

Sauk Village Hall
21801 Torrence Ave.
Sauk Village, IL 60411
708-758-3330

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Issue 82
March 2016
Volume
XII

Sauk Talk

Mayor's Corner

Mayor David Hanks

There is a lot talk around town and residents have asked what I'm going to do about all the negative and untruthful comments concerning our community. The answer is simple. First, everyone has a right to their opinion (right and wrong) and residents that live in a Sauk Village know the differences between the truths, partial truths or lies.

Secondly, you don't have to look very far to see the "Forward Momentum" over the last couple of years. Is there more work that needs to be done...YES!

Prior to be elected, I promised to make the tough decisions and everyone agreed that everything couldn't be completed in one term. Take a few minutes to review what has been accomplished in the last couple of years.

The following village yearly audits completed and submitted

FY 2009-2010 Audit FY 2010-2011 Audit FY2011-2012 Audit
FY2012-2013 Audit FY2013-2014 Audit FY2014-2015 Audit

Roads repaired throughout the village – Yes, there are still more streets that need to be repaired and less streets will be repaired this year due to lack of funding coming out of Springfield for road repairs in 2016 and possibly 2017. However, we will continue to be an advocate for the residents of Sauk Village down in Springfield.

New energy efficient street lights - Sauk Village will have new street lights throughout the entire village with an estimated completion date by the end of the second quarter. When elected Mayor, non-working street lights was one area of complaint among village residents.

Safe walking path across 394 & Sauk Trail - Providing safety for families and youth that must walk or ride their bikes to neighboring communities or Bloom Trail High School is a concern. In addition, we are currently in discussions with State, County and adjacent communities to use shared resources to have the path extended to Cottage Grove and then South to Mary Byrne Drive.

Removal of Blight – The Sauk Village Housing Commission in conjunction with the Sauk Village Police Department and Cook County Sherriff's office has been aggressively attacking blight through the removal of vacant and dilapidated homes. In addition, they have been identifying vacant homes through the vacant home sticker program. This not only improves the image of our community but also helps with reducing crime in what was once high profile areas.

Working relationship with local businesses

Approved Class 8 tax incentives for the following businesses
Advance Auto Dunkin Donuts
WinPac Behr Paint

continued page 2

News from the Village Clerk

Debbie Williams

Welcome Spring!

As spring approaches and and all things become new again, I would like to take this opportunity to continue to open dialogue with Sauk Village residents. As Mayor Hanks states in his article, we have several issues we are dealing with but if we can all work together in a positive way we can make a difference. The Free Rain Barrel Program will be returning soon. Please register for OFFICIAL Free Sauk Village Email alerts at www.saukvillage.org. Also, feel free to call 708/753-5120 to chat about your issues or concerns. TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Mayor's Article Continued

Reduction of the deficit – Sauk Village's deficit has been reduced every year during this administration. While we continue to face financial challenges we also continue to provide services for residents.

Improved Policing – In just his short tenure in Sauk Village, Police Chief Robert Kowalski, who came with a wealth of knowledge and experience, has made the professional and positive changes within the department that had been lacking for some time and the stats speak for them self

Reduction in crime - For the 1st two months of 2016, UCR Reported Crime has dropped 54% over the same period in 2015.

Intergovernmental cooperation between the Sauk Village Police department and State and County agencies

Ongoing working relationship with the States Attorney's Office to make needed arrest and closure to crimes. Since Chief Kowalski has been on board complaints against the department have decreased and residents are praising the officers and the department for a Job Well Done!

If you would like to know more about the accomplishments of the department, Chief Kowalski provides reports to the board and village residents at the regular village board meetings on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday's of the month. In addition, I also post department reports on the Mayor's Facebook page. If you have a Facebook page search for "Mayor David A Hanks"

Continued growth

Two businesses opening in the first quarter of 2016

Pink Beauty Supply - located in the former Ace building

Sauk Village Café – located on the corner of 394 and Sauk Trail

WinPac expansion – We have received confirmation of the expansion from the executive leadership team at the Sauk Village location and the following was taken from Winpac's fourth quarter report "Capital spending for 2016 should be somewhat higher than 2015's level of \$53.7 million as the rigid container operations in Chicago are planning to add a further 350,000 square feet to its existing Sauk Village facility which was constructed in 2012"

In 2015

Dunkin Donuts made improvements

Bella's Nutrition & Fitness opened

Children's Place Academy expanded to include infants and toddlers at a second location

Lola's Learning Castle will soon be opening in Surreybrook Plaza

While there is positive growth, there are still challenges we face. While these challenges come in no order they are all just as equally important to Moving Sauk Village Forward.

Sauk Village Annual Budget - As we go into another year we struggle to present a balanced budget due to the uncertainty in Springfield. I'll be presenting to the board a worse case scenario budget for a second year in a row. We'll do our best to continue to provide services, however, Sauk Village has always provided the majority of its services through volunteers and donations. This can be seen through events such as the village wide clean up days, corn and dog roast, Santa parade, 4th of July events, Christmas food and toy outreach, etc. This year will be no different and we'll continue to look to the residents to volunteer.

The Lack of a State of Illinois Budget – The State of Illinois has yet to pass a budget. This effects Sauk Village's budget and ability to plan and project revenues that our budget and departments are dependent upon.

Divided Village Board – This goes along with the next couple points. When elected, we were elected for all of the residents. It's ok to disagree however, it hurts the village to be disagreeable. Rather than focusing on the negative in the world, let's try counting our blessings, start looking at the positive around us and work together for all the residents of Sauk Village.

Upcoming election year – Sauk Village needs a board that will work towards **Moving Sauk Village Forward**. Join with me and contact your local village board members and tell them to **"Stop the Politicking, Start working together, and Move the Village Forward!"** We have enough division in Springfield and Washington we don't need it in Sauk Village

Reduction or NO grant (CDBG) funds in 2016 or 2017 – This is a resource that communities depend on for street repairs. Without these funds no major road repairs will be made this year or next. We will continue to work with our State and County representatives on behalf of the village and its residents and let you know if anything changes.

Look for more updates in the May Sauk Talk

Voter information

Early Voting for Suburban Cook County Voters

For the March 15, 2016 Presidential Primary Election, traditional Early Voting will take place February 29 - March 14, 2016. Early voting locations can be found at www.cookcountyclerk.com.

The closest Early Voting Site is:

Lynwood Senior Youth Center 21490 Lincoln Hwy. Lynwood, IL 60411	M-F Feb. 29 - March 4 March 7-11 9am-5pm	Sat March 5 March 12 9am-5pm
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What do you need to Early Vote?

1. Voters do not need to provide an excuse or reason why they cannot vote on Election Day.

Government-issued photo ID is not required but is helpful if there is a question about the voter's registration, address or signature. Providing an ID can also speed up the process because we have ID card readers at every check-in station.

You can Register to Vote at ALL Early Vote Sites. NOTE: Any voter who needs to register for the first time or file an address change or name change must present two forms of ID, one of which shows the voter's current address.

Voting equipment

Early Voting is conducted on touch screens that store every ballot style in the county, permitting any voter in suburban Cook to vote at any location.

Ballot secrecy

Your ballot will remain secret and securely stored.

Early Voting records

The names of the early voters are available to the public and are updated each day during Early Voting. Please call (312) 603-0900 for early voting information.

In-person voting only

Voters who participate in Early Voting must vote in person.

March 15, 2016 SAUK VILLAGE POLLING PLACES

Precinct 7

First Apostolic Church
22709 State Street
Steger, IL

Precinct 16

Lynwood Municipal Center
21460 Lincoln Hwy
Lynwood, IL

Precinct 26 & 55

Rickover Junior High
22151 Torrence Ave.
Sauk Village, IL

Precinct 23 & 53

Paesel Center
2700 Kalvelage Drive
Sauk Village, IL

Precinct 27

McConathy Public Library
21737 Jeffery Ave.
Sauk Village, IL

Precinct 32

St. James Church
22400 S. Torrence Ave.
Sauk Village, IL

*A street index will be available at the Village Hall and at each polling place
for voters to verify their polling place*

The fire station is no longer a polling place.

CHECK OUT www.cookcountyclerk.com for additional election information and to verify your voter's registration or polling place.

Voter information

Grace Period Registration and Voting: Suburban Cook County February 17 - March 14, 2016 March 15, 2016 Presidential Primary Election

Grace period registration and voting extends the registration period by allowing voters to register and vote until the Monday before an election. Guidelines limit when and where grace period registrants can vote. During grace period registration, voters must register and vote in person at one of the locations listed below.

Individuals wishing to vote during the grace period must bring [two pieces of identification](#) to register. Grace period registrants immediately cast their ballot after registering to vote.

Voter qualifications

To register to vote, you must be:

1. A U.S. citizen

At least 18 years old by the [general election](#)

A resident of your precinct at least 30 days prior to Election Day

You also must display two pieces of identification. Neither needs to be a photo ID, but one must include your current address. Acceptable forms of ID include:

- Illinois driver's license
- Illinois state ID
- Employee or student ID
- Credit card
- Social security card
- Birth certificate
- Utility bill in applicant's name
- Mail postmarked to the applicant
- Valid U.S. passport
- Public aid ID card

Lease or rental contract

In Illinois, you do not declare affiliation with a political party when you register to vote. In primary elections, you may choose to vote a specific political party ballot on Primary Election Day.

Sauk Talk is Produced by volunteers of the Public Relations Committee of Sauk Village, Rosie Williams Trustee/Composer and Staff Members Nanette Wargo and Debbie Williams. With special appreciation for technical support provided by Colleen Baughman. Suggestions should be directed to the Village Hall at 708-758-3330 or emailed to sauktalk@saukvillage.org.

2016 PRIMARY ELECTION- Key Dates

Date	Event
2/29/2016	First day of early voting
3/10/2016	Last day to request a mail ballot , including military and overseas voters
3/14/2016	Last day of early voting
3/14/2016	Last day of grace period registration and voting
3/15/2016	Election Day

Disabled Voter Program

If you are permanently physically incapacitated and unable to make it to your polling place, you qualify to automatically receive an application for a mail ballot before every election for the next five years.

To sign up, you must:

[Be a registered voter](#)

Submit a notarized Disabled Voter Program application completed by you and your doctor. If you haven't already applied to vote by mail, the Clerk's office will send you a [mail ballot application](#). For more information:

Call: (312) 603-0938

Email: Accessibility.Info@cookcountyil.gov

Download a Disabled Voter Application

Download this application, complete it with your doctor and have the form notarized.

Overseas and Military Voters

Suburban Cook County voters who live overseas or are serving in the U.S. Armed Forces may register to vote and apply for an absentee ballot by completing a Federal Postcard Application (FPCA). The FPCA is current for one calendar year and ensures that the voter will automatically be sent an absentee ballot for each election held in that year. Ballots and election materials are sent by mail, email or fax, whichever method the voter indicates on the application.

The following categories of voters are eligible to use the Federal Postcard Application (FPCA):

- U.S. citizens who no longer maintain a residence in suburban Cook County but lived there immediately prior to relocating abroad*
- Members of the U.S. Armed Forces and their spouses and dependents stationed in the U.S. or abroad and whose last civilian address was in suburban Cook County*

U.S. citizens whose permanent residence is in suburban Cook County but will be temporarily residing abroad on Election Day*

** In all of these instances, you are eligible to vote absentee even if you are not currently registered. Your Federal Postcard Application will serve as a registration application as well.*

Step 1 - Apply for a mail ballot

APPLY for a [mail ballot](#). The Federal Postcard Application can be sent back in one of three ways:

By email: uocava.voting@cookcountyil.gov

- **By fax:** (312) 603-9784

By mail: Cook County Clerk's Office C/O Mail Voting Department - UOCAVA Program 69 W. Washington St., Room 500 Chicago, IL 60602 USA

2016 Election information continued from Page 4

Step 2 - Mail in the application

MAIL in the application. If you submit the application by email or fax, you must still mail us a signed hard copy, but taking advantage of the email or fax option will expedite delivery of your ballot.

Step 3 - Ballot will be delivered

BALLOT will be delivered by email or mail, depending upon which option you chose when you completed the application.

Step 4 - Vote!

VOTE! If you received the ballot by mail, follow the instructions in the Mail Voting instructions brochure you received. If you received an email, follow the instructions within the email or access your ballot at <https://cookcountyclerk.everyonecounts.com>, a secure website where you can log in, vote your ballot online, print your voted ballot and print the accompanying ballot materials.

Step 5 - Email or mail your ballot

All voted ballots and certification documents must be returned to the Clerk's office by mail, even if you received it by email or fax.

Email: Ballots must be received by 7 p.m. on Election Day.

Use the [Your Voter Information tool](#):

- Verify your voter registration
- See your sample ballot, when available;
- See a list of your elected officials and their contact information;
- Check your absentee ballot status.
- For more information:
- Call (312) 603-0976
- Email christine.tucker@cookcountyil.gov

Nursing Home and Hospital Voting

Nursing home voting

The Clerk's office conducts voting at suburban Cook County nursing homes before every election. Call the Clerk's office at (312) 603-0929 for more information. [A list of nursing home voting locations for the March 15, 2016 Presidential Primary Election is available here.](#)

Hospital/Nursing Home/Rehabilitation Center Voting

If you are admitted to a hospital, nursing home or rehabilitation center fourteen days or fewer before an election, you may arrange to have a ballot delivered to you at the hospital.

You and your doctor must complete and sign a legal affidavit that serves as an application form and arrange to have it delivered to the Cook County Clerk's office. The Clerk's office will issue you a ballot at that time and give it to a relative (spouse, parent, child, brother or sister) or another registered voter of the same precinct who will bring it to you at the hospital and then return it to the Clerk's office after you make your selections. The individual delivering the ballot on your behalf must sign the affidavit accompanying your ballot application.

Completed ballots must be delivered in person to the Clerk's office (69 W. Washington St., Room 500, Chicago) before 7 p.m. on Election Day.

Hospitalized Voting Applications

[English](#)
[Spanish](#)
[Chinese](#)
[Hindi](#)

For more information

- Call: (312) 603-0929

Email: Accessibility.Info@cookcountyil.gov

Vote By Mail

Any registered suburban Cook County voter may request a mail ballot using the online application found at www.cookcountyclerk.com.

Once your registration is verified and your application is processed, the Cook County Clerk's office will send a paper ballot to the mailing address you designate in your application. The deadline to apply, including email verification, is five days before an election.

To complete an online mail ballot application, you will need:

- an email address
- your driver's license or state identification number
- the last four digits of your Social Security Number
- and the address where you would like your ballot mailed

If your driver's license/state ID or your Social Security number is not on file, you will not be able to complete this application online unless you update your voter registration by calling 312.603.0946. Incomplete registrations are most common for voters who have been registered at the same address for 20 years or more.

Ballot Integrity: Unless you require assistance, do not let anyone else mark your ballot; do not let anyone force or coerce you into voting for any candidate; and do not let anyone, other than a close relative or authorized messenger, mail, deliver or handle your voted ballot.

Please note: Making a false statement to obtain a mail ballot or soliciting someone to do so is considered vote fraud, a criminal offense punishable by up to five years in prison. Call 312.603.0909 to report vote fraud.

Download a Mail Ballot Application

If you do not have one of the online application requirements, or if you prefer to apply on paper, you may download, print and sign a mail ballot application and send it to the Cook County Clerk's office.

For more information:

- Call: (312) 603-0946
 - Fax: (312) 603-9784
- Email: Mail.Voting@cookcountyclerk.com

Apply as early as possible to make sure you receive your ballot in time to vote. Your ballot must be postmarked no later than Election Day and received at the Cook County Clerk's office within 14 days after Election Day.

If you apply using a paper form, the Clerk's office will verify your eligibility and compare the signature on your application against the signature on your voter registration record before issuing a ballot. If you apply online, the system verifies your eligibility with the data you provide. Regardless of how you apply, the signature on your ballot will be compared against the signature in your voter file before your ballot is counted.

Free Blossoms Program

If you have a child under five years old, then BLOSSOMS is for you!

School District 168 offers many early childhood programs. BLOSSOMS is a FREE program that is available to families with children ages 0-5 who live in our area. We offer parent/child playgroups, a pre-kindergarten program, parent workshops, family nights, field trips, personal visits, a lending library and more throughout the year. Events and playgroups are held at Wagoner School. Personal visits can be held right in your own home or at school. The program also offers developmental screenings for children from ages birth to five.

We also meet once a month at McConathy Public Library.

Call the Blossoms Family Center at (708) 758-0319 to register or for more information.

Sauk Village Church of God Easter Egg Hunt

Sauk Village Church of God presents 4th Annual Easter Egg Hunt



20,000 eggs, 100 Easter Baskets, Name drawing for 5 boy and 5 girl bikes

Free food in the Fellowship Hall

Sat, March 26th

1-3pm

23001 Torrence Avenue



Police Department

Police Chief Robert Kowalski

The primary focus of the Police Department is providing a safe and secure environment for the residents and their guests. In light of this the police department continues to work with JW Fairman, Village Administrator, Gary Holcomb, Chairperson for the Sauk Village Housing Commission, Sherry Jasinski, Director of Administrative Services and Sue Dobrzeniecki, Code Enforcement Officer on the Blue Print plan of ridding blight created by the abandoned and burnt out homes located around the Village. In addition we have enjoyed a close relationship with the Cook County Sheriff's Office and will continue to utilize them as a resources that they have made available to the community in assisting our efforts.

Many citizens have been wondering why we have been putting green stickers on home identifying them as vacant homes. This was just the beginning of a bigger plan in identifying and notifying owners that something needs to be done to these properties. The next step has already taken place and the Police Department has now placed "Do Not Enter" sticker on the identified homes that were listed as being vacant. You might be wondering why point out the obvious and the answer is to provide a warning that squatting in these homes or breaking into the homes will not be tolerated.

We are now going to the next phase which entails going to vacant homes or homes that should be vacant because there is no occupancy permit and or a water account and determine if someone is actually living at that location. We have found that there are people not paying for water or garbage pickup service. This plan is part of being fiscally responsible and providing the best possible service to the citizens of Sauk Village.

Neighborhood Watch

Lynda Washington-House

Sauk Village Neighborhood Watch Presents a "Live Play"

Rickover Jr. High School

22151 Torrence Ave.

Sauk Village, IL 60411

Friday April 15, 2016

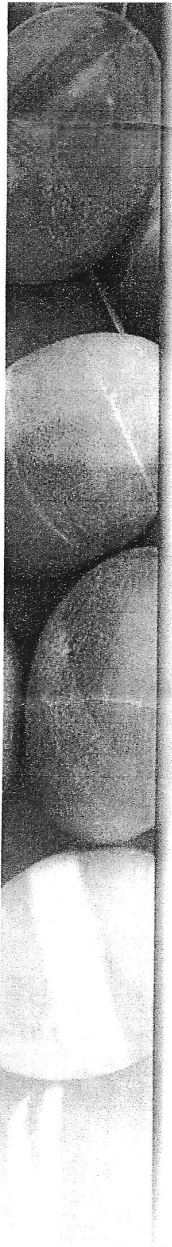
Adults \$10.00 Children 5-12 \$3.00

For more information call 708-753-5130 or 847-344-5313



Parks and Recreation

Trustee Kelvin Jones



**VILLAGE OF SAUK VILLAGE
ANNUAL
EASTER EGG HUNT**

Saturday, March 26, 2016

11:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

Albert Welch Veterans Memorial Park

(Adjoining the SV Community Center)
21801 Torrence Avenue
Sauk Village, Illinois

Bring Your Own Basket!
We welcome our Youth ages 0 – 13
Join us for Fun in Park
and in the Community Center

Light Refreshments
Entertainment
Photo Ops with the Easter Bunny

Presented by the Parks and Recreation Committee
in
Partnership with the PLAN Group

Beautification Committee

SAUK VILLAGE COMMUNITY CLEAN SWEEP MAY 21, 2016 9:30 AM TILL 1 PM



The Beautification Committee and Sauk Village friends and residents will gather behind the village hall 21801 Torrence Ave. to form our task units and choose locations for spring clean up at 9:30 AM.

Please join us in our spring cleaning task for 2016. Public buildings and village access roadways are on our radar for our anti-litter attack.

If you are unable to attend this event but would like to form a neighborhood Adopt-A-Block clean up, those efforts would be welcomed and appreciated too! Take Pictures & send them in.

It is helpful if you can bring your own gloves and rakes.

Contact Linda Todd (708) 758-3330 (leave a message)

svbeautification@saukvillage.org



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SAUK VILLAGE???

By Debbie Williams



Senior Open Activity- Every Friday from 12:30pm – 3:30pm.

No meeting, no membership, no dues. Light refreshments, Games available or bring your own.

March 15th- Election Day- Polls open 6:00 am-7:00 pm.

More information available at www.saukvillage.org and www.cookcountyclerk.com.

March 20th- Breakfast with the Easter Bunny- Sauk Village Fire Department 8am-1pm.

1804 222nd Street- Bring your camera to take pictures with the Easter Bunny.

Donation- \$5.00 Seniors and children under 10- \$4.00

March 26th- Sauk Village Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Committee and the PLAN Group- from 11 am- 2pm behind the Village Hall

Easter Egg hunt, prizes, light refreshments and pictures with the Easter Bunny.

For more information contact Trustee Kelvin Jones 708/753-5125

March 26th- Easter Egg Hunt 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm Sauk Village Church of God 23001 S.

Torrence Ave 20,000 eggs, 100 baskets and 10 bikes to give away! Refreshments will be served in the Fellowship Hall. Contact Pastor Adam and Heather Lyle 708/758-9300

Neighborhood Watch Community Play- “Do you Know your Neighbor?” Scheduled for April 15th

Play rehearsals every Saturday at the Community Center from 11:00 am – 1:30 pm. Everyone invited to participate. Contact Trustee Lynda Washington for additional information.

708/753-5130.

For more information or to **Register for Free Sauk Village Email Alerts** log in to www.saukvillage.org or contact Village Clerk Debbie Williams. 708/753-5121

REVISED 3-11-16

Senior Committee News

Rose Langston

The Senior Committee member volunteers are starting the year 2016 by expanding our Sauk Village Open Senior Activity program to every Friday afternoon (12:30-3:30 p.m.). Kudos to committee members Steve Shymkus and Frank Williams for their dedication in coordinating this weekly program. All village seniors age 50 and up are invited to participate. This program is FREE to our village seniors with no meeting membership or dues, just a great way to get out of the house to socialize with your peers. We have many activities available: Bingo, Bunco, Dominos, Rummikub, various card/dice games, Headache, Think & Jump, L.R.C. (left right center), Puzzles or you may bring your own game, crocheting, knitting, needlepoint, and word games. For months now, seniors have been addicted to playing 'Rummikub' (a tile game similar to the rummy card) game. Computer, a lending Library and TV are available.

Other activities are available at the Senior Center: SV Blue Grass every Sunday evening from 6:00-10:00 p.m.; SV Fun Club on the 2nd and 4th Sunday at 3:00 p.m.; FREE (open to all village residents and employees) blood pressure screening on the 1st Monday from 1:00-2:00 p.m.; senior movie (co-sponsored with McConathy Library) at the library on the 2nd Monday at 12:30p.m.; Senior Citizens of SV aka Sunshiners on the 1st and 3rd Monday at 7:00 p.m.; BMW Crossroad (motorcycle group) on the 3rd Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.; Ceramics Group every Wednesday from 8:00 a.m. -12:30 p.m.; Leisure Timers every 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 5:00 p.m.; and SV Senior Committee on the 2nd Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

A Senior Center monthly calendar of events is posted with events also included on the village calendar and website.

The Sauk Village Senior Center is open to Seniors Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 10am to 2pm.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY	911	SAUK VILLAGE HALL	758-3330
POLICE AND FIRE NON EMERGENCY	758-1331	SENIOR CENTER	753-5141
COMMUNITY CENTER	758-4115	BLOOM TOWNSHIP	754-9400
COOK COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT	210-4500	RESPOND NOW EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE	755-4357
COMMONWEALTH EDISON	1-800-3347661	NICOR	1-888-642-6748
REPUBLIC SERVICES DISPOSAL	708-385-8252	MCCONATHY PUBLIC LIBRARY	757-4771

VISIT US ON THE WEB: WWW.SAUK VILLAGE.ORG