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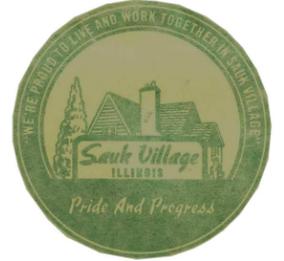
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Sauk Village's Original Community Newspaper

THE SAUK VILLAGER

A Community News Service for the 21st Century



Volume 1, Issue 14

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2012

WATER REFERENDUM— VOTE MARCH 20TH

The Choice is Yours

STAFF REPORT

SAUK VILLAGER | Village Clerk Debbie Williams announced that there will be an informational public meeting about the upcoming water referendum.

The forum will be held at Village Hall 21801 Torrecne Avenue, Sauk Village on Saturday, February 25th from 10 to 12pm.

Residents will learn how much water will cost following the referendum if the residents vote yes or no according to Williams. James Czarnik, Village Engineer of Robinson Engineering will present the information to residents according to Williams.

"I sure hope people start asking questions at board meetings or call your trustees for the facts because there is a lot of erroneous information out there. If people are looking for the correct, factual information they should attend this Saturday" Williams said.

WGN-Channel 9 television featured a segment on the up coming referendum and a resident claimed that there was "fecal matter" in the water. A claim that was completely unsubstantiated with any laboratory results.

If the Village votes "no" on the referendum, the Village will chose what

Trustee David Hanks has called the "less costly option". Installing air stripping equipment to remove the volatile organic compounds from the village's ground water is the cheapest route.

The most costly route would entail Lake Michigan water should voters vote "yes" they would likely see their bills for just water nearly triple. The cost for infrastructure improvements alone are a staggering \$19.7 million.

If the Lake Michigan water referendum does pass residents will not taste a drop of Lake Michigan water until about December
(Continued on page 4- See Water)



Illiana Expressway moves to Phase 2

Many trucks now take alternate routes in order to avoid the traffic congestion on Interstate 80/94 through southeast Cook County and into Northwest Indiana.

The Illiana Corridor Committee was formed to create a route that will eventually redirect the increasing volume of truck traffic off of secondary roads and onto an expressway that will connect Interstate 65 through Cedar Lake and Lowell, Indiana to Interstate 55 near Wilmington, Illinois.

This venture is a public-private partnership made possible by the funding granted by a special legislation of the Illinois General Assembly. The projected cost of the toll road is \$2 billion.

Illiana Corridor Committee is conducting an in-depth environmental impact study and proposes that the new construction take place within a 47 mile corridor comprised mainly of farmlands stretching between Peotone and Manteno. This proposed location scored 6 out of 7 points

during the Phase 1 site location study. This site had the lowest cost, funding gap, environmental impact and risk according to the committee.

The route will intersect U.S. Route 41, Route 1, Route 50, Interstate 57, U.S. Route 44/52 and Illinois Route 53, scoring the highest in local support according to the committee. One of the greatest benefits for selecting this site is due to its close proximity to the

(Continued on page 2- see ILLIANA)



Trustee Derrick Burgess

No Relief for Housing Woes

As Sauk Village's housing crisis continues with no plan of action by the Administration of Lewis Towers, Governor Pat Quinn was joined today by Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle and six Cook County mayors to announce a new initiative to return vacant, foreclosed properties to productive use.

An initiative laid out in the Governor's State of the State address earlier

bilize communities struggling with the foreclosure crisis," Governor Quinn said. "By turning vacant properties into affordable housing, we're assisting existing homeowners, strengthening hard-hit neighborhoods and boosting affordable homeownership options for working families."

Abandoned properties burden communities by creating blight, attracting crime and reducing the

ize Cook County's neighborhoods," Cook County President Preckwinkle said. "We must continue to focus on a regional economic development strategy that more effectively leverages our resources to spur economic growth, and the Building Blocks program is a step in the right direction."

The Illinois Building Blocks Program, administered by the Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA), has three components:

- Financing to rehabilitate vacant properties to prepare them for productive use and for sale;
- Assistance to homeowners to purchase homes in pilot communities; and
- Support for existing homeowners in the communities to prevent additional foreclosures.

The rehabilitation component includes \$40 million from the Illinois Jobs Now! capital program and \$10 million from Cook County to facilitate the acquisition and rehabilitation of vacant properties within the targeted areas. As the rehabbed homes are sold, funds are replenished into the revolving fund to purchase and rehabilitate additional properties. The pilot program could rehabilitate at least 500 properties in the six communities.

The second component provides \$5 million in assistance for homeowners to purchase vacant properties, including those rehabilitated in the pilot project. Grants of \$10,000 for down payment and closing cost assistance are

available for up to 500 homebuyers purchasing vacant properties. The program also includes affordable first position mortgages for qualified buyers in order to make the cost of purchasing vacant homes in the communities as affordable as possible. The pilot also

Stabilization Program (NSP) development. Under Governor Quinn, Illinois has committed \$58 million in NSP funding and is already restoring nearly 450 foreclosed or vacant housing units in Illinois, creating an estimated 580 jobs.



this week, the Illinois Building Blocks Pilot Program will rehabilitate vacant properties and increase affordable housing in the communities of Berwyn, Chicago Heights, Maywood, Park Forest, Riverdale and South Holland.

In the pilot phase of the program announced today, a \$55 million joint commitment from the state of Illinois and Cook County will help the six communities stabilize neighborhoods, protect property values, preserve the existing local tax base and increase affordable housing stock. The localities selected for the pilot have been among those hardest hit by the foreclosure crisis.

"The Illinois Building Blocks Pilot Program is a strategic effort to help sta-

local tax rolls. On average, homes located the same block as a foreclosed property can drop \$8,000 to \$10,000 in value.

Returning properties to productive use benefits communities by creating jobs and increasing local revenue from property taxes and real estate taxes. Communities also benefit from increased consumer spending by contractors, as well as residents furnishing their new homes. The increase in affordable housing stock helps families starting out or starting again, and promotes economic growth.

"I am excited to partner with Governor Quinn and the state of Illinois in this joint effort to stem the tide of the foreclosure crisis in our underserved communities, and revital-

permits a lower FICO score threshold, so that a greater number of potential homebuyers can qualify for loans.

The Illinois Building Blocks Program will also help current homeowners in the six communities by providing tools to prevent foreclosure. The efforts will build on the Illinois Foreclosure Prevention Network (KeepYourHomeIllinois.org), launched in the Governor's State of the State address. Programs in the six communities will include free one-on-one foreclosure counseling, loan modifications, and access to financial assistance to homeowners who have trouble paying their mortgage payments due to unemployment or underemployment.

The Illinois Building Blocks Pilot Program builds upon existing efforts already under way in many of these communities, particularly federally-funded Neighborhood

"With the highest inventory of foreclosed homes in the nation, the Chicago region requires a focused foreclosure response like the Illinois Building Blocks Pilot Program," said Mary Kenney, IHDA Executive Director. "This program represents a multifaceted approach and is an important part of Governor Quinn's overall housing strategy to address the economic, public safety and quality of life issues caused by abandoned and foreclosed properties."

The Illinois Housing Development Authority (www.ihda.org) is an independent, self-supporting bonding authority that finances the creation and preservation of affordable housing throughout Illinois. Since 1967, IHDA has allocated more than \$10.6 billion to finance more than 215,000 affordable housing units for the residents of Illinois.

(ILLIANA- Continued from page 1)

proposed third Chicago land airport. Phase II of the environmental study is scheduled to continue for an additional 18 months and is expected to be completed as early as 2013.

"This will provide greater development opportunities for Sauk Village and we're certainly at the crossroads of that opportunity with a direct East-West rail spur in addition to easy access via Sauk Trail and US 30"

SaukVillage Trustee Derrick Burgess said.

Debbie Halverson

for

US Congress

Paid for by friends of Debbie Halverson

**Want to hear the True Cost of
the Referendum without the B.S.?**

**Don't listen to
*uneducated– misinformed- scare tactics***

Saturday, February 25, 2012

10am to 12pm

Sauk Village Municipal Center

21801 Torrence Avenue

Sauk Village

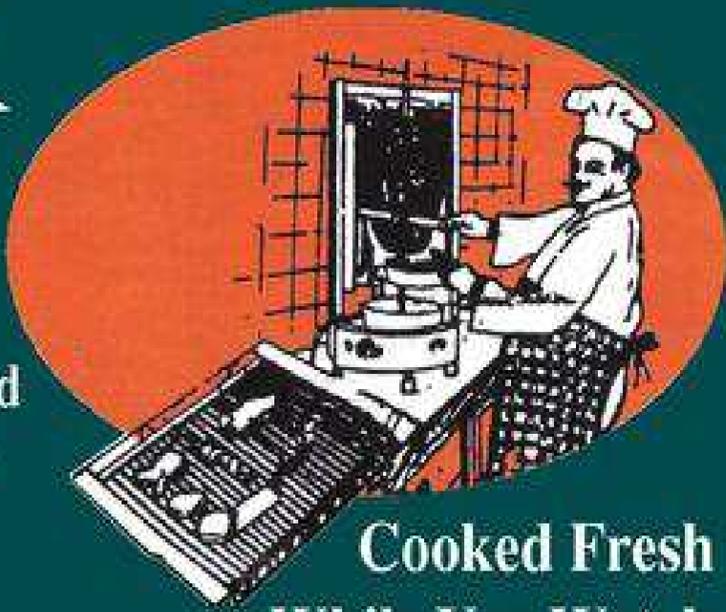
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WATER— *Con't from pg 1*

ber, 2016.

But that date is likely to get pushed back since the Village has not completed its 2009-10 Audit report and 2011 should be getting underway by this time. Without an audit, the Village is not likely to be able to sell bonds to finance the improvements according to Trustee Derrick Burgess head of the Village's Economic Development Committee.

The village has had to borrow funds from the water fund to meet its obligations in the past, a practice which has continued under the administration of Lewis Towers

The Village is expected to spend \$19.7 million and is only receiving a low-interest loan from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, leaving the \$9.7 million to be financed by the Village.

Improvements necessary will include building a 2 million gallon water tank, adding booster pumps, building a water main to the Lake Michigan water source, replacing 20% of the Village's water mains

to comply with the Department of Natural Resources water loss mitigation standards. The Village will be required to obtain right-of-way access for the project which might delay the start-up projected as early as December, 2016.

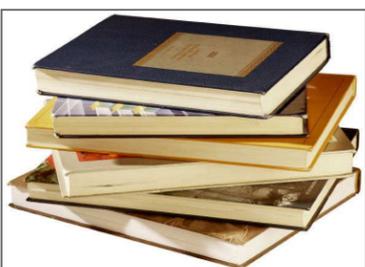
It's unsure if the residents will pay the higher cost for the nearly 4 years leading up to the Lake Michigan water should the referendum pass.

If the referendum fails, the Village will spend \$4.6 million to install air stripping equipment at Wells 1&2 as well as #3 which has been off-line since May, 2009. The air stripping should be online by 2014 according to the Engineer's report.

Either way the referendum goes, the Village will be under mandate to connect to Bloom Trails new water system in the event either of the two wells goes down for emergency purposes. That cost will be \$400,000 and that will begin immediately according to Czarnik.



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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

Cowards and a Buffoon will cost the Village

Opinion Editorial

By Joseph Wiszowaty

I'm not sure whose hair-brain idea it was to put out an anonymous letter making unsubstantiated and uncorroborated allegations against the Sergeants of the Sauk Village Police Department.

This was a cowardly act for someone to put out something and not sign ones name to such garbage.

It was irresponsible and verges on asinine for the Mayor Lewis Tower to put it out in the public domain at a Village Board meeting. This is once again another attempt to politicize the Police Department of Sauk Village and attempt to discredit the people who put their lives on the line every day.

Lewis Towers has no shame and is doing every-

thing in his power, in my opinion, to destroy the Village of Sauk Village.

The Village is teetering on the verge of financial insolvency and Lewis Towers seems to care less. In my opinion, I think he's gotten the clue that he has no hope of winning a re-election and is merely trying to take as many people down with him that he can.

The action of publicly disclosing an anonymous letter is slanderous in the very least and puts him in the same class as those who did not disclose their name on that document.

Why this letter was publicly disclosed without providing the people whose names are on the document due process protections is a matter for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to sort out.

This action by Lewis Towers is likely going to cost

the Village of Sauk Village more money in legal fees, and in settlements with their employees who Lewis Towers should be an advocate for protecting their rights.

Lewis Towers has been marching to the beat of the drums in his head because he's clearly not listening to the people of Sauk Village nor does he seem to have any regard for the citizens.

Lewis Towers history of political appointments have bordered on the strange, out of the main stream and have questionable credentials and backgrounds.

His behavior at this past Tuesday's meeting really calls to question his fitness to serve the people of Sauk Village. He doesn't appear to be serving the best interest of the people. His interest clearly appear to be self-serving and simply put is buffoonery.



The "ring leader"
Lewis Towers— *Democrate*

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*Farewell
Henry Klopp*



Henry C. Klopp, age 87, of Sauk Village, IL, passed away Friday, February 17, 2012. Beloved husband of the late Catherine M. Klopp nee Hefeli. Devoted father of Mary (Ben) Deneau and Christine Klopp.

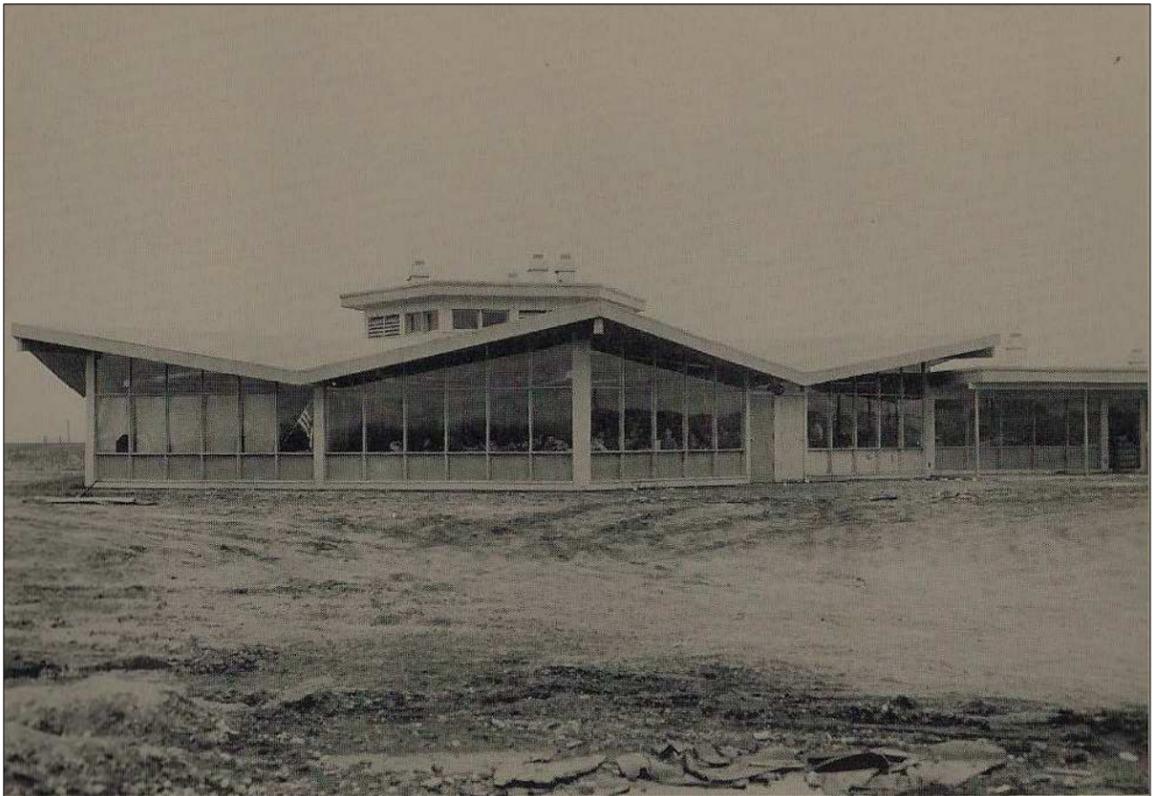
Proud grandfather of Lisa, Kayla, and Sara; Great-grandfather of 6. Dearest brother of Esther (late Stanley) Blatt. Fond uncle of many nieces and nephews.

Dear friend of Betty Donato. Preceded in death by his parents Henry and Ellen Klopp, two brothers and four sisters.

Visitation Monday, February 20, 2012 from 2:00 – 8:00 p.m. at the Smits Funeral Home 2121 Pleasant Springs Lane (Rt. 30 & Pleasant Springs Lane) Dyer, IN 46311. Funeral Service Tuesday, February 21, 2012 at 10:30 a.m. at Grace Lutheran Church (8303 Sheffield Ave. Dyer, IN 46311) with Rev. Christopher Gillespie officiating. Interment Assumption Cemetery – Glenwood, IL. Mr.

Klopp was a member of Leisure Timers of Sauk Village, American Legion Post #1156 and Eagles of Blue Island

Sauk Village History 1959-1961



Top– Cynthia School before it was “Wagoner School” a new school for a “new Village”.

Middle- Strassburg School-1961 then known as Strassburg Jr. High school

*Bottom– Katz Corner School-1959 (only 8 years old)
Photos Courtesy of G. Poppers*



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Sauk Village Parks & Recreation

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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 and underway at the Community Center after 5pm



Sponsor Opportunities
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