

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

Mayor News  
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Issue 81  
NOV 2015  
Volume  
XI

Sauk Talk

Mayor's Corner

Mayor David Hanks

*The Elephant in the Room – BLIGHT*

*What cancer is to a body, "blight" is to a community: No surprise that blight has spread and is having a disastrous effect on all parts of Sauk Village. Its core cause "housing flight" started years ago:*

*Today we see its havoc; housing vacancies, property de-valuation, loss of revenue, increases in crime, pull-back of business, and discord among community leaders. And yet we fight this disease in disarray, hoping its symptoms will somehow go into remission.*

*Fighting the future of Sauk Village independently will not breathe life back into it. We must attack BLIGHT as a community.*

*Our Administrator J.W. Fairman has laid out a blueprint to attack blight, a plan that includes all of us. Results will not happen overnight and will certainly depend on the amount of support Sauk Village is willing to show him. He has already rallied the support of key staff. He is in the process of producing a master Vacancy list, and correlating it to criminal activity in the Village.*

*This will enable Police Chief Kowalski to identify the areas of greatest concern. Reduction in crime is the first step in the property valuation and increased revenues. Our Housing Commission, also a "blueprint" partner, is moving forward with the demolition of blighted homes. The Village Board's Public Works Committee has authored a key piece of legislation placing the accountability for delinquent water bills on the owners of property.*

*Mr. Fairman wants you to be our eyes and ears. When someone tampers with water meters or turns on water that the Village has turned off for non-payment – report it. These people are not your friends, free water to them cost you more. When you see or hear something in your neighborhood that you know isn't right – report it.*

*"People who commit crime value themselves over everyone else."*

*As the months go on I will report (good or bad) the results of our (yours and mine) efforts to turn Sauk Village around.*

*"Community" is the cure for BLIGHT.*

*Merry Christmas & Happy New Year  
from the Hank's Family!!!*



News from the Village Clerk

Debbie Williams

The Sauk Village Municipal Center will be closed on the following days in observance of the upcoming holidays-November 26th and 27th, December 24th and 25th and January 1st and 18th. Sauk Village Committee of the Whole meetings are held on the first and third Tuesday at 7pm. Sauk Village Regular Board meetings are held on the second

and fourth Tuesday of the month. There are no board meetings held on the fifth Tuesday of the month. All meetings are held at the Sauk Village Municipal Center. Exceptions such as Special Called meetings or change of location will always be duly noted on the Sauk Village website and posted at the Municipal Center. ALL Sauk Village board meeting notices and

agendas are posted no less than 48 hours prior to the meeting. There are no village board meetings scheduled for November 24th and December 15th and 22nd and 29th unless a Special Meeting is called.

**May you and yours enjoy a safe, blessed holiday season!**



## Holiday Food Basket Collection



## Holiday Food Basket Collection

Village Clerk Debbie Williams and the Community Outreach Partnership Committee are hoping to brighten the lives of 50 Sauk Village Families this Holiday season. It is our goal that each basket will contain:

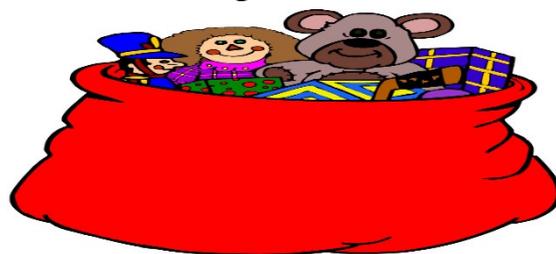
- 2 Cans of Corn
- 1 box of Brownie Mix
- 2 Cans of Green Beans
- 1 Box of Instant Potatoes
- 2 Boxes of Corn Bread Mix
- 1 large can of Sweet Potatoes
- 1 box of Stove Top Instant Stuffing

If you are able to donate, please drop off any amount of these items at the Village Hall 21801 Torrence Ave between 8 am and 5 pm Monday through Friday. Monetary donations will also gladly be accepted.

**All donations are due by December 11<sup>th</sup>.**

We will also be collecting new/unwrapped toys for 0-12 year old boys and girls. Holiday food baskets and toys will be distributed during the Carols, Cocoa and More event on Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup> on a first come, first served basis.

## Toy Drive



## Parks & Recreation

Trustee Kelvin Jones



*Santa Claus  
is coming to town*

*Santa Claus is coming to town  
Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015*

*Santa will be parading around town,  
beginning at 10AM, with a short break at  
the fire station, and arriving at the  
Community Center around 5pm.*

*Everyone is welcome to attend and take a  
picture with Santa! Santa will have  
magical treats for everyone!*



# Neighborhood Watch

Trustee Lynda Washington-House



Greetings Residents of Sauk Village! We are currently looking for Block Club Captains! If you are interested please meet us on the 2nd Monday, monthly at The Fire Station 1822 222nd Street. We are closing out our year end session with a great agenda and Christmas celebration. Our meetings are at 7:00 p.m. sharp and you are invited to come and encourage your neighbors to attend as well. Come and experience open dialogue and friendly environment

It takes the entire community to come together and provide safety tips and measures for our block to be successful with security. Know your surroundings when you are entering and leaving your home and cars. Always look around and call the Police Department to report any and all suspicious activity anywhere in the Village. Be friendly, courteous and respectful towards your neighbors. Know and monitor your children whereabouts daily, so they are accounted for during the day and be mindful to observe the curfew days and times.

**If we ALL come together we can have a safer Village for our youth, seniors and residents to enjoy.** If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly at (708) 753-5130. Also, visit and LIKE our face book page, Sauk Village Neighborhood Watch! I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting. I am always available to talk with residents on Board Meetings Nights every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. at the Village Hall except the 5th Tuesday of the month. I'm encouraging you to get involved with The Neighborhood Watch Program and help make an impact on Sauk Village. See YOU there!

Finally, We are so excited! In an effort to promote Community Involvement and Public Safety, The Neighborhood Watch will be performing a LIVE play April 25, 2016! We are looking for residents that want to have a little community fun! We will be holding auditions for actors, actress, singers, prop directors and make up/custom/wardrobe artist. Contact me directly at (708) 753-5130.



## Mayor Hanks: Pancakes With Santa



### Pancakes With Santa and Donation for Toys for Tots! - December 6, 2015

This year the Sauk Village Fire Department is partnering up with Toys-for-Tots. So during the annual pancakes with Santa they are asking for everyone to please bring unwrapped toys for girls or boys of all ages.

This is the season for giving so let's all play apart in putting a smile on over 7 million children faces.

For More Information:  
Please call the Sauk Village Fire Station at (708)758-2225

**\*\*\*Mark Your Calendars Now\*\*\***

**Location: Sauk Village Fire Department  
1804 222nd St. Sauk Village, Illinois**

**Date: December 6, 2015**

**Time:**

**8am until Noon**

**Cost: \$5 for adults /**

**\$4 for children/Seniors**

## Senior News

Rose Langston

Village seniors age 50 plus are welcome to attend the: SV Blue Grass every Sunday evening from 6:00-10:00 p.m.; SV Fun Club on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 3:00 p.m.; FREE (open to all village residents and employees) blood pressure screening on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday from 1:00-2:00 p.m.; senior movie (co-sponsored with McConathy Library) at the library on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday at 12:30p.m.; Senior Citizens of SV aka Sunshiners on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday at 7:00 p.m.; Silver Sneaker (fitness classes) every Tuesday at 10:00 and 11:15 a.m.; BMW Crossroad (motorcycle group) on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.; Ceramics Group every Wednesday from 8:00 a.m. -12:30 p.m.; Leisure Timers every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday at 5:00 p.m.; SV Senior Committee on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday at 7:00 p.m.; and SV Committee Open Senior Activity on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday (during November and December) from 12:30-3:30 p.m. Beginning in January 2016, the SV Committee will hold the Open Senior Activity every Friday from 12:30-3:30 p.m.

The Jones Memorial Community Center Golden Agers meets on the third Wednesday monthly. Social hour at 10:00 a.m., meeting at 10:30 a.m. and lunch (\$5.00) is served at 11:30 a.m. Annual dues (\$5.00) for the year 2016 are being accepted now. For additional information and/or reservation, call 708-757-5395.

The Committee's 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Senior Citizens Spaghetti Dinner was a huge success, thanks to all the participants, volunteers and committee members. As always, The Morgan Family provide excellent music and Line Dance Instructor Flora Haynes led the dancers. Congratulations to the many Door Prize, 50/50 Raffle (Mary Cunnane), and BBQ set (Richard Mosely) winners. We were very fortunate for a terrific job volunteering job by former committee members - Gary Holcomb, Bob Ketcham and Beverly Sterrett. Other volunteers include Chris Johnson, Nadine Morgan, Heidi Parker, John Poskin, and Chris Turner. Many thanks for the ads to Southland Voice, Steger Memorial Chapel for printing the tickets, and prize donors (Rose Langston, Nadine Morgan and Steve Shympkus {BBQ set}). Frank Williams and Steve Shympkus are co-ordinators for the committee's Friday SV Open Senior Activity. We have various games available and seniors may bring their own if desired. The 'Rummykub' game is creating quite a challenge for the participants. Beverly Sterrett continues the Silver Sneakers fitness classes (10:00 & 11:15 a.m.) every Tuesday. Our paperback book program is thriving with many thanks to recent donors Nancy Baker, Nadine Morgan and Kriste Peckham.

Bloom Township Community Lunch Program monthly through April is held at Glenwoodie Golf Club, 19301 State St., Glenwood. See posted flyers for details and other events, cost for township seniors is \$4.00 and out of Bloom Township seniors is \$8.00. Open enrollment/re-enrollment period for Medicare Part D Medicare ends December 7<sup>th</sup>. Counseling is available Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on first come basis. Affordable transportation within the township and some special medical location are available, call 708-754-8200. For additional information call Bloom Township Senior Department 708-754-9400 ext. 7270.

The Senior Center Policy revision for the restructured Sauk Village Senior Committee was recently completed and approved by the committee. Thank Mayor Hanks, Administrator JW Fairman and Village Clerk Debbie Williams for your assistance on the policy. Sauk Village Senior Committee meets on the second Thursday (except in December) at 7:00 p.m. For additional information and/or question, please leave a brief message at (708) 758-3330 for a call back as time permits.

**The Senior Committee would like to wish everyone  
a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!**



## Carols Cocoa and More



## CAROLS, COCOA AND MORE



JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF FUN AS WE BRING OUR COMMUNITY TOGETHER

TO CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS.

FOOD BASKETS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO THE FIRST 50 SAUK VILLAGE

FAMILIES THAT PROVIDE PROOF OF RESIDENCY.

WHERE: SAUK VILLAGE MUNICIPAL CENTER

21801 S. TORRENCE AVENUE

SAUK VILLAGE, ILLINOIS

WHEN: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2015

6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

PRESENTED BY: THE SAUK VILLAGE PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE,

COMMUNITY OUTREACH PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE

AND VILLAGE CLERK DEBBIE WILLIAMS

SPONSORED BY: VARIOUS COMMUNITY PARTNERS

# Press Release for Village Newsletter or Cable Station December/Fall Edition

## Energy Assistance is Available – Need Help Paying Heating Bills

Cook County Commissioner Joan Patricia Murphy is hosting an Energy & Information Fair **Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup> - 9:30 a.m. to 3p.m. at the ELKS CLUB in Crestwood.** Located at 4428 Midlothian Turnpike. Applications for LIHEAP (low income home energy assistance program) will be processed at the Energy Fair.

Federal funds are available to families that qualify. One time payments are made directly to Nicor and ComEd to provide financial support to households. The winter season is just around the corner and along with the cold comes higher energy bills. The application is fast and easy.

When applying you **MUST** bring: proof of gross income for the last 30 days. Original Social Security cards for all household members. Current Nicor and ComEd utility bills.

### INCOME GUIDE LINES – Gross Income for 30 days prior to application Date

Family Size	for LIHEAP	Share the Warmth
1,471	1,962	
1,991	2,655	
2,511	3,348	
3,031	4,042	
3,551	4,735	
4,071	5,248	

Meet local representatives from The Link & Option Center, Nicor, and ComEd to discuss other payment options to avoid disconnection. Useful information will be provided from area Social Service Organizations. Come find out what programs are available to help meet the needs of your family.

Don't miss Commissioner Murphy's Energy Fair on Tuesday, December 15th from 9:30a.m. to 3p.m. The event will be held at the ELKS CLUB located at 4428 Midlothian Turnpike in Crestwood.

LIHEAP Questions and more available dates:

Call - The Link and Option Center at 708.331.4880

Event information call Commissioner Murphy's Office at 708-389.2125.

#####

Patrice Capuzzi  
Community Outreach Coordinator  
Office of Cook County Commissioner  
Joan Patricia Murphy  
5405 W. 127<sup>th</sup> Street, Crestwood, IL 60455

# Police Department

Police Chief Robert Kowalski

This Christmas season, don't let the holiday spirit lull you into giving burglars, muggers and pickpockets a better chance to do their dirty work. Bad guys love the holidays as much as everyone else, especially because it's a convenient time for crime.

Your home will be packed with shiny new gifts and the stores, malls and downtown streets are crowded with unsuspecting shoppers. Everyone is rushing around carelessly looking for last-minute gifts, trying to get everything done. It's enough to make a thief happy with holiday joy.

Here are some tips on how to celebrate safely this holiday season:

## **If You Are Traveling**

Get an automatic timer for your lights.

Contact the Sauk Village Police to do an extra watch on your property and/or

Ask a neighbor to watch your home, shovel snow, and park in your driveway from time to time.

Don't forget to cancel your mail and newspaper delivery because if it piles up, it's a sure sign you're gone.

## **If You Are Out for the Evening**

Turn on lights, a radio or TV so it looks like someone's home.

Be extra diligent about locking doors and windows when you leave, even if it's just for a few minutes.

Don't display your presents where they can be seen from outside.

## **If You Are Shopping**

Stay alert and be aware of what's going on around you.

Park in a well-lighted space, and be sure to lock the car, close the windows, and hide shopping bags and gifts in the trunk or cover them to be inconspicuous.

Avoid carrying or flashing large amounts of cash; pay with a check or credit card whenever possible but only carry one card in your wallet or purse.

Discourage pickpockets and purse-snatchers and don't overburden yourself with packages. Be extra careful with your purse and/or wallet. Carry a purse close to your body, not dangling by the straps. Put a wallet in an inside coat or front pants pocket.

Shopping with your children? Have a plan, teach them to go to a store clerk or security guard if you get separated.

## **Protect Your Vehicle**

Loading up on all those gifts is a sign of progress in the holiday shopping. But if those packages are left out in the open after they're in the car, your car has become a likely target for thieves. Remember "Out of sight, out of mind?" the same idea applies to items in your car.

Always lock your vehicle and store all items out of sight. Breaking into an empty car isn't worth a thief's time and they will find one that's full. Anything left in plain view, from your holiday gifts to spare change, sunglasses, CDs, cell phones or briefcases, may tempt a thief.

Help prevent your vehicle from being stolen by always locking your car and using anti-theft devices if you can. And although it's cold, never leave your vehicle running while you run inside your home or a store, even if for only a minute or two because you don't know whose watching.

## **If a Stranger Comes to the Door**

Criminals sometimes pose as couriers delivering gifts, so be cautious when accepting a package.

It's not uncommon for people to try to take advantage of others' generosity during the holidays by going door-to-door for charitable donations when there's no charity involved. Ask for identification, and find out how the funds will be used or call the police to see if they are registered to be soliciting in the neighborhood.

Article continued on page 8

## Police Chief Article Continued

### After you've opened the Gifts

The burglars know that many you have new, and many times expensive, items in your homes following the Christmas holidays—especially items like new computers and other electronic equipment. In many cases, we make it easy for burglars to figure out which homes to target by putting boxes that identify your new gifts in plain view with their other garbage. Avoid becoming an easy target for post-holiday burglars by not leaving boxes for new electronics and other items in the alley or other garbage pick-up locations for several days at a time. Instead, break down any boxes you are throwing out, put them in garbage bags and place them inside a trash can. Remember if you see someone suspicious casing your alley or if you see a burglary in progress, call the Sauk Village Police Department on [911](tel:911).

### Take a Holiday Inventory

The holidays are a good time to update—or create—your home inventory. Take photos or make videos of items, and list descriptions and serial numbers. If your home is burglarized, having a detailed inventory can help identify stolen items and make insurance claims easier to file.

Make sure things like TVs, VCRs, stereo equipment, cameras, camcorders, sports equipment, jewelry, silver, computers, home office equipment and power tools are on the list. Remember to check it twice!

### Celebrate Responsibly

The holiday season is a time of celebration and revelry. Drinking and driving is a danger to everyone on the road. Illinois law says that anyone with a blood alcohol count of .08 or higher is in violation of the Illinois Vehicle Code and may go to jail. Remember that the risk isn't worth it—if you choose to drink alcohol at a party, don't drive. Take a cab, use public transportation or a designated driver. Have fun, but remember to celebrate responsibly.

### Enjoy the Season!

Last but not least, don't let holiday stress get the best of your holiday spirit. Be sure to make time to get together with family, friends, and neighbors. Please think about the less fortunate in the spirit of the season and help someone who's less fortunate or lonely. We here at the Sauk Village Police Department wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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

**VISIT US ON THE WEB: [WWW.SAUKVILLAGE.ORG](http://WWW.SAUKVILLAGE.ORG)**