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# BARRINGTON ENLIGHTENED TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION (BETA)

P.O. Box 1522 • Barrington, Illinois 60011 • [www.betaonline.us](http://www.betaonline.us)

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## Bureaucracy Out of Control!

Let's get right at it. Hungry for taxpayers' money, Barrington CUSD 220 is proposing two items for referendum at the upcoming General Primary on March 21, 2006.

1) A \$107.1 million dollar bond offering for capital improvements;

2) An increase of \$0.25 per \$100 of EAV (equalized assessed value).

It is our recommendation that the voters in CUSD 220 vote **NO** to both referendums!

### Capital Improvements-Part I

The \$107.1 million dollar bond referendum (if passed by the taxpayers' of CUSD 220) of which 97.1 million is to be used for two new state-of-the-art middle school facilities, continuing renovation at the existing two middle



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schools, and \$10 million for a new early childhood facility, is extravagant and unrealistic and should be defeated. It also exacerbates the school district's debt problem as summarized in the box below.

To put the proposed referendum into another perspective, consider the following:

- New North & South Middle School Campus (approx. 1,500 students) \$73.9M = \$49,266 per student
- Renovations to Existing Middle Schools (approx 1,500 students) \$14.4M = \$9,600 per student
- Contingency for all (3,000 students) \$ 8.8M = \$2,933 per student
- Early Childhood Learning Center (180 students enrolled) \$10.0M = \$55,555 per student

***IS THIS THE LEGACY WE WISH TO LEAVE OUR CHILDREN AND FUTURE GENERATIONS?***

*(continued on page 2)*

April, 1997 – Referendum passed for 2 elementary schools (North & South Barrington). It should be noted that 3 weeks after this referendum was passed CUSD 220 was looking for additional space!	\$19.4M
March, 1998 – Referendum passed for renovations at BHS & Other School Facilities, including Roslyn & Countryside (which were later torn down). It should be noted there were \$1.5M in Cost Overruns at 3 schools.	\$69.9M
November, 2000 – Referendum passed to replace Roslyn Road & Countryside Schools	\$27.0M
<b>TOTAL REFERENDUMS PASSED IN 4 YEARS &amp; GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS ISSUED</b>	<b>\$116.3M</b>
Additional Life Safety Bonds taken out between 1997 and 2005 (this is net of principal bond payments and additional Life Safety Bonds taken out)	6.0M
Accrued Interest through 2025 on said Bonds	73.2M
<b>TOTAL DEBT SERVICE AT 6/30/2005</b>	<b>\$195.5M</b>
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Referendum 3/2006 – IF PASSED FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS ONLY	\$107.1M
Estimated Accrued Interest (5%) for life of bonds (2020/2021)	\$60.4M
<b>TOTAL LONG-TERM DEBT SERVICE</b>	<b>\$363.0M</b>
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### Operations and Maintenance Tax Increase-Part II

In order to staff and operate the proposed new middle schools and increase teaching staff at BHS, CUSD 220 is requesting an increase in operating levy which will cost an additional \$0.25 per \$100 of equalized assessed value (EAV). It's quite simple - CUSD 220 taxpayers' real estate taxes will go up above and beyond what the Property Tax Extension Limitation (PTEL) Act will allow.

#### YOUR TAXES WILL INCREASE PERMANENTLY:

- Assessed Home Value = \$187.50 real estate tax increase  
\$75,000 (\$225,000 MV)
- Assessed Home Value = \$250.00 real estate tax increase  
\$100,000 (\$300,000 MV)
- Assessed Home Value = \$500.00 real estate tax increase  
\$200,000 (\$600,000 MV)
- Assessed Home Value = \$750.00 real estate tax increase  
\$300,000 (\$900,000 MV)

**Note:** In 2002 a \$.20 tax rate increase was approved for Operating & Maintenance Funds.

If approved in 2006, another \$.25 per \$100EAV will be added for O & M - **never to go away!**

**Taxes will increase!** Financial data reveals that the District does not need these additional funds. However, the Board insists they need a tax rate increase at least every 5 years if not sooner! It is the responsibility of CUSD 220 leadership to propose fiscally sound solutions.

#### Analysis

The School District has consistently underestimated revenues and overestimated expenses. The School District has added "pork" in every conceivable area to gain a broader base of support. This plan is just too expensive and undefined to be approved. Further, we believe the "overcrowding" problem has been greatly exaggerated.

#### More Sticker Shock!

*CUSD 220 Teacher Contract*  
Though there was little fanfare, other than a press release on December 9, 2005, congratulating

all those involved in the successful negotiation of the teacher contract, it has been reported that the new teacher contract will increase salaries by **5.2% per year for each of the next three years**. When was the last time you had a 5.2% pay increase **GUARANTEED?**

If you compare it to the CPI (consumer price index) for 2005 of 3.4%, it is an increase of 50% over the 2005 CPI each year. Using data from the CUSD 220 2005 fiscal report, total annual salaries under this contract will increase by \$2.75 million. Revenues will need to increase by a similar amount in order to offset this increase.

Despite numerous attempts by BETA to obtain a copy of the new contract/temporary agreements AND salary grid, we were denied access. What are they hiding? **DO YOU THINK THIS IS A GOOD CONTRACT FOR TAXPAYERS?** See our website for further data on this subject - [www.betaonline.us](http://www.betaonline.us). ■

## Update: Library

**O**ur library is caught between a rock and a hard place; the library board wants to expand but claim they don't have enough land and will use eminent domain to get more. Or, to get enough land the library might have to move to a different location. However, the library is already in an ideal, centrally located, easily accessible spot.

There seems to be plenty of elbow room around the building. However, the Village of Barrington has an "open space" requirement and the library board doesn't want to ask for a variance because they really



don't want to give up their "space."

Inflexibility and wants over needs seems to put the board on the horns of a self-made dilemma. Since we can rarely get all we want, and too often seek more than we need, BETA would

suggest that there is a real possibility of finding underutilized areas in the existing building.

Realistically, we will all be occasionally crowded just like we are at home when the whole family comes over for Thanksgiving dinner. We wish we had more space at that moment but most of the time we don't really need it and are able to accommodate the occasional need.

We have a wonderful library and are confident that the dilemma can be resolved without effecting service and the library will continue to be a real gem in our community. ■

## Barrington Village Follies

**Y**es, we mean a lack of good sense, prudence and foresight. The entire thrust of Village policy is the unending pursuit of revenue from increased retail sales tax dollars without regard to cost versus benefit analyses.

A five-hour "Committee of the Whole" meeting of the Village of Barrington Board of Trustees last August 31 had future goal setting as its main thrust. This meeting was all about commercial development and increased sales tax revenues; there was no discussion about what might be done to improve the quality of life for Barrington's citizens.

### **TIF District Costs Taxpayers \$16 Million**

Barrington's TIF District is expected to bring in \$16 million to the Village of Barrington to subsidize and promote the growth of the Village center retail establishment. The TIF freezes the tax base of downtown real



estate that would otherwise generate growth in tax revenues for our school, park and library districts. Instead, the Village takes these growing revenues from the increased tax base for use in TIF investments over a 23-year period.

School district revenues are impacted to the tune of approximately \$12 million, which could be used to deter rate increases. In theory, all of this should be recovered over a period beyond the 23-year TIF life. Needless to say, this is a miracle that doesn't happen. A stream of increased tax revenues that arrives 23 years later has little discounted present worth in the here and now. Also, there is no guarantee that TIF

expenditures will generate any more growth in the tax base than would be the case without the TIF. A published university study indicates that villages with TIFs generally have a lower growth in overall tax base than those without TIFs.

The loss of revenue to our school, park and library districts over the 23-year period of the TIF ultimately has to be made up by the homeowners of Barrington through increased real estate taxes.

The school and park districts of Arlington Heights and Crystal Lake have finally come to realize what is happening with TIFs, and have objected to their extension. We should be so lucky in Barrington!

Please visit [www.betaonline.us](http://www.betaonline.us) for additional Village of Barrington information including articles on Well Water Shortage and Commercialization. ■

## Update: Barrington Park District

**T**he Barrington Park District celebrated Citizens Park groundbreaking on November 16, 2005. The district was able to install ninety percent of the storm and sewer lines and cleared all trees and brush from Lake Zurich Road before winter arrived. Storm and sewer line installation and the construction of a new Lake Zurich Road will resume in the spring.

The park will contain numerous walking paths, shelters, a large pavilion, tennis courts, playground, gazebo and a small stage with outdoor seating for approximately 70 people. An additional 270 trees will be planted. Terry

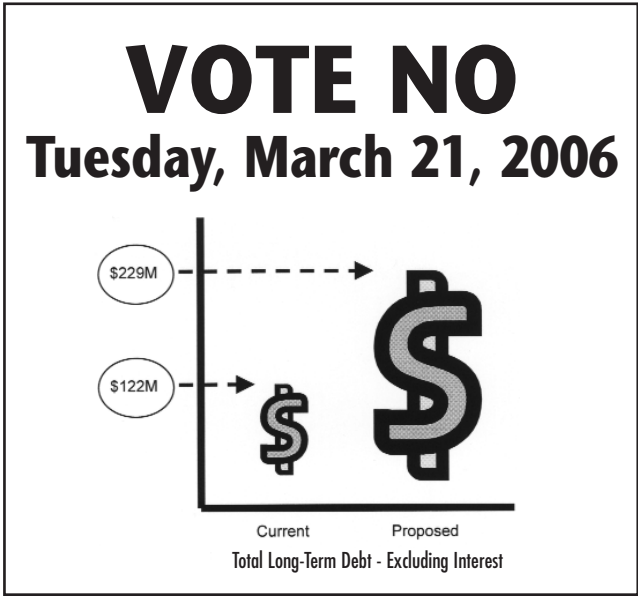


Jennings, Park Director, stated, "We are also excited about our newest feature, the universally accessible tree house. In my 25 years of parks and recreation, this is the most exciting project I have been involved with."

The Pepper Family Tree House will be the first of its kind in Illinois. This structure is approximately 2000 sq. ft., twelve feet off the ground and is accessible by 181 feet of ramps. The ramps will

climb up into the trees affording views of the park and Cuba Marsh. A small shelter like structure will have a deck around it so that residents can enjoy the scenery. The sky is the limit for its potential uses such as nature classes, birthday parties, bird watching, scout meetings and other activities. Ninety-five percent of the approximate \$400K cost has already been collected through private donations. Site plans can be viewed at Langendorf Park. ■

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## Conclusion

With so much to consider regarding CUSD 220's Referendums we feel it only proper to put their proposals into perspective and offer information that has not been disclosed to the taxpayers. Of special note, there is still an issue with the Tax Cap Loophole. Districts can take more than the amount requested in a referendum. CUSD 220 has not done that but the opportunity does exist. According to many State Senators, State Representatives and lawyers we have contacted, all have stated that no one should vote yes on any referendum until the taxcap loophole is fixed. There is currently legislation in Springfield, but nothing has been resolved at this date,

**We hope this newsletter has provided you with additional information so you can be an informed resident, taxpayer, and voter.**

and will not be resolved by the Primary Election, March 21, 2006.

In order to make an "Informed Decision" it is imperative that taxpayers know all of the facts. We hope this newsletter has provided you with additional information so you can be an informed resident, taxpayer, and voter.

There are numerous issues with CUSD 220's proposed referen-

dums and other concerns that would financially impact the taxpayer even more. Are you aware of what was said at the January 30, 2006 referendum meeting? Are you concerned about attendance boundaries and demographics? Did you know that school officials are considering buying other property in South Barrington? Are you wondering what the new salary grid looks like? —Please visit our Website:

[www.betaonline.us](http://www.betaonline.us)

