

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

Public Relations News Senior Committee News
Police News Fire Department News
Human Relations Water Referendum
Public Works Parks and Recreation

Issue 61
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IX

SAUK VILLAGE ADDRESSES THE WATER ISSUE

Sauk Talk

The Village of Sauk Village continues to work with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) and the Illinois Attorney General’s Office regarding implementing a corrective action plan to remove all contaminants from the Village’s water supply. The Village’s engineering firm, Robinson Engineering, has developed an action plan that was submitted to the Village of Sauk Village and the IEPA at the end of October. In the interim, the Village is continuing to monitor and test its water supply to ensure that its residents are provided with water that is safe for consumption. The water supply provided by Wells 1 and 2 is sampled and tested four times per year. The finished sampling results for Wells 1 and 2 have been significantly below the IEPA’s permissible maximum contamination level. The most recent sampling results showed a decrease in the level of contamination. These sampling results are encouraging and confirm that the water supplied by Wells 1 and 2 is safe for consumption. However, these positive results have not deterred the Village from diligently working with Robinson Engineering and the IEPA to implement a corrective action plan that will remove all contaminants from the Village’s water supply. The Village’s ultimate goal is to implement a plan that will ensure the highest quality of water for its residents for the foreseeable future.

A Special Meeting was held on November 5, 2011 to provide residents with an update on the Sauk Village water system and the action plan for treating the wells or obtaining Lake Michigan water. Robinson Engineering provided a water improvement plan at the request of the Sauk Village board. Village Engineer Jim Czarnik stated that in addition to common problems with the well water, such as bad odor, taste, scaling and corrosion, there was vinyl chloride detected in well number three in 2009. As a result, well number three was shut down in 2009 leaving the Village to rely on wells one and two. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and the Attorney General’s office are requiring that Sauk Village come up with a solution. Wells one and two recently had vinyl chloride detected in them but the levels were not unsafe.

Mr. Czarnik provided several options including air stripping, a new treatment plant with reverse osmosis, and obtaining Lake Michigan water. The costs, operations and time frames of each were explained in detail including the costs of receiving Lake Michigan water from an adjacent community such as Hammond, Chicago Heights, Lynwood, South Chicago Heights or Dyer.

Continued on Page 2

News from the Village Clerk

Debbie Williams

Happy New Year! There are a lot of new and exciting things on the horizon for the New Year! In this month’s edition of the Sauk Talk there is information about how residents can pay their water bill on line or by phone with a small convenience fee paid to the servicer. Other projects under consideration are updating the Sauk Village

Municipal Code book, Safeguard Property Maintenance to help identify and work with banks or owners of vacant properties and updated Village calendars, agendas, minutes and ordinances on the village website. The March 20th election will include a binding referendum question. If a majority of the voters vote in favor of the referendum the Village must

pursue Lake Michigan as a permanent solution and the Village wells will be capped. Check out www.saukvillage.org for additional information as it becomes available. Voter’s registration and polling place information is available at the Village Clerk’s office and the McConathy Public Library.



Sauk Village Water Issue Continued from page 1

The Village of Sauk Village will chose between one of the two options listed below.

Option # 1- Safe and sufficient water supply with the same water quality. Construct vinyl chloride treatment plants at both well sites. Low interest loan funding can be secured. Completion Summer 2014. **Cost: \$ 4.6 million**

Option #2- Safe and sufficient water supply with improved water quality.

Phase 1- Need a stop gap measure- An emergency connection from South Chicago Heights is needed to temporarily receive Lake Michigan water to eliminate water shortage; funding to be provided by the village. Completion Spring 2013. **Cost: \$400,000.00**

Phase 2- Move forward to establish a permanent connection with Chicago Heights. Low interest loan funding can be secured. Completion Winter 2016. **Cost: \$19.7 million**

The IEPA is expecting a quick decision from the board regarding steps being taken towards compliance. IEPA low interest loan funding is available at 2.5% for the first 10 million dollars. The remaining funds will have to come from the bond market at approximately 5% interest.

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) mandates the cost comparison as a first step to apply for an allocation of Lake Michigan water. The IDNR will only approve a Lake Michigan water allocation if the cost of delivering Lake Michigan water is less than the cost of treatment of the locally sourced water.

Mayor Towers stated that in order to bring Lake Michigan water to Sauk Village it would have to appear as a referendum on the March 2012 ballot for residents to make the decision by a majority vote.

A binding public question shall be submitted to the voters of the Village of Sauk Village, Cook and Will Counties, State of Illinois at the March 20, 2012 general primary election as follows:

<p>Shall the Village of Sauk Village upgrade its municipal water system to provide Lake Michigan water and abandon all current wells for an estimated cost of Nineteen Million Seven Hundred Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$19,700,000), which will increase your water rate by an estimated \$6.87 per 1,000 gallons of water use and will increase your monthly water bill by approximately \$73.00 per month for an average household?</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
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To be included on the ballot: For example, a current water bill of \$141 every other month will now be \$287 (\$141 + \$146 = \$287). The project is expected to be completed by December 2016.

(Sauk Village water bills are bi-monthly.)

The date of the next Special Meeting to discuss the water issue has not yet been determined. Check out the website, village marquee and postings at the Municipal Center and the Mc Conathy Public Library for future information. **The entire water quality report is available on the Sauk Village web site www.saukville.org.**

IF THE REFERENDUM QUESTION IS NOT APPROVED BY THE VOTERS THE VILLAGE WILL PROCEED WITH OPTION #1 AT COST OF \$4.6 MILLIONS DOLLARS.

Public Relations— Trustee Rosie Williams

We are doing many fun and exciting things in the Public Relations committee. Every year at this time, we begin planning for our annual Student Government Day event. Letters have been distributed to schools in order to inform them of this year's topic "What improvements would you make to Sauk Village?" All 8th grade students are encouraged to participate even if they are not enrolled in Sauk Village schools. Packets can be picked up at the Village Hall by January 20th to be returned by February 24th. As a committee, we are very much looking forward to hearing the responses. We have also started to fund-raise for this and other events. Our first fundraising event of the season will be a casino trip to Four Winds. Please refer to the details below and we hope to see you there!!!

Four Winds Casino - February 20, 2012

Bus leaves promptly from the Village Hall at 9:30 am and returns to the Village Hall at approximately at 3:30 pm
The cost of \$35.00 includes a \$10.00 lunch credit, \$15.00 in slot play and roundtrip bus transportation.)

For more information and registration please contact Trustee Williams at 708/753-5121

Due to budgetary restraints the Sauk Talk is no longer mailed to residents. The Sauk Village Public Relations Committee continues to produce a bi-monthly Sauk Talk that is available at the Village Hall, Library, Village website and a limited amount of businesses. An exemption has been made in this case due to the content.



Senior Committee

Rose Langston



The three Senior Citizens organizations meet (SV Fun Club meets on the 2nd and 4th Sundays at 1:00 p.m., Senior Citizens of SV on the 1st and 3rd Mondays at 7:00 p.m. and Leisure Timers on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.) in the Senior Center. Seniors, age 50 years plus are welcome to join. Seniors may visit two times prior to joining. Annual dues vary from \$10.00, \$13.00 and \$15.00 respectively.

Seniors are welcome to join in other activities/events held in the Senior Center. Every Sunday evening 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. A free will donation is accepted to cover the cost of beverages and supplies. On the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, the SV Veterans of Foreign Wars meets at 8:00 p.m. For motorcyclists the BMW Cross Roads No. 55 meets every 3rd Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. Every Wednesday from 8:00 to 11:30 a.m.. the Ceramics Group meets.

The SV Senior committee's agenda to date for 2012:

Monday 1:00 p.m. movies co-sponsor with McConathy Library at the library;

January 9th Morning Glory, February 13th Raising Arizona,

March 12th 'Quite Man' following 12:00 p.m. luncheon requiring reservations - call 708-757-4771

April 9th African King, Saturday

Quarterly events:

March 24th Chili Cook-off, May 12th Senior Craft Show, October 13th 9th Senior Spaghetti Dinner



FREE Blood Pressure Screening co-sponsor with P.L.A.N. held in the Senior Center office (use east entrance) on Wednesdays January 11th, 25th, February 8th and 22nd. Additional screenings are also held preceding the Monday movies at the McConathy Library. This FREE program is open to all Sauk Village residents (not just seniors) and employees.

The Paperback exchange program is going well. Thank you Nancy Baker for your recent donations. We are working on securing a bookcase to accommodate all the paperbacks on hand.

We are working on providing a very basic computer program for awareness and to introduce seniors who need some assistance. The committee would greatly appreciate responses to our survey to provide additional activities/programs you (seniors) are interested in participating. For concerns and/or questions, you may call (708) 758-3330 and leave a brief message for a call back as time permits.

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 Pat – 708-476-9444

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

EMMANUEL CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

22515 Torrence Avenue, Sauk Village, Illinois 60411



Fire Department News

Deputy Fire Chief Rich Atwood



Hopefully it was a safe and happy holiday season for all. To end out the year, the Sauk Village Fire Department once again hosted “Pancakes with Santa” on December 4. Well over 100 people attended to enjoy all you can eat pancakes and to get their picture taken with the jolly man himself.

At the risk of sounding like a broken record, before the end of the year, SVFD responded to TWO house fires that resulted in thousands of dollars in damage- each. Both fires came as weather was turning cold, and were a direct result of space heaters being used improperly. The first one was a kerosene heater that wasn’t even supposed to be used in the house. These small kerosene heaters emit fumes and put out an intensely hot plume- hence the term “torpedo heater”. They’re great in the garage when used safely, but not in the house!

The second fire resulted from an electric space heater that was placed within two feet of a bed. The rule of thumb is three feet, and for good reason. The space heater was also left unattended. If you’re not going to be home, turn your heaters off. Fortunately, in either case nobody was hurt. Please, if you must use space heaters, follow the manufacturer’s recommendations and use them appropriately.

In other news, the marquee in front of the fire station recently posted “Hug your kids at home, but belt them in the car.” We did get a lot of positive feedback from that catchy jingle. As a reminder, at this time, the Sauk Village Fire Department and Police Department DO NOT have certified car seat technicians- meaning, we cannot legally be liable to help you install your child’s safety car seat, nor check it for proper installation. As a father myself, I know those car seat instructions look like a manual on building a space shuttle, but really- the manufacturer’s instructions are your best resource. Do take the time to read them and make sure your children are safe in the car.

In the last edition of the Sauk Talk, I mentioned that SVFD was able to bring on four new members thanks to a federal FEMA grant. This grant covers the costly pre-employment physical and will be used to send our recruits to a Fire Training Academy. These new recruits are Aaron Anderson, Shannon Clark, Quinnest Daniels, and Cameron Luther. Yes- another Luther!

Cameron is following in the footsteps of his father Doug, Uncle Dave, and Grandfather Zeke. Welcome aboard recruits!

I always warn any new recruit that the first year is the most intense. Training starts immediately with learning the ropes around the fire station, figuring out all the tools and equipment, and then starting the Fire Academy. SVFD uses the Prairie State College Fire Science Program’s Basic Firefighter course. This course is sanctioned by the Office of the State Fire Marshal and does qualify the student for state certification as a Basic Firefighter. The course is a full 16 week semester and meets two nights a week and every Saturday. The course is comprised of much classroom to prepare students for the state exams, as well as much hands on learning that prepares the students for the “real world.” The Academy instructors are advanced firefighters and fire officers from many of our surrounding communities - including Sauk Village.

As you can see, our new recruits will have their hands full. If this is something that sounds interesting to you, please contact me at the fire station Monday through Friday. SVFD does not require previous fire experience. We simply ask that you be a Sauk Village resident, have a valid IL drivers license, have a high school diploma or GED, and have a clean criminal background. You will have to pass an extensive medical physical assuming you made it through the application process. Our firefighters are Paid on Call- meaning you go on about your life of work and family. When your department issued pager goes off- come to the station and be prepared for anything. We train as a department every Tuesday night from 7-10 pm. That’s an important part of being a firefighter too. Your training never really ends.

So, call me at 708-758-2225, or stop by the fire station at 1804 222nd Street. If you have it in your heart to do something great for your community, this is a good place to start.

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.

Beautification Committee

Marva Campbell-Pruitt

The Beautification Committee has our full year planned. We are sharing our calendar with you so that you will know just what we have planned with hopes that you will come out and participate or volunteer. Take special note of the Service Day in the Parks, the Annual Clean, Green, and Preen Week and the Hootsie Awards Nominations and Judging dates.

2012 Calendar and Work Plan

January		February	
3	Christmas Decorations	13	Beautification Committee Mtg.
9	Beautification Committee Mtg. (Discuss Fundraising Plan, Adopt-A-Spot Campaign)	20	Community Garden Mtg.
23	Community Garden Mtg.		
March		April	
12	Beautification Committee Mtg.	9	Beautification Committee (Discuss Hootsie Awards)
19	Community Garden Mtg.	16	Community Garden Mtg.

Police Alliance Committee

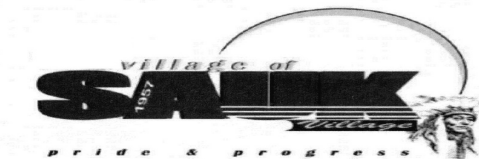
LeNarge Booker

SAUK VILLAGE POLICE ALLIANCE COMMITTEE IS SPONSORING A TOWN HALL MEETING TO GET SOME ANSWERS CONCERNING OUR VILLAGE WIDE SITUATION OF HOME INVASIONS, BREAK-INS AND OTHER CONCERNS YOU MAY HAVE.

DATE: **Saturday January 21, 2012**

TIME: 10:00am – 12:00pm (Refreshment served at 9:30am)

LOCATION: VILLAGE HALL MUNICIPAL CENTER
21801 Torrence Ave.
Sauk Village, IL 60411



WE NEED EVERYONE INVOLVED TO CONTINUE TO BE A VILLAGE WE ALL CAN BE PROUD TO CALL HOME

SERVING THE COMMUNITY IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

PAY YOUR WATER BILL ONLINE STARTING JANUARY, 2012

Payments can be made by credit card (MasterCard, VISA or Discover) or eCheck (payment from your checking or savings account). It is simple, fast and secure.

Pay online- Go to www.saukville.org and click on "Pay Bill Online"

Pay by phone at 877/885-7968 (7 days a week, 24 hours a day or by live customer service person 7 am – 6pm, Monday- Friday)

Make an immediate payment, schedule a payment or set up Auto Pay for the amount of your bill (you will receive an email reminders three days before your payment)

Note: A convenience fee of \$2.99 will be added to your payment

Payments made after 5 pm will be posted the next business day.

Human Relations Commission

Marva Campbell-Pruitt

About the Human Relations Commission

The purpose of the Commission is to promote an open community with long term population diversity and integration. The commission was established to stimulate the improvement of human relations among all persons, so as to provide all citizens with an equal opportunity to grow, participate in and share to the best of their ability in the economic, educational, political and social benefits of the community. To that end, the Human Relations Commission proposes to conduct the following activities in 2012:

Host a Voter Registration Drive

Host a Mothers' Day Tea

Host Diversity Dinners

Conduct a symposium on Race Relations

Organize an International Festival

Facilitate Training and Collaboration Between Village Officials

Update the Community Resource Booklet

Establish a Youth Council

Host a Barbecue Cook-off

Commissioners: Steve Blom, Marva Campbell-Pruitt, Kimberly Johnson-Evans, David Hanks, Evelyn Sterling, Linda Todd and Frank Williams



Special Note: A Deputy Registrars Training is being planned for those interested in becoming certified to conduct Voter Registration. The training will be scheduled during the first week of February. The Cook County Clerk's office must verify the voter registration of anyone planning to become a deputy registrar. Interested??? Send a note to HRCommission@yahoo.com with your name and address.

We Salute Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. has been deceased longer than he had a chance to live. But what an extraordinary life he had.

January 16, 2012

At 33, he was pushing the case for civil rights with President Kennedy. At 34, he galvanized the nation with his, much renowned, I Have a Dream speech. At 35, he won the Nobel Peace Prize. At 39, he was assassinated, but he left a legacy of hope and inspiration that continues today.

Blossoms Program

Mary Beth Peach

The BLOSSOMS Family Enrichment Program at Wagoner school will provide screenings for infants and toddlers on Thursday, January 26. The screenings will cover hearing, vision, and social/emotional development for children between birth and three years old. Call 758-0319 for an appointment.

Parks and Recreation

Trustee Robert Chavez

Community Center membership cards are on sale until January 30, 2012. Membership prices are age 17 and under \$10.00, 18 and over \$20.00 for one full year. For non-residents there is an extra \$5.00 fee. A \$3.00 late fee will be charged after January 30th for memberships.

Registration for boxing lessons at the Community Center starts on January 11, 2012. The fee is \$30.00 per month or \$75.00 for 3 months if paid in advance.

Basketball season is starting up soon. Registration starts on February 1, 2012 at the Community Center gym after 5:00pm.

If you would like to try the gym or boxing there is a \$3.00 per day fee.

For more information on the activities listed or if any business or individuals are interested in sponsoring please call 708-932-9900.



PUBLIC WORKS SNOW REMOVAL

Kevin Weller

The Public Works Department salts and plows the village streets, village ordinance states **No parking on village streets after 2" snow or till 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.

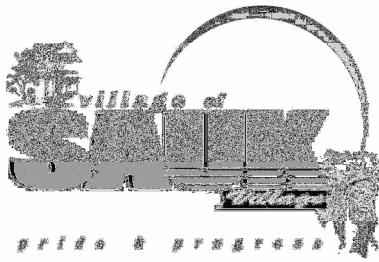
The highest priority of the Public Works plow drivers must be to make the streets as safe as possible for vehicle traffic and for the passage of emergency vehicles in the event they need to get to your home.

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. Best wishes for a Happy and Safe New Year from the Public Works Dept.



Just a reminder, during the holidays residents tend to have more sewer complaints, so before you spend any money on a plumber call the village to check the sanitary mains on your street . Business hours 708 758-3330—Weekends or Evenings call 708 758 1331 and someone will be dispatched.

Respectively, Sauk Village Public Works



21801 Torrence Avenue
Sauk Village, IL 60411

Bulk Rate Mail
U.S. Postage Paid
Sauk Village, IL
Permit No. 346

POSTAL CUSTOMER
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