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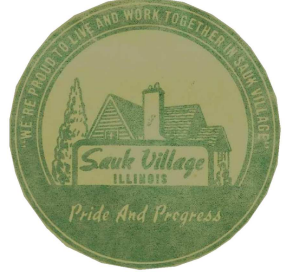
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THE SAUK VILLAGER

A Community News Service for the 21st Century



Volume 1, Issue 17

THURSDAY, MARCH 15 2012

VOTE TUESDAY WATER REFERENDUM- VOTE MARCH 20TH

Sauk Village 55 Years

STAFF REPORT

SAUK VILLAGE | Sauk Village celebrated its 55th anniversary of incorporation with the dedication of the Lincoln Highway Mural that the village recently installed at Fairway in the Sauk Plaza. Following the unveiling, a reception was held at the municipal center. The guests heard from dignitaries and were treated to a video presentation.

Mayor Lewis Towers took to the podium and acknowledged the achievements of the past.

Trustee Derrick Burgess followed and acknowledged both the current and former officials and employees who were on

hand. Former Mayors Edward Paesel and Roger Peckham along with former Village Clerk Beth Zupon, former Village Trustees Joseph Wiszowaty, Rita Kuney and Francine Anderson were in attendance.

Burgess gave thanks to Marva Campbell-Pruitt and all of the volunteers who did a fantastic job on planning and preparing for the event.

“When Henry Kalvelage came to this area in 1849, he never imagined that a bridge that he and his son built would one day pave the way for the “Main Street of America,” as Sauk Trail became part of the Lincoln Highway in

1913. He never imagined that he would make history,” Burgess said.

“I refuse to give up on Sauk Village; this is my hometown. I’m humbled and honored to have been elected to serve the people of Sauk Village,” Burgess said.

“The challenges facing Sauk Village are no different than what we faced as a community back in the 60’s and 70’s. Nearly one in four homes were vacant and businesses wouldn’t accept checks from people if they lived in Sauk Village back then,” Paesel said. The leaders of the community

(Continued on page 3- See SAUK)



Farewell Hasse

STAFF REPORT

SAUK VILLAGE | Sauk Village has lost a “pillar” in the community, long-time resident Patricia Hasse has fought the good fight and did exactly what she wanted to do, live in Sauk Village until the day she died.

Former School Board President and Former Village Trustee Patricia Hasse’s legacy will live on. The ground work that Hasse and school board members laid out, despite the Thomas Ryan era, have left the district as one of the most financially sound in the state of Illinois.



Hasse, age 77, passed away on Sauk Village’s 55th Anniversary of Incorporation March 12, 2012. Hasse was married for 45 years to the

late Thomas Hasse who passed away in 2001.

(Continued on page 5- See HASSE)

Turner Fired

By Joseph Wiszowaty
SAUK VILLAGE | In a dramatic and scene of pandemonium the Village-Board of Trustees voted 5 to 1 to over-ride the veto of Mayor Lewis Towers which effectively terminates the employment agreement with Ms Henrietta Turner the controversial Village Manager that the Village Board hired in

early November, 2011.

Mayor Lewis Towers threatened to sue the Village Board as he attempted to appoint Turner to the position that the Village Board had just dismissed her from after a 30 day notice according to her contract.

(Continued on page 6 See- TURNER)

Vote

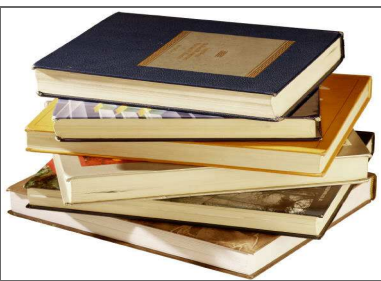
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SAUK— Con't from pg 1

must address the challenges and must do better, Paesel said during his comments. "I want to live here for the rest of my life," he said.

"I'm glad that I could be a part of this celebration. I'm very proud of Sauk Village," Peckham said.

A video tribute to Sauk Village's 55th Anniversary was presented by former Trustee Joseph Wiszowaty. The video included a narration by former Mayor Edward Paesel and was a remake of the video Wiszowaty did previously entitled *Our Town*, which was a photo montage of Sauk Village from its early days to today. Wiszowaty promised a sequel to the video in 2012 entitled *Our Town Part 2*.

Beautification Committee

Chairman Marva Campbell-Pruitt and her committee of volunteers pulled the entire event together in a short period of time. The reception included catered food from local favorite Hometown Gyros and the food was "excellent" according to many who attended.

The remade video will not be hosted online, but will be for sale for \$10.00 with 100% of the proceeds going to support the Nancy McConathy Public Library and the Sauk Village Beautification Committee, Wiszowaty said. Videos can be purchased at the Nancy L. McConathy Library in Sauk Village or you can request one via email at saukvillager@yahoo.com

The P.L.A.N. Needs YOU

The Community Organization People Looking for Answers Now (P.L.A.N.) is seeking your HELP. If you would care to contribute please send a donation to:

P.L.A.N. PO Box 1655,
Sauk Village, IL. 60411

anything would help! Donations needed by March 10th, and your support is greatly appreciated.

You can buy raffle tickets at the McConathy Public Library for \$2.00 each. All proceeds will be used for the event.



Photo-courtesy of G. Holcomb - Last Year's Easter Egg Hunt Sponsored by the P.L.A.N. Organization

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The Sauk Villager

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News, photos and stories may be shared with the Southland Voice Newspapers

Great Job Marva Campbell-Pruitt

Editorial

By Joseph Wiszowaty

The sun was out, the temperature was refreshing and a group of about 60 came out to unveil the Lincoln Highway Mural depicting the old Kalvelage Bridge built in the late 1800s by Henry Kalvelage and his son.

Nanette Wargo and Marva

Campbell-Pruitt along with the Mural Committee that was assembled, worked for some time to secure this really nice addition to Sauk Village.

The Mural itself cost the Village virtually nothing but the cost of some lumber to mount it.

Campbell-Pruitt and her committee planned a fantastic unveiling and dedica-

tion ceremony to honor Sauk Village history and it went off without a hitch.

Former Mayors Edward Paesel and Roger Peckham attended along with former Village Trustees James Schultz, Rita Kueny, Joseph Wiszowaty (yeah me) and Francine Anderson.

Lewis Towers, mayor of Sauk Village made a brief statement about "standing

on the shoulders" of those who served before him.

While you're standing on their shoulders, how about: 1- Listening to the People of Sauk Village and not just that "amen choir".

2- How about listening to the words of Former Mayor Paesel- "You have got to work harder for Sauk Village".

3. How about honoring former Mayor Roger

Peckham for his many years of service to Sauk Village. Even if you didn't like the many he was elected to three terms as mayor, served as Village Trustee and Treasurer since 1986- That's longer than you've been in town huh Lewis!

But I know you're not reading Lewis. You'll be that "footnote" in history, just a footnote.



Welcome to the Staff!

Tim Stege who will serve as copyeditor for the paper. Tim is a long-time Sauk Village resident and a good friend of mine for many years. Many people know Tim Stege so please be sure to welcome him when you see him out there in cyberspace! Thanks for stepping up for this high-paying job!

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Cont'd from page 1- HASSE

Visitation will be Sunday, March 18th from 3pm to 8pm at Smits Funeral Homes-Steger Memorial Chapel 3045 Chicago Rd, Steger, IL) Funeral services will be at 10am at the Funeral Home.

Hasse was first elected to the School District 168 Board of Education in November, 1983, she served with three Superintendents of Schools Dr. Anthony Torres, Bill Brown and the now infamous Dr. Thomas Ryan who later went to prison after stealing money from the school district.

Hasse fought the battles of the School District including unfunded mandates which caused the district large deficits requiring many cut backs in programs and spending within the district. District 168 was placed on the State of Illinois' financial "watch list" while Hasse was president in 1988-1989

Hasse and school officials fought back and didn't give up. Hasse and the school board pushed for a referendum to increase property taxes to cover expenses for the schools in 1989, not a popular thing for any elected official to do, but Hasse would have been the first to tell you she wasn't "doing things to be popular". While other districts referendums were failing, Sauk Village was among a very few that actually passed.

When Hasse decided it was time for her to move on and did not seek re-election to her seat she held for 6 years in November, 1989. Hasse served as President of the School Board when the infamous Superintendent of Schools Tom Ryan came to town. Tom Ryan's credentials were impeccable. At the time of Ryan's selection as Superintendent of Schools, he had a long and distinguished career in the field of Education. Ryan worked his way up through the ranks who had taught in a number of school districts before coming to District 168.

Hasse said during her farewell remarks when stepping down from the School Board, "I now believe we have a top notch administrator in District 168 (speaking of then Superintendent of Schools Thomas Ryan) Hasse said. When I look over there at our new superintendent, Tom Ryan, I believe I'm looking at the best decision this school board has made in six

years. It's great to finally have a school superintendent who respects our community and is committed to our children" Hasse said. "I know that Tom, working with our other administrators, will mean good things for District 168" Hasse concluded.

Hasse left office as School Board President, she was succeeded by incoming newly elected Roger Peckham as president.

Hasse served on the Sauk Village Housing Authority and the Zoning Board before making another attempt at



public office in 1995.

In 1995, Hasse would run again for public office going on to the Village Board where she would serve with other previous school board members Tom Wall and Roger Peckham.

Hasse saw the lack of vision and helped to initiate a revision to the Village's comprehensive plan which hadn't been updated since the 1980s. The plan was finally updated and last completed in 1999 when Hasse was re-elected to the Board. "I'm very pleased that the people voted for me for a second term" Hasse said on election night.

Hasse left the Village Board in 2003.

Hasse fought for a friend and colleague in 2006 when she fought School Board members for removing Lydia Dobrzeniecki's name from the School Administration Center. Hasse said at the time that Dobrzeniecki was serving her second term on the School Board when she lost her battle with cancer in 1984. Following Dobrzeniecki's death, the Board voted in October, 1984 to name the administrative center in her honor.

Hasse was infuriated at the time and demanded the name be restored. To date the school district has not restored Hasse's former col-

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leagues name to its place of prominence.

Hasse is survived by her only child Thomas Hasse, former Council member and former Mayor of Malibu California, six brothers-in-law, nine sisters-in-law, thirty three nieces and nephews, over three dozen great nieces and nephews and one sister. She was preceded in death by her parents Zenas and Marjorie Green and her sister Jeanne L. Sawyer.

Hasse grew up in West Lebanon, IN and in Hammond, IN. After graduating from Hammond Tech High School, she worked as an Illinois Bell telephone operator. She married Thomas in 1956. A year later they moved to the new suburb of Sauk Village.

A tireless advocate for village seniors, Pat retired in 2003 and the street where she lived was dedicated in honor

of her 20 years of public service. At the time of her passing, Pat Hasse, was one of four families who lived in the community of Sauk Village since 1957.

EDITOR: I wish to extend my personal condolences to the family of Pat Hasse for your loss. My families prayers are with you at this time. Pat was a great person who cared deeply about Sauk Village and was an asset to the community.

Continued from page 1

Turner

“You have put peoples livelihoods and their lives in jeopardy Mr. Mayor” Trustee Derrick Burgess chastised Towers.

The Village Board of Trustees is at odds with Towers over his appointment in November, 2011 of his temporary Police Chief which he did not include in the 2012 Budget. “You didn’t veto the budget, you didn’t raise the question of hiring an outside police chief

during the budget process and you congratulated and thanked the former Village Manager Dieterich for doing a good job” Burgess said at a previous meeting.

Towers only contention during the debate was that “there’s money there to pay her (Turner) and Fox” Towers said.

During the debate on the over-ride of the veto Trustee Rosie Williams questioned whether Turner had ascertained if there was a background check done pursuant to an affidavit that Towers swore under

penalty of perjury was performed. Turner indicated that no such report was provided to her.

Both Williams and Burgess originally voted no on terminating the contract with Turner. Both voted to over-ride the mayor’s veto making the final vote 5 to 1 with only Enoch Benson voting no.

Towers originally vetoed the ordinance re-creating the position of village manager in 2011 and threatened to sue the Village Board then if they proceeded to hire anyone.

The Village Board hired Turner following her termination in Country Club Hills. Turner’s use of the City of Country Club Hills credit card was the subject of news reports and intense scrutiny.

The termination of Turner would begin on Friday, March 16th.

It’s uncertain who will run the day to day operations of the Village without a manager. The Village did not have a Village Manager from May, 2010 until the Village Board brought back Dieterich in May,

2011 in order to clean up the mess left in the wake of the termination of Towers chief of staff position he created in 2009 after taking office.

So for now Towers gets to keep his temporary Police Chief but he’s likely not going to win in court to keep his manager he didn’t want in the first place. Towers is not challenging the ordinance he’s disagreement is with the contract which Towers had signed and agreed to the terms which the board followed in terminating Turner.

Sauk Village’s very own Jackie Gutekunst turns 80

By Tina Gutekunst-Minor SAUK VILLAGE | Jackie to some, Mom to others, but to me she is Grama Goody.

My Grama is turning 80 years young on March 21st. She is my only grandparent I have left and I am so blessed to still have her in my life. Many

Goody are the nights we spend over there, playing games, doing puzzles. In the morning she’d make us pancakes with strawberry jelly spread on them, then we’d roll them up to make jelly rolls.

My grandparents went on several family vacations with us. We would go

Grampa Goodies house. They were well know throughout the village as extended grandparents for our neighbors and friends. My Grama was originally from Charleston, South Carolina. She had 4 sisters; Marie, Mildred, Carol and Marionita. She had 2 brothers; Harold and Cecil.

School. In total Grama has 10 grandchildren (Steve, Rick, Carolyn, Jon, Jay, Tina/me, Jeanetta, Ryan, Peter, and Justin), 22 great grandchildren (Mitchell, Joy, Troy, Cheyenne, Steven, Collin, Trent, Dylan, Clare, Micah, Brianna, Hunter, Nicholas, Regan, Brendan, Chloe, Ry-lee, Brett, Carson, Evan,

She and my Grandpa were married nearly 55 years when he passed away.

My Grama has never said a cross word about anyone. I’ve probably failed to tell her how much she means to me and all of our family. We get so caught in our everyday lives that we let time slip by us without expressing our feelings while we have the chance.

This article is my little way of sharing with the rest of Sauk Village, those who know my Grama and those of you who haven’t had the pleasure of meeting her yet, hopefully this will show her how much she is loved. I only hope I will be as good of a Grama to my future grandkids like she is to ALL of us. Happy Birthday Grama, I love you!!

Sincerely,
Tina xoxox

Jackie and the Gutekunst family have been a part of Sauk Village for three generations. They have contributed and made the sacrifices that a family makes when they lay down roots.

I send to Jackie, a *TRUE Villager*, a Very Happy Birthday! May God grant you many more to come.



people aren’t fortunate enough to have any time to get to know their grandparents. I, on the other hand, not only knew my grandparents very well, we lived with them at one time in our lives.

We grew up in Sauk Village and had our grandparents within a bike rides distance from us. It was like our second home growing up. My earliest memories of Grama

strawberry picking every year and make homemade jam. I remember going over there every Christmas Eve and hearing the Christmas story read from the Bible. As a child, you just want to open presents, as you get older you realize how that was a tradition you would soon miss once you move away from home.

Our friends were always welcome at Grama and

My Grandpa was from Buffalo, New York. After meeting while Grandpa was in the Navy stationed in South Carolina, they married and had 3 children; Linda, Laura and Steve (my Dad). They settled in Sauk Village in 1959 (2 years after it was incorporated) and been here ever since.

All of our family went through Katz Corner on through Bloom Trail High

Anthony and Marissa).

She worked at Kickert Bus Nursery watching the bus drivers children for 32 years. She was there so long the bus drivers were some of her past children she had watched at one time.

My Grama was a Sunday School teacher at Sauk Village Bible Church as well. She is still an active member of that church.

Happy Birthday Jackie

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)	



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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.

Happy Birthday Sauk Village



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