

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

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**Issue 55**  
**Jan 2011**  
**Volume**  
**VIII**

**Sauk Talk**

*News from the Mayor*

*Lewis Towers*

Season's Greetings to all. We have started our holiday season with high hopes. 2010 year began somewhat dismal with high unemployment and numerous foreclosures in the Village.

Some challenging and difficult decisions had to be made in order to keep our village operating. A temporary layoff of employees had to be done with much regret. The costs to maintain the financial challenges of the village are still a struggle from day to day. The remaining employees had to take on many added responsibilities, many thanks to our administrative staff for their team effort.

I want to thank the Police, Fire, Public Works, Code Enforcement and ESDA Departments for their tireless efforts.

Meanwhile, the continued repair/replacement of our curbs and streets will keep our town on the improvement road. The weather has been very cold and snowy, at best, and the Public Works Department has been relentlessly on the job, keeping our streets plowed during these unpredictable times. Many thanks for a job well done. We are looking forward to many more winter months and hoping our streets remain passable.

What the Village of Sauk Village has now is a great resource of Volunteers. Without Volunteers our many programs and activities would not be possible.

We have forged ahead without a Chief of Staff, Police Chief, Financial Director and part of the year without a Village Attorney.

This year our Village residents enjoyed activities such as Senior Groups, Line Dancing, Basketball, Summer Camp (meals included), After School Program (meals/snacks included). The two week holiday children's program is currently being held through December 31, 2010 (meals included). Again, I want to thank the volunteers managing this program day to day.

The Respond Now Food Pantry has a one day a week

opening day (Tuesdays 10am to 2pm). And, there is also a Thursday, 3pm to 5pm bread distribution program all through Respond Now Food Pantry. Please take advantage of these services.

We had our Annual Christmas Parade through the Village. This was enjoyed by all the many residents that were home during the time the parade with Santa and his Helpers passed your home. Many of the children have telephoned to say thanks for the joy of seeing Santa and all the Village Department vehicles in the parade. The Fire Engine was most enjoyed.

Many special thanks to the Breakfast with Santa event that was sponsored by The Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Ltd.; an over whelming success is to put it modestly. Hundreds of bikes, toys, and coats were distributed to more than five hundred kids. The joy that exuded from the parents and children will never be forgotten. Shouts of joy and the thankfulness of others helped to brighten the children's faces for such a glorious and generous occasion.

The DP Partners Group, again this year, donated over three hundred Christmas Baskets to our community. We hope this is the beginning of an annual donation to our Village.

Many thanks and continued business growth to our many other businesses in the Village. The products and services are very much needed and welcomed by all of us. Here's hoping 2011 brings continued success and growth to all of our business community.

The 2011 year promises to bring a ground breaking new business called WinPak in the near future to our LogistiCenter at Sauk Village business community. We are keeping high hopes for this new venture addition to our business community.

**I want to wish all Happy Holidays and a Prosperous New Year**

*News from the Village Clerk*

*Debbie Williams*

Happy New Year! I am excited to inform residents that the new and improved Sauk Village web site will include all Sauk Village board agendas. Current and archived minutes that have been approved by the Board since September 2009 will also be included on the site. The Village ordinances have not been

recodified (purged and updated) since 2003. We are looking into the costs of recodification of 2003 through the present. As of January 2011, all ordinances approved by the Board will also be posted on the website. Look for the Clerk's page to get updated information on election news, special meetings and hearings.

Check out [www.saukville.org](http://www.saukville.org) for the updated site around February 1, 2011. The Municipal building is closed on Wednesdays. This does not effect other services.

**May 2011 bring good health, prosperity and happiness to all!**



# Public Relations Commission

Trustee Rosie Williams

Happy New Year!!!! As always, January has brought the Public Relations Committee the challenge of planning Student Government Day 2011!!! We have come up with amazing new ideas and fundraisers that will really make the experience EXTRA SPECIAL! The topic for this year “ How has the economic recession affected you?” We are anxiously awaiting the many essays we are sure to receive!!! We also encourage you to be on the look out for the many fundraisers that will be taking place to help us fund this important event!! Check out [www.saukville.org](http://www.saukville.org) for a list of fundraisers in the near future.

The Public Relations Committee is also excited to present the new and improved Sauk Village web site. The committee and the Village Computer Consultant have worked for many months to bring a more modern and user friendly web site to the residents. Look for more frequent updates regarding events and services, Board meeting agendas, minutes and ordinances and the NEW “Our Town” section where current and past residents are encouraged to submit photos and stories that relate to the history of Sauk Village.

Outside organizations (Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Churches, etc...) are also encouraged to submit information and photos.

All submissions should be sent electronically to **Trustee Rosie Williams** at **[rwilliams@saukville.org](mailto:rwilliams@saukville.org)**. All material will be reviewed by the web site committee before being placed on the site. Please attach a cover letter with your name and contact information.



May 2011 bring hope and prosperity to Sauk Village!

## Public Works Department

Kevin Weller

The Public Works Department salts and plows the village streets. Village ordinance states **No parking on village streets after 2” snow or until completely removed.** As plows clear the streets, they push the snow toward the curb. Inevitably, the snow will be pushed in front of driveway entrance. Unfortunately, there is no way to avoid this. Each resident must assume responsibility for clearing enough of this snow to allow them to get in and out of there driveway, **without putting it back into the village street. VIOLATORS WILL BE TICKETED.**

Residents who are incapable of removing this snow themselves or who do not care to do so may choose to hire a teen or plow service to assist them.

The highest priority of the Public Works plow drivers must be to make the streets as safe as possible for vehicle traffic and for the passage of emergency vehicles in the event they need to get to your home.

There are 32 center lane miles of street, in Sauk Village that the plows must keep clear and salted. While we regret any inconvenience we trust you will understand. As a side note the salt supplies this year seem to be stable but the cost is still up ,so purchasing will be slow due to the economic times. When traveling give your self plenty of time and be courteous to others. Be safe and happy holidays from the Public Works Dept.



**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 to and technical support from Deputy Village Clerk Colleen Baughman. Suggestions should be directed to the Village Hall at 708-758-3330 or emailed to [sauktalk@saukville.org](mailto:sauktalk@saukville.org).

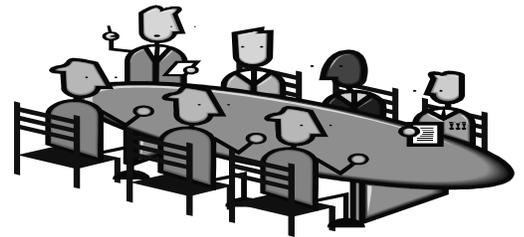
# Economic Development

Trustee Derrick Burgess

On Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010, the Economic Development Committee of Sauk Village joined surrounding communities' chamber colleagues and other business professionals in a friendly networking event hosted by the Chicago Southland Chamber of Commerce. This atmosphere afforded us the opportunity to discuss with other community leaders and small business owners the challenges their towns are facing during this economic downturn, the steps they are taking to maintain stability in their business district and what plans they are making for the future. They stressed to us the importance for everyone in the South Suburban region to work together to create a plan that will help all towns expand their economic base. This expansion may come in the form of joint business ventures across towns as well as small business owners opening multiple sites in neighboring communities.



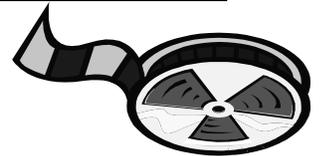
Each of our committee members enjoyed branching out and speaking to most, if not all of the other participants gathered. We compared notes and exchanged contact information so that we can meet at future events or to schedule discussion meetings. In particular, the Deputy Director of Economic Development for the Village of Matteson offered to meet with our committee to share their experiences as well as their many contacts that can assist us in our ventures.



# Library News

Colleen Baughman

McConathy Public Library is sponsoring senior movies held the second Monday of every month. Due to Lincoln's Birthday, the next movie will be shown on the first Monday, February 7<sup>th</sup>. The movie is going to be **Addicted to Love**. Light refreshments will be provided by the library.



Storytime is held every Tuesday starting January 18, 2011 and ends May 31, 2011. This program is for children from 3-7 years of age. There will be stories, crafts and other activities. Please come to the library with a valid McConathy Public Library card to register your child. The last day to register your child is January 14, 2011. If you would like more information please contact Juell or Ashley at 708-757-4771.

The library is showing a movie every Wednesday for children starting at 3:00pm. The next movie is **Despicable Me** and will be held on January 19, 2011 All children 12 years and under must have an adult present at all times for any program held at McConathy Public Library.



## Girl Scout Daisy Troop



photo courtesy of Sharon Archie-Davenport

December 2, 2010 – Trails End Association of Northwest Indiana and Greater Chicago Girl Scout Daisy Troop 60771 lead by Mrs. Jamila, along with some of their parents, visited the Sauk Village Fire Station. During this visit, Lt. Myers toured the Daisies throughout the station and shared the importance of fire safety. Each Daisy, Laela, Cheyanne, Yvonne, Kaylise, Marium, Isabella, Selena, Nia, Madison, Jamori, Destiney, Lillian, Madelyn, Kailee, Teyona, and DaAveon were able to ask questions and share their knowledge of what fire safety meant to them.

This experience has earned the girls a “Fire Safety” Fun Patch.



photo courtesy of Sharon Archie-Davenport

December 14, 2010 Trails End Association of Northwest Indiana and Greater Chicago Girl Scout Daisy Troop 60771 lead by Mrs. Jamila, attended the Regular Sauk Village Town Meeting. Daisies, Laela, Cheyanne, Yvonne, Kaylise, Marium, Isabella, Selena, Nia, Madison, Jamori, Destiney, Lillian, Madelyn, Kailee, Teyona, and DaAveon presented handmade Christmas ornaments to Mayor Lewis Towers and the Board of Trustees. The girls requested that each ornament be placed on the Village Hall Christmas tree. The Daisies also sang “We Wish You A Merry Christmas” as Mayor Towers received the crafts and thanked the troop on behalf of the entire Board and himself.

This opportunity has helped the girls earn the petal, “Respect For Authority”.



## Fire Department News

Deputy Fire Chief Rich Atwood



Because of publishing deadlines, I'm actually writing this a week before Christmas, so my fingers are crossed that this next statement will be true (as I turn on the past tense now) - I hope everyone had a happy and safe holiday season! As we move into a new year- and a new decade, I thought this would be a good time to reflect on the last 10 years. So much has happened here at the fire department!

The biggest issue facing the SVFD back at the turn of the last decade was the losing of our EMS program and contracting with Buds Ambulance. That in itself is a long sad story. Moving on, in 2002, Chief Travis Thornhill retired after 37 years of service. He served as Chief for his last 10 years.

In October, 2002, the Village hired the first full time fire chief in department history. Under Chris Sewell's direction, the Fire Department's aging fleet of vehicles was slowly but surely replaced with modern, state of the art vehicles including a 2004 Squad/pumper, a 2008 100' aerial, a 2009 pumper, and two new Ford Expeditions. Helping with this was the almost one million dollars in federal grant funding that Chief Sewell was successful in getting during his tenure.

In 2007, Chief Sewell was also successful in getting a second full time fire department administrator hired. Since Chief Sewell's first days on the job, a standard of training excellence and educational expectations was established. Likewise, hiring procedures were refined from the old "if you can walk in the door and fill out an application you're hired" to a more thorough interview and physical ability standard. This change has led to a more solid group of firefighters with longer retentions.

Chief Sewell put the Sauk Village Fire Department on the map so to speak. His involvement and leadership within the local mutual aid organization and influence among many state organizations led to the development of a positive reputation for this department. I've written previous Sauk Talk articles about image and reputations and the difference that one person can make for your organization- good and bad. Chief Sewell, in just seven short years, built a reputation for this department that we can be proud of.



As you can see, this past decade was largely successful for us, but we're not quite done yet. In October, 2009 Chief Sewell was offered the Fire Chief job with Flossmoor. Having spent the previous 10 years at the Flossmoor Fire Department before coming to Sauk Village, it was like going back home for him. Filling Sewell's big shoes would be no easy task, but the Village Administration appointed the then Deputy Chief to act up as Chief until a final decision could be made. In just a few short weeks and with the support of the Fire Department personnel, Deputy Chief Al Stoffregen was sworn in as Chief.

Chief Stoffregen has been with the Sauk Village Fire Department since 1969 and has worked under a number of different fire chiefs. Still working off of Chief Sewell's momentum, Chief Stoffregen and his now full time Deputy Chief continue to maintain the high standards and expectations that Chief Sewell established. Though tough Village economics is certainly taking its toll, safety, integrity, and honor through service continue to be our motivating factors.

So here we are- another decade behind us and an ever uncertain future in front of us. Being the optimist that I am, I look forward to more positive times ahead for the Fire Department and for our Village. We will continue to provide the absolute best service that we can to our citizens and neighbors. We will continue to show pride in our community and continue to be a focal point within our community that you can be proud of.

Thank you for your support over the years. Remember, we are YOUR Fire Department and we do not take that responsibility lightly. When you see one of our firefighters in uniform, or perhaps one of the newer fire engines on the street, you might notice our Honor Statement, "Duty First- Honor Always." Simply defined, our duty to serve and protect our citizens comes first. There is no greater service to humanity than helping a person in need, and in providing that service there is always honor.



# 2011 Fall Pop Warner Sign Ups

Football \* Cheer \* Dance



Guaranteed Playing Time

Weight & Age Restrictions

National Playoffs

Learn Cheerleading Fundamentals

Sponsored by the Chicago Bears

National Super Bowl 2000,04,05,07

13 State Football titles

National Dance Champions 2008

Nationally Ranked Cheer & Dance programs 2001, thru 2010

SIGN UP NOW:

## McConathy Public Library

21737 Jeffery Avenue, Sauk Village, IL 60411

**DATES:** February 12<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 3pm  
February 26<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 3pm

**AGES:** 5 to 15 **WEIGHTS:** 35 to 160

New in 2008!!!! Pop Warner has come up with a new division in football. It

is called the unlimited weight division. Kids from the ages of 11,12,13,14,15 who don't qualify for the other weight divisions will now be able to play.

There isn't a cap on maximum weight. **No one will be turned away due to their weight.**



A copy of birth certificate is required at sign ups. Kids from Sauk Village, Lynwood, Glenwood, Steger, Crete, Beecher, Lansing, Harvey and other surrounding Illinois communities are welcome.



## Teams Filling Fast !!!!



For More Information, call the Pop Warner Hotline 219-322-9129 or visit us on the web [tritownraiders.org](http://tritownraiders.org)

## Housing Authority Committee

Trustee David Hanks

On February 26, 2011, the Sauk Village Housing Authority in conjunction with the Neighborhood Assistance Corporation of America will host a "Home Save Workshop" (English Only) The event will be held at the Sauk Municipal Center located at 21801 Torrence Avenue Sauk Village, Illinois 60411 from 9am to 11am with doors opening at 8:30am.

NACAs Home Save Program is nationally recognized as the most effective solution for homeowners with an unaffordable mortgage providing such solutions nationwide as the largest such organization. The NACA solution is to restructure the existing mortgage by permanently reducing the interest rate to achieve an affordable mortgage payment.

A mortgage restructure is not a refinance that requires eligibility for a new loan (i.e. high credit scores, high property values, etc). There are no mortgage criteria eligibility restrictions since a restructure reduces either or both the interest rate and/or mortgage principal on the existing first mortgage.

If the homeowner is unemployed NACA provides a forbearance with a minimum payment until they have steady income to have their mortgage restructured. The only homeowners not eligible are investors who own other properties.

NACA has legally binding agreements with all the major lenders/servicers and investors (i.e. Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac) covering over 90% of homeowners to achieve to a restructure or forbearance and is advocating against others. While servicers, investors and government agencies often fight against long-term solutions, NACA will continue advocating with you to achieve a long-term affordable payment that is locked-in for the remaining term of the mortgage. All of NACA's services are Free. NACA also provides for free a forensic audit to determine any violations in obtaining your current mortgage.



In order to participate in this event residents must pre-register at [www.naca.com](http://www.naca.com) or by calling **1-888-302-NACA (1-888-302-6222)** Space is limited so residents are

## Finance Director

Mohan Rao

Hello Residents of Sauk Village! I would like to introduce myself. My name is Mohan Rao and I am excited to be the new Director of Finance for your Village. Previously, I was the Supervisor of Finance at the City of Prospect Heights, Manager of Fiscal Services at Chicago Area Project, a non-profit Corporation, Coordinator of Finance at City of Evanston and Accounts Payable/General Ledger at MCHC, a non-profit Corporation; I have professional experience in Finance, Accounting and Audit Assistance as well as Financial Management.

I have a BS in Business Administration, a Law degree and an Associate degree in Finance. I am married to Dr. Jayashree Rao, a Clinical Psychologist for 20 years and we have twin girls, Prerana Rao and Priyanka Rao, who are freshman at Lincoln-Way North High School, Frankfort, IL. I am a resident of Tinley Park, IL for the past 20 years.



## Breakfast with Santa

ORGANIZATION: Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc, Joliet Area South Suburban Alumnae Chapter

**OVER 600 ATTENDED THE ANNUAL BREAKFAST WITH SANTA PROGRAM ON SATURDAY, DEC. 18<sup>TH</sup>, 2010 HOSTED BY THE WOMEN OF THE JOLIET AREA SOUTH SUBURBAN ALUMNAE CHAPTER OF DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INC.**

Deck the halls!!! **The women of the Joliet Area South Suburban Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. hosted its annual Breakfast with Santa program on Saturday, December 18, 2010.** This year, the chapter decided to service the Sauk Village and Ford Heights communities. The sorority members, elected officials, fire officials, police officers, residents, visitors, friends and most of all, the CHILDREN, couldn't believe their eyes! The Sauk Village community center was turned into a Christmas Wonderland. It was simply magical. **Over 600 children and parents were lined up around the building to take part in this amazing event as the women of Delta Sigma Theta gave away over 500 toys, 102 bikes and over 200 coats.** Each child present received free breakfast and a free toy. Many of the children were also lucky enough to win a free bike as well. Finally, pictures were taken with Santa to remember the joyous occasion.

Additionally, this year's focus was on childhood obesity. Sorority members and children from the Sauk Village/Ford Heights community recorded an exercise video in response to Michelle Obama's initiative "Let's Move" to combat the childhood obesity epidemic. The video was shown during the event and children were encouraged to get moving and exercise. Each year, the event is a huge success and in the spirit of the holiday season, bringing good tidings of comfort and joy to those less fortunate is truly a great gift of service.

### Information about the organization:

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. is a national and international organization of college educated women committed to the constructive development of its members and to public service. Founded in 1913, the sorority is a private, non-profit organization with over 200,000 members. The local chapter, Joliet Area South Suburban Alumnae Chapter, has over 220 members who are dedicated to serving the south-suburban communities of Cook and Will counties.

Jassac was established in 2003 and since its inception, has been collaborating with other organizations to support community programs. One of the major organizations the Foundation supports, is Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Joliet Area South Suburban Alumnae Chapter.



## Police Department

Police Chief Tim Holevis

### **HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM CHIEF HOLEVIS AND THE ENTIRE POLICE DEPARTMENT!**

I would like to take a moment to welcome back to the Police Department, Lisa Gibbons, Administrative Assistant to the Chief of Police. Hopefully things can now get back to some sense of normalcy.

I would also like to commend two officers for their actions after responding to a Burglary in Progress call. Officers Blair Morris and Gary Luke responded to a Burglar Alarm and upon arrival, they observed two offenders attempting to flee the scene. The officers apprehended both offenders along with the property they removed from the residence. Thanks go out to both officers for a job well done!

The police department responded to approximately 24,000 calls for service in the year 2010. Arrests have increased and crime is currently on a downward trend nationwide according to recent statistics from the FBI.

### **JUST A FEW REMINDERS FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Snow parking is in effect after a 2 inch snowfall and the fine for snow parking is \$50.00. If there are Blizzard conditions, the vehicle may be towed or relocated if parked on the street. Please have courtesy for snow plow drivers. They are working hard to keep the streets drivable.

FOLLOW THESE AFTER HOLIDAY TIPS:

#### **SHOPPING ON LINE**

Be careful when shopping on line

Use only secured websites

Check your credit card statement to insure you have only charges you made listed

Always remember: DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE

#### **FROM THE CHIEF'S DESK**

A Little Police Humor-

A police recruit was asked on an exam:

What would you do if you had to arrest your mother?

In the blank, he wrote: CALL FOR BACKUP!





21801 Torrence Avenue  
 Sauk Village, IL 60411

**IMPORTANT NUMBERS**

EMERGENCY	911	SAUK VILLAGE HALL	758-3330
POLICE & FIRE NON-EMERGENCY	758-1331		
COMMUNITY CENTER	758-4115	SENIOR CENTER	753-5141
BLOOM TOWNSHIP	754-9400	COOK COUNTY HEALTH DEPT.	210-4500
RESPOND NOW EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE	755-4357	McCONATHY LIBRARY	757-4771
COMMONWEALTH EDISON	1-800-334-7661	NICOR	1-888-642-6748
SKYLINE DISPOSAL	754-5460	VISIT US ON THE WEB: WWW.SAUKVILLAGE.ORG	