



*Sauk Village's Original Community Newspaper*

# THE SAUK VILLAGER

*A Community News Service for the 21st Century*



WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2012

## DELUCA CALLS FOR "SPIRIT OF COOPERATION"

By Joseph Wiszowaty

SAUK VILLAGE | Illinois State Representative Anthony DeLuca (D-Chicago Heights) came before the Village Board of Trustees with flanked by two Illinois State Police.

DeLuca came before the Village Board after he received numerous calls from residents to help intervene because of their concern about the direction of the Village.

"My experience has been that con-

tentious disagreements that become personal attacks are very counter productive in moving the village forward" DeLuca said. DeLuca said that the number of phone calls to his office increased after last week's outburst by a Village Board member who made racially inciting comments to other members of the Village Board.

DeLuca is the son of Clem and Loretta DeLuca owners of Skyline Disposal where DeLuca currently works as operations director.



Illinois State Representative  
Anthony DeLuca, D-Chicago Heights

## Can You Afford Lake Water? \$19.7 million *YOU DECIDE March 20th*

By Joseph Wiszowaty

SAUK VILLAGE | The election for Sauk Village residents is less than 70 days away and this is one of the most expensive questions ever considered by the people of Sauk Village.

The residents are being asked if every household is willing to pony up the dough and pay \$5,472 for Lake Michigan water. Although with over 700 vacant homes that tab rises to \$6,793. When there are less residents to pay for the cost, the cost gets shifted to those who have remained behind to pay. Simple math! That's how the cost breakdown will go but the math gets "fuzzy" after that because the "cost" is included in the users

water bill. With less users, the cost may in fact be lower that what it actually may be in the end. None-the-less, it is going to be added to residents water bills each month.

A typical water portion of your bill would rise from \$141 per month to \$287 per month or a typical bill of \$60 will increase to \$122 per month.

If the residents vote in favor of the changes the Village will be mandated to follow the will of the people and the water rates will rise long before the first drop of Lake Michigan water comes through the water mains. Why?

The Village is mandated to reduce it's water loss from its current 23% down to 8% according to Village Engineer Jim Czarnik. Nearly 20% of the Village water mains need to be replaced in order to achieve the reduction according to Czarnik.

The additional cost of water will also mean higher sales tax for the water, which the Village collects in the utility tax which is 5%. The additional increase in water rates would mean a small windfall to the village of about \$46,000 in utility tax money based on the 2008-09 Audit report figures. Utility tax revenues are typically used for capital improvements.



## STEWART HONORED

SAUK VILLAGE | Village Trustee Robert Chavez, chairman of the Parks and Recreation Committee honored Cortez Stewart as "Volunteer of the Year" for 2011 on January 3rd.

Stewart has volunteered his time as Community Center Director since June, 2011 and has literally been at the community center nearly every day every week since June. Chavez is working with the Village Board to hire on two part-time folks to help staff the community center.

# Mayor's appointee threatens to sue

By Joseph Wiszowaty

**SAUK VILLAGE** | The political drama and rhetoric in Sauk Village continues. The village treasurer Genorise Carmichael has threatened to sue the village over what she claims the Village Board "attacked her character" according to a published report. This would be the second legal action stemming from the temporary appointment of Robert Fox as police chief. Mayor Lewis Towers is also suing the village over an ordinance which limits the term of any individual temporary appointment to no more than 2 thirty day appointments in a fiscal year. According to the ordinance the mayor can appoint a different individual every 60 days if there is a vacancy. Towers claims the village board "stripped him of his power" by limiting the term of tem-

porary appointments.

Carmichael, who is appointed to the position of Village Treasurer which is part-time and pays all of \$6,000 per year, was suspended with pay following a chain of events which is under investigation. Carmichael and Mayor Lewis Towers signed a paycheck to Robert Fox who Towers appointed on November 22<sup>nd</sup> without the approval of the Village Board. The Village Board did not approve a salary or contract for Fox and did not authorized any amount for Fox's compensation as they claim there was no monies budgeted for the outside hiring of a police chief.

*(Continued on page 3—  
See **TREASURER**)*



**Sauk Village Treasurer  
Genorise Carmichael**

## NEW STORE TO OPEN SOON IN SURREYBROOK

By Joseph Wiszowaty

**SAUK VILLAGE** | Economic times may be a tough, but businesses sees opportunity in Surreybrook Plaza. Village Trustee Derrick Burgess confirmed that Key Food Market will be moving into the location of the old Consumers Pharmacy.

Burgess chairs the Village's Economic Development Committee and announced that the new grocery store will hopefully breath some new life into the strip mall. "Surreybrook Plaza has been relatively vacant since the economic down turn. McConathy

Library and Consumers Pharmacy anchored Surreybrook Plaza, which was originally built in 1978 according to Burgess.

"We're going to have a full array of food and groceries for shoppers including fresh vegetables" Khalil Qandil owner of Key Food Market said.

Key Food Market is not a chain or franchise but will be an owner operated establishment Qandil said. The store will be 5,500 square feet and Qandil said he's here for the long haul he just signed a 15 year lease with the owners of Surreybrook Plaza.

The plaza has been listed for sale for some time now according to Burgess and is located in a Tax Increment Financing District. "Hopefully the plaza owner and the Village can come together soon and formulate a plan to make some improvements to the plaza. I know I would really like to see the plaza successful" Burgess said.

Sherry Jasinski, Director of Administrative Services for Sauk Village confirmed that the tenant, Qandil, is in the process of getting a plumbing permit they've already done some electrical updating.



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**SAUK VILLAGE, ILLINOIS**

*(TREASURER- Continued from page 2)*

Towers is said to have given an order to village manager Henrietta Turner to issue a check to Fox without the approval of the village board. Turner was also placed on "paid administrative leave" pending an investigation. Turner is alleged to have given a direct order to a village employee to issue a paycheck to Fox. Turner is alleged to have been told, in writing, that the Village Board of Trustees did not authorize such check to be drawn on the village's accounts.

Fox's temporary appointment is up on January 22<sup>nd</sup> and per the ordinance he cannot be reappointed to the position. Several sources have indicated that Towers has been considering Albert Chesser who is retired as director of public safety at Governors State University since 2006 from 1990 to 1999, Chesser held the same position at Chicago State University in Chicago. Chicago State University is also where William Shaw also served. Shaw was under consideration by Towers for appointment earlier last year for Police Chief. Shaw apparently withdrew his name from consideration as his appointment did go ahead.

Carmichael has served as Village Treasurer since her appointment by Towers in October, 2009. Carmichael has lived in Sauk Village since 1997, she is not a certified public accountant which has historically been the case for previous treasurers who have served the Village.

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# Barb Petner-Valentines for Veterans

SAUK VILLAGE | How often do we go about our daily grind and take for granted the freedoms we as Americans enjoy. Many men and also women have given their lives in defending the freedoms which we enjoy today. Many men and women who sacrifice their time away from their families and went overseas fought a war, came home to their families and are simply forgotten. Well longtime Sauk Village resident Barb Petner says not so fast and i wanted to re-tell her story of love and honor to our men and women who have served our country.



Over 3000 handmade Valentines for Veterans Barb Petner is working to deliver

I remember when Barb Petner began Newsletter USA during the first Gulf War when her son was serving in Kuwait. Barb managed to get 3 newsletters sent out starting at 650 and growing to the thousands of services men and women during the first Gulf War before it ended.

Petner began Valentine Central, a name her daughter gave her, in 2000 after hearing that many veterans seem to be forgotten after the services to their country. She contacted a few Veterans facilities and organizations who were happy to help provide mailing lists.

Petner kicks off Valentine Central in January each year as her Christmas tree

turns into a Valentine tree with young children who come to her home and help her create cards.

It is that time of the year once again and Petner is appealing to everyone to help put a smile on a veterans face with a card for Valentine's Day. For years we have been sending out thousands of cards to our Veterans in the United States. They are sent to veterans nursing homes, veterans hospitals and outpatient clinics. It is time to renew our remembrance of our Veterans who have served our country with honor.

"We want you!!! LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!!!! Taking the time is so greatly appreciated. When you receive this story make copies and pass them out to your family and friends. Have a VALEN-

TINES FOR VETERANS party at your home or school. People of all ages love creating cards. I have a drop off box at my front door for those who live in the area. Cards and other donations can be mailed to my home this month and up to the second week of February" Petner said

Petner said she will accept donations of any kind: cards, copy paper, card stock, stickers, monetary donations for mailing cards and most important are the helping hands of ages. If anyone donates cards feel free to write your thoughts.

Checks can be written out to Barb Petner as I do not have a Valentine for Veterans bank account. If anyone is concerned about expense records they can see me personally. Facilities ask that no glitter should be used in the making of the valentines Petner said. If anyone has any questions feel free to call me anytime.

Barb Petner 22459 Yates Ave. Sauk Village, IL.60411 (708) 758-4461





# “Heroes” of our Fire Department

## “Duty First-Honor Always”



The Sauk Village Fire Department was established in 1956 as an all volunteer department, before the Village was incorporated. Back in the early days of the department the auxiliary actually raised money to buy fire equipment including in 1960 when they raised \$25,000 to purchase a brand new pumper.

Today, the Sauk Village Fire Department is a professional organization which protects approximately 5 square miles and over 10,500 citizens. The Department is staffed Monday through Friday during the day by a full time chief, a full time deputy chief/training officer and a part-time secretary. The other members are “Paid On Call,” meaning they receive a monetary stipend for responding to calls and trainings. The department’s ranks are currently over 35 members.

The Sauk Village Fire Department responds to over 400 calls including fires, vehicle crashes, fire & carbon monoxide alarms, and mutual aid calls to other communities. The department participates in numerous community events including the Village’s corn and dog roast, arrival of Santa, Fire Prevention Week and numerous others.



Sauk Village’s new pumper delivered on Sept 10, 1960, \$25,000 was donated. The 1960 International built by W.S. Darley & Co. 750 gallon per minute 3 stage pump was “state of the art” according to then Captain John Hamilton, later trustee and mayoral candidate

The department’s fleet includes 2 engines, a squad/pumper, a 100 ft Aerial, 3 utility vehicles, a Haz Mat trailer, and a technical rescue trailer and a new ATV.

The department’s motto “Duty First - Honor Always.”. Their duty is service, and service always brings honor.

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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*

## OPINION EDITORIAL

Some residents of Sauk Village feel it necessary to “demand that outside influences be eliminated from the Mayor and board’s opinions and actions”. I couldn’t agree more! I think the time is long overdue and should have been done a lot sooner than now. Are people like the former Chicago Alderman Bobby Shaw and Inspector of Dolton “outside influences? You want to talk about “outside influences”, how much more “outside” can you get than Bobby Shaw?

Here’s a news flash... Remember the 615 registered voters who wanted Tim Holevis as Police Chief? I guess those people are “outside influences” and really don’t warrant any consideration? I hope some remember that those 615 who do live in Sauk Village don’t matter, at least to some.

It’s a sad day in the history of Sauk Village when a Village Trustee sits up

on the dais and calls another Trustee an “Uncle Tom” and then charges racism. Made me sick to my stomach.

I found the statement and rant by this trustee repugnant, offensive and appalling. Does this person have no shame ever apologize for making such racially inciting comments? No. After all this is the Trustee of “no” he votes no on everything including voting to reconvene a meeting, and worse some applaud his actions and encourage him. He is the trustee of nothing! He serves on no committee and does nothing to move the village forward.

I think it’s long over due that the Village needs to come together and stop the racism. It has no place in Village Government or in Sauk Village. Some tried to play the racism card in the last election in April and that strategy completely backfired and it will once again. Racism is hate! Stop the hate!



**Outside Influence?  
You decide!**

## Editorials

*From our readers... Your opinion matters!*



TO THE EDITOR:

Hello my name is Jeff Morden. I’m an eleven year resident of the Village Sauk Village and a member of the Sauk Village Ordinance Review Committee.

Once a month six members and Trustee (Edward) Myers the Chair(person) of our committee meets to REVIEW ordinances that you or the village board asked us to look into. Then after we review them we turn in the ordinance to the village attorneys to look over then it go’s to the village board to be voted upon.

I will be writing an article pertaining to local ordinances in Sauk Village. I will be asking for our local residents to give me your OPINION and YES your opinions do mat-

ter!!! This month the ordinance that we will be looking into is the code of conduct (decorum) for trustees and village residents during a public village board meeting. If you are a regular reader of this paper and follow Sauk Village politics, you know that this is currently a concern of many in our community. The Ordinance Review Committee wants to put forward a fair, comprehensive ordinance. To that end we are seeking your input. With your help I am confident that we can accomplish that goal. If you would like to provide your thoughts, ideas or recommendations please contact me via e-mail at [jmsaukvillage@yahoo.com](mailto:jmsaukvillage@yahoo.com)

Jeff Morden  
Sauk Village

## Henry Wisniewski



Henry T. Wisniewski, age 80, formerly of Sauk Village most recently of Griffith, Indiana passed away on Sunday, January 8, 2012.

Henry was married to Gloria Wisniewski nee Hybert and they were the parents of Charlene (Brad) Borst, Larry (Brenda) Wisniewski, late Cheryl, and Cynthia (Leonard) Flahive. Henry was the proud grandfather of Carl, Jessica, Ryan, Taylor, Brianna, Jake and Nick. Dear brother of the late John (late Millie) Wisniewski, late Christine (Tom Navarro) Boberak, and Alice (late Chester) Konicki. He was uncle to many nieces and nephews.

Henry is preceded in death by parents John and Stella Wisniewski. Visitation Wednesday, January 11, 2012 from 3:00 PM – 8:00 PM at the Smits Funeral Home 2121 Pleasant Springs Lane (Rt. 30 & Pleasant Springs Lane) Dyer, IN 46311. Mass of Christian Burial will be held directly at St. Stephen Deacon & Martyr Church 17500 South 84th Avenue, Tinley Park, IL 60487 on Thursday, January 12, 2012 at 10:00 AM. Interment, Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery – Elwood, IL. Mr. Wisniewski was a proud Korean War Veteran and retired in 1995 from Lever Bros. in Whiting, IN after 36 years of dedicated service.

All of us at *the SAUK VILLAGER* wish to express our sympathy and support to the family of Henry Wisniewski

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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.

**Volunteers always welcome!**

**708-932-9900 or come to the**

**Edward W. Paesel Community Center**

**2700 Kalvelage Drive**

## Code Book getting update

By Joseph Wiszowaty

SAUK VILLAGE | Village Clerk Debbie Williams and Trustee Edward Myers, Chairman of the Ordinance Committee are working together to re-codify the Vil-



**Edward Myers— Village Trustee**

lage’s code book. The last time the code book was updated was in 2003 and the book is “out of date” according to Myers.

During the re-codification process the village’s ordinances are referenced with existing state laws and an attorney will review each ordinance to ensure the correct state law reference Williams explained to the Village Board.

The base cost for the re-codification is \$12,500 according to Williams but there are “extras” that the Village can “opt” for including “archiving” of village ordinances. The Village Clerk’s office submitted ever ordinance approved since 2003 the last time the code book was updated.

It takes 6 to 8 months to get new code books according to Williams. “We can’t

allow this to happen, we cannot allow 9 years to go by and not update our code books Williams said. Muni-Code, the company who has updated the Village’s code book for generations suggests that updates be made on a quarterly or bi-annual basis according to Williams.

Myers who chairs the Ordinance Review will work on updates to the code book going forward according to Williams. The code will be updated on the website as well giving residents easy access to the rules and laws governing Sauk Village.

Williams is putting all ordinance approved on the village’s website and will continue to do so. The MuniCode can “archive” ordinances for the village, but Williams said that she will continue to post these on the Village’s website to save the Village money.