



*Sauk Village's Original Community Newspaper*

# THE SAUK VILLAGER

*A Community News Service for the 21st Century*

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2011



## MAN OF THE YEAR

By Joseph Wiszowaty

**SAUK VILLAGE** | This was a very tough pick and a lot of thought went into this year's *the SAUK VILLAGER'S 2011 Man of the Year* which goes to Village Trustee Robert Chavez.

Chavez's Community Center Director, Cortez Stewart deserves an honorable mention for volunteering his time and his talent to running the Community Center, without pay over this last year.

Chavez was thrown into the deep end of the pool this year as he was elected to office as the first Hispanic/Latino man elected to public office in Sauk Village's history, beating out an incumbent by nearly a 3 to 1 margin, which was not an easy feat for anyone.

Chavez serves as Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Committee and has been trying to rebuild the committee and the programs left in shambles after Trustee Enoch Benson was removed from the Committee.

Chavez is passionate about the Village and takes his responsibilities without regard to politics but what is right for the community.

"I was elected to do a job and that's what I will do for however long I'm here" Chavez said. "One person does not runs this Village, this is our Village" Chavez said on his election night.

Congratulations to Robert Chavez you've had a historic and fantastic year. Thank you for all that you do for the Village.



**THE SAUK VILLAGER  
2011 MAN OF THE YEAR  
Village Trustee Robert Chavez**

## 2011—YEAR IN REVIEW

By Joseph Wiszowaty

**SAUK VILLAGE** | Getting back on their feet, kind of in 2011. In 2009, Mayor Lewis Towers went on national television and said "we're bankrupt". 2011, saw Sauk Village's political power shift, ever so slightly and the village began to get back to some sense of normal. But normal for Sauk Village these days is not what it use to be, it's Chicago style Politics ala-Lewis Towers.

February began with a bang! The Blizzard of 2011 took hold on Sauk Village and the Midwest. The Village battled water main breaks during the height of the storm in addition to a shortage of man power but still managed to keep the roads open and cleared as the snow piled up. Officially the storm dumped 20 inches of snow on Sauk Village.

(SEE 2011-Continued on page 7)



*VICTORY! The People's Voice Candidates celebrate on April 12th one of the largest victories ever received by Village Trustee candidates winning nearly 3 to 1 over the candidates supported by Mayor Lewis Towers. The election was a complete repudiation of the administration of Lewis Towers.*



**2012—Don't Drink and Drive—2012**



*The Streets of Heaven are full of Angels*



We will never forget you...

OBITUARIES

RONALD CUDDIGAN

SOUTH CHICAGO HEIGHTS| Ronald Cuddigan, passed away Tuesday, December 27th, 2011 in his home in South Chicago Heights. Cuddigan lived in Sauk Village on 218th Street from 1971-1980 then moved to the other side of the Village on 225th Street from 1980-1990 when we moved to South Chicago Heights.

For a while he was active in trying to keep the village a great place to live and his efforts are not forgotten.

Services were Thursday December 29th from 3-9 at Panozzo Brothers Funeral Home, 530 W 14th Pl., Chicago



Heights

Funeral service are Friday December 30th at 10am with interment at Assumption Cemetery in Glenwood

LOUIS J. LEVESQUE

Levesque, Louis J. Age 70, late of Douds, Iowa, formerly of Sauk Village IL, born in Schaffer, MI. Passed away on December 25, 2011. He is survived by his sons Louis (Joan) of Grant Park, IL, Mark of Sauk Village, IL and Travis of Glen Ellen, IL, granddaughters Emma and Eleanore. Sisters, Mildred (B. Denny) of Escanaba, MI, Rose (Bob) Ketcham of Sauk Village, Christine (Tim) Turner of Sauk Village. Brothers Paul

(Doris) Levesque of Escanaba, MI, Don (Judy) Levesque of New Concord, KY, former wife Earlene Levesque of Sauk Village, one aunt, Lucille Kester and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins. Preceeded in death by his father, Paul Levesque in 1975, mother, Eileen Thillman Levesque in 1994, brother, Robert Levesque in

1999 and nephew Richard Ketcham in 1999. Mr. Levesque was a veteran of the US Army. A memorial service will be held at Emmanuel Christian Reformed Church. 22515 Torrence Ave. Sauk Village, IL on Thursday December 29th at 4 PM. Arrangements by Fagen-Miller Funeral Home, Dyer



Support your  
Local  
Hardware Store  
1701 Sauk Trail  
Sauk Village



Breakfast starting at  
\$4.99  
Support your  
local businesses!

Happy New Year  
from the Staff at the  
McConathy Public Library

SUPPORT THE LIBRARY! Read to your kids  
The future belongs to them...

# Update on Murders

By Joseph Wiszowaty  
SAUK VILLAGE | On December 6th two young men were killed in a house at 22642 Brookwood and the killer or killers remain at large. The controversial Temporary Police Chief Robert Fox has said virtually nothing about the murders, except very recently.

In the only public statement since assuming the role of "temporary" police chief Fox has finally broken his silence with respect to the murders which occurred. His report to the Village Board:

Acknowledging the murders in 1 sentence "2 homicides hopefully charges will be filed soon" Fox said. This was the first time Fox or any police personnel have actually acknowledge that anything even occurred. All information with respect to the murders on Brookwood have come from other sources, not the temporary Police Chief.

A request was made on December 12th in accordance with the

Freedom of Information Act which stated the following:

*This is a formal request pursuant to 5 ILCS 140/1 Ch.116 of the Illinois Freedom of Information Act. In the interest of the media, I would like to know the identity or identities, ages, and addresses of any suspects detained or arrested in conjunction with the murders of the two individuals which occurred last week and discovered at 22642 Brookwood, Sauk Village, IL 60411. If there have been charges filed or if there are charges pending, what charges were filed or are pending and if there are any other suspects who have not been arrested at this time and if the investigation is ongoing. Also pursuant to said act, I would like to know who was conducting said investigation into the murders at 22642 Brookwood, if there were any other outside agencies involved in the investigation.*

*What is it the policy of the Sauk Village Police Department with respect to reporting criminal activity within the Village and keeping residents informed as to what is going on.*

To date the request has not been answered.

Through the same Freedom of Information Act request the following information was provided:

There are currently 22 sworn police officers plus a temporary police chief. Of these numbers there are 5 sergeants, 15 patrol officers, 2 detectives.

On Thursday, December 29th, a call to Mr. Fox was made following three separate calls being made from Mr. Fox's cell phone to us, however he did not leave a message. Fox advised me that he had met with the Cook County States Attorney and hopes "charges will be filed soon". Since the matter is under investigation he could not respond to my FOIA request.

Mr. Fox also did not comment on the department's policy or any other matters not under in-

vestigation involving the murders. He did say that they will make a statement once the investigation is concluded.

The two men murdered at 22642 Brookwood were identified by the Cook County Coroner as Marcus Mireles, 19 and Abel Galindo, 18 both of Lansing, Illinois. The men were found dead while the owner of the home was showing it to potential buyers.



Follow us  
on  
Facebook  
And stay

"in the know"

SAUK VILLAGE,  
ILLINOIS



# The Sauk Villager

**Publisher—** The Sauk Villager  
**Chief Editor:** Joseph Wiszowaty  
**Email:** saukvillager@yahoo.com  
**Phone:** 219-440-4487

*Editorials welcome 200 words or less subject to editorial review.  
News, photos and stories may be shared with the Southland Voice Newspapers*

## 2012 -What’s Ahead for Sauk Village

.EDITORIAL

By Joseph Wiszowaty

As we begin 2012 I want to wish everyone a very Happy and Safe New Year!

Be on the look out for some who would exploit the Village’s Tow Ordinance in 2012!

I would hate to think that some would use such a tool as a political punishment, but we’ll see where that’s going so stay tuned. Expect some court challenges.

With so many break-ins to peoples homes, the Village administration of Lewis Towers appears to be bogged down in his political quagmire, he doesn’t appear to want to work on addressing crime in Sauk Village, only “talking about it” and not doing anything about it. Talk is cheap Mr. Mayor, how about a solution to the problem— MORE COPS!

Yes the Village is down a total of 5 cops since Lewis Towers has come to office and

he’s offered no solutions to the problem. Seems like you got your work cut out Louie.

2012 will bring a question to the people. Do you want to pay double for Lake Michigan water? If you decide you’re not wanting to pay that much, well the Mayor has another alternative it’s called Air Stripping and it will only cost you about \$10 more per month not \$74. Hmm seems like a no brainer to me. Buy a water softener and your own personal reverse osmosis system and you won’t need to pay all the cost for Lake Michigan’s nasty water.

We’ll be taking a closer look at Henrietta Turner and see how things are going with her as the Village’s new Village Manager.

Also, the whole Robert Fox temporary appointment thing isn’t settled, just yet. No lawsuit has been filed against the village by the mayor at least not yet— might have all been bark and no bite!

OH and election season will be coming up in 2012, not just the presidential election

but the Village’s election process will begin in 2012. You’ll have to hang around until 2013 to see who wins, but it will be in full swing by fall.

It’s going to be an exciting year and you’ll get to read all about it right here! Stay tuned Sauk Village, hope is on the way!

A more immediate problem brewing is how are you going to pay your “temporary police chief” Mr. Towers? Certainly you have a plan and just aren't telling anyone, including your very own Board of Trustees. Well, I’m sure we’ll hear more about this sooner rather than later won’t we?

I wish each and everyone a SAFE New Year. Please be responsible don’t drink and drive you might not only kill someone but you might just get your car towed too!

***HAPPY NEW YEAR SAUK VIL-  
LAGE! It’s been a GREAT YEAR!***

# Support Your Hometown FIRST!



Support your local Grocery Store

## Fairway



# 2011 in Pictures





**(2011** *Continued from page 1*)

In March the body of Robert Broadway was found at the Marathon station, the victim of what the Cook County Coroner rules an apparent suicide. Broadway's friends think otherwise. A fundraiser was held at the Moose Lodge for Robert's family.

The political campaign was in full swing in March when the Village Trustee candidates Francine Anderson, Lynda Washington and Darrick Thompson walked out of the candidates forum. We saw witnessed the Student Government Day that wasn't because of political posturing of Mayor Lewis Towers who did not want a resolution for the Lake Michigan Water Referendum to move forward.

In April Sauk Village saw a his-



toric election of the first Hispanic/Latino man to the Village Board as Robert Chavez beat out incumbent Trustee Anderson by nearly a 3 to 1 margin. History was made with David Hanks winning a 4th term to the Village Board, also re-elected was Trustee Derrick Burgess who was the top vote getter.

In May the political shift in power was well underway at Village Hall, but some didn't hear the "People's Voice" and the election as it was business as usual after the inauguration of the Trustees by Mayor Lewis Towers. Change, reconciliation and unity were not in his vocabulary.

The gavel was passed at the School Board as former President Arleta Bazile stood down as president and completed her term on the board. Suzanne Arnold was elected President of the School Board at their meeting in May. Newly elected

board members Angela Cox, Sharon Archie-Davenport and Tammy Jones were sworn in during the meeting as well.

The Village Board did away with the Stuttley Group and former Judge Michael Stuttley who resigned as Village Attorney. The mayor appointed Burton Odelson of Odelson and Sterk as the Village's attorney, the third in just over two years.

The Village Board brought back former Village Manager Richard Dieterich to sort out the mess that was left in the wake of Brunetta Corley, the mayor's former chief of staff. The Village Board hired Henrietta Turner, former City Manager of Country Club Hills for the last 16 years. Turner came to Sauk Village in the shadow of a scandal involving the administration of Country Club Hills Mayor Dwight Welch. Turner served as Welch's City manager for 16 years and was fired.

Superintendent of District 168 Schools Rudy Williams decided to retire in June, 2011 and the School Board hired his "right



hand man" Alfred Travaglini as Superintendent of Schools.

In September 12th, the former Sauk Village attorney Mark J. McCombs was sentenced to six years in prison for overbilling the south suburban Village of Calumet Park for legal work never performed. McCombs served Sauk Village as an associate attorney for Wildman, Harold, Allen and Dixon from the late 1980s through

the administrations of Edward Paesel, Mark Collins and Roger Peckham.

Also in September, The annual Corn and Dog Roast Festival was a resounding success thanks to the hard efforts of the Parks and Recreation Committee and some dedicated volunteers in spite of some fog that cleared and brought a wonderful day.



About 250 people showed up for the event which included some excellent corn, hot dogs and refreshments. "We weren't wanting to make a lot of money, the idea and concept for the Corn and Dog Roast was a way of giving something back to the Village and we wanted to return to that tradition" Village Trustee Robert Chavez said.

September also saw Village Trustee Derrick Burgess and his Economic Development Committee began work on the village's first Community Development Plan. "We can no longer wander through the wilderness, Sauk Village is at the crossroads of a Global Market. We must be prepared for an economic rebound including such projects as the Third Airport and Illiana Expressway which spur economic development and opportunity. We need a plan in place to move Sauk Village forward" Burgess said.

In October, the School District 168 Board of Education ratified a three year agreement which will keep Alfred "Al" Travaglini at the helm. Travaglini, who served as Assistant Superintendent of Schools

for District 168, replaced former Superintendent Dr. Rudy Williams following his retirement this past June.

Also in October, the Hook Up, located at 2583 Sauk Trail in Sauk Village which had legitimately sold mobile telephones was where the two employees hatched a scheme to purchase stolen property from group of local youths.

Two adults were charged, Abraham Adbegader, age 23 from Tinley Park and Yacoub Abdallah, age 23 from Midlothian the store was closed by the Mayor and Village Board following a hearing in November.

Timothy Holevis, who has served on the Sauk Village Police Department for over 25 years and has served as Police Chief for 17 months without a contract was told to "stand down" and given virtually no



notice to do so. As the Village Board approved an ordinance limiting the term of temporary appointments to "no more than two 30 day appointments in a calendar year". The mayor vetoed the ordinance, and the village board overrode his veto. At the same meeting, Towers made a temporary appointment, without the approval of the Village Board, of Robert Fox the controversial former Police Chief of Dolton.

Fox is not getting paid for his services and was told he would not before he was appointed. The temporary appointment of Fox expires January 21st barring some court action.



# Head Librarian-Nanette Wargo

*This is a sixth in a series of articles which will feature people and officials from Sauk Village. We continue the series with former Library President and Head Librarian- Nanette Wargo*

**By Joseph Wiszowaty**  
SAUK VILLAGE | For over the last 30 years in which Nanette Wargo has in one way or another been a part of the Library District she has worked tirelessly for the betterment of the library district.



Wargo was born in Terre Haute, Indiana she moved to Gary, Indiana where she graduated from Emerson High School. Wargo received a Bachelors and Masters degree in Education from Indiana University.

After graduating from Indiana University Wargo could have easily went and worked in a more affluent area, however, Wargo decided to give back to her own community and taught in the Gary Public School system where her leadership talents were realized early on. Wargo was a union representative for Local #4 Gary Teachers Union.

Wargo is married to Michael Wargo they have 2 children

Nanette and Michael, both of whom attended School District 168 and Bloom Trail and received a topnotch education. Wargo recently became a grandmother to Lenora.

Wargo’s history with the library goes back many years. “I was ‘one of those parents’ – you know, the ones that didn’t like some of the Sauk Village Public Library policies that wouldn’t let my 4-year old daughter participate in the Summer reading program because she was ‘too young to be able to read’” Wargo said. “Aggravated, I ran for the Library Board in 1978 and was elected and actively worked to change policies that denied children participation based on age. I have continued to be a thorn in several people’s sides. I was the President of

the Library Board and Nancy McConathy was the Board Treasurer. We worked to find a new location from the house on Sauk Trail. Our love of books and all things ‘Library’ was a bond of sorts.” Wargo said.

The library has gone from a 2 bedroom home on Sauk Trail to a storefront in Surreybrook Plaza. After time and a generous gift from a former Library Patron’s wife, the library built a 10,000 square foot building on Jeffery Avenue.

“The McConathy Public Library District is small and the Library Board has been historically careful with the money. The Board sees the Library Budget as the same as the average household budget. You can only go into debt so far before you cannot possibly pay your bills.” Wargo said.

Cutting costs is something that Wargo and the Library Board feel passionately about. “If the library seems cold in the winter and warm in the summer---well, it is 80 degrees in the summer and 68 in the winter to save money. Check out the staff, they are all in sweatshirts and sweaters right now. Those breakins over the summer cost us over \$4,000.00 dollars in glass and equipment. The Board spent an additional \$3,000.00 dollars for extra security. That money meant less books were purchased. It also cut in to WI-FI improvements”

Wargo said.  
“The Board did not go to a referendum for the building and float costly bond. We make mortgage payments as many of our Village homeowners do. The Board feels that residents deserve tax breaks and not tax increases” Wargo said. In fact the library district hasn’t increased their overall tax rate in many years. “We survive on a very small slice of the property tax pie. Look at your tax bill. Many of the homes pay less than \$65.00 per year for our services” Wargo said.

The library has agreed to allow the Village’s Beautification Committee to use the back of the property for a Community Garden. “The Board is ever cognizant of the need to work with the Village and School District to better our Community” Wargo said.

So where does Wargo see the library in the next 5 to 10 years? “One can expect that programs to continue to stimulate the desire to read in our children. The Library will be alive and kicking for our residents. The library will be the cultural center it should be” Wargo said.

Wargo doesn’t sit idle and wait for the money to come rolling in to the library’s coffers, Wargo is out shaking the trees to get grant money for the district. “This year alone, grants have brought our Library District about \$42,000, it’s been a good year in terms of grants” Wargo said.

Over the last five years the library has brought in well over \$150,000 according to Wargo. “I personally enjoy the challenge of grant writing. Keep in mind our Library Budget is less than \$275,000 per year. Grants and donations help keep small taxing bodies afloat during these harsh economic times” Wargo said.