

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

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Issue 46
July 2009
Volume VI

News from the Mayor

This is my inaugural column for the *Sauk Talk* newsletter, and I wish to take this opportunity to outline the central goals of my Administration, which at this point, has been in office about two months. In a short period, we have rolled up our sleeves and begun the work on reshaping our Village to be a more effective and efficient municipal body. With my theme being to "promote people, pride, prosperity and purpose" in Sauk Village, our focus is to open up government and make Village business more transparent. Secondly, I will require and expect accountability from Sauk Village staff. Simply put, that means giving a day's work for a day's pay.

Another priority for my Administration is improving Village water quality. Recently, we learned from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency that the Village's groundwater in a particular well was found to have a contaminant level that exceeded the Illinois Groundwater Standard. However, it's important to note Village drinking water continues to meet IEPA standards. Additionally, we have hired K-Plus Environmental, an engineering firm specializing in testing public water supply, to advise the Village on strategies to improve water quality. We recognize the Village's water quality challenges have been longstanding, and, as such, will likely take a long-term plan to correct and we have commenced work in that direction. My Administration has worked to develop its first budget, and I am pleased to report that it is highlighted by three elements: no employee layoffs, pay down Village debt, and maintain Village services. This budget process has been open to the public, and we have made copies of it available at the Nancy L. McConathy Library, and the Village Municipal Center.

Lastly, we are also committed to insuring that our youth and senior citizens have programs available to serve a variety of social interests and needs. For example, we have provided a six-week summer camp for 100 youth, and they are served daily lunches. This program was funded by a grant provided by Cong. Jesse Jackson, Jr., and established by Judge Michael Studley, Angela Greene, Javette Jones, and my wife Maxine.

News from the Village Clerk

Debbie Williams

I would first like to thank the residents of Sauk Village for their support and encouragement during the recent village election. I am both proud and humble to hold this position. I look forward to serving the residents in a positive capacity. Sauk Village is going through a vibrant change. One of my goals is to share resources and information with the community. Residents are encouraged to continue to be part of this change. There are several committees and commissions that you can join. As of July 1st Sauk Village

stickers doubled in price. The cost of Village Stickers are now \$50.00 for cars, motorcycles and RV's and trucks start at \$86.00. Senior citizens 62 and older can receive a \$20.00 discount (one per household) keeping in mind that the senior citizen must be the registered party for that vehicle. The Police Department does conduct random, unannounced Safety Checks - where they check for seat belt compliance, current registration, proof of insurance and *properly displayed Village Stickers*. Stickers must be clearly displayed on the lower

passenger side of each vehicle. Tickets for not having a Village sticker on your vehicle start at \$100.00.

Please enjoy a safe and happy summer with your friends and family. Check on your neighborhood seniors especially during the hotter days and keep a look out for the kids!

Sauk Talk

Code Enforcement News

This year we have an overwhelming amount of residents that are not maintaining their lawns. Please be advised the ordinance states grass/weeds can not be over 8" in height. That includes weeds growing in fences and around the general vicinity. When cutting your grass please do not cut it into the street, when it rains it washes down to the sewers and the sewers become clogged which causes flooding on the street.

- Residents clean your gutters- we have several homes with trees growing out of them. This causes gutters to break away from the fascia and water will not drain properly.
- Parking on a non hard surface is against the Village ordinance. Please make sure you park on concrete or asphalt.
- Residents cannot sell candy or any other food items from their home. This is becoming a big problem & it is prohibited.
- All pools must have a fence around them whether it's a kiddie pool or a full size pool. This is for the safety of the children. Also, if a pool has a filter system it can not be plugged into an extension cord, it has to have its own GFI outlet. With extension cords you run the risk of getting an electrical shock. Pools need permits.
- Garbage can placement must be to the rear of the property. It's unsightly to have garbage stored in the front of your house overflowing with lids that can't be shut.
- Building Permits are required for most work being done to the home. Please call the Building Department before starting work to see if you need a permit.
- If you experience graffiti on your property there is a program available through the Cook County Sheriff's Department. The phone number is (773) 869-4710. They will give you instructions on what needs to be done for removal.

Water Billing Department News

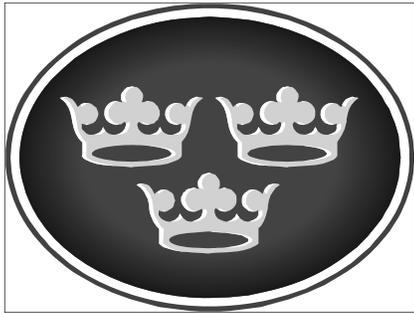
The Village Hall gets numerous phone calls asking when the water bills are sent out. Not everyone gets their water bill at the same time. Residents that are north of Sauk Trail get billed in February, April, June, August, October and December. Residents that are south of Sauk Trail get billed in January, March, May, July, September and November. The water bills are processed the last business day of the month and mailed out the next day unless it is a weekend or a holiday.

Payments can be cash, money order, personal checks, Mastercard or Visa. We also take Mastercard and Visa payments over the phone.

The Village Hall has a drop-box at the northeast corner of the building by the parking lot. It is not attached to the building – it is a stand alone drop-box. *Please* do not use the drop-box that was at our old location by the Police Department - we will not get your payment.

Sauk Talk is Produced by volunteers of the Public Relations Committee of Sauk Village, Rosie Williams Trustee/Editor and Staff Members Suzanne Downing, Angela Harris, Javette Jones, Maxine Towers, Nanette Wargo and Debbie Williams. Suggestions should be directed to the Village Hall at 708-758-3330 or emailed to sauktalk@saukvillage.org.

Parks and Recreation News



LOOKING for *MISTER* and *MISS SAUK VILLAGE*

Attention all Sauk Village young adults ages 14 to 18. This year we are looking for some young men to represent Sauk Village with Miss Sauk Village.

Contestants must be an outstanding member of Sauk Village and be available to represent the young adults of Sauk Village at various Village events.

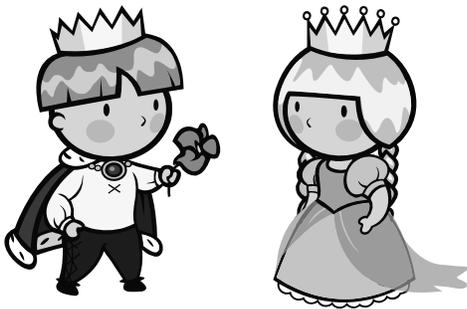
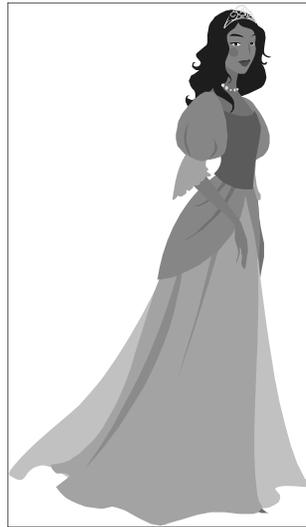
Auditions will take place Friday, August 15, 2009, the crowning will kickoff the Corn & Dog Roast on August 16th. All contestants must be able to attend these events.

Mister Sauk Village Jr.

If you are between the ages of 11 to 13 you may be the next Mr. Sauk Village Jr. and Miss Sauk Village Jr. You would be expected to attend all Village events as you would be representing your age group to all of Sauk Village.

You MUST be available for auditions August 15 and the crowning August 16.

Miss Sauk Village Jr.



Little Mr. Liberty and Little Miss Liberty

Must be 8 to 10 years old.

Available August 15 and 16 .

Responsible for attending Village events and be proud of your community.

Winners of each age group will receive a bundle of gifts. Mr. and Miss Sauk Village will win 4 passes to Great America, a \$50.00 Visa card and Dinner with the Mayor. Mr. and Miss Sauk Village Junior and Mr. and Miss Liberty will win passes to a water park , \$50.00 gift card and Dinner with the Mayor.

Article Approved by Chair/Trustee Benson

ALL CONTESTANTS MUST REGISTER AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER.

Monday-Friday, 4-8pm, JULY 13-JULY 31. If you have any questions call Sandy at 758-4115.

Community Days... 8/14 – 8/16/2009

WHEN: AUGUST 14-16, 2009
WHERE: BEHIND THE MUNICIPAL CENTER
TIMES- (TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED)

FRIDAY 5 PM- 11 PM
SATURDAY 10 AM-11 PM
SUNDAY 12 PM- 8 PM

SAUK VILLAGE COMMUNITY DAYS IS A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT OF MANY SAUK VILLAGE COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS AND BOARDS. SOME OF THE HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

PARKS & RECREATION-

FRIDAY EVENING FROM 5-8 PM THE PAGAENT FOR MR/MRS SAUK VILLAGE, MR/MRS SAUK VILLAGE JUNIOR AND MR/MRS LIBERTY WILL TAKE PLACE UNDER THE GAZEBO. THE CROWNING WILL TAKE PLACE ON SATURDAY AT NOON. SEE THE PARKS & REC ARTICLE INCLUDED ELSEWHERE IN THIS SAUK TALK EDITION.

ALSO ON *SATURDAY*, A NEW AND IMPROVED "CORN AND DOG ROAST" WHICH INCLUDES "DUNK THE MAYOR AND THE BOARD", HORSESHOES, HORSEBACK RIDING, POTATO SACK RACES, LIMBO STICK, DOUBLE DUTCH, HULA HOOPS AND OTHER ASSORTED GAMES COMPLETE WITH PRIZES.

THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMITTEE WILL HOST A HEALTH FAIR WITH INFORMATION ON VARIOUS ISSUES FOR MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN FROM 11-4 PM FOLLOWED BY A "YOUTH AWARENESS SUMMIT" IN THE PAESEL COMMUNITY CENTER.

SUNDAY WILL FOCUS PRIMARILY ON "BACK TO SCHOOL" FOR THE KIDS. WE HAVE *SCHOOL DISTRICT 168 AND DISTRICT 168 PTA* AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS PROVIDING BOOK BAGS AND SUPPLIES FROM 12 PM- 4 PM.

THE *Y.E.S. YOUTH GROUP* WILL PERFORM " A MUSICAL TIME LINE" ON SUNDAY FROM 3-5 PM.

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS WILL BE ON HAND THROUGHOUT THE WEEKEND. THE NEW AND IMPROVED *CONCERNED CITIZENS OF SAUK VILLAGE* WOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE THEMSELVES AND BEGIN THEIR MEMBERSHIP DRIVE.

ALSO, *THE PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE* WILL ONCE AGAIN PROVIDE GREAT LIVE ENTERTAINMENT SPONSORED BY *BEST IN ENTERTAINMENT*. BEST IN ENTERTAINMENT WILL ALSO BE PROVIDING FOOD VENDORS AND MILLER BEER GARDEN. A CARNIVAL WILL ALSO BE FEATURED.

HRC Job Fair Update– 300 + people attended!!!



The Human Relations Commission held its 1st Job Fair on Friday, June 26, 2009 from 12-3p.m., at the Edward Paesel Center. The job fair attracted job seekers from Sauk Village and surrounding cities including: Alsip, Calumet City, Calumet Park, Chicago, Chicago Heights, Hazel Crest, Crete, Country Club Hills, Dolton, Ford Heights, Harvey, Homewood, Lynwood, Markham, Matteson, Park Forest, Richton Park, Riverdale, Robbins, Posen, Steger, South Holland and Tinley Park, IL. Job seekers also traveled from Gary, Hammond, Highland, Miller and Hobart, Indiana in hopes of finding employment.

Our special thanks to the following employers who came out to offer employment opportunities. Employers included:

- BUREAU OF PRISONS ■ CHASE BANK ■ CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT ■ COMCAST ■ CRAWFORD BROADCASTING ■ ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY (IDES) ■ INSURE.COM ■ LE BUNNIES DAY CARE
- LOW COST HEALTH BENEFITS ■ MIRACLE CONSTRUCTION & DESIGN
- PRIMERICA ■ TCF BANK ■ THE RESERVE NETWORK ■ WILL STAFF

Our thanks and gratitude also to Mayor Lewis Towers and the Village Board for their support, Trustee Enoch Benson, The Parks and Recreation Committee along with Sauk Village Public Works for their help with labor and set-up and Albert Sancho for his expertise and guidance in organizing this event. The Human Relations Commission decided to organize this event because the group collectively saw a need to help the residents connect with employers as the national unemployment figures continue to rise. It is our primary goal to host events and programs to support the community and residents of Sauk Village.

Demographics from job seekers who attended the Job Fair included:

- # of Males: 51%
- # of Females: 49%
- % of Job Seekers Employed: 27%
- % of Job Seekers Unemployed: 73%
- % of Job Seekers in the following age ranges were:
- Ages: 14-17 – 1%
- Ages: 18-29 – 24%
- Ages 30-38- 29%
- Ages 39-45-21%
- Ages 46-55- 22%
- 56 & Older- 3%



The Human Relations Commission would like to thank all job seekers who attended the Job Fair and for completing our job fair assessment forms. We will take into consideration all suggestions to enhance our events and we wish you the best in your job search!

The Members of the Sauk Village Human Relations Commission:

- Beverly Sterrett, Chair
- Debbie Williams, Vice-President
- Sarah Ridder, Secretary
- Pharoah Halbert, Parliamentarian
- Kimberly Johnson, Member
- Rhoda Sancho, Member
- Levell Baker, Member



Police News

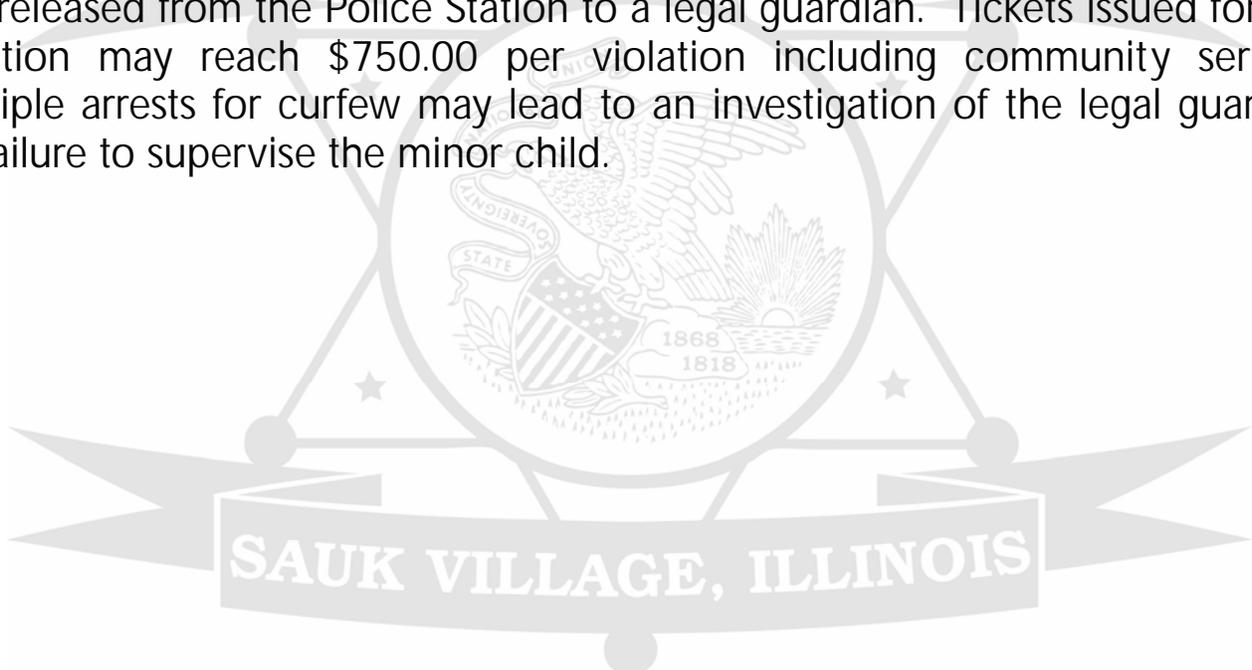


Citizen Police Academy

In September of this year, the Sauk Village Police Department along with the Sauk Village Police Alliance Committee will host the 60 hour Citizen Police Academy, open to persons 18 years of age and older, with the availability for seating going to Sauk Village residents first. This course will cover but not be limited to; Investigations, Patrol Tactics, Major Crimes, Court Testimony, Illinois Laws, Juvenile Laws, Crime Prevention, Crime Scene Investigation, Police Management, Handguns and the use of same and more. More information will be available as soon as the details are made complete.

Curfew

Please make yourself and your children aware of this ordinance and the times of night that it entails. Sunday through Thursday night you must be in at 10:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday nights you must be in by 11p.m. The age for curfew is 17 years of age and younger. In order to be out after curfew you must be with a parent or guardian who takes full responsibility of the minor child. To and from a legitimate place of employment may also be a legal reason for a minor to be out after curfew. Violators of curfew will be taken into custody and released from the Police Station to a legal guardian. Tickets issued for this violation may reach \$750.00 per violation including community service. Multiple arrests for curfew may lead to an investigation of the legal guardian for failure to supervise the minor child.





Police News



Basket Ball Nets

Portable Basketball nets that have popped up all over our community are a great source of exercise, as well as youthful camaraderie and a team building experience. The one consistent complaint that rings true on the phone to the Police Department as well as complaints at the Board Meetings is basketball nets in or near the roadway that obstruct traffic. Basketball nets are NOT to be placed beyond the sidewalk of the property. So, for a clear explanation, if the net is beyond your front grass, which ends on your side of the sidewalk, it's too far out. Nets found on the sidewalk, parkway (the grass between the sidewalk and the street, owned by the Village) or the street, will be confiscated by the police, and taken to Public Works. Proof of ownership will be needed to get property returned as well as a ticket issued to the owner for property being left and or abandoned on Village/Public property, obstructing the Roadway, walking and or playing in the roadway and more. Tickets have been found in court to range from \$50 to \$750. Keep your nets in the driveway, as well as the players. The streets are for cars, not walkers, runners, basketball or people who not in cars!!!! Basketball Players.....Take this as fair warning!!!!!! Don't get your basketball net taken.

Ordinance Review Committee

The ordinance committee has met twice and has so far reviewed the vicious dog ordinance and the curfew ordinance. These two ordinances have been sent on to the chief of staff to be sent on to the attorneys and trustees for final review. We are also currently reviewing ordinances on walking in the streets, truancy, and the residents along 394 have a problem with trucks using jake brakes at early morning hours. The committee will review the state laws concerning this problem and will consider presenting a ordinance to the trustees for approval. If any resident has a question about current ordinances or future ordinances please contact trustee Myers at the village hall. Trustee Myers would like to thank the following people for volunteered to be on the ordinance committee, Jeff Morden, Pat Couch, Nancy Baker, Sherry Jasinski, Mark Galloway, and Carol Myers.

Public Relation Committee News

The Public Relations Committee is looking for more volunteers to help us relate to the residents of Sauk Village. We are responsible for the Sauk Talk, the maintenance of the web site and often the creation and support of the Summer Family Festivals.

We are in the process of redesigning the website and are very hopeful to be bringing the residents a fresher, more informative website very soon!!! If you have not visited the web site please do so. The Public Relations Committee meets the 1st Wednesday of every month at 7:00 pm at the Municipal Center. Please join us!!!

www.saukvillage.org

Census Committee News

Sauk Village is looking for volunteers to help spread the word about the 2010 Census! Be Counted Day is April 1st 2010, as a resident of Sauk Village, we encourage you to be an active member and make sure you are counted that day.

The Census count is important because it ensures the Village is given the most grant and financial assistance possible to help us provide services for you the resident. It was estimated that the 2000 Census represented that each citizen was worth \$1,000.00 worth of financial assistance from the Federal Government.

We would like your help to get the word out so all of the Citizens of Sauk Village are counted. Please contact Trustee Rosie Williams for more details.

Seniors Do You Know?

Thanks to All those who participated in the first Senior Committee Chili Cook Off which was held on Saturday, May 16, 2009. The Winners and best chili cooks were *First place Delores Randall, Second place was a tie between Melani Hoban & Jim List.*

Special thanks to our volunteers!!! The volunteer judges were Mayor Lewis Towers, Village Clerk, Debbie Williams, Chief of Police Tom Lacheta, Village Director of Finance Beverly Sterrett, Senior guest Joan Klein. Ten volunteers donated the Chili Dorothy Barnes, David Chick, Melani Hoban, Rose Langston, Lauren, Jim List, Nadine Morgan, Delores Randall, Gayle Wonder, and Trustee Francine Anderson. Leon Linder, Claudia and Ken Walker assisted with organizing the event. The fabulous entertainment was provided by '2 FOR THE SHOW' featuring Jake and Cindy, who also volunteered their talents.

Free Movie Monday at the McConathy Library every second Monday of the month at 1:00pm. Join us on July 13, 2009 for "Marley & Me" and August 10, 2009 'While You Were Sleeping' is a romantic comedy starring Sandra Bullock and Bill Pullman..

Bloom Township Senior Picnic is scheduled for August 7, 2009 at Veteran Memorial park located at 19101 Halsted Glenwood, Illinois. Tickets are on sale through the senior department and senior citizen clubs for \$3 each. If purchased the day of the picnic, tickets will cost \$4. You can purchase tickets at The Bloom Township Center or from Rose Langston. The Township is also looking for senior residents to participate on their Senior Advisory Council. Contact Cheryl Ford, Senior Director for more information at the township (708) 754-9400 Ext. 244.

Seniors come join the fun at the New Senior Center. We're offering social gatherings, dancing, games, activities, refreshments, dinners and outings. Listed below are the Clubs and organizations that are currently sponsoring activities at the Senior Center:

Fun Club meets every 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month at 12:30pm.

Sunshiners meet every 1st and 3rd Monday of the month at 7:00pm.

Leisure Timers meets 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 6:00pm.

Blue Grass meets every Sunday from 6:00pm to 10:00pm. There will be no Jam session on Sunday July 5, 2009. Come join us at the Independence Day celebration and fire works.

Ceramic Classes meet every Wednesday at 8:00am – 12:00noon

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) meet every 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm.

Respond Now still to have a satellite food pantry here in Sauk Village at the Community Center (old senior center) every Tuesday from 10am. to 2pm. Volunteers are needed.

The telephone number to the Senior Center is 708-753-5141.

**Mayor Lewis Towers
Village of Sauk Village**

Community Days

August 14 -16, 2009



Come Enjoy a Fun Filled Weekend All Are Welcome!

**21801 Torrence Avenue
Sauk Village, Illinois 21801**

**Friday, August 14, 2009 - 5pm - 11pm
Saturday, August 15, 2009 - 12noon - 11pm
Sunday, August 16, 2009 - 12noon - 9pm**

For more information visit the Municipal Center or www.saukvillage.org



Fire Department News



Hurry up and register your kids for our first ever Junior Fire Academy. This “summer camp” style event runs from July 27 to July 31 and is from 9am to noon each day. There will be a graduation/family day on that Saturday, August 1st. Some of the things lined up for the kids are a ride in a fire truck, obstacle courses like the firefighters have to go through, demonstrations by the firefighters, a visit from “Bosco” the police dog, and lots of fun games and activities to teach fire safety and prevention. There is a fee- its \$30 for one child, or \$25 per child if you’re registering more than one kid from the same household. Call the fire station during normal business hours if you have any questions.

There’s no denying that our weather this season has been goofy, to say the least. Regardless, we are well into tornado season. Disaster in general is something nobody likes to think about and your chances of winning the lottery are probably better, but none the less, disaster can strike any of us at any given time. In a disaster situation, like a tornado, there are numerous resources available to us as a fire department and community. But depending on the magnitude of the disaster, it will take time for emergency resources to get to you.

There are things you can do to help yourself. Take a look at these resources-

www.ready.illinois.gov

www.fema.gov

www.alertchicago.org

These websites contain valuable information about preparing and surviving any number of disasters. The key to survival starts with you- take the time to make a family disaster plan and kit. Any of the listed websites can help you with this.

Along these same lines, Sauk Village is notorious for prolonged power outages in certain areas. Again, if you are energy dependant for health reasons, plan ahead. Make arrangements ahead of time for a backup generator or to be moved to another location. As we have learned the hard way over the last couple years, there are significantly more energy dependant residents in town now than in years past and the Fire Department cannot supply generators. Many years ago, that was not the case, but not any more. Like we say here at the Fire Department- plan/prepare for the worst and hope for the best.





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IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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