

South Barrington: Fifty Years in the *Making*

ON JANUARY 21, 1960 the first board meeting of the president and board of trustees for the Village of South Barrington met to install officers. That day saw Fred W. Kramer taking the oath of office as village president with William R. Rose, Arthur J. Hogfelt, Hans Seegers, Elwin S. Wyman, Christ Heinrich, and Laura C. Witt as trustees. Jeanne M. Scully served as village clerk.

To commemorate 50 years of time and uncountable changes in our landscape, the Village Board has given the green light for a group of local volunteers to put together a quiet celebration after the New Year. No one yet knows what form this may take, but our hats are off to Joan White, Eileen Cody, and Carol Neubauer for taking on that challenge. I wish them all the best of success and we will certainly be there to celebrate.

During the most difficult of economic times, there has been one bright star with a “Yes we can” attitude — The Arboretum of South Barrington. It’s a pleasure to just sit at the many curbside benches, enjoying award-winning landscaping with its spring and summer show of flowers, plants, and shrubs. Top drawer retailers such as L.L. Bean, Coldwater Creek, Sur La Table, Victoria’s Secret, Ann Taylor, and Soft Surroundings welcome your visit. This summer, look for entertainment, weekend antique markets, street vendors, and children’s activities.

Two of the best restaurants in Chicagoland, Ruth’s Chris and Coopers Hawk, cannot be missed. The entertainment package of Pinstripes fits both young and not so young in the blending of bowling, bocce ball, and dining. The Arboretum goes international in the French Art Nouveau style with L’Eiffel Bistrot and Creperie. Don’t forget to try Absinthe for adults served the French way. Japanese dining is a new addition as of June with Nozumi Japanese Cuisine. The Arboretum’s restaurants were encouraged to have outside dining and, without exception, everyone of them has just that.

Noodles and Pot Belly are added for more choices. Anna Shea Chocolates is a meeting place



Frank Munao is the village president of South Barrington.

for a moment of relaxation amid fine wine and a soothing atmosphere. For those who prefer a lighter fare, one of my favorites is Panera Bread. You might find me there enjoying a great coffee coupled with breads or — I hate to say it — Bear Claws or Cobble Stones.

By the time you read this, the South Barrington Park District, a separate entity from The Village of South Barrington, will have held their grand opening of the sports park facility located on Bridges Drive just west of Bartlett Road. The park highlights an all-sports program.

Following closely will be the grand opening of the South Barrington Conservancy, also at Bridges Drive and Bartlett Road. Composed of 35 acres of combined wetlands and cultural/picnic areas, it’s a place of quiet enjoyment for our families and corporate residents. The Conservancy has over a mile of grass hiking paths with a paved link to accommodate bikers or walkers to travel to The Arboretum. The Conservancy is looking into becoming one of the School District 220 area supporting members of the Leave No Child Inside (LNCI) Consortium. LNCI was introduced by The Chicago Wilderness Society and adopted from the book written by Richard Louv, *Last Child In The*

Woods. You’ll hear more and perhaps see a sign posted on the Conservancy property that may read “Leave No Child Inside Classroom.”

The Village Hall expansion, about ready to emerge from the design phase, should soon be going out for bids to construct an addition doubling the size of the existing building area. Among some of the features will be the police department taking over the entire lower level of the existing building. Adding to this will be a lunchroom area and men’s and women’s locker areas. A new Emergency Operations Center for our Emergency Management Agency, usable also for training classes, will occupy the lower level as well.

The upper level of the existing building will be occupied by administrative staff and building department, entering through the existing entrance that will be located in the north half on the east side. The south half will be the home of a new Village Board Meeting Hall to be named Rose Hall after long time resident and initiator of our village, William R. Rose. This hall will have its own entrance. Additional parking, landscaping, and pond detention areas complete the picture.

Fifty years in the making and more to love. U