

Sauk Village Hall

21801 Torrence Ave.

Sauk Village, IL 60411

708-758-3330

Fire Department

Blossoms

Mayor

Police Department News

Resident Survey

Senior News

Public Relations

Issue 78  
Volume  
XIII

*Mayor's Corner*

*Mayor David Hanks*

**Happy New Year**



Linda and I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year and we hope your year was as blessed as ours.

As we reflect on the last year, let's take a look at Sauk Village. We have come a long way and we continue to make improvements

We have come from an all time low in financial status by making cuts and reducing debt. This has been accomplished because we have tightened our belts as our residents have had to during difficult economic times.

The village is currently 67% through its budget year and the General Fund expenditures are at 65% of its budget which is 2% lower than anticipated for this point into the budget. Our revenues are higher than anticipated while we have only received 40% of the projected property taxes. Financial records are being recorded accurately; grants being used for their intended purpose, spending through state programs that offer municipal discounts have been implemented and utilized by all departments.

This administration has followed up with the audits to make them current so that our financial future can look brighter and we can move toward improved bond ratings. As of December 2014, Sauk Village audits are complete and submitted to the state. Sauk Village is no longer behind on completing or submitting our financial audits.

Our village business meetings, both regular and committee, have become more professionally conducted at reasonable lengths of time due to better planning and attempting to stay on topic to improve our village.

Visual improvements include the removal of the wooden signs along the entrance to our village on State property through cooperation of the businesses in our village. They were removed through appeals to those businesses and the administration working together.

*News from the Village Clerk*

*Debbie Williams*

Happy New Year! Every New Year comes with resolutions and plans for change. This year my resolution is to continue to find ways to communicate with the residents. Through the years we have enhanced the website to include agendas, minutes, ordinances and financial information and created the Sauk Village email alert system and Sauk Village Information Facebook page in

order to provide OFFICIAL information to our residents. This year I would like to include a Resident Survey on the last Page 7 of this edition of the Sauk Talk in order to attempt to bridge the "Communication Gap". Realizing that not everyone uses social media and realizing that social media is not always accurate or representative of every event or occasion; I am

seeking resident input on ways to communicate. Please note the information for this year's Village Sticker contest is included on the last page of this edition. The Village Hall will be closed on Monday, January 19<sup>th</sup> in Observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Be safe and use precaution during this extreme weather conditions!

Sauk Talk

# Mayor's article continued



Beautification committee worked with several local businesses to promote a beautiful and appealing image at several locations in our village by creating the Adopt-A-Spot program, encouraged residents who have made great strides in improving the image of their homes by continuing the Hootsie award program and acknowledging those that take pride in where they live and work.

Housing Commission and Beautification both worked together most of this past year in an effort to improve our image. The Housing Commission spent a great amount of time and effort promoting and implementing the grass mowing and debris removal at many residential homes. Both committees also with the help of the Township summer kids program accomplished much work done at our municipal buildings this summer. Beautification made improvements to some of the signage in our village.



Our local Scout Christopher Witt did a fantastic job improving our park by staining the picnic benches, gazebo and a local resident James Williams created a new sign for the park next to the community center and did a beautiful job.



This last year the Parks and Recreation committee has worked tirelessly to provide programs for children and other events and has a plan for improvements to other park areas within our village which include upgraded ball fields, new soccer field, walking paths for our local residents use and more.

The administration has made improvements in communication by initiating the email alerts for those residents who provide their email addresses. The Public Relations committee is currently working to create a new visually improved and user friendly web site and hopefully will be completed early in 2015 and can be located at [www.saukville.org](http://www.saukville.org)



The administration continues to encourage residents to bring their questions to the village hall so they can be answered or worked on by the appropriate departments. All sub committees continue to encourage residents to join in with ideas and solutions to improve relationships within our community.



This last year we negotiated the contract to improve our water and the loan to make those improvements and later worked with the Governor's office to help put our village in a better financial position. As of today well #3 is up and running thus alleviating any water shortage in the event of a substantial fire emergency. Air strippers were installed to insure safe water and improvements to filtration has improved many water issues. Work continues to improve the water infrastructure and decrease water loss so that we may someday be at an acceptable level for application for Lake Michigan water.

Still much work needs to be done in some areas where a second water line needs to be installed to insure water availability and to improve looping so that some lines do not become stagnant. The administration continues to work with residents to bring their bills for services up to date and to bring current any outstanding penalties for non compliance with ordinances.

In the last two years streets have been repaired as funds became available, street lights and fire hydrants repaired or replaced and recently Sauk Village received a grant to make further improvements to street lighting throughout the entire village. The administration has worked diligently to address the areas that were neglected over the years.



# Mayor's Article Continued

Below are the streets repaired in 2013 and 2014 and the streets to be repaired in 2015.

2013		
Street	From	To
223rd Street	Nichols Ave	Murphy Ave.
215th Place	Peterson Ave	Jeffery Ave
Lusilla Ct	221st Street	221st Street
225st Ct	Theisen Ave	Theisen Ave
Merrill Ct	216st Street	216st Street
223rd Place Ct	Yates Ave	Yates Ave
Water Main Repair Restoration	Various	Various

2014		
Street	From	To
Jeffery Ave	Sauk Trail	217th Place
Peterson Ave	215th Place	Constance Ave
Stret Patching	Various	Various

2015		
Street	From	To
216th Street	216th Place	Jeffery Ave
Constance Ave	Peterson Ave	Peterson Ave
225th Street	Yates Ave	Jeffery Ave
223rd Place	Chappel Ave	Clyde Ave
216th Ct	Merrill Ave	Cul-de-sac

Our Police Department is working tirelessly to improve safety concerns within our village and added officer Falco to assist them in their efforts. The department will continue their work as well as taking advantage of events in which they can get to know the law abiding citizens as well as they know the criminals camping in town.

The administration, police and neighborhood watch has worked to insure that inappropriate behavior will not be accepted in Sauk Village and will be reported to the police department when it occurs. We encourage safe and respectful behavior in our community.

The administration encourages the cooperation of all taxing bodies within our village to work together to promote communication and cooperation within our community. Our McConathy Library has been a generous source of donations to the children of Sauk Village and worked often with the administration to insure efforts for the children including the community garden for all to enjoy and take part in.

The School board has worked to improve communication to promote programs for the children of Sauk Village by sharing information on their projects as well as sharing village projects with the families of Sauk Village. All three taxing bodies realize that everyone in Sauk Village does not have a computer and that communication reaching every family will require working together and sharing information.



Yes there is still much work to be done but the current atmosphere of cooperating and an open door policy to share will improve understanding for all. Can everything you desire be provided by our village? No, we are not financially able to provide all that people wish but the door is open and the administration is willing to listen and share ideas and solutions with all those who take the extra effort to step through the door and communicate.

Most importantly to insure forward motion is to put words into action and volunteer. In 2015 Sauk Village needs your help as we work together “Moving Sauk Village Forward”.

Mayor David A. Hanks



## Fire Department

Aaron Anderson



THE SNOW AND ICE ARE HERE.

Now that the snow is really starting to come down remember to take caution when driving and walking around, not all ice is visible.

PLEASE HELP AND DIG OUT ANY FIRE HYDRANT BURIED BY SNOW!

The amount of time it could take us to locate a buried hydrant, dig it out and then connect to it could make a difference as to whether we can effectively complete our task. If we have to locate a hydrant because it's buried under snow, we may never find it depending on how tall the snow is. For us to dig out a hydrant takes time and manpower away from the fire.

We would like to welcome Eric Luther to the fire department. We know he will make an excellent addition to the fire department. Eric will be adding to a long line of Luther's to grace the walls of the Sauk Village Fire Department. Starting with Eric's grandfather Retired Asst. Chief Zeke Luther, Eric's uncle David Luther, Eric's father Douglas Luther, and Eric's two brothers Kevin and Cameron.

Continue to check your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Make sure to replace the batteries when daylight savings time changes or every six months, they can go bad. Never be afraid to call the fire department because it is better to be safe than sorry.

SAVE THE DATE!!!!!!

The Fire Department will be hosting a chili cook-off sometime in the future so get those recipes together and standby for more details.

For any additional information on any of the above events find us on Facebook at "Sauk Village Fire Department". The page is regularly updated with useful information that can benefit you and your community. If you ever have any questions feel free to message the Facebook page.

The Sauk Village Fire Department is always accepting applications from men and women who want to provide a valuable service to their community while trying to live up to these demanding character traits. Getting started as a new firefighter in Sauk Village can open doors to a rewarding career too. If you are a Sauk Village resident 18 years or older, possess a valid driver's license, and are self-motivated and committed individual, we just might be what you're looking for. Applications are available at the Village Hall or the Fire Station.



## Governor Quinn Announces Major Investments for 75 Park Projects Across Illinois

### OSLAD Grants Will Support Park and Recreation Projects in 28 Counties

Last Saturday Trustee Poskin and I were present in Oak Park at the Governor's announcement of \$26 million in investments for 75 local projects across Illinois.

Sauk Village was selected for a \$205,000 grant to renovate Arrow Park through the Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) Program.

OSLAD is a state-financed grant program that provides funding assistance to local government agencies for acquisition and/or development of land for public parks and open space.

I would like to personally thank all those that helped make this grant possible.

*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 for technical support provided by Colleen Baughman. Suggestions should be directed to the Village Hall at 708-758-3330 or emailed to [sauktalk@saukvillage.org](mailto:sauktalk@saukvillage.org).

## Winter Weather Preparedness

EMA Director Art Johnson  
EMA Training Officer Shannon D'Apice

With the beginning of a new year, it is important to make sure you & your family are prepared for winter weather. Some of the most important things to remember is road, vehicle, & driving safety. If you need to use your car in winter weather, preparation is critical to ensure your safety as driving during these conditions can be hazardous. Before hitting the road, be sure to winterize your vehicle and update the emergency supply kit with the following items:

- Shovel;
- Ice scraper and small broom;
- Blanket; and
- Emergency flares.

Once your car is ready, follow The Three P's of Safe Winter Driving provided by the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety & Health Administration for safe driving in winter storms: *PREPARE* for the trip; *PROTECT* yourself; and *PREVENT* crashes on the road. Here are some tips to remember:

- Familiarize yourself with directions before you go and let others know your route and anticipated arrival time;
- Maintain a full tank of gas to prevent fuel lines from freezing;
- Slow down for winter driving conditions, regardless of the type of vehicle you drive;
- Leave plenty of room between your vehicle and others as it takes more time and distance to stop your vehicle on wet roads; and
- Do not use cruise control.

Remembering these useful & safe tips will ensure safe travels for you & your loved ones this winter season.

## Sauk Village Debt Recovery Committee

Over the holiday the "Sauk Village Debt Recovery Committee" was launched.

Thank you to Trustee Myers for volunteering to chair this new committee. The purpose of this new committee is to work with our collections agency and to expedite recovery of debt owed to the village. The committee along with Trustee Myers will consist of individuals from administration, finance, IT, legal and the collection agency.

## Blossoms News

**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.

## Senior News

Rose Langston

Now that the holiday season is over, bank statements, credit card billing statements, and MSN (Medicare Summary Notice) coming in must be checked for accuracy. Seniors known to have resources have been targeted for many frauds and/or scams, don't be a victim. Every year over 16 million people in the U.S. are victim to identity theft. The November 2014 AARP Bulletin had an excellent article on 'War on Medicare Fraud' which stated crooks steal \$60 billion of tax payers money each year. It is imperative that you do not give out any of your personal information, especially your Medicare or Social Security number, when someone makes the call or via e-mail the request. Banks, Social Security and Medicare do not call requesting your personal information, they already have the information. Be sure your MSN agrees with the services provided (check for errors or possible fraud or abuse). Call the Illinois SMP (Senior Medicare Patrol) at Age Option at 800-699-9043 for assistance in reading your MSN or to report a suspected fraud or abuse. The Justice Department's Medicare Fraud Strike Force was formed in 2007 and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services have placed a high priorities on health care fraud and Medicare fraud. To report suspected wrongdoing, call the Office of Inspector General, 800-447-8477.

The Bloom Township Community luncheon 'Aloha 2015' is on Wednesday, January 21<sup>st</sup> with ticket deadline (unless sold-out) Wednesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>. See posted flyers for details and other township events.

Jones Community Center Golden Agers 2015 annual membership dues of \$5.00 will be accepted at the Wednesday, January 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. Social hour is at 10:00 a.m. and lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. Cost for the luncheon is \$5.00, for reservation and/or information call 708-757-5395.

FREE senior citizen monthly movie days co-sponsored with McConathy Public Library at the library. Mondays at 12:30 p.m.: The monthly FREE blood pressure screening on Mondays has been suspended until further notice. The 'Silver Sneaker FLEX' continues to meet every Tuesday from 10:00-11:00 a.m. for a low cost of \$2.00 per class, no charge for Silver Sneaker members. The Village Senior Committee sponsors an Open Senior Social Activity time from 12:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays.

The three senior organizations have curtailed their meetings due to the inclement weather: resuming Sunday SV Fun Club meeting will announced, Monday Sunshiners will meet only once a month for a few months, and the Wednesday Leisure Timers will resume their meeting in February Other groups meeting in the Senior Center are: the Sauk Village Blue Grass on Sundays from 6:00 until 10:00 p.m.; BMW Crossroads No. 55 every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.; and the Ceramics Group meet every Wednesday from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m.

The Senior Committee meets every second Thursday at 5:00 p.m. in the Senior Center. For concerns and/or questions, call (708) 758-3330 and leave a brief message for a call back as time permits. Committee members are Gary Holcomb, Bob Ketcham, Rose Langston, Floyd Morgan, Delores Randall, Beverly Sterrett, Larry Stewart, and

  
**HAPPY NEW YEAR**  


# Police Department

Tim Holevis

The police department would like to wish everyone a safe and happy new year. Please be cautious when driving this winter season and watch out for the other guy.

As Chief of Police, I would like to personally welcome back Officer Joshua Morris who has returned to full duty after being injured several years ago while pursuing robbery suspects. Welcome back Officer Morris! Officer Morris will be assigned to Field Training prior to his being returned to patrol.

I have just recently been advised the Sauk Village Fire and Police Commission will be conducting testing for the position of Police Officer. The position will be advertised in local newspapers and also on several online websites from January 5<sup>th</sup> - January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Applications will become available January 6<sup>th</sup> – January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2015 between the hours of 9AM and 3PM at **Resource Management Associates, 17037 Oak Park Avenue, Tinley Park, IL. 60477. (708)444-2326.** There is a \$25 non-refundable fee for the application. A tentative date of February 14<sup>th</sup> has been set for testing. Please contact Resource Management Associates at the above listed number for further details.

## A LITTLE POLICE HUMOR

A cop stopped a drunk at about dawn.

The cop asked, "Can you explain why you're out at this hour?"

## BRIDGING THE GAP

Please take a moment to complete the following survey and return to the Village Hall in person or by fax 708/758-1634. Thanks in advance. Responses will be included in the March Sauk Talk.

Are you aware of...? (Circle one)

The Sauk Talk

village website-  
www.saukvillage .org

Sauk Village Information  
Facebook Page

Official Sauk Village  
Email Alerts

YES OR NO

YES OR NO

YES OR NO

YES OR NO

How often do you access each of the following...? (Circle One)

Very Often

Often

Occasionally

Seldom

In an emergency

Sauk Talk

5

4

3

2

1

Village website

5

4

3

2

1

Official Sauk Village Facebook  
Page

5

4

3

2

1

Sauk Village Email Alerts

5

4

3

2

1

What other ways to bridge the gap of communication would you suggest?

What information would you like to see in the Sauk Talk or on the village website, Facebook page or email alerts?

Please provide your responses on a separate piece of paper.

Respectfully,

Village Clerk Debbie Williams

## 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
ALLIED DISPOSAL	754-5460		

**VISIT US ON THE WEB:  
WWW.SAUKVILLAGE.ORG**

Sauk Village Public Relations Committee

2015 Village Sticker Design Competition

**DEADLINE TO SUBMIT: January 30, 2015 at 10:00 A.M.**

### Rules

Markers are preferred. Crayons may be used if you press hard on the crayons.

Drawing only---NO WORDS

Drawing MUST FIT within the space provided. DO NOT draw outside the lines!

Open to students living in Sauk Village in grades three through seven only. (Ages 8-12)

Prizes will be awarded. The First Prize drawing will appear on the 2015 Village Sticker.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Drawing Dimensions should not exceed 6"x 6"