake Bluff Elementary School, Lake Bluff Middle School, Lake Bluff Library, and Lake Bluff Park District Recreation Center. Please contact Shelley Gough at 847-234-9400 ext.1603 if you would like to receive a paper survey.

Focus Group involvement also crucial

At the same time the survey is available, a series of group meetings will be held to get in-person perspectives. Community members are urged to attend the Community Open Forum/Focus Group meeting at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, September 18 at the LBMS presentation stairs.

Parent sessions will also be held at both schools, and there will be sessions for Lake Bluff leaders, Alliance foundation and PTO, teachers, staff, and superintendents of partner districts.

The new Superintendent Profile developed from the survey and focus group findings will be presented to the Board at its October 8 meeting. Highlights and specific examples from both will be shared at that meeting as well.

“It is the goal of the Board to secure the strongest group of candidates possible, and ultimately, the best person to lead Lake Bluff District 65,” said Board President Mark Barry.

“That's why it is so very, very important that EVERY stakeholder provides input to this process. Everyone in the community should have a role,” he continued.

First interviews begin in October

The consultants will conduct screening interviews in October. It is expected that by early November, a group of up to seven candidates will be presented to the Board, with confidential interviews to follow. An ad-hoc committee of stakeholders will be formed to take part in interviews and give feedback to the Board.

It is expected the new Superintendent will be selected, with contract finalized, by December 20.

To see the Focus Group Schedule and the full timeline for the Superintendent Search, visit www.lb65.org/boe/superintendent-search

Middle School renovation gets finishing touches

The final pieces of the 2016 Middle School renovation were completed this summer as part of the District’s long-term capital plan.

The classroom and bathroom renovations are part of the Operations & Maintenance budget, and the boiler replacement is being paid for out of fund balance reserves.

Ten Middle School classrooms got new cabinetry.

New flooring was installed in four student bathrooms.
School Board President’s message

Dear Fellow Community Members:

As you no doubt have heard, Dr. Jean Sophie, Lake Bluff School District 65 Superintendent since 2012, is retiring effective June 30, 2020. Please join me in thanking Dr. Sophie for her high quality, transformative leadership over the past seven years.

The search has begun for Lake Bluff’s next Superintendent of Schools. Illinois school boards have no greater responsibility than to hire and employ a Superintendent, and we need your help to get it right. To ensure we find the best possible candidates, the Board of Education has retained the respected educational search firm School Exec Connect to assist in a national search and collect community input. To learn more about School Exec Connect please check out their website at www.schoolexecconnect.com.

In addition to identifying a slate of potential candidates, School Exec Connect will collect extensive community input in the form of surveys and focus groups. This data will be used to create a profile that will help guide the Board in its evaluation of candidates.

The online survey opens September 4 at www.lb65.org/boe/superintendent-search. The Board hopes you will take the ten minutes or so it requires to complete the survey and share your thoughts on what attributes our new Superintendent should possess. In addition, please try to attend the appropriate Parent meeting on Wednesday, September 18 (Community Room at Lake Bluff Police Station 9–10 a.m. and LBMS 6–7 p.m.) or the Community Focus Group (Wednesday, September 18, 7–8 p.m. at Lake Bluff Middle School) to share your perspective live. This is your opportunity to let your voice be heard – your input is vital to the process.

Please feel free to contact the consultants at School Exec Connect if you have any questions or comments regarding the search: Dr. Harry Rossi hprossi30@hotmail.com or Dr. Gary Zabilka gtzabilka@gmail.com.

The Superintendent search timeline can be found from the blue “Superintendent Search” box on the left side of the District’s home page.

As always, thanks for your support and please don’t hesitate to contact me at mbarry@lb65.org. We’re looking forward to charting our future together.

Warm regards,
Mark Barry, Board President

Lake Bluff School District 65
121 East Sheridan Place  Lake Bluff, Illinois 60044
Phone 847-234-9400 • www.LB65.org

Excellence in Education, Enthusiasm for Life, Every Student, Every Day.

Your District 65 School Board
Mark Barry, President
Leigh Ann Charlot, Vice President
Julie Gottshall, Secretary
Ann Hill
Richard Hegg
John Marozsan
Andy Duran

School Board Meetings
Regular School Board meetings are usually held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Committee of the Whole meetings are usually held at 7:00 p.m. on the Tuesday two weeks prior to the regular meetings of the School Board. Unless otherwise announced, meetings are held in the Lake Bluff Village Hall, 40 E. Center Avenue. Meetings are televised live within Village boundaries on Comcast Channel 19 and rebroadcast throughout the week. Videos of the meetings are available at www.LB65.org within 10 days.
On the Bluff

Village of Lake Bluff meetings and events
Please check lakebluff.org for agendas and cancellations
847-234-0774

September
1. CenterStage Shakespeare on the Village Green (Comedy) 4 p.m.
2. Sustainability and Community Enhancement Ad Hoc Committee (SEC) 7 p.m.
3. Architectural Board of Review (ABR) 7 p.m.
7. CenterStage Shakespeare on the Village Green (Comedy) 4 p.m.
8. CenterStage Shakespeare on the Village Green (Comedy) 4 p.m.
9. Village Board Meeting 7 p.m.
11. Historic Preservation Comm. (HPC) 7 p.m.
14. Public Safety Day 11 a.m.
21. Downtown Block Party (Oktoberfest) 5 p.m.
18. Plan Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals (PCZBA) 7 p.m.
23. Village Board Meeting 7 p.m.

October
1. Architectural Board of Review (ABR) 7 p.m.
5. Rib Fest 10 a.m.
7. Sustainability and Community Enhancement Ad Hoc Committee (SEC) 7 p.m.
9. Historic Preservation Comm. (HPC) 7 p.m.
14. Village Board 7 p.m.
16. Plan Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals (PCZBA) 7 p.m.
28. Village Board 7 p.m.

Visit www.LakeBluff.org for an online calendar, Village news and more.

Park District meetings and events
www.lakebluffparks.org
847-234-4150

The Committee of the Whole meetings are held on the first Monday of the month and regular meetings of the Board of Park Commissioners are held on the fourth Monday of the month as noted in the following schedule. Meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. at the Recreation Center, 355 W. Washington Avenue, Lake Bluff.

September
23. Regular Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.

October
7. Committee of the Whole Meeting 6:30 p.m.
18. Trunk or Treat
  Trunk check-in and setup 4:30 p.m.
  Costume Contest 5 p.m.
  Trunk Judging 5:45 p.m.
  Trick or Treating 6:00 p.m.
18. Family Movie Night 7 p.m.
28. Regular Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.

November
4. Committee of the Whole Meeting 6:30 p.m.
18. Regular Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.

December
2. Committee of the Whole Meeting 6:30 p.m.
7. Breakfast with Santa
16. Regular Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.

School District events and news
www.LB65.org
847-234-9400

September
2. Labor Day – No school
4. Superintendent search survey goes online at www.LB65.org
10. Board Committee of the Whole 7 p.m.
18. LBES Parent Focus Group 9 a.m.
18. LBMS Parent Focus Group 6 p.m.
18. Community Superintendent Search meeting at LBMS presentation stairs 7 p.m.
24. Regular Board of Education 7 p.m.

October
8. Board Committee of the Whole 7 p.m.
14. Columbus Day – No school
18. PumpkinFest 4-8 p.m.
26. Pumpkin Chase & Family Fun Run 8 a.m.
29. Regular Board of Education 7 p.m.

November
12. Regular Board of Education 7 p.m
14. Bilingual Parent Meeting 6:30 p.m.

December
7. Breakfast with Santa
16. Regular Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.

* Unless otherwise announced, Board meetings are at 7 p.m. in the Lake Bluff Village Hall, 40 E. Center Avenue. See page 6 for details.

NOTE: Special Board meetings on the Superintendent search are listed online. These may be closed sessions, as required by law, due to discussions of employment.

To find more Lake Bluff school and District 65 events, see the online calendar at www.LB65.org.

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