

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

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Issue 65
Nov 2012
Volume
IX

Sauk Talk

Mayor's Corner

Acting Mayor David Hanks

Mayor Lewis Towers submitted his immediate resignation as Mayor of Sauk Village on November 7, 2012. An emergency meeting was called on Thursday, November 8, 2012 to fill this vacancy. I humbly accepted the appointment of Acting Mayor for the remainder of the current term after the Corporate Authority voted 4-1.

Since the resignation of Lewis Towers and my appointment I have reached out to the following:

Reached out to the Trustees seeking their advice and input. Not all have accepted the olive branch however, going forward I would hope that we could agree that we can disagree but let's no longer be disagreeable!

Reached out to Residents for their input as to what they feel are current issues in our community. In addition, residents were asked to submit letters of interest in a hope to appoint a replacement to fill the vacancy left by Trustee Chavez.

Trustees were provided those letters and were asked to provide their top three picks. Based on the top picks from the majority of Corporate Authorities, long term resident John Poskin was presented and confirmed on November 13, 2012.

- Reached out to staff and had our first joint departmental staff meeting.
- Reached out to Engineering firm (Baxter & Woodman) for an update on the EPA loan.
- Reached out to Schrader concerning the air strippers and the winterization which should be completed this week.
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News from the Village Clerk

Debbie Williams

The Village Hall is now closed on Wednesdays due to recent budget cuts. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may caused. Remember to pay your water bills before Wednesday if you have a shut off notice due on that day. Bills that do not require immediate assistance can be dropped off at the night depository box located at the northeast corner of the Village Hall located at 21801 S. Torrence Avenue. Residents can also pay

bills online with the PSN system. Check out www.saukvillage.org for more information. The Village Hall will also be closed November 22nd & 23rd, December 24th & 25th, 2012 and January 1, 2013 in observance of the holidays. Anyone interested in helping those families that are less fortunate than most please contact me at 708/753-5121. There are many opportunities

to donate that arise this time of year, not to mention the devastation taking place on the East Coast.

Have a safe and loving holiday season and a Happy New Year!



Mayors Article Continued

- Reached out to the business community – informing them that Sauk Village has so much to offer and we want them here.
- Reached out to our TIF consultants and scheduled a meeting to find out what we can do to bring businesses and jobs to our community.
- And most importantly, reached out to our auditors and to steal part of a phrase from the Jerry McGuire movie said “SHOW ME THE AUDIT”

Sauk Village has many challenges and I'm sure many more that are still unseen. The Challenges we know and in no specific order are the following:

Healing the division among our residents, employees and Board members

- Bringing back our motto “Pride and Progress” including order and decorum in our Village Board Meetings
- Understanding our Finances which includes, where are we today and going forward, scheduling meetings with our financial consultants and again demanding the Audit Results!
- Reducing Crime by making sure our Police officers have the support of this administration and the tools needed to combat the criminal
- Water - First put together a team lead by neutral individuals that are not politically motivated, develop a plan, work closely with State and Federal Agencies, and keep the residents informed.
- Litigation – Understand which cases are legit and which are frivolous. Address the legit cases and take the necessary legal steps to go after the individuals that are falsely attacking you the residents in the court system.
- I will continue to reach out to all the village board members for their advice and input as we develop a plan to move our community forward. Communication will no longer be lacking and will be the key to successfully turning Sauk Village around.
- I will be the first to admit; I do not have all the answers and will humbly reach out to past and present elected officials from Sauk Village and surrounding communities for advice.

Our problems will not be resolved over night however; I can assure you the process has started.

Thank you,



Acting Mayor David Hanks

Water Information

SAUK VILLAGE WATER SYSTEM INFORMATION

The Sauk Village Corporate Authorities, along with several outside consultants, continue to gather facts in order to plan the Village's future direction concerning water. There are many sources of information posted on the Village web site www.saukvillage.org. The plans have been reviewed and revised as time went on. A lot has happened since a majority of Sauk Village residents voted in favor of Lake Michigan water as an alternative to our current well water system.

Due to the rise in vinyl chloride contamination earlier this year, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) installed temporary air strippers and required Sauk Village to provide bottled water to residents until the strippers were operational. These temporary air strippers are currently being rented by Sauk Village. The IEPA and the Illinois Attorney General's office are requiring Sauk Village to purchase and install their own air strippers. Sauk Village has applied for IEPA low-interest loan assistance to pay for the air strippers. The air strippers have been fully winterized.

An evaluation of the Village's water billing rates was conducted in order to pay for the new air strippers. During this evaluation, it was determined that the Village was operating in a deficit condition with the current billing rate. To rectify this, a new ordinance was passed to raise the water rate \$2.00 per 1,000 gallons, which went into effect in August 2012. Unfortunately, South side residents were affected not only by the rate increase, but also by estimated bills during the time that meters were not read due to the water distribution being a priority. When those meters were read the following cycle, the difference was calculated at the higher rate on the September bills. South side residents will notice a credit rate adjustment on their November bills.

To pay for the new air strippers along with select water system improvements (replacement of water mains, hydrants, and valves, along with hiring of additional staff) another water rate increase of \$2.00 per 1,000 gallons will go into effect in February 2013. This will result in a new water rate of \$7.50 per 1,000 gallons.

The Village has also submitted an application to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) to obtain Lake Michigan water. A final hearing will be held on January 30, 2013 that will complete the application process. The IDNR will then determine whether Sauk Village will be granted the right to receive Lake Michigan water.

Back in 2011 when the options to improve the Village's water quality were studied, two options were considered: installation of air strippers or Lake Michigan water. At that time, Lake Michigan water was projected to cost about \$10.37 per 1,000 gallons, which was quoted in the referendum question. Because the IEPA is now requiring Sauk Village to purchase and install air strippers, the cost for the air strippers must be added to the cost for Lake Michigan water, resulting in an updated water rate for Lake Michigan water around \$15 per 1,000 gallons. Obviously this is a significant increase from what was quoted in the referendum.

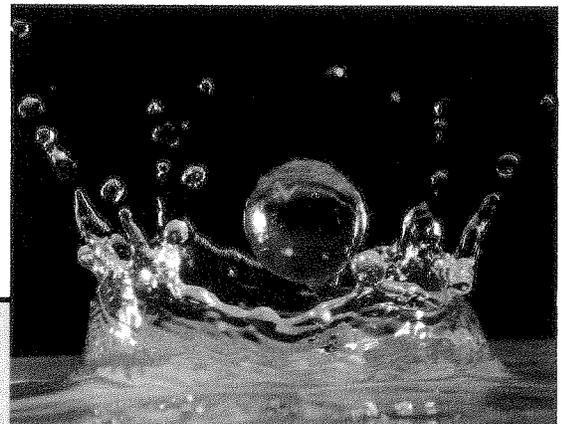
The Sauk Village Corporate Authorities are working with the IEPA and the Attorney General's office in order to remain compliant with all mandates to continue to provide safe drinking water to our residents with the ultimate goal being Lake Michigan water. To follow the progress of the Lake Michigan water plan please watch for special meeting and hearing notices within the next several months that will be posted at the Village Hall, McConathy Public Library, and www.saukvillage.org.

Debbie Williams

Village Clerk – Sauk Village

November 20, 2012

This information compiled by the Illinois Rural Community Assistance Program (RCAP) and Robinson Engineering, Ltd.



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@saukvillage.org.



Fire Department News

Deputy Fire Chief Rich Atwood

We're well into Fall now and I'm sure many are looking forward to that first snowfall. I know we've got a few months before we need to start thinking about tornadoes again, but I recently came upon some very interesting research. I thought it would be a good thing to share.

Federal Signal in nearby University Park conducted a nationwide survey to see how the average citizen responds to severe weather warnings. From an emergency management perspective, the results were not good. Where do you fit in?

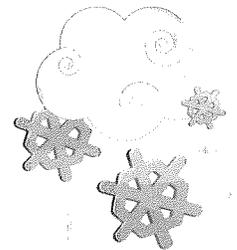
The report states, "When it comes to taking action, despite receiving a notification, just under one half (47%) of Americans would be motivated to take action during a warning of potential severe weather." It goes on to say, "One-third (33%) would require actual property damage or injury to care strongly about public safety awareness." Sadly, 1 in 12 just don't care- period.

According to the survey, "more Americans in the Great Lakes Region (that's us), 38%, would require a confirmed severe weather event such as a tornado sighting to take immediate action."

The report goes on to give statistics regarding warning sirens. A staggering number of those surveyed weren't even sure if their communities had warning sirens. So, I want to take this next little bit to clarify some things.

Sauk Village does have warning sirens. In fact, we have FIVE of them. If you hear it go off (and you will), it's for one of two reasons- 1) monthly test; or 2) a tornado has been sighted in the area. The monthly test is the same time every month- on the first Tuesday at 10:00 am. If the siren is going off any other time, don't be one of the 38% running outside looking for a tornado. Get to the basement, or for you folks living on slabs, hunker down in the bathroom in the center of the house.

According to the National Weather Service, there has not been a major tornado in the Chicagoland area since the 1990 Plainfield event that killed 29 and injured 350 people. So it's been 22 years. The problem is that with time, we get complacent, and complacency kills. Don't become a statistic- get prepared now. Check out ready.gov. There is a mountain of great resources to help you prepare your family for the smallest or greatest of disasters.



Blossoms

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.

Public Relations

Trustee Rosie Williams

Important Information concerning your trash disposal

The holidays seem like the perfect time to update your current technology. Please note:

Electronics have become more and more prevalent in our everyday lives. As today's new gadgets quickly become yesterday's old technology, we're left with the question: what will happen with the old stuff?

The amount of electronics finding its way into landfills is shocking. **The US EPA estimated that in 2009, over 82% of end-of-life electronics went to landfills and incinerators. Mercury, lead, cadmium, and other hazardous and toxic materials can be found in Electronic Waste.**

Illinois E-Waste Ban

Effective January 1, 2012, Illinois law prohibits the disposal of electronic waste (E-Waste) in landfills and transfer stations. E-waste can no longer be disposed of at curbside in a garbage tote or can, or in a recycling bag or bin. Therefore, when you have electronic waste (E-Waste) to dispose of, please visit the Illinois EPA website for a list of registered e-waste collection companies along with a list of drop off locations. www.epa.state.il.us/land/electronic-waste-recycling/index.html

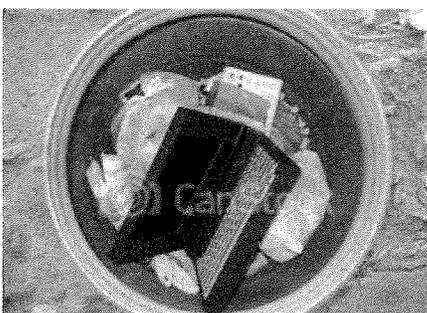
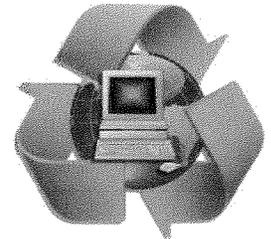
Illinois E-Waste for Cook County Residents

If you reside in the county of Cook, you may contact Computer/Component Buyer's Co-op to make arrangements for the collection or drop off of your e-waste. The telephone number for Computer/Component Buyers Co-op is (708) 825-4218 and their website is www.computerbuyersco-op.com.

The following items are ***banned*** from all Transfer Stations and Landfills.

Please refrain from putting these items out with your curbside trash or recycling.

- Televisions
- Monitors
- Printers
- Computers (Including tablet computers)
- Electronic Keyboards
- Fax Machines
- Videocassette Recorders
- MP3 Players
- Video Game Consoles
- Small Scale Servers
- Scanners
- Electronic Mice
- Digital Converter Boxes
- Cable Receivers
- Satellite Receivers
- DVD Recorders



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Reminder: Please do not place your trash receptacle at the curb until after 4 pm the night before your scheduled trash pick up day.

Community Outreach

EMMANUEL COMMUNITY

THRIFT STORE

Proceeds to benefit *Our Daily Bread Food Pantry*

Available items include: Gently used Clothing – Household items – Furniture

Open to the Public

Thursday – 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Friday – 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Saturday – 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

2nd Wednesday of each month – 3:00 to 5:30 PM

Donations of gently used items during hours of operation, will be greatly appreciated. We will pick-up large items (furniture) by appointment only.

For information, Contact: Earlene – 708-510-5867 or Pat – 708-476-9444

For furniture pick-up, Contact: Rich – 708-205-8624 or John-Paul – 708-328-0735

EMMANUEL CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

22515 Torrence Avenue, Sauk Village, Illinois 60411



FOOD BANK IN SAUK VILLAGE

According to a recent study by the Greater Chicago Food Depository, several southern suburbs were in the top 10 communities with the highest unmet food needs. In September, 2007 Respond Now opened a food pantry at 21701 Torrence Avenue in Sauk Village. (Behind the Police Station.) This pantry is open Tuesdays from 10am to 2pm and will serve those who meet the Agriculture Department's eligibility guidelines for getting free food. Clients must have identification that shows that they live nearby. Please see the list below of other helpful agencies serving the South Suburban area.

Hotlines

Aunt Martha's Youth Service Center 708/747-2701 (24 hour)

Bremen Youth Services 708/687-9200 (24 hour answering service)

Child Abuse Hotline 800/252-2873

Crisis Center for South Suburbia 708/429-7233 (24 hour)

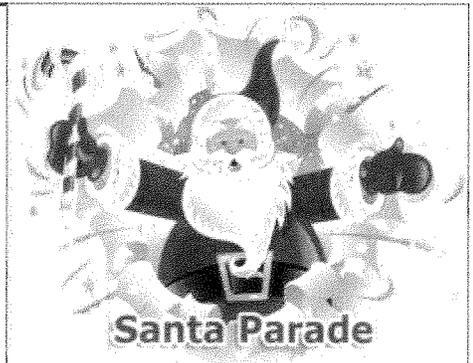
Crisis Line of Will County 708/258-3333 (24 hour)

National Runaway Switchboard 800/621-4000

South Suburban Council on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse 708/957-2854 (24 hour)

South Suburban Family Shelter 708/335-3028 (24 hour)

Watch for Santa in the Holiday Parade Dec. 1st starting at 10:00 am from the Public Works Garage. He will make his way down every street in town. He will be on south side of town until about 1 pm. Then he will be on the north side of town ending up at Parks and Recreation Center at approximately 5 pm for the Christmas Tree lighting ceremony. Afterwards, everyone is invited to go inside for a chance to sit on Santa's lap. Light refreshments will also be served. Bring your camera to take pictures.



Senior News

Rose Langston

REMINDER - Medicare part D enrollment/reenrollment ends December 7th.

The SV Senior Committee would like to thank all the donors, entertainers/line dance instructor, participates and all the volunteers who helped make our '9th Spaghetti Dinner' a huge success. Donors were: Bob Barnes, Barb Dorman and Jim Olesky/Southland Voice, Gary Holcomb, Rose Langston, Floyd and Nadine Morgan, Delores Randall, Beverly Sterrett, Steger Memorial Chapel, Debbie Williams, and US Bank. Entertainment/line dance instructor: The Country Review Band and The Morgan's/Flora Haynes, instructor. Volunteers: Tom Hasse, Nadine Morgan, US Bank (Belinda Dekruiff, Barbara Monk, Alicia, Dolores, Donna and Tatshia), Debbie Williams and Beth Zupon. Chef Gary Holcomb with the US Bank volunteers did a terrific job serving the crowd. Congratulations to our 50/50 winner Mary Lustro and painted pumpkin winner Jennie Rameriz plus our many, many special raffle and door prize winners. We greatly appreciate the support of our village trustees (Derrick Burgess, David Hanks, Ed Myers, and Rosie Williams), Village Clerk Debbie Williams, and the many, many fire and police personnel. This was truly an appreciated diverse village event, thank you one and all.

The SV Senior committee's agenda to date: FREE Monday movies at 12:30 p.m. co-sponsor with McConathy Library at the library: 12/10 'Santa Claus 1'; 1/14/2013 (with lunch preceding the movie, reservation required 708-757-4771) 'North To Alaska'; FREE Blood Pressure Screening co-sponsor with P.L.A.N. at the Senior Center office – Wed., 11/14, 11/28, Mon. (change due to Village Hall closed on Wed. - use east entrance), 12/17, 1/7, from 1:00 until 2:00 p.m. Blood Pressure Screening also precedes the Monday movies at the McConathy Library. FREE basic computer classes 6:00 p.m. Thurs., 11/15, 12/6, 12/20, 1/10/13, 1/24/13, and 1:00 p.m. Fri., 11/16, 12/6, 12/20, 1/10/13, 1/24/13; and FREE Zumba Gold classes (geared for seniors) at 1 p.m. Sat., 11/16, 12/7, 12/21, 1/11/13, 1/25/13. There have been requests for crocheting and knitting classes, however, we need a volunteer to assist with this program.

Three Senior Citizens organizations meet in the Senior Center with openings for new members (seniors age 50 years plus): SV Fun Club - 2nd and 4th Sundays at 1:00 p.m. and every Sunday for their FREE (members only) basic line dance instructions at 3:00 p.m.; Senior Citizens of SV 'Sunshiners' - 1st and 3rd Mondays at 7:00 p.m. ; Leisure Timers - 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. (2:00 p.m. beginning in February), except during the month of January. Annual membership dues varies from \$10.00, \$14.00 and \$15.00 respectively.

All seniors are welcome to join in various activities/events held in the Senior Center. Sundays from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m., the SV Blue Grass provides blue grass, country western and gospel music for your dancing and/or listening pleasure. Pickers with acoustic instrument are welcome to the jam sessions. Donations are accepted to cover the cost of beverages and supplies. The 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, SV Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 2690 meets at 8:00 p.m. For motorcyclists the BMW Cross Roads No. 55 meets every 3rd Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. The Ceramics Group meets every Wednesday from 8:00 to 11:30 a.m.

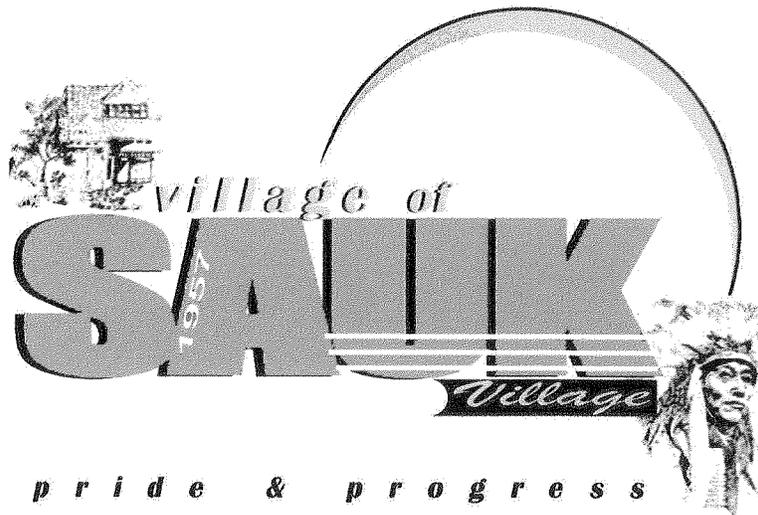
Thank you to the many book donors (recently Jennie Rameriz and Jim Schultz) to our book exchange program. We are overwhelmed with donations - only paperback and large print book donations will be accepted. Please, please no more donations of hard covered books, space is limited.

Bloom Township dates for the Senior Community Luncheon at Glenwoodie Golf Club (708-758-1212), 19301 State St., Glenwood are: 'A Cornucopia of Thanksgiving' on Thurs., 11/15; 'Tis the Season' on Tue., 12/18; 'HAPPY New Year 2013' on Tue., 1/22; 'Happy Valentine's Day' on Thurs., 2/14; 'Step into Spring' on Wed., 3/20; and 'Remember When' on Tue., 4/16. Ticket purchase at the township senior office, 425 S. Halsted, Chicago Heights - \$4 for township seniors and \$8 for out of township seniors. Deadline to purchase tickets is always the Friday prior to the day of the lunch. The sit down luncheon includes entertainment and door prizes. Recipes are being collected for the printing of second cookbook this winter – please include your name and town on the recipe(s). The first cookbook is available for \$5.00 with proceeds to benefit the township's food pantry. Appointments for enrollment for Medicare part D are require, call 708-754-9400 x244. A new program "Dancing With The Seniors" are for amateur couples 55 or older. Sign up today and receive a free. Finalists will receive a complimentary dinner that night and perform before a live audience on Thursday, January 24, 2013. Call 708-754-9400 x247 for detailed information.

FYI – During extreme cold weather, Sauk Village have available several warming locations (municipal building 21801 Torrence Ave. M-T and Th-F during business hours, Fire Station 1804 222nd Pl. 6:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. (708) 758-2225, and Police Station 21701 Torrence Avenue 24 hours (708) 758-1331).

The Senior Committee meets every second Thursday at 5:00 p.m. in the Senior Center. Concerns and/or questions, call (708) 758-3330 and leave a brief message for a call back as time permits.

We, the Committee (Bob Barnes, Gary Holcomb, Rose Langston, Floyd Morgan, Delores Randall, Beverly Sterrett, Larry Stewart, and Frank Williams) wish everyone a very Happy Holidays (Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and a very Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year)!



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