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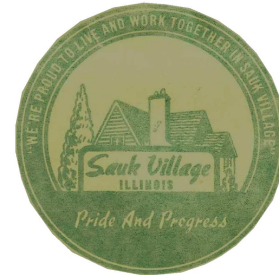
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*Sauk Village's Original Community Newspaper*

# THE SAUK VILLAGER

*A Community News Service for the 21st Century*



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2012

## TOWERS HOLDS POLITICAL RALLY AT VILLAGE HALL

**Staff Report - SAUK VILLAGE** | Mayor Lewis Towers held what some accuse him was a political rally for a "select few" candidates and not all.

Congressman Jesse Jackson, Jr. (D-IL2nd ) was in attendance and did have some brief remarks and left soon afterward. Debbie Halverson, Democratic candidate for the Illinois 2nd District was not invited to attend the Rally which Towers and some local political organization called an "open forum".

Kyle Kasperek, candidate for the 34th Illinois House District was not invited to Towers' rally either. Kasperek spent the entire day going door to door in

Sauk Village while the rally was going on. "I think we're getting some good support from the people of Sauk Village and I appreciate any support that we get" Kasperek said.

"A political rally has never been held at Village Hall before and it should not have been held there. There are other venues that Towers could have used, he certainly crossed a line when he did this at Village Hall. This is Lewis' campaign rally make no mistake" Village Trustee Derrick Burgess said. Burgess did not attend the rally and admonishes the Towers and his organization for doing so.

*(Continued on page 2- see RALLY)*



*Photo by Joseph Wiszowaty*

Sauk Village Mayor Lewis Towers (right) and Enoch Benson (left) Saturday at what was described as a political rally by other elected officials.

## Village Manager Terminated!



*Facebook Photo- Village Manager Henrietta Turner*

SAUK VILLAGE | The Village Board of Trustees held a special meeting tonight to rescind their action of laying off the po-

lice officers and instead terminated the employment agreement with Henrietta Turner effective March 13, 2012.

The employment agreement states under Section 7- "Either the Village or the Village Manager may terminate this agreement off any reason by giving 30 days written notice to the other party prior to termination with no separation compensation. The Manager may be dismissed for cause upon the Mayor or a majority of the Board of Trustees providing her with the reasons

for dismissal and an opportunity to be heard by the corporate authorities. Dismissal for cause may be accomplished in less than 30 days..."

Turner has been at the center of controversy and at odds with the Village Board over a number of issues including issuing a check to temporary Police Chief Robert Fox without the Village Board's approval or consent. Turner was suspended, with pay, following the incident as was the Village's Treasurer Genorise Carmichael at the same time.

The vote to terminate Turner was 3 to 2 with Trustees David Hanks, Robert Chavez and Edward Myers voting yes and Derrick Burgess and Rosie Williams voting no. Enoch Benson was absent and Towers indicated that the Benson felt the meeting was "illegal" as there was no 48 hour notice (Editor note- The meeting was on the Village's website and I along with other news outlets received notice via email along with each Trustee and the Mayor well within that time period).

Towers has threatened to sue the Village Board of Trustees over the termination and was going to issue an "executive order" which is not permitted under Illinois law the Village attorney Michael McGrath indicated.

The Village Board voted 5 to 0 to rescind their previous action to layoff two police officers. The officers had not as of yet been placed on layoff status.

The entire matter centers on Mayor Lewis Towers'

*(Continued from page 1- RALLY)*

Some of the candidates invited were not endorsed candidates of the Bloom Township Democratic Organization which did not sit well with some.

For many years candidates forums were held in village buildings but "all candidates had been invited to attend, not just a select few. These events were sponsored by independent and non-political organizations not the one that is supporting a ballot initiative" Burgess said.

The controversial temporary police chief Robert Fox was politicking at the event as well telling the small group of people, some who attended out of "morbid curiosity only", that they need to "get registered to vote where they live". One longtime resident said that Fox was clearly implying that some

may be registered at addresses other than Sauk Village.

littered the grounds of Village Hall after the rally.

Political misinformation was being passed out in the hallways of Village Hall along with flyers being stuffed under people's windshield wiper from a candidate Wooten which

Village Clerk Debbie Williams, who did not participate in the event but did attend to bear witness to what she called "misinformation and mis-truths".

## Richard & Sandy Dieterich Honored for Years of Service

### Staff Report

**SAUK VILLAGE** | What do you get a man who has served the people of Sauk Village for nearly 22 years a clock of course, not the keys to the Village.

leaving office he indicated that there was nobody to run the day to day operations of the Village when he was going to leave office in 1989.

back Dieterich to straighten out a mess left in the wake of Towers' former Chief of Staff Brunetta Hill-Corley.

Dieterich has seen

The entire Board of Trustees honored the

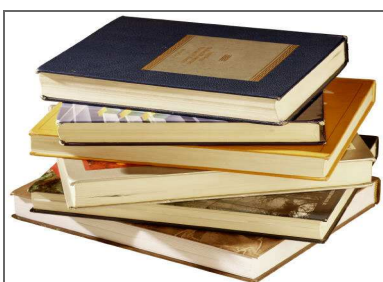


Photo by Joseph Wiszowaty  
Fire Chief Al Stoffregen presents firefighter jackets to Sandy and Richard Dieterich at a recent Village Board meeting.

Former Village Manager Richard Dieterich who was hired in 1988 by former Mayor Edward Paesel because as Paesel was

mayors and trustees come and go. He has served under Paesel, Mark Collins, Roger Peckham and Lewis Towers when the board voted to bring

Dieterichs for their service. Fire Chief Al Stoffregen presented the retirees with a firefighter's jacket with their names embroidered.



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# The Sauk Villager

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

## THANK YOU MR. DIETERICH

### Opinion Editorial

By Joseph Wiszowaty

When Richard Dieterich came to Sauk Village I was 18 years old running for office for the first time ever. He came to Sauk Village after the Village Board voted 3 to 3 and Ed Paesel voted to create the position of Village Manager.

Yes there was controversy even in 1988, but people respected each other and with the nasty name calling allowed to go on now. Paesel believed then that it was the right decision to bring in a Village Manager and now he knows it was the right decision.

After a nationwide search, and several month long process of interviews and meetings Richard Dieterich, the City Manager of McCook Nebraska, originally from Oregon moved to Sauk Village to take on the task of running the day to day operations of Sauk Village.

Shortly after getting hired, Dieterich moved to the Crossroad Apartments briefly before buying a home. Mr. Dieterich knows the community well and served without political involvement and was content not to be out on "main street" and knew

his role to be non-political.

Mr. Dieterich had always stayed above and most of all away from the political fray. He never dreamed that he would be working as manager for as long as he did serve.

When Lewis Towers walked in the door as Mayor he told Dieterich he was not needed and he hired a political hack to replace a professional and the village suffered as a result. I'm not going to expound on the debacle of Lewis Towers.

Dieterich was asked to

come back as a "consultant to the Village Board" so they could begin a process of hiring a Village Manager once again. Lewis Towers should have been begging him to come back to straighten out a mess that his friend and campaign manager left behind.

Dieterich came back because he cared about Sauk Village and wanted to make sure the Village was on sound footing once more.

Dieterich received a clock, which is nice, but he deserves a better and more lasting tribute to the more than 20 years

of serve he's given to the people of Sauk Village. I know Mr. Dieterich would disagree, but it's deserved and appropriate, but I'll leave that to the politicians.

Sandy Dieterich, Richard's wife, is also retiring this coming Friday. Sandy has worked for the Village for a number of years and will be greatly missed especially around payroll time.

I wish both of them all the happiness in the world. Godspeed and many blessings.



**New Village Manager Richard Dieterich, Village Trustees Joseph Wiszowaty and the late Al Welch— Arbor Day—April 22, 1990**



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**Sauk Village History— 1965**



*TOP- Tornado topples the Spire of St. Marks Lutheran Church on Torrence Avenue in 1965*  
*BOTTOM- Another home ravaged by the storm.*  
*Photos courtesy of Rose & Bob Ketcham*



***Diana's Day Care***

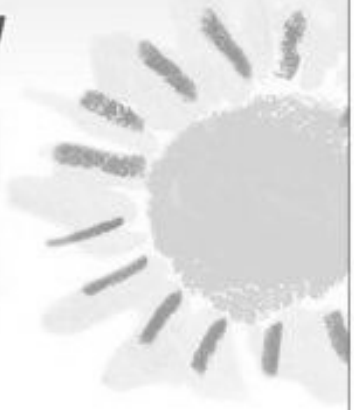
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|--------|--|---------------------------------|--|--|---|--------|
| CLOSED | 5:00PM-7:30PM Basketball 16 & under (Novice)     | 5:00PM-8:30PM <i>Family Fun</i> | 5:00PM-7:30PM Basketball 16 & under (Novice)     | 5:00PM-6:30PM Basketball 16 & under (Novice) | 5:00PM-7:30PM <i>Family Fun</i>                   | CLOSED |
|        | 7:40PM-9:30PM Basketball 17 & over (Experienced) |                                 | 7:40PM-9:30PM Basketball 17 & over (Experienced) | 6:30PM-8:30PM <i>Family Fun</i>              | 8:00PM-10:30PM Basketball 17 & over (Experienced) |        |

## SPECIAL NOTES ABOUT THE SCHEDULE

\*\*\*\*During Basketball, all Family Fun activities are still offered\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*During Family Fun, NO BASKETBALL IS OFFERED\*\*\*\*



**Family Fun** is a time that people of all ages can come and join in the fun at the Community Center. This is a time for families to come together and enjoy some recreation time with your own family, as well as others in your community. The Community Center is not just for kids. In fact, we are very open to parent involvement and open to any new ideas. Currently we offer Board Games, Cards, Bean Bags, Ladders, Crafts, and more.

**Registration for BOXING LESSONS began on January 11th at the Community Center. \$30.00 per month or \$75.00 for 3 months if paid in advance**



Sauk Village Parks & Recreation announces **BASKETBALL** Registration began on February 1st at the Community Center after 5pm



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**Edward W. Paesel Community Center**  
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*Robert Chavez, Village Trustee*  
*Chairman, Parks & Recreation Committee*

