



Sauk Village's Original Community Newspaper

THE SAUK VILLAGER

A Community News Service for the 21st Century

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2011



PEARL HARBOR 70 YEARS LATER

By Joseph Wiszowaty
SAUK VILLAGE | "December 7, 1941, a date which will live in infamy" rang so true on the day the United States of America suffered the worst attack on our soil, that was until September 11, 2001.

70 year ago, the United States of America entered World War II and today we remember the sacrifices of those who died and for all our WWII veterans who fought gallantly to protect our freedoms today, including the Freedom of Speech which allows for newspapers and a free press.

Sauk Village in 1941 was merely small tracts of farmlands, but it

was from the farmlands of America that the brave men came and fought. It was from the big cities and little hamlets, this was a Country united for a cause, to not only liberate Europe and the South Pacific from tyranny but to spread freedom and liberty.

Let's never forget those who have died in defending our freedom and our liberties so one can protest and try as they may to shut down Wall Street. But when our soldiers march down Main Street, let's respect their service to our Nation.

God Bless America now and always!



Historical Photo-National Archives

Breakfast with Santa big success for SVFA- See Pg 8

2 FOUND DEAD IN HOME TUESDAY NIGHT- SEE PG 5

Details will be posted on our FACEBOOK PAGE & next weeks SAUK VILLAGER!

WATER REFERENDUM RESIDENTS TO DECIDE

By Joseph Wiszowaty
SAUK VILLAGE | The residents will have a choice to make come March 20th. Clean up the contaminated well water or pony up a lot of money for Lake Michigan Water.

The Village Board of Trustees voted 4 to 0 with Trustee Enoch Benson not wanting to vote on the matter and "abstained" from voting on the Referendum for Lake Michigan Water. The vote came after Benson and Mayor Lewis Towers disrupted the entire Student Government Day with their political antics on March 22nd as they tried to block a vote from

being taken on a referendum for Lake Michigan water. The Village Board will be voting to "amend" the Ordinance they passed in March to include the appropriate language for the three options residents will vote on in March.

A volatile organic compound known as vinyl chloride was detected in Well #3, which is located near Roadway and just south of Carlisle Estates. The Village took the well offline in May, 2009 and consequently has raised life safety issues with respect to fire fighting should either Well #1 or #2 go down. The Village's only option for an emergency connection for wa-

ter is Bloom Trail High School which has a 12 inch water main and recently converted to Lake Michigan water. No water will flow from this source unless either of the wells should go down. The cost to the Village to do this will be \$400,000 according to Jim Czarnik of Robinson Engineering.

Czarnik presented numerous options and alternatives to the residents that the Village Board must decide should be put before the people in a referendum. It's not likely that the Attorney General's office is willing wait for a referendum to be decided for the Village to move forward with cleaning up the

wells according to Czarnik.

Option 1 was the least costly is an "air stripping" process which removes the volatile organic compound from the well water the village currently has. The air stripping equipment would be installed at wells #1 and #2 on Sauk Trail at the pump house, and well #3 near Roadway; however, additional property would need to be acquired in order to accommodate the new building. The cost for this process would be \$4.6 million according to Czarnik. (Con't pg 7. see **WATER**)

McConathy Library Offers "PeeWee PC's"



By Joseph Wiszowaty
SAUK VILLAGE | The Nancy L. McConathy Public Library now offers educational laptop computers for use to kid's ages 4 – 12. These computers have a variety of age appropriate games for children to have fun while learning basic skills. Computers are available daily at no cost on a first-come first-served basis and are locked away and secured every day following new security protocol according to Head Library Nanette Wargo.

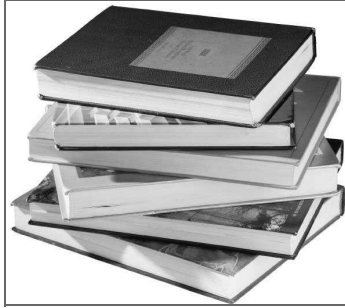
Wargo said that the laptops were purchased with a Nancy L. McConathy Public Library Grant that the district obtained and the computers did not get paid out of tax dollars. Sauk Village currently has 1 out of 5 people who live below the poverty level, higher than the state average according to 2010 Census data. The laptops are for library use only and patrons must have a valid library card to check the computer out. A staff member will be available for assistance.



Support your Local
Ace Hardware Store
1701 Sauk Trail
Sauk Village

*Round
the
Clock*

Breakfast starting at
\$4.99
Support your
local businesses!



*Happy Holidays
from the Staff at
the
McConathy Public Library*

SUPPORT THE LIBRARY!

Read to your kids

*The future belongs to
them...*

Apprentice Applications are now being accepted – The Plumber's Joint Apprenticeship Committee, Local 130 U.A. will be accepting applications for apprenticeship.

Where: 1400 W. Washington Blvd. Chicago, IL. 60607-1821 312-421-1028 2114 S. I-80 Frontage Rd. Joliet, IL. 60436
Date: Every Thursday, December 1, 2011 thru January 2012

Time: Every Thursday 9am – 11am and 1pm – 3pm Extended hours will be available on the 2nd and 3rd Thursday, 6pm – 8pm

Registration \$25.00 Fee (Cashier's check or Money order, NO CASH, NO PERSONAL CHECK, NO CREDIT CARDS). Make payable to Plumbers J.A.C. Local 130 \$10.00 optional test taking tip book (Cash only)

Requirements: 1. 18 years of age or older, 17 years of age for senior high school students

(must provide student I.D.)
2. Two forms of I.D. including one photo I.D. 3. Must provide a valid driver's license 4. Photo copy of birth certificate 5. Photo copy of diploma or GED. A water sealed letter from your High School will be accepted. Water sealed transcripts with the graduation date will be accepted.



**ALL OF US ARE
PRAYING FOR YOU**

SAMANTHA

AND

YOUR PARENTS TOO

**People Looking for
Answers Now
(P.L.A.N.)**

Judy Cast
and all members

Survey: Residents Do Not support Mayor Towers on Police Chief

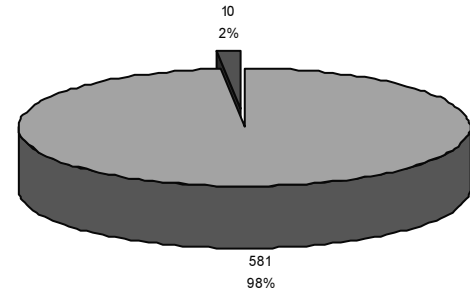
By Joseph Wiszowaty
Our online survey which was featured on our Facebook page shows that the residents of Sauk Village do not support Mayor Lewis Towers's appointment of Robert Fox as "temporary" police chief.

limiting the term for those temporary appointees.

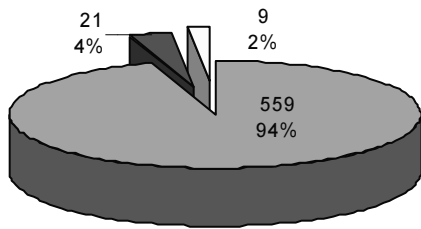
Most people surveyed think that the police chief should be hired from within the ranks of the police department.

The survey was conducted online 591 people responded to the survey.

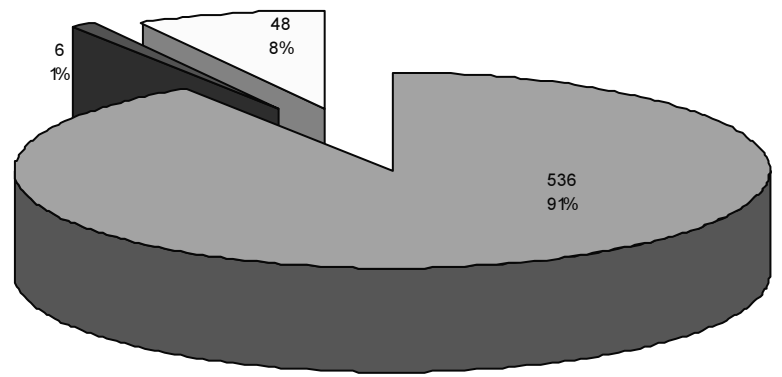
The survey also shows that the residents of Sauk Village support the Village Boards action recently at making "temporary appointments" temporary and



Do you support Mayor Lewis Towers's decision to appoint Robert Fox without the Village Board's approval? 581 (or 98%) of the people surveyed said NO while only 10 or 2% said yes they do.



Do you think that the Police Chief should be "hired from within" the ranks of current police officers? 559-94% said YES; 21- 4% said NO; 9-2% were unsure



Do you agree with the Village Board's decision to limit the "temporary appointments" of the mayor to no more than two 30 days appointments in any fiscal year? 536-91% agreed and said YES; 6- 1% said NO; 48-8% were unsure

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708 757-6864

Happy Holidays!

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- HOT DOGS
- HAMBURGERS
- GYROS
- TACOS & BURRITOS
- BEEF & SAUSAGE
- SANDWICHES
- KIDS MEALS

Santa is Coming to town... Saturday!

The Sauk Village Parks and Recreation Committee in conjunction with the Sauk Village Fire Department will welcome Santa to Sauk Village at 9am. This time honored tradition dates back to the 1970s and has been a regular part of the Holidays.

Santa will be escorted through the Village by the Sauk Village Fire Department.

Santa will be joined by Miss Sauk Village and Mr. Sauk Village according to Trustee Robert Chavez who chairs the Parks and Recreation Committee.

Hot chocolate and visits with Santa will follow at the Edward W. Paesel Community Center, 21701 Torrence Avenue behind the Police Station.

The Village Christmas Tree will be lit at the Community Center following the ride through town according to Chavez.

This is another a tradition that goes back many decades when villagers would assemble at the "old Community Center" back in the late 1970s and light the Village's Christmas Tree.

Santa should be arriving at the Paesel Community Center at about 7pm according to Chavez. All are welcome to attend the tree lighting and to meet with Santa

For more details you can contact Trustee Chavez at the Village Hall 708-758-3330

“ONE WEED AT A TIME...”

By Joseph Wiszowaty
SAUK VILLAGE | When Marva Pruitt was selected as “Chairperson” of the Beautification Committee, she had a huge undertaking. Pruitt said she’ll tackle the job “one weed at a time”.

The Committee members have had a very busy year mowing grass, pulling weeds, putting up decorations and just trying to make the Village look just a bit nicer.

One of the projects that the Committee is undertaking is right up their alley. “The Beautification Committee is comprised of a group of gardening enthusiasts who inspire others to brighten up our community and their lives through gardening and decorating the public spaces” Pruitt said.

“During one of the strategic planning meetings we discussed methods and activities to increase community participation within the community, while serving as a catalyst to decrease crime, and to provide an opportunity to provide positive influences. It was clear that a Community Garden is the mechanism to meet our stated goals” Pruitt said

The committee members were inspired by First Lady, Michelle Obama’s initiatives for healthy eating. Watching Mrs. Obama plant gardens with grade school children was a call for the Beautification Committee to take action according to Pruitt.

The gardens are intended to be educational, therapeutic and provide a sustainable food source. The Project will involve youth, teen-agers, adults,



Volunteers and members of the Committee pitch in to clean out the baseball fields at Robert Werner Park north of Wagoner Schools. The Parks fell into disrepair since May, 2009, but have been mowed and cleaned up ready for baseball season 2012.

and those with cognitive and physical disabilities. “We believe that by creating aesthetically pleasing environments, promoting well-being through people flowering plant interactions and horticultural therapy, and by contributing to a safe environment, abundant food supply through edible fruit and vegetable production, the Sauk Village community will benefit” Pruitt said.

The McConathy Public Library has donated the land for the Community Garden which will offer a place where residents can gather to cultivate plants, vegetables and fruits. In addition to giving people the opportunity to grow fresh foods for their families, socialize with their neighbors, and get some exercise according to Pruitt.

The food sources will be distributed to those working the garden, to the local food pantry, for use with cooking classes for students in the community center, and to the Community Farmer’s Market Days to raise fund to continue support of the garden. The flowers planted will be re-distributed to the various village sites to deco-

rate public locations that will serve to benefit the entire village according to Pruitt.



Spring Cleaning— The Committee Began cleaning up by the entrance signs on Sauk Trail and Torrence Avenue



CELEBRATING HISTORY: Congratulations from *the Sauk Villager*

to the Emmanuel Christian Reform Church

31 years since your ground breaking— December 13, 1975

The Sauk Villager

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

**Police Chief's
Uniforms cost
\$35,000!**

EDITORIAL:

By Joseph Wiszowaty

How can it be that the “temporary” Police Chief’s uniforms are going to cost the Village \$35,000 right now?

Well consider the fact that the Village has not been exactly up to date on reimbursement to the rank and file officers for their uniform reimbursement, which is in their labor contract the Village agreed to. Enter the Temporary Police Chief Robert Fox— who buys his nice Navy Blue uniforms, only problem is the Sauk Village Police Department has BLACK UNIFORMS! Oops.

Well if the Village is going to pay for Mr. Fox’s new duds, then the Village should pay FIRST for the rank and file officers who have been waiting to get reimbursed for their uniforms for some time.

How much more money is Lewis Towers going to cost the Village with his missteps and blunders and all for a “temporary police chief”?

All I can say is “DAMN”. I hope you got some money in your piggy bank to cover this one Lewis, you have \$15 (that’s fifteen dollars) in a budget surplus now you’re off shopping for new uniforms with the Police Chief like you’re shopping for Christmas!

Towers makes no points with F.O.P. During Negotiations



I’m not sure I’d go along with that if I were on the FOP’s side of the table. In fact, I find it interesting that the Village Board budgeted nothing for the Police Chief’s position, presuming that Towers would promote one of the sergeants as Chief, after all that makes sense. Oh, wait we’re talking about Lewis Towers now so nothing makes sense.

It’s too bad that the FOP couldn’t demand Lewis Towers’s resignation as part of their negotiations, that would be interesting though. Hell would freeze over before Lewis Towers would do an honorable thing such as resign. It takes a person of character to put the interest of the community before their own personal agenda.

Only 16 months left before the next election, I wonder how long the negotiations will drag on. Well I’ll be sure to let everyone know what’s going on.

Opinion Editorial

By Joseph Wiszowaty

The recent unilateral and dare I say political appointment of Robert Shaw by Sauk Village Mayor Lewis Towers certainly has gained him no points with his constituents, the Sauk Village Police or the Unions.

The Village is in the middle of negotiations with the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #234 and the turmoil of a “temporary” appointment of Fox as chief is not likely going to gain the Mayor any brownie points.

Even the residents appear to disagree with the boneheaded move of Lewis Tower. Why he is hell bent on appointing this individual knowing that he doesn’t have the support of the Village Board.

The Village Board in it’s recent budget hearing has budgeted no salary increases for police and stated they would be asking the police to pay a little more for their insurance. Then in the process Lewis Towers goes ahead and sticks it right in the police officers back sides and appoints an “outsider” as Chief.

2 MEN FOUND DEAD ON BROOKWOOD

By Joseph Wiszowaty

SAUK VILLAGE | Two men were found dead allegedly from gun shot wounds in a home in the 22600 block of Brookwood Avenue on Tuesday evening.

The Cook County medical examiner has confirmed that they were called to the home in Sauk Village late last night.

The identities of the two individuals who are said to be in their early 20’s released pending an autopsy and cause of death the medical examiner spokesperson said.

Calls to the Sauk Village Police Department, including to the temporary Chief of Police Robert Fox were not returned or they were “unavailable” prior to publication.

Further updates and posts will be available on the Sauk Village, Illinois FACEBOOK PAGE and followup story will be next week in *THE SAUK VILLAGER*

The two men were found allegedly when the owner of the home was bringing potential tenants to inspect the home.

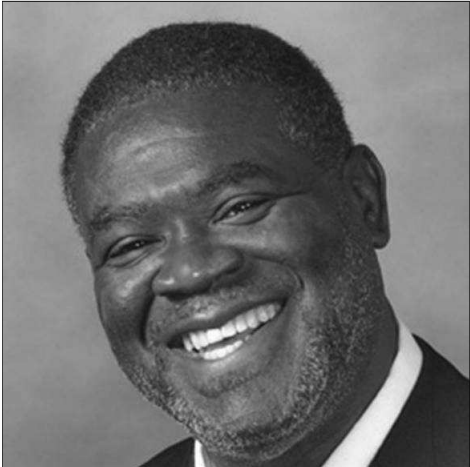
The Sauk Village Police Department is said to be putting together a press release regarding the matter but this information could not be obtained prior to publication.

With no official word many residents are left to speculate and wonder just what happened and when will the matter be brought to the media.

Who is Lewis Towers?

This is a third in a series of articles which will feature officials from Sauk Village. We continue the series with the "top dog or dawg" Mayor Lewis Towers.

By Joseph Wiszowaty



LEWIS TOWERS

Current Elected Office— Mayor

Previous elective office— none

Year first elected— 2009

Term expires— 2013

Just who is Lewis Towers? One of the main objectives the Lewis Towers administration wanted to address after taking office was open government, ***"We're going to bring open and transparent government to Sauk Village. As mayor I will be accessible to the people to address their needs and concerns"***



Towers said in a prepared statement to *the Times* of Munster, Indiana on May 13, 2009.

Some call Lewis Towers a buffoon, big time mack daddy mayor others call him "slick as a fox", whatever you call the man he's still the Mayor duly elected by the people of Sauk Village— That's right, you put him in there people so remember your mistake if you feel that way about the man.

Lewis Towers ran for mayor promising clean water, promising open honest government and promising

more programs for the kids of Sauk Village? So let's take a good look at that record thus far.

CLEAR WATER: Towers stated back in May, 2009 "We will develop

"rest assured we will have an open and transparent government"

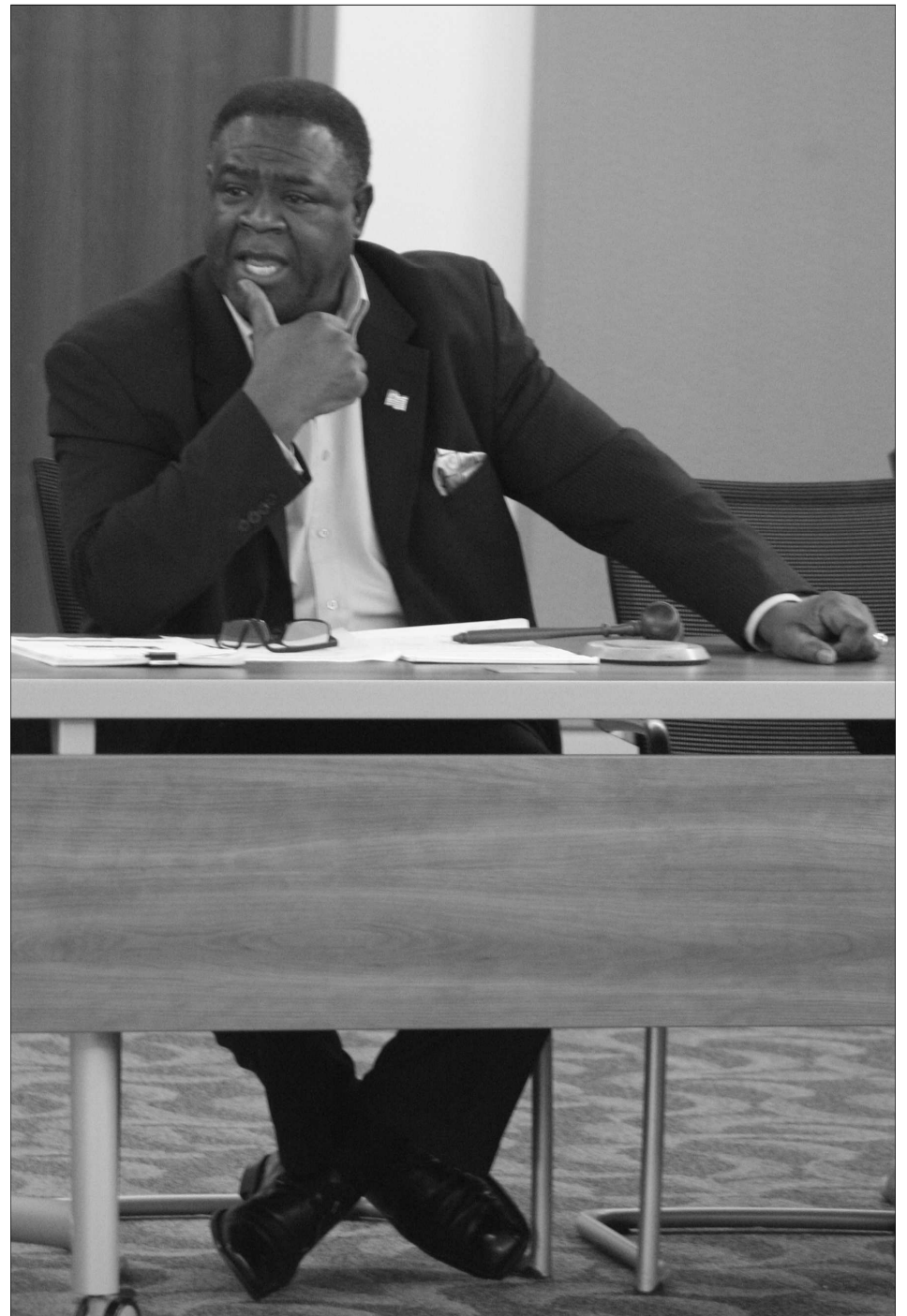
and implement a strategy to improve the quality of water in Sauk Village"; **h o w e v e r**, vinyl chloride is still in the water as your friends keep reminding you and, Well #3 is still shut down and no solutions to offered by Mayor Lewis Towers or alternatives. Similarly his fellow political confidant Mr. Enoch Benson also offered no alternatives at the Town Hall meeting on the water situation held November 5th of this year.— On "clear water" you've been an **ABJECT FAILURE!**

OPEN AND TRANSPARENT GOVERNMENT was another promise. Mayor Lewis Towers said in May, 2009 "We're going to bring open and transparent government to Sauk Village. As mayor I will be accessible to the people to address their needs and concerns". Well if you gauge the recent appointment of "temporary" Police Chief Robert Fox as 'open and transparent' I guess you'd have to say that was about as "clear" as his promise to bring clean water. You can't see through the glass to the other side!

YOUTH PROGRAMS: Lewis Towers third campaign promise to bring more programs to the Village for the kids. Again, Towers said in May, 2009 "We are committed to building and enhancing a variety of programs to aid in the growth and development of our youth" Well you've got 60 days to show what you can do with the following problems Mr. Mayor:

CRIME- Residential break-ins. What's your new Temporary Police Chief going to do about that? Where was his plan and why wasn't that made public before you brought in your friends from outside of the Village? So far Mr. Mayor your grade on fighting crime— **ABJECT FAILURE!**

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT- It's the **MAYOR'S JOB** to be the ambassador for bringing businesses to the Village, you've clearly abdicated your role to do so. Historically, the Mayor has always served as the contact person to which a business owner would meet, the man who is charged with "selling" the Village. Former Mayors Thomas-Nichols, Roger Theisen, Edward



Pasesel, Mark Collins and Roger Peckham all served as the **KEY** person for economic development. **YOU MR. MAYOR** have been an **ABJECT FAILURE!**

HOUSING CRISIS- The Village has more vacant homes than it's ever had in the history of the Village. Mr. Mayor your record and lack of leadership with respect to housing is again another— **ABJECT FAILURE!**

FINANCIAL AFFAIRS- Wow where can I even begin to start. The Village is a multi-million dollar corporation which is to provide safety and security to the residents of Sauk Village. Lewis Towers went on national television and told the world that Sauk Village was broke. **REALLY?** Where is the **AUDIT** report. You wanted an audit report after you got in office and to date the people who elected you haven't seen one. You have a rogue Trustee who is said to have taken some \$950 of Village funds and you do nothing or say nothing about it? Your record on the financial affairs of Sauk Village— **ABJECT FAILURE!**

My question is what exactly does Lewis Towers do each day as Mayor besides collect his \$19,000 pay check from the taxpayers of Sauk Village and his big fat cushy job at the Cook County Assessor's office, where he

seems to find time to spend in various court rooms in Markham while he's on the clock for the Assessor.

I've spoken briefly with Lewis Towers casually never a serious heart to heart conversation to where I could get to know the person. I've left repeated messages and emails to the Mayor to allow him an opportunity to respond and hear his side of the story, yet sadly none have been returned.

This is a sad chapter in the history of Sauk Village where the person who is at the head is afraid to speak to the media and isn't willing to "lead" the Village forward, but the people of Sauk Village need to remember don't let a political "unknown" sneak in the back door. You certainly didn't let that happen this past April, I'm sure it won't happen again.

I hope to see a Renaissance a new beginning for Sauk Village in 2013, a rebuilding like the phoenix rising from the ashes. I know I can't wait either. It's going to be a long 16 months.

Hope you enjoyed the series on "L.T." *Next week we'll take a look at Village Clerk Debra L. Williams her story...*

Angel Team

SAUK VILLAGE | It's that time of year! The 2011 Angel Team is up and running. The first round is this Saturday followed by round two Saturday, December 10th. For those of you who are new to the Angel Team let me give you some background. My sister, Terri, started the Angel Team 11 years ago. She has been organizing the effort to purchase, wrap and deliver items of warmth, toiletries and fun to over 1000 homeless men, women and children on Christmas Eve to many various shelters.

The shelters consist of individuals such as battered women and children, the drug afflicted or affected and men, women and children from all walks of life including those facing a teenage pregnancy.

The Angel Team is looking for donations of knit hats, warm gloves, scarves, thick socks, toiletries (deodorant, body spray, shaving cream, razors, toothbrushes and toothpaste),

playing cards, puzzle books, pens, wrapping paper, tape and gift tags. Gifts from the Dollar Store (like Dollar Tree) seem to work well. Everyone receives pretty much the same type of item. Monetary donations are also gladly accepted to fill in the gaps.

Each person will receive at least two gifts of warmth and one gift of fun. My team usually focuses on men's gifts. We have worked with a particular shelter for many years. The employees at the McConathy Public Library have actually adopted a south suburban home for ladies recovering from addictions through this effort.

I know this is last minute. I do apologize. Please call me with any questions.

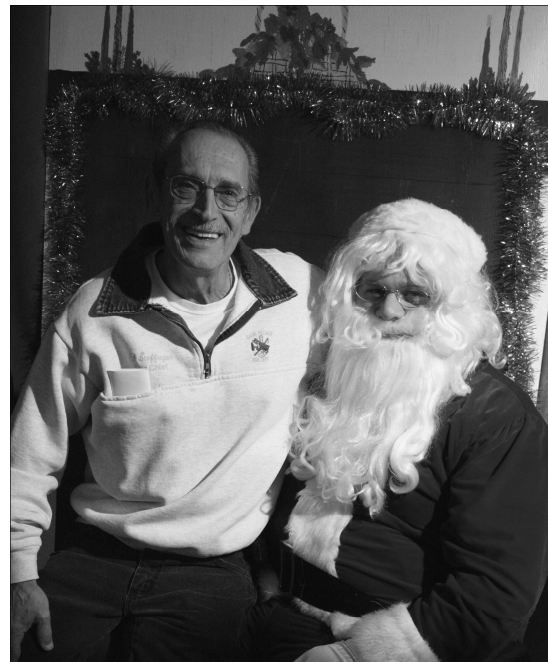
Thanks Again! Debbie Williams
708/351-8922

Support Your Hometown *FIRST!*



Support your local Grocery Store

Fairway



Fire Chief Al Stoffregen and Santa at the annual Pancake Breakfast with Santa hosted by the Sauk Village Fire Association

See more pictures from Breakfast with Santa on page 8

WATER (cont'd from pg 1)

This would increase an average monthly cost by \$9.83 according to Czarnik

Option 2 includes option #1 and would be a water treatment plant with a reverse osmosis system to soften the water and purify the Village's water more so than Lake Michigan water. This option, according to Czarnik, would require additional staffing and building as well as water and sewer line improvements. This would cost about \$20.7 million according to Czarnik. This would increase an average monthly cost by \$50.87 according to Czarnik.

Option 3 is golden! This is the Lake Michigan water option which would require a new pumping station, an additional 2 million gallon water storage capacity and a water loss reduction plan to reduce the Village's water loss from 23% down to 8%. This option would cost

\$19.7 million and would increase an average monthly cost by \$72.09. An average bill for a resident would be about \$155 per month according to Czarnik.

Czarnik also recommended, no matter what option the village chooses, adding a 16 inch water main on the north end of the village to cross over west of Illinois 394 to "loop" the system and ensure a safe flow of water to the West side of the village. This would cost \$740,000 according to Czarnik.

The water loss reduction plan is not required for option #1 and #2 but for Lake Michigan water which is estimated at \$8.9 million. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources has very stringent standards that communities must adhere to concerning water loss. This plan would replace residents' water meters to ensure more accurate readings and replacement of about 20% of the Vil-

lage's water mains according to Czarnik.

An aggressive timeline puts the "Air Stripping" to remove the vinyl chloride from the well water completion date at July, 2014; Emergency hook-up to Bloom Trail at May, 2013 in the event of a catastrophic event; and for Lake Michigan water sometime in July, 2016 according to Czarnik.

The report prepared for the Village by Robinson Engineering, who has been the Village Engineer for decades serves as a private engineering firm cost the Village about \$25,000 Czarnik said. Czarnik holds a degree in engineering from Rose-Hulman College which is a leader in engineering, science and mathematics in the academic circles.

It's uncertain how the Village would finance any possible Revenue Bonds or arrange for any other financing since the

Village has lost its bond rating. Standard and Poors, a bond rating company, had recently downgraded and then delisted the village's Bond rating since the Village had not completed state mandated audit reports for 2009 and 2010. It's not certain how long it would take to get a bond rating and bond issue completed.

Until the Village had hired Mohan Rao, the village hadn't balanced the 69 accounts it had for about 18 months according to Rao. The Village hired Theobald and Associates to assist Rao with reconciliations and postings to the Village's General Ledger to prepare for the audit which was completed recently, however, the audit has not been published by the auditor because of differences in the fiscal year end for the Village and Police Pension Fund.

Fire Association Annual Breakfast with Santa Success

By Joseph Wiszowaty

SAUK VILLAGE | The annual breakfast with Santa which is hosted by the Sauk Village Fire Association was a huge success.

tion which lends help to the department with purchasing equipment.

Firefighters gave attendees tours of the station and explained the equipment that the firefighters use.

Former Fire Chiefs Travis Thornhill and Chris Sewell along with current Chief Al Stoffregen were on hand along with most all of the fire fighters who were helping out with their wives.

Also attending were Village Clerk Debbie Williams, Village Trustees Derrick Burgess, Rosie Williams and David Hanks along with ESDA Coordinator Art Johnson.

The menu was all you could eat pancakes along with scrambled eggs and sausage which rocked. Was interesting to see Gary Bell in a pink apron and dew rag this year.

Proceeds raised will go toward the Sauk Village Fire Associa-



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SAUK VILLAGE, ILLINOIS