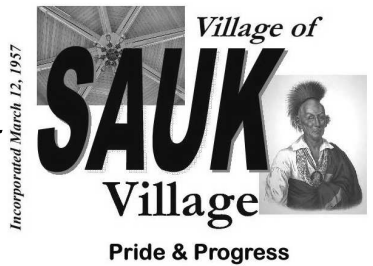


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Sauk Village, Illinois



Happy Thanksgiving SPECIAL EDITION



The Sauk Villager

A Community News Service for the 21st Century

HOLEVIS OUT—FOX IN

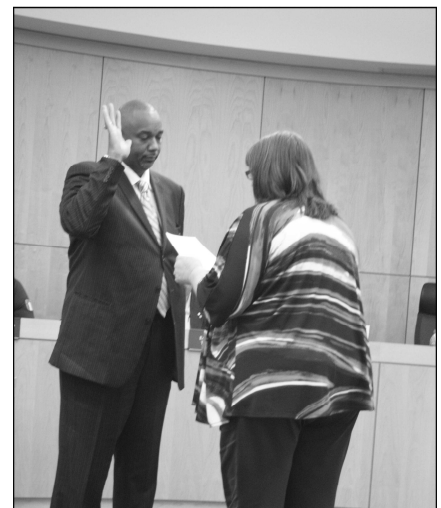
By Joseph Wiszowaty SAUK VIL- LAGE| The Village Board of Trus- tees took no vote on the appoint- ment of Robert Fox, former Police Chief of Dolton, Illinois. The vote be damned, Lewis Towers appointed Fox under a 30 day temporary ap- pointment as Police Chief which Illi- nois law allows.

Towers rolled out all the big guns for his triumphant political appointment including former Chicago 9th Ward Alderman Robert Shaw. Shaw's brother, the late William Shaw was

Mayor of Dolton when Fox was ap- pointed police chief. Towers has made several political contributions to the Chicago Democratic Party giving an address in Chicago, Illinois as his residents as recent as 2008 ac- cording to the Illinois Board of Elec- tions.

Shaw spoke out during the Village Board meeting in favor of Fox who he called a "descent man".

The Village Board made it clear to Fox that the Village has no money (Continued on pg 2 see CHIEF)



Village Clerk Debbie Williams swears in Robert Fox as Police Chief on a 30 day appointment

THE SAUK VILLAGER

Well for many years Sauk Village resi- dents have enjoyed the news from the Villager newspaper, later the Community News. The Southland Voice Newspaper has been bringing residents the news most recently. Well, this month I've decided to re-launch an old classic and relic of the past and bring to you The Sauk Vil- lager.

This format is not like your conven- tional newspaper as we have news on the Sauk Village, Illinois Facebook page

but what we've done was add a twist by bringing together the news in one easy to read format for you that way you don't miss a thing.

Sauk Village has so many things going on and unfortunately, not many news agencies cover what is happening unless it's controversial. We're going to cover the good the bad and the ugly.

We appreciate your contributions to the Facebook Page and to the newspaper as

well. You can "LIKE" our Facebook page Sauk Village, Illinois

Thanks- Joseph Wiszowaty, Former Trustee and Friend of Sauk Village forever!



Village Board to Pass Appropriations Ordinance

Interim Village Manager Richard Dieterich announced to the Village Board recently that the Appropriations Ordinance is complete.

The Village appropriation's ordinance provides for appropriations of money and establishes maximum spending limits. It also serves as the basis for the Village's tax levy according to Dieterich.

The Village Board is required to hold a public hearing on the ordinance and will do so prior to approval for at the first meeting in December Dieterich said.



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CHIEF—(con't from pg 1) and that he's not likely to even get a pay check since the Village budget was balanced with only a \$15 surplus and that no money was allocated in the budget for a Police Chief to be hired from outside.

"I happen to know this fellow" Shaw continued. "He exemplified integrity and he lowered crime in Dolton" Shaw said. Shaw came to the defense of the former embattled Chief of Dolton.

Prior to the appointment, the Village Board of Trustees passed an ordinance which limits the mayor's temporary appointments to no more than two 30 day appointments in any fiscal year. The Vote on the ordinance was 5 to 1 with Trustee Enoch Benson voting no. Towers said he would veto the ordinance.

Village Attorney Michael McGrath advised the Village Board that Towers could veto the ordinance, however, the Board could override the veto by a two-thirds majority. The board will likely override the veto at their next meeting.

During questions from the audience resident Judy Cast stood up and said that "615 people wanted Holevis appointed police chief and that the Mayor has ignored the residents of Sauk Village and that's wrong" Cast said.

Resident Michael Brown "it is a travesty that politics dictates your decision on a person that has been in the village since the 1980's. I hope that you think about what you're doing before you do it. This is clearly politics"

Resident and District 168 School Board member Angie Cox stated that Towers is being insensitive to the residents of Sauk Village by this action. "I voted for you Mayor Towers and I wish I could take that back".

"This is what we face in change" resident Larry Stewart said. "Our city is divided, our board is divided. We don't need the division we do not need the controversy" Stewart said.

"It's insensitive that police aren't responding to the break ins. It's insensitive to

have a police force that's not working for Sauk Village" resident Bernice Houston said.

"The police department, under Chief Holevis, has chosen to protect a certain group of citizens" former Trustee Francine Anderson said. Anderson lost her reelection to the Village Board in April of this year by nearly a 3 to 1 margin. "I look forward to having a chief of police that will serve and protect all of the citizens of Sauk Village. Not just a few" Anderson said.

Towers announced his appointment under Illinois law and the Village attorney agreed with the state law and said the appointment was valid.

Holevis "it is with much regret and frustration that I sit her and give a farewell speech. I believe this is the third time now that I've done this. It's not a voluntary situation. My career here has been 25 years of service. I want to make it clear that I still enjoy serving the people of Sauk Village, and I have no intention of leaving the police department" Holevis said to a standing ovation.

SAUK HISTORY

On Saturday, November 25, 1972—

Over 300 people attended the dedication service of the Rickover Jr. High School gymnasium as the “Jan Johnson Gymnasium”.



Jan Johnson— 1972

Then Superintendent of Schools Joseph Adams congratulating Johnson on representing the United States of America in the Olympic Games.

Roger Theisen, then Mayor of Sauk Village presented Johnson with the “Key to the City”. Theisen was pleased to be a part of the ceremony to honor Mr. Johnson, who was then age 22.

Johnson won the 1968 Illinois state high school championship while competing at Bloom High School for pole vaulting. He was a Gold Medalist in the 1971 Pan American Games and a Bronze Medalist at the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich Germany for pole vaulting.

Not too many people in Sauk Village today remember these little known facts, but it's my intention to remind them because Sauk Village is rich in history!

Friday, November 22, 1963— Sauk Village mourns the death of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy— assassinated in Dallas Texas.

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**Note - Menu items subject to change*

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Sauk Plaza— Then & Now!

Pancake Breakfast Sauk Village Fire Dept.

The Sauk Village Fire Department is having a Pancake Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, December 5th from 8am to noon at the Leroy Hawkins Fire Station 1804 E. 222nd Street, Sauk Village. \$5.00 for Adults \$4 for children 11 and under and also for Senior Citizens 60 and over.

A little bit goes a long way

Courtesy of the Sauk Village Economic Development Committee—Derrick Burgess, Chairman |

If every household spent just \$20 per week patronizing a Village restaurants that would generate \$3.75 million in sales for the local economy.

This would actually generate \$37,500 in extra revenue for the Village.

It's very important to patronize your local restaurants and businesses because the money you spend doesn't go to another community. SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL ECONOMY and make things better in YOUR HOMETOWN!

Burgess works on Community Development Plan



something that Sauk Village has never had before according to Burgess.

“We want to move the village forward and not get wrapped up in the politics of the moment” Burgess said.

“The Village has got to have a plan to move forward. We’ve never had a plan in place as a guide. Our committee is working to put the plan together and it’s not an easy task. We have many problems we’re facing locally and nationally but Sauk Village is strategically located and we have the incentives, the room and infrastructure in place to make things happen” Burgess said.

Burgess expects to have the Community Development Plan complete in 2012.

Village Trustee Derrick Burgess announced has been working with his Economic Development Committee to create Sauk Village’s first Community Development Plan.

The Plan will include, among other things, building standards and guidelines for new and existing business,

Village Reorganizes Administrative Staff

By Joseph Wiszowaty

SAUK VILLAGE | The Village Board of Trustees voted on November 8th to “reorganize” the front office at Village Hall. A long-time Administrative Clerk will be retiring early next year and long-time administrative clerk Pam Plamondon retired earlier this year.

Sherry Jasinski, the former head of the Village’s now defunct Code Enforcement Department and current zoning administrator has been reassigned and will now wear two hats as Zoning Administrator and as Director of Administrative Services. A new position that the Village created to supervise the clerical employees.

The position of Director of Administrative Services was not posted for the public for anyone to apply.



Surreybrook Plaza on Sauk Trail and Jeffrey Avenue— c1982. Sauk Trail was only 2 lanes, Sauk Village had 2 grocery stores, Ben Franklin, Consumers Pharmacy, Pizza Hut and Burger King. Today, the plaza is mostly vacant and need of updating and modernization.



Village Board to ensure *Temporary* Appointments are *Temporary*

By Joseph Wiszowaty

SAUK VILLAGE | The Village Board of Trustees voted 5 to 1 to limit the mayor’s temporary appointment powers to ensure that they are temporary and not permanent.

The Ordinance reads “All appointive officers of the village shall be appointed by the mayor, with the advice and consent of the corporate authorities. A mayoral nominee for appointment failing to receive a majority vote of all elected trustees may serve as a temporary appointment for a period of 30 days. At the expiration of this 30-day period, the Mayor may resubmit the same nominee for appointment. If the nominee again fails to receive a majority vote of all elected trustees, the nominee will remain in his or her position for a second 30-day period. At the expiration of the second 30-day period, the Mayor must submit a new name for consideration by the corporate authorities. No temporary appointment of any one per-

son shall be made more than twice in any one fiscal year”

The ordinance was vetoed by Mayor Lewis Towers, however, the veto is not likely to stand since the Village Board will likely over-ride the veto which requires just 4 votes to over-ride the veto.

The action taken by the board will impact the Police Chief appointment of Robert Fox since the ordinance was passed and in force at the time of the appointment.

The Village Attorney advised the Village Board that the action taken was appropriate that at no time were any other municipalities ever challenged on the matter with respect to the ordinance.

Towers bends to Will of the People— but only a little bit

Opinion Editorial by Joseph Wiszowaty

- A few weeks ago, Sauk Village Mayor Lewis Towers threatened to sue the Village Board and the taxpayers of Sauk Village over what he called “the process” of hiring a Village Manager.

On Tuesday, November 8th, Towers welcomed Henrietta Turner, the new Village Manager and appeared to capitulate on his “Imma sue you” stance.

I’m glad that Towers accepted the 5 to 1 majority and in this case has worked with the Village Board and not against them. Now this is definitely the exception and certainly not the rule. Towers has not exactly been the model of representative government, but in this one case I would be remiss if I didn’t acknowledge the fact that he did give in to the will of the majority.

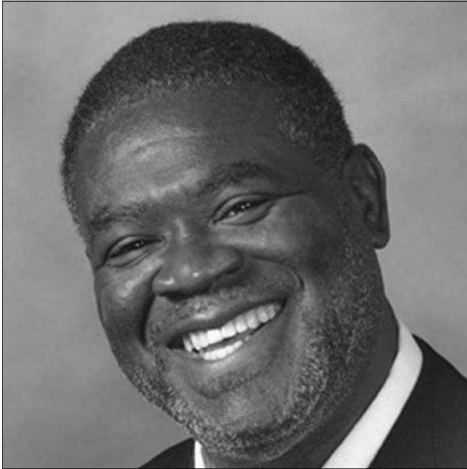
For the first time following the April, 2011 election, where his candidates lost by nearly a 3 to 1 margin, he’s given in to the will of the People of Sauk Village. Yes this was a first by this Mayor.

The Village can neither afford a lawsuit and the people of Sauk Village definitely support the majority of the Village Board. The November 8th meeting, I’m hoping was a turning point; however, I fear that it will not be. The Mayor and the majority of the Village Board of Trustees are divided. The 5 to 1 majority still holds, but I hope that Towers continues to reach out to the majority and work together.

Only time will tell, I only hope time doesn’t run out for Sauk Village.

Who is Lewis Towers?

This is a first in a series of articles which will feature elected officials from Sauk Village We begin the series with the "top dog" Mayor Lewis Towers.



LEWIS TOWERS

Current Elected Office– Mayor
Previous elective office– none
Year first elected– 2009
Term expires– 2013

Not much was known about Lewis Towers when he decided to run for Mayor in the Summer of 2008.

On his campaign literature Towers states he “knew people in high places”, that he had “excellent leadership skill (sic)” and he was going to “bring change to Sauk Village with an open and transparent government”.

Lewis Towers, age 61 was born in Greenwood, Mississippi. His early education was in the Leflore County school system, Graduating from Amanda Elzy High School in 1969. He is a graduate of Mississippi Valley State University. After graduation he moved to Chicago, IL.

Towers and his wife Maxine have been

married over thirty seven years they have 2 adult children and claim to have resided in Sauk Village for about 12 years. Maxine serves on the District 168 School Board and was elected on the same day as Lewis Towers in April, 2009.

“rest assured we will have an open and transparent government”

Towers said shortly after taking office “rest assured we will have an open and transparent government”. Towers lived in Chicago for over twenty four years.

Towers is employed as a manager with the Cook County Assessor's Department (more than nineteen years) in the M a r k h a m , I L .

Many rumors have circulated as to when Towers actually did move to Sauk Village. According to the Village's website Towers moved to Sauk Village, IL in 1998 and became an “active resident in the community.” However, according to the Illinois Election Board, Lewis and Maxine Towers made a contribution the 19t Ward Democratic organization on June 16, 2008. Illinois law requires at least 12 months residency in order to r u n f o r l o c a l o f f i c e s .

Towers only previous involvement with the Village prior to being elected to Mayor was that he served on the Police and Fire Commissioner Board, sat on and attended the Parks and Recreation Committee and Sauk Village Zoning B o a r d .

Former Mayor Roger Peckham did not seek re-election in 2009 and did not endorse any candidate.

Towers publicly supported now former Trustee Francine Anderson and her two running mates Lynda Washington and

Darrick “Lil D” Thompson who were all defeated by nearly a 3 to 1 margin.

Controversy circulated in 2009 when Towers was running for Mayor that he had two homestead exemptions on his property in Chicago and in Sauk Village. Also, Towers did not have a front license plate as required by Illinois law on his 2003 Jaguar and recently put the license plate back on this vehicle, sparking speculation that he will run for reelection.

Shortly after Towers took office in May, 2009, he appointed his campaign manager, Brunetta Hill-Corlry as his Chief of Staff, a position that he abolished the Village Manager's position to create.

Hill-Corley and Towers's Police Chief Frank Martin, an elected Alderman from Country Club Hills, were fired “with cause” in May, 2010 and have been named as defendants in multiple lawsuits alleging, among other things, discrimination by white employees.

The Village settled a Federal lawsuit in September of this year with three employees for an undisclosed amount. The employees in the case claimed both Hill-Corley and Martin treated and held white employees to different standards. An estimate on the settlement number with the employees from exports put the settlement from \$350,000 to \$500,000

Towers is said to have told several people that he will be running for reelection in 2013, however nobody has announced their intention to run for Mayor in April, 2013.

Just who is Lewis Towers? Let's examine his record and his promises over the next few articles... Stay tuned to next week's edition to find out more about Lewis Towers....