



## 2010 ANNUAL VILLAGE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Last Saturday on April 17<sup>th</sup>, the Village celebrated its third anniversary since incorporation. I think back over the many challenges we have faced as a fledging new Village and I am amazed at what has been accomplished in our short history.

### Litigation

The most difficult issue the Village has endured is the enormous amount of litigation filed against the Village as a result of what I believe was a massive misinformation campaign. At the end of March we learned that all lawsuits against the Village had been resolved. Knowing that the Village persevered through this challenge, I am positive we can adapt to any and all future challenges. The first disconnection petition was filed on May 15, 2007, the day after Judge Colwell appointed Village Officials and the Courts ruled in the Village's favor on the last pending disconnection case in March; that is almost three years of litigation. Over that time the Village had 28 disconnection cases plus 15 additional cases and/or appeals to defend. Because the majority of the people in an area could petition to disconnect from the Village during the first year after incorporating, a total population of approximately 4,875 were included in disconnection petitions. It is estimated that approximately 35% were disconnected from the Village by either agreement or through the Court process. The Village spent a total of \$690,000 in litigation since incorporation, or approximately \$16,000 per case filed. Needless to say, I am relieved this phase of our incorporation is over and I am hopeful our residents would agree it is time to move on and bring people together to make this Village the best it can be.

### Annexation

Since incorporation, the Village annexed approximately 367 acres into the Village from five different petitioners.

### Risk Management (Insurance)

The Village participates in the IMLRMA risk management pool and this year there were four claims filed against the Village. IMLRMA represented the Village in the lawsuit filed by Marcel Lizak's estate claiming the police department improperly released Mr. Lizak after a DUI arrest. The lawsuit filed in Federal Court against the Village was dismissed and IMLRMA spent \$20,090 defending the claim. We had one pothole claim against the Village, which was closed without payment to the claimant, and a Police Officer that had two workman compensation claims due to two cat bites while on duty for a total payment by IMLRMA of \$779.

### Police Vehicles

The Village purchased a 2010 Ford Crown Victoria Police Interceptor to replace the Chief's 2009 unmarked police vehicle that was involved in an accident earlier this spring. Because the accident was not Chief Hoffman's fault, we were able to replace this vehicle with little cash from the General Fund.

### Fleet

1 Expedition  
4 Ford Crown Victoria Interceptors (3 marked, 1 unmarked)  
Sold two old police vehicles for \$2,150.

### Building Permits

In the last fiscal year, the Village received one single-family building permit for new construction in the Fox Creek subdivision. Residents continue to remodel their homes, build swimming pools, install sheds and build fences.

**Stormwater**

The Village continues to assist residents to address storm water drainage issues across the Village.

**Zoning Violations**

Officer Ranieri has worked with violators to remedy various Code violations. Most of the complaints centered on property maintenance, drainage issues and illegal signs. For the most part, Officer Ranieri has been successful in addressing these concerns and has had only a few repeat offenders.

**Road Maintenance**

**Campton Township- 2009 Construction Season**

3.1 miles of 2" over-lay of asphalt was applied to the following roads:

- Harley Road
- Osage Drive (Burlington to Redwood)
- White Pine Lane (Osage to Hemlock)
- Over Cup Court (Osage to Hemlock)
- Whitney Drive (Burlington to Colson Drive)
- Fair Oaks Drive (Corron Road to Oak Ridge Drive)
- Holly Court
- Privot Court
- Juniper Court
- Ivy Court
- Laurel Drive

3.2 miles of roads in the following subdivisions were treated with a slurry material to prolong the life of the roads:

- Abby Glen
- Brookhaven
- Hunters Hills
- Wideview

**Plato Township - 2009 Construction Season**

- The Plato Township portion of Arlington Estates Subdivision was resurfaced.
- Connors Road had another layer of asphalt installed on it.
- The Tall Pines subdivision received another layer of slurry material to prolong the life of the existing road.
- McDonald Road from Burlington to Kendall Road was resurfaced thanks to an ARRA grant that would not have been available without having a Village.

**Personnel Changes**

- Treasurer Behrens replaced Treasurer Catalano in June 2009.
- Accountant Mary Slade was hired to prepare warrants, perform payroll duties and complete tax reporting documents.

Chief Anderson resigned to become the Chief of Police in Oak Forest and was replaced by Chief Hoffman, a retired Commander from the Aurora Police Department.

Administrative Clerk/Deputy Clerk Bill Beith resigned to return to school full-time.

The Village continues to staff the police department with six full-time officers and eight part-time officers allowing for a total of two officers per shift. There has been no change in the full-time officers this year except for the promotion of Officer Sawyer to the rank of sergeant. Several part-time officers are no longer working for the Village.

### **Grants**

\$391,000 of ARRA funds was granted to the Village for repaving of McDonald Road. Because the bid came in under estimate, there was a reallocation of \$130,000 to allow for additional paving of the east portion of McDonald Road during the 2010 construction season. Again, this funding would not have been available if we were not a municipality.

\$25,000 from Congressman Foster's Office has been approved and funding is expected later this summer to purchase five computers for police vehicles in addition to moving radar equipment.

\$2,500 S.W.A.T – The Sustainable Watershed Action Team provided money to draft a “Green Infrastructure Plan” to help the Village with development decisions. Trotter and Associates also made a substantial in-kind donation to the project and the Conservation Design Forum recommended conservation related ordinances to consider for the Village's Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

\$85,000 – Received grants from the State Capital Infrastructure Plan from both Senator Lauzen and Representative Hatcher for storm water and sewer infrastructure improvements. The Village is waiting for funding by the state.

### **Finances**

In October the Village paid off the \$140,000 loan, the majority of which was used to finance the 2008 Special Census, which produced substantial additional revenue for the Village. At the end of the fiscal year, April 30, 2010, the Village is on target to have a \$100,000 Reserve Account balance in addition to a cash balance of approximately \$51,000 in the General Fund.

The Village has three active Special Service Areas (SSA). SSA #1 (Evening Prairie) has an outstanding balance of approximately \$80,000, SSA#2 and SSA#3 (Burning Tree) have a credit balance of approximately (\$5,000).

Except for the leasing of three police vehicles and a \$15,000 loan from Kane County for the Village's contribution for SSA#2 and SSA#3, the Village is debt-free.

A Line of Credit was established in the amount of \$150,000 with First American Bank in case the Village had cash flow issues due to the delay in income tax revenue sharing from the state. To date, the Village has not needed to borrow any money from the Line of Credit.

The Road and Bridge Fund has a cash balance of approximately \$40,462 designated for future maintenance of Plato Township roads.

The Motor Fuel Tax Fund has an estimated cash balance of approximately \$114,500.

### **Community Events**

The Community Relations Committee hosted the following events in 2009:

Farmer's Market  
National Night Out  
Heritage Farm Fest

The Beautification Committee hosted a successful Holiday Walk in December.

The Police Department again this year sponsored “Toy for Tots” and the “Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Illinois”.

Eagle Scout Tim Nickels from Boy Scout Troop #80 coordinated the installation of a Flagpole in front of Village Hall this year in addition to the dedication ceremony. Congressman Foster's office provided a flag that had been flown over Capitol on July 1, 2009.

Bolcum Road became part of the "Adopt-A-Road" program by local Boy Scout Troop #56.

Congressman Foster hosted "Congress on the Corner" during one of the Farmer's Markets this summer in front of Village Hall.

### **Liquor Licenses**

As Liquor Commissioner, I issued the following Licenses for the 2009/2010 fiscal year:

License	Name
AP, Q2	Lighthouse Liquors, Inc.
AR	Old Towne Pub & Eatery of Wasco, Inc.
AR, P, S	Niko's Wasco Bar & Grill Inc.
AR, P, AR-1	Hoppers Bar B Que, LLC
AR	Billy's Roadhouse
R	Thai Town II
R	Thai Town II (new owners)
AR	Restaurant 220 d.b.a Michel Angelos

### **Intergovernmental Agreements**

The Village works cooperatively with other units of government and organizations to provide services in the most efficient manner. The Village has the following agreements with other agencies:

- Agreement with Kane County to provide emergency dispatch services
- Campton Township Highway District (IGA for maintenance of Campton Township roads)
- Campton Township Highway District (IGA for maintenance of Plato Township roads)
- Joint Purchasing Act Participation with Illinois Department of Central Management Services
- Animal Control Agreement with Kane County
- Interagency Agreement with Illinois State Police to provide background checks for Liquor Licenses
- IGA with Kane County for funding of Construction Drainage improvements for SSA#1
- IGA between the City of Elgin, Plato Township Highway District and the Village for snow removal during the 2009/2010 Winter season.
- Agreement to "Adopt-A-Trail" with the Kane County Forest Preserve
- Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System Mutual Aid Agreement
- Kane County Regional Emergency Management Mutual Aid Agreement
- IGA with Kane County for the collection of Non-Ad Valorem taxes (SSAs)
- Illinois Public Works Mutual Aid Network Agreement
- Agreement to participate in Kane County's Ride-In-Kane program
- Memorandum of Understanding with the Chicago Chapter of the Red Cross related to emergency services

### **Police**

The Police Department issued less than two citations\* per 8-hour shift for a total of 2,108 citations during the 2009 calendar year. (See the 2009 Police Department Annual Report posted on the Website for details.)

*\*Citations include all moving and non-moving traffic violations (speeding tickets, uninsured motorist violations, expired registration, equipment malfunction, illegal turns, illegal stops, etc.)*

## **Committees**

### **Plan Commission**

The Plan Commission addressed various Zoning Ordinance issues this year including: limiting the maximum size of residential accessory buildings on lots of 5 acres or larger; deleting the requirement for a soil and water land use opinion and an endangered species report for Wind Turbine Special Use Permits applications; in addition, they heard petitions for Cell Tower Special Use Permits; the Norton Lake Preliminary Plan and the Ciampi Annexation and rezoning,

They also studied Dark Sky ordinances, preservation of water aquifers and impact fees for well drilling, Storm water Best Management Practices, the definition of “family” in the Zoning Ordinance and Land Use classifications. The Plan Commission made recommendations to the Village Board related to the Fence and Sign Ordinances and worked with the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning on the CMAP 2040 plan.

The Plan Commission and Village Board reviewed a number of zoning requests for property located within the Village’s 1.5-mile jurisdictional planning area and provided input to the County.

### **ZBA**

The Zoning Board of Appeals held four public hearings related to variance requests regarding sign variances, zoning uses, setback requirements and the size of outbuildings.

### **Beautification**

The Beautification Committee participated in Kane County’s “Adopt-a-Trail” program and maintained a portion of the Great Western Trail. They also decorated the town in red ribbons for the holiday season.

Central Development lit up the gazebo during the holidays and Trustee Lenkaitis and Community Relations Chairman Jeff Huske once again decorated the tree in the gazebo.

### **Economic Development**

The Economic Development Committee continues to meet monthly to look for ways to support our local businesses and to plan for the future of the downtown Wasco area.

### **Joint Environmental Resource Management Committee**

This new committee was formed with members from both the Township and the Village to identify our natural resources and look for ways to be good stewards of the land.

We have come a long way in three years, but there is still plenty of work to do at Village Hall. Because we have operated on a shoestring since incorporation, we still have tasks to address such as developing a records management program, upgrading our IT infrastructure, further development of administrative policies and procedures, in addition to planning for the hiring of a Land Planner and Administrator once sufficient revenues are available.

As you have read in the papers, with the downturn in the economy and the high level of unemployment, plus the state’s financial crisis, municipalities have had a difficult year. Fortunately, the Village had never become reliant on a large percentage of revenue from building permit fees or sales taxes. Plus, because we have no property tax, the Village did not have to adjust to the decline in property values. Our Board continues to focus of fiscal responsibility while providing municipal services. I am proud of efforts of the more than 50 committee members and numerous other residents who volunteer their time to the Village. I look forward to seeing what we can accomplish next year.

Respectfully submitted,

*Patsy Smith*

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Village President