Oak Lawn approves balanced budget for 2012

by Matt Mayer

Officials at a recent Oak Lawn Board of Trustees meeting approved the General Fund for 2012 a budget of $53,557,700 for 2012 was approved which equates to approximately $13.98 million over the previous year. A balanced budget is required by state constitution and village manager Larry Deetjen has been struggling with a $3 million short fall, which he contributes to increased public safety and pension costs.

In an effort to reduce the shortfall the board approved an ordinance creating an operations tax for the parking lot and parking garage at Advocate Christ Hospital Medical center as well as a "community health services fee" ordinance, which is slated to generate $700,000 in village revenue. Advocate Lutheran General Hospital has a similar agreement with Park Ridge.

These ordinances will go into effect after the expansion is completed, Deetjen said. Advocate Medical Center will have a choice of which one of the two fees to implement, negating the other ordinance. Both ordinances are described as "the cost of doing business" in Oak Lawn, taking into consideration Advocate Christ Medical Center's impact to police and fire services as well as the impact on infrastructure. "I'm giving them an option to decide what's best for the hospital," said Deetjen. "From all the feed back that I have received from parties in Park Ridge where Advocate has had a financial relationship for years, this is the way to go," said Deetjen.

Mayor Dave Heilmann said he received a letter from Advocate Christ Hospital CEO Ken Lukhard requesting that the board table the vote on the ordinances for 30 days so there can be further discussion. "I think we should give them that courtesy given that the village has had a positive relationship with them", said Heilmann. Deetjen said he mentioned the proposed parking tax to Lukhard on Nov. 3 and received no response from the medical center. Trustee Tom Phelan (D-6) said "Advocate Christ Medical Center has had that opportunity since Nov. 3. The parking garage tax isn't a last minute idea. They're communicating on everything that's beneficial to them such as expediting plans, zoning variances and permits for Advocate Christ Hospitals new ambulatory pavilion but since something is not beneficial to them there is a month-long non responsiveness", said Phelan.

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Lipinski Presents Oak Lawn Veteran With Korean War Medals

U.S. Rep. Dan Lipinski (IL-3) recently presented Oak Lawn veteran Army Cpl. Gust Peterson with three medals he earned for his service in the Korean War six decades ago. Lipinski personally pinned the Army Good Conduct Medal on Peterson during a ceremony attended by Peterson's family and U.S. Army personnel at the congressman's Chicago district office.

"I'm honored to participate in this important day for Cpl. Peterson and his family, and proud that my office was able to get him the medals he earned but never received," Lipinski said. "Our veterans have fought valiantly for our nation. It is a top priority of mine that they receive the proper recognition for the sacrifices they have made on our behalf."

Peterson served in the U.S. Army in 1953 and 1954. He had contacted Lipinski's office for help obtaining the medals he had earned for his service in the Korean War.

In addition to the Army Good Conduct Medal recognizing exemplary conduct, efficiency, and fidelity during his period of service, Peterson received the Korean Defense Service Medal from the U.S. Army and the Korean War Service Medal from the Republic of Korea. Peterson also was given a letter of appreciation from the President of the Republic of Korea.

Peterson lives in Oak Lawn with his wife of 60 years, Norma. Together, they have four children and three grandchildren.

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Oak Lawn receives Governor's Hometown Award

The partnership of the Oak Lawn Rotary Club and the Village of Oak Lawn have received the 2012 Governor's Hometown Award for their collaboration on the first responder's 911 memorial located next to the Metra Patriot station in the heart of Oak Lawn. Many people made this memorial possible with donations and hard work. We are proud to receive such a prestigious award.

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1/1/2013, p.4

Phelan Will Not Run in April

He Will Concentrate on Changing Mayoral Office in Oak Lawn

By DERMOT CONNOLLY

Oak Lawn Trustee Thomas Phelan (6th) is not running for re-election in April, explaining pointedly in a community newsletter on Dec. 21 that he wants to focus on getting a new mayor elected.

Phelan, who was first elected to the Village Board in 2005, said that after eight years in office, "I believe that Oak Lawn would benefit most if I devoted all of my time and energy to bringing change to the mayoral office in Oak Lawn."

He endorsed his longtime friend, Mike Carberry, who is running for the 6th District seat as an independent. Carberry will face Carol Sheahan in the April 9 election.

Sheahan is running on the Independence Party slate of candidates headed by Mayor David Heilmann. Dr. Sandra Bury, a local optometrist and community activist, is running against Heilmann as an independent.

Phelan noted in his e-mail that he has known Carberry for more than 30 years. He said that his experience balancing budgets and controlling costs as the former owner of an electrical contracting company would serve Oak Lawn well.

He also pointed to Carberry's experience as the former state representative in the 36th District as an asset. Carberry, who is currently the deputy director of facilities management for Cook County, was chosen to replace former state Rep. James Brosnahan, who retired early, and held the seat from March 2010 until January 2011.

Phelan, a vocal opponent of Heilmann on the board in recent years, said that he has been "devoting considerable time and effort to exposing the lies, the fraud, and the crimes that have occurred in Oak Lawn Village government. It has been neither pleasant nor rewarding. But it has been absolutely necessary."

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Tom Phelan

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In 2012, a forensic audit that Trustee Robert Streit (3rd) requested into Phelan's management of the village's 2011 Fall on the Green festival found only that the village board needed to establish better controls over such events.

Phelan claimed in his e-mail that he and others who have worked with him to "expose all the wrong-doing" have been "attacked, slandered and vilified." He disputed accusations that he and others were just "playing politics" or resorting to "personal attacks."

"Let there be no mistaking what all the "fighting" in Oak Lawn has been about. It's not political. And it's not personal. It's criminal. And so there isn't a doubt in anyone's mind about my motivations, I decided it better that I not run again for trustee, and instead focus on exposing these crimes."

He maintained that he is "not motivated by personal grudges or vendettas," or politics either, which he said "I frankly despise and won't miss one bit."

In addition to Bury and Carberry, Phelan's allies on the board, trustees Alex Olejniczak (2nd) and Tom Duhig (4th), and Village Clerk Jane Quinlan are running as independents.

The other independent running is Tim Desmond, who is challenging incumbent Trustee Cindy Trautsch (1st). Desmond owns Jack Desmond's Irish Pub in Chicago Ridge.

Along with Heilmann and Sheahan, the others running on the "Independence Party" slate includes Melissa Moran, who is running for clerk against Quinlan; Julie Misner, running against Olejniczak in the 2nd District; and Tim Reilly, who is challenging Duhig in

HOLIDAY SEASON WITH HEART—Sandi Digangi (above), one of the owners of Big Pappa's Mr. Gyros restaurant in Oak Lawn, hugs her daughter, Nicolette, 11, while another daughter, Michaline, 14, holds up a printed thank you card in response to the community's gratitude for the 1,800 free meals on Christmas Day. Digangi (right) checks her list of people scheduled to receive free meals.
(News-Herald Photos by Mary Kay Barton)

Restaurant Owners Feed Hungry for Christmas

By MARY KAY BARTON

Sandi Digangi and Eddie Memishi came to Oak Lawn several years ago with a idea of not only opening a restaurant, but opening up their hearts as well.

Digangi and Memishi, owners of Big Pappa's Mr. Gyros restaurant, 10806 S. Cicero Ave., got the idea of distributing 500 Christmas dinners on their first anniversary.

Meals consisting of turkey, dressing, yams, vegetables, bread, cranberries and pies were provided free to seniors, the unemployed and underemployed people who are living under the radar.

The two came up with this gesture because they felt blessed. The charitable act dates back to a horrible day in Digangi's life. Her 5-year-old son, Gary Edward, died in a home fire in 1995.

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Free Christmas Meals

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The family turned grief into action during the holiday season by donations to toy drives. Sandi's other children — Anthony, 17, Michaline 14, and Nicolette, 11 — went to shelters to serve Christmas dinners.

Drawing from their experience of Christmas past at shelters, it was decided in this take-out dinner world it would be easier to ask if dinner should be delivered. Big Pappa's would take reservations for the free dinners. If patrons called for a dinner, they would to be delivered with toys for each child, or if customers chose, they could come there to eat.

"It is Christmas and we have to have toys for the children, and we have to have Santa, too," said Digangi. "People got involved."

Edward Hassan, their landlord, offered an empty storefront for those who came to eat. They would need a Santa suit just in case the children came there.

When Digangi and Memishi were asked how this would work out, they had a simple reply.

"We are not working it out, God is," said Digangi.

Digangi said that getting the word out to the community was the next step. A neighbor made flyers, and another volunteer made copies to distribute.

Another volunteer went to St. Gerald Church in Oak Lawn in an effort to get the word out. An organization instrumental in helping the poor, the St. Vincent De Paul Society, could be of assistance too, Digangi thought.

St. Vincent de Paul Society works with St. Gerald and other parishes. Digangi asked the St. Gerald Parish secretary, Michele Cesaro, if the organization could assist in distributing the flyers.

Cesaro listened and suggested that St. Gerald would be interested in distributing the flyers. She later called Al Theis, the St. Gerald principal, and asked if that was possible.

Theis not only agreed but also helped pass the word to school principals in the surrounding area. Students from middle schools and high schools volunteered to distribute the information about the charitable cause.

St. Gerald's Holy Name Society loaned the Santa suit for Christmas Day. St. Germaine collected toys for the event. A fund-raising team of John and Bill Zawadski volunteered their resources. The St. Linus Men's Club volunteered their talents.

Stuffed animals were handmade by students at Mother McAuley High School, who came to the restaurant to pass them out. Pilgrim Faith Church in Oak Lawn donated time and money.

More volunteers came to help and start a new tradition from age groups ranging from 8 to 82. That was the first year and the goal of 500 was surpassed to 700 dinners delivered.

Another volunteer went to a job club for those who are unemployed or underemployed and handed out the flyers. Another volunteer went to a breakfast with Santa outing and got the word out about the Christmas dinner.

Volunteers who found they would be alone on Christmas came to help and start a new tradition. People came with donations of toys, time and talents. Area businesses got involved and donated their resources.

Last year, 1,100 dinners were served, according to Digangi. This year, the small little restaurant served more than 1,800 dinners.

Digangi said she took a call from a woman who asked what was needed. Digangi replied that they could use pies.

"The woman said she would deliver 26 pies in honor of those who died in Connecticut," said Digangi, referring to the shooting deaths of 20 young students and six school officials at Sandy Hook on Dec. 14.

Digangi related that two little boys came in the restaurant with new toys they got for Christmas.

"They said they wanted to donate to those kids who did not get toys for Christmas," said Digangi. "I guess if you ask, you will receive."

Digangi and Memishi were asked if the holiday charity dinners will be served for next Christmas.

"Absolutely," said Digangi. "All you have to is ask, and God will work it out."

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Oak Lawn Village Board Meets In

First Meeting Of The Year

The Oak Lawn Village Board held the first meeting of the New Year on Monday. The meeting covered various village plans for the future and several extremely important ones.

Trustee Robert Streit reported on upcoming projects included in the year's budget. Infrastructure, sanitary sewer rehabilitation, the village's flooding problems, sidewalk replacement and other planned projects. The board passed various ordinances to earmark money for these projects.

The board approved an ordinance to enter into an agreement with Agrreko LLC to provide back up power to the generators at the Harker Pumping station. It was reported that although the village receives good services from ComEd, there are times when the company cannot provide those needed services for one reason or another. The back up power will be in place to avoid delays in water service.

The board addressed a shooting incident that occurred on Dec. 22 at the Chuck E. Cheese restaurant. An admitted gang member was shot at in the parking lot but was not hurt.

It was stated that the parent company, CEC Entertainment was ordered to meet with the village to discuss the incident and to see what can be done to eliminate incidents such as these.

Village manager Larry Deetjen said that the incident was still being investigated and the parent company is conducting its own investigation of the shooting and restaurant security. The village is exploring options since the restaurant's licenses will be up for renewal soon.

Also addressed by the board was the many requests being made for liquor licenses to the village. Two more requests were on the agenda for approval, but it was asked why there seemed to be so many new requests. These requests were over and above the renewals that the village usually approves. It was said since the village passed the gaming ordinance, more establishments have been asking for liquor licenses.

It was advised that the village review their liquor license ordinance and to postpone the two requests that were presented. It was stated that no one wants 95th Street to become a 'bar row.'

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An Overload of Med Centers?

Oak Lawn Village Board Considers Limits on Additional Facilities

By MICHELE BEATTIE

Oak Lawn Mayor Dave Heilmann began the Tuesday village board meeting by thanking everyone who participated in the vigil for the families in Newtown, Conn.

Many families attended and offered prayers and letters to the families affected.

In the public comments portion of the meeting, a resident offered suggestions for increasing revenue in the village. Suggestions included additional taxes on gas and liquor.

Also, suggestions were made to not allow so many medical facilities and doctor offices in the village because they are not bringing money into Oak Lawn. More restaurants and small businesses were suggestions to improve cash flow.

Oak Lawn resident Norman Lupescu followed with criticism of the constant debate going on at each board meeting between two trustees.

"Discussion about building a fitness center that included an attorney that violated several election laws and had no business at these meetings," Lupescu said. "Now there's a federal investigation about this Board and specifically one (unnamed) board member.

"All of these issues have one thing in common: There is one village trustee involved in all of these arguments, accusations and wasting of village funds.

"I say that trustee should be removed from all future board meetings until the investigation is complete."

Lupescu then asked for direction in the process of getting this topic placed on the agenda. He was asked to contact the village manager for further direction.

"There are too many things that are unethical that are going on with this board because of one board member,"

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said Lupescu. "This B.S. cannot continue in this village, with this board."

Heilmann refused to discuss the issue further and moved to continue with the agenda.

Trustee Cynthia Trautsch (1st) reminded everyone to lock their car doors because of break-in incidents at this time of year and also to be aware that a coyote and fox have been seen in the area.

In general business matters, several issues were approved, including a parking variation for a personal training studio at 5201 W. 95th St.

After concerns were raised about parking and traffic issues, clarification of a request for another fitness facility at 9546 Southwest Highway was given by the petitioner, Jason Rudnick.

Rudnick said that this will not be a fitness facility but a personal training studio not unlike a dance studio.

It would not include fitness equipment, and the studio would operate by appointment only for one-on-one personal training. The ordinance was then approved by the board.

A lot variation request for three lots at 9614 and 9616 S. 52nd Ave. was referred to the architectural review committee for discussion.

Other approved ordinances included a revised site plan at 9515-17 S. Central Ave. by Dr. Ejaz Tahir. A "no right turn" sign between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the eastbound entrance to the intersection of 96th Street and Central Avenue was approved.

A discussion of a resolution to approve the expenditure of $100,000 for the 2013 sidewalk repair program was raised by Trustee Alex Olejniczak (2nd).

Olejniczak thinks the amount allotted for sidewalk repairs in the village is too low. The resolution was approved as written.

Decision to grant a liquor license to Penny's Place at 6346 W. 95th St. was postponed along with an ordinance to limit the number of class "1" liquor licenses in Oak Lawn.

Village Clerk Jane Quinlan reminded everyone about the Special Olympics to be held on Saturday, Jan. 19 at Mother McAuley High School, 3737 W. 99th St., Chicago.

Doors open at noon, and opening ceremonies are at 1 p.m. There will be basketball games at 1:30 and 2:30 p.m.

Quinlan encouraged everyone to come out to the event, saying, "It's a wonderful day for the village of Oak Lawn and the surrounding communities."

Tickets may be purchased at *www.oaklawnspecrec.org*, at the Oak Lawn Park District Oak View Center, or at the door for $5.

Heilmann announced the next Safety Meeting will be Tuesday, Jan. 29 at a location to be decided.

The final meeting will be at the Oak Lawn Hometown Middle School in February at a date to be determined.

SPEAKING HIS MIND—Oak Lawn resident Norman Lupescu spoke during the question-and answer session at the beginning of Tuesday night's Oak Lawn Village Board meeting. Lepescu said he is tired of dissent among the village board trustees.

(News-Herald Photo by Michele Beattie)

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Residents look at the Pillars of Honor model recently at Blake-Lamb Funeral Home in Oak Lawn. | SUPPLIED PHOTO

Blake-Lamb hosts Pillars of Honor

Dignity Memorial recently hosted the Pillars of Honor Ceremony, an organization dedicated to honoring veterans from World War II, at Blake-Lamb Funeral Home in Oak Lawn.

"These men and women fought and defended our freedom with valor and courage," Dignity Memorial officials said in a news release. "It was through their commitment to eliminating tyranny and injustices around the world that helped preserve the freedoms we treasure today as Americans."

The reception began with a medley of songs from the era, followed by a recognition of veterans in attendance and the unveiling of the World War II Memorial model, which was used for the commissioning of the memorial in Washington, D.C.

Information: (847) 954-0520 or www.pillarsofhonor.org.

Staff reports

NeighborhoodStar
1/13/2013, p.14

Oak Lawn approves infrastructure improvements

by Matt Mayer

Officials at the Oak Lawn Board of Trustees meeting approved an agreement with Aggreko LLC for back up power generators for the Harker Water Pumping Station, which supplies water to 325,000 people in 13 municipalities. The municipalities will pay their fair share for the upgrades based upon how far out they are, New Lenox will pay the most, said Deetjen. A contract with CDM Smith for $3,958,000 for professional engineering services for the 2012 regional water system detailed design was approved as well as a contract with CDM Smith for $1,200,000 for the 2013 sanitary sewer rehabilitation program. A resolution to adopt a policy pertaining to additional infrastructure improvements was also approved.

Other highlights: The board postponed 2 additional requests for liquor licenses from establishments. There has been an increase of requests for liquor licenses since the gaming ordinance, which allows for video poker machines was approved. Trustee Tom Duhig said, "We don't want to turn 95th Street into a casino."

The board concurred with the Planning and Development Commission referral for a site plan for Dr. Ejaz Tahir at 9515-17 S. Central Avenue. An ordinance for the site plan was approved as well as an ordinance to install a No Right Turn Sign between 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., except for local traffic, at the eastbound entrance on 96th street and Central Avenue.

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Finds Working on Fireplaces a 'Cozy' Idea

Has Office in Oak Lawn and Enjoys Being Employed in Family-Run Business

Jeff Hopkins was working in the restaurant industry during his days at Elmhurst College.

It was at the suggestion of a classmate that he began working on fireplaces.

His friend was employed at a fireplace store and Hopkins, weary of the restaurant pace, decided that could be an interesting alternative.

Hopkins continued work on fireplaces throughout the latter half of the 1980s into the 1990s.

But it was a suggestion by his wife, Suzette, that changed Hopkins' life.

"She said you have been working on fireplaces for everybody else, why don't you open your own business," recalled Hopkins.

That was the beginning of A Cozy Fireplace.

Hopkins began operating the businesses dating back to 1995.

He has offices in Crest Hill, Naperville and New Lenox.

He opened A Cozy Fireplace at 6838 W. 95th St. in Oak Lawn in 1997.

Hopkins has been delighted with the results.

He recently offered a series of sales for the holiday season. But sales still continue, said Hopkins.

"It's getting toward the end of the season, believe it or not," said Hopkins. "We will be offering clearance sales. We will start moving stuff to make room for more items."

Hopkins received his bachelor's degree in Business Administration at Elmhurst College. The Willowbrook High School graduate grew up mostly in Lombard.

He and his wife have a son, Anthony, 22, who enlisted in the U.S. Navy four years ago.

Hopkins said his son played a major role in the business before entering the military.

"He was a great help. He helped build this business up," said Hopkins.

Hopkins said the staff at A Cozy Fireplace can install a fireplace, wood stove, gas grill, glass door and gas logs for the home.

The Oak Lawn store has a wide variety of wood fireplaces, gas direct vents, wood and gas inserts, fireplace tool sets, screens, log baskets and other decorative items.

Hopkins said that traditional to modern or European contemporary fireplaces can be installed.

The store is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, and from noon to 7 p.m. Wednesdays.

A Cozy Fireplace is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays, but is closed on Sundays and Mondays.

COMFORTS OF HOME—Jeff Hopkins, owner of A Cozy Fireplace, 6838 W. 95th St., Oak Lawn, checks out one of his fireplaces. Hopkins said a variety of clearance sales are being offered at the family-run business.

(News-Herald Photo by Joe Boyle)

More information may be obtained by calling (708) 233-6333 or by visiting the following Web site: *www.acozyfireplace.com*.

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1/18/2013, p.9

Dennis Dennehy, Teacher Of Irish Dance, Dies at 73

Famous Irish dance instructor Dennis Dennehy, an Oak Lawn resident, died Jan. 6 at the age of 73.

Mr. Dennehy was an underwriter for Kemper Insurance, but he was well-known as a teacher of Irish dance for more than 50 years who — along with his wife, Margie (nee Bartishell) — had his own dance school: the Dennehy School of Irish Dance, 2555 W. 111th St., in Chicago.

For many years, dating back to the 1970s, the Dennehys also held Saturday dance classes in the St. Nicholas of Tolentine school hall at 3741 W. 62nd St., in Chicago.

His most famous student was Michael Flatley, of "Lord of the Dance" and "Riverdance" fame. Flatley is a graduate of Brother Rice High School.

In addition to his wife, Mr. Dennehy is survived by his son, Dennis; daughter, Kathleen, who now runs the dance school; sisters, Therese Smetana and Margaret Jandacek; brother, Emmett; and one grandson.

Services were Jan. 11 from Blake-Lamb Funeral Home to St. Linus Church.

In addition to Flatley — who is the first dancer outside of Europe to win a world championship in Irish dance — Mr. Dennehy taught many other famous students, including Eleanor Daley, daughter of the late Chicago mayor, and about 100 other students who went on to become teachers of Irish dance.

One of those students is Mark Howard, who cofounded Chicago's Trinity, the largest Irish dance program in the world.

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Debate Merits of Video Gaming

Oak Lawn Village Board Review Plans for Liquor License Requests

By JOE BOYLE

The video gaming industry — its benefits and minuses — was the main topic of interest at the Oak Lawn Village Board meeting on Tuesday night.

The evening began with comments from Kathy Gilroy, who opposes the presence of video gambling in the village.

Gilroy said during the question-and-answer session that "Oak Lawn has given up all control" to the Illinois legislature, which has approved the video gaming industry for the state.

"If the state allows it, the more accessible gambling becomes," said Gilroy. "More people will try it and it will lead to addiction."

Gilroy then asked that with Oak Lawn also approving video gaming, will this mean that more liquor licenses will be allowed?

Board members later looked at the pros and cons of the video gaming industry.

Trustee Thomas Duhig (4th) was absent from the meeting.

"We are now being inundated with bistros and cafes," said Trustee Cynthia Trautsch (1st). "Do we cap them at a certain amount? We not only have barkeeps but we have restaurants that are also requesting liquor licenses."

Trustee Alex Olejniczak (2nd) said that his concern is that if more liquor licenses are rewarded to these establishments, the video gaming industry will increase to an alarming rate in Oak Lawn.

However, the income derived from the video gaming industry would benefit cash-strapped Oak Lawn, according to Trustee Carol Quinlan (5th).

She pointed to the southeast corner of 103rd and Central Avenue and the empty buildings.

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MAIN SOURCE OF PROBLEM—A display featuring a damaged water main with two newer ones were on display at the Oak Lawn Village Board meeting on Tuesday night. The water mains had broke between 102nd and 104th streets on Menard. The situation was isolated and affected 10 homes, according to Larry Deetjen, village manager. The baseball in front shows how large the holes were in the damaged water mains.

(News-Herald Photo by Joe Boyle)

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"I've talked to residents that say they would like to see something there than nothing at all," said Quinlan.

Quinlan added that the economic boost for the village would be worth considering. She estimates that Oak Lawn could see an extra $500,000 annually with the presence of video gaming.

However, even with those advantages, Quinlan said she was concerned.

Trustee Thomas Phelan (6th) also had questions.

"There are people who do have addictions," said Phelan. "It's a problem and could result in lawsuits. I thought we were giving licenses to existing businesses, but now we know we are getting all these requests."

Trustee Bob Streit (3rd) stated that there has been 21 requests for liquor licenses just recently.

"It isn't a panacea but we as a board have to weigh each business, case by case," said Streit. "How is it going to affect the neighborhood? Are they going to be a nuisance? What about parking?"

Several businesses had requested liquor licenses at the meeting. However, the merits of another business was debated despite the fact that it was not looking for a liquor license and was approved by an 8-0 margin by the village's Planning and Development Commission.

A petition for a massage establishment, 6340 W. 95th St., was debated at the meeting. Quinlan questioned one of the owners, Chang Suo Xue, about the business. Xue stated that massages would be out in the open and would be mainly foot massages. When pressed by Quinlan, Xue said that shoulders may be rubbed in an effort to relax the customer.

Xue said that no showers or wet areas would be at the businesses. The business was approved by a 3-2 margin.

Liquor licenses were unanimously approved for the Blackhawk Restaurant Group for Penny's Place, 6346 W. 95th St., and Bobush, 4911 W. 95th St.

While the board welcomed the businesses, concerns over what appears as an increase in liquor license requests will mean additional video gaming.

Olejniczak said that he met with the owners of Bobush and they stated they have no interest in video gaming.

But when asked, village attorney Paul O'Grady said that any business that receives a liquor license is eligible to have video gaming.

Mayor Dave Heilmann said that perhaps an ordinance needs to be established specifically for video gaming to maintain control over the industry. Oak Lawn already has an ordinance for liquor licenses.

Larry Deetjen, the village manager, said that a new alarm system is being set up at strategic locations in Oak Lawn to warn residents about floods or other major disasters. Deetjen said the messages will be in English, Polish and Spanish. The alarm system will also be set up in mid-February.

Deetjen also pointed to a display in front showing three water mains, one that is broken. The water main breaks occurred between 102nd and 104th on Menard. Water began bubbling out of the 30-foot water main pipes. A boil order was requested for a short period of time. Deetjen later added that the situation was isolated and only affected about 10 homes.

Despite the lack of snow, Olejniczak said that the senior shovel program is available and the "troops are ready to go" when the snow finally arrives. He also reminded residents to check on the elderly especially after the recent frigid temperatures.

Olejniczak also questioned why Streit called for more additional information regarding his request for a turning signal at Central Avenue and Southwest Highway. Olejniczak said the corner is dangerous, and a serious accident occurred there recently.

A barrier had been installed in front of the corner home on the northwest corner because of vehicles that have plowed into the residence previously.

Streit countered by saying that he was only responding to someone who approached him about the need for a turning signal light at that corner. Streit agreed with Olejniczak about additional safety measures that need to be examined.

Calling for more awareness for bicycle safety, Streit said extra precautions have to be implemented to create a safe environment for pedestrians, drivers and bicyclists. He also mentioned the corners of 95th and Central, 99th Street and 55th Avenue, Southwest Highway and 52nd Avenue, and 95th and Cicero, where an Oak Lawn-Hometown Middle School girl was killed last year trying to cross, as examples of dangerous corners.

Phelan and Streit bickered over funding for infrastructure improvements. Phelan stated that Streit has dictated what areas should be set for improvements, which he said should be determined by engineers, not public officials.

However, Streit stated that money for improvements have come from the Build American funds, which he said is nearly depleted. Streit added that while engineers can decide what projects should be worked on, the board has to focus on what areas have the greatest need.

A resolution authorizing Deetjen to seek reimbursement of overtime costs incurred by the village as a result of the filming of "Speeders Fight Back" became the source of another heated exchange.

Olejniczak and Phelan called for the request. Heilmann said that many entities owe the village money and this is just one more.

Quinlan wondered why this had to be brought up again and felt that the issue was "ridiculous."

Phelan did not see it that way.

"These were serious allegations for a month, and we didn't do anything," said Phelan.

Streit countered by saying this issue was on the agenda last month and the only reason it is being brought up is political.

Phelan and Streit again argued about their past differences that included how tickets were distributed at the Fall on the Green. Heilmann banged the gavel and said that Phelan was out of order.

Streit concluded by saying just "send out the bill."

Quinlan added that there appears to be some confusion over aggregation. Verde Energy, which was approved in the November election to provide energy for the village, will begin operating on Feb. 5.

She also said that if someone calls saying they are from Microsoft, Dell or other companies, this is nothing more than a scam. They are trying to get residents to detail them information from their computers.

Quinlan advises residents who receive these calls to just hang up.

Trautsch reminded residents about the "Remembering Megan" Candlelight Bowl that begins at 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 2 at Arena Bowl, 4700 W. 103rd St.

The annual event is held in memory of Megan Hurckes, who was the daughter of former 1st District Trustee Jerry Hurckes. Megan, who would have turned 14 this year, died several years ago in a vehicular accident.

Heilmann also reminded residents about the Cook County Bureau Food Checkout Day, which will be held Thursday, Feb. 21. Funds raised from the event at a local Jewel will go to the Ronald McDonald House.

The mayor and Trautsch said that another school safety meeting will be held Tuesday, Jan. 29 at Harnew School, 9101 S. Meade Ave.

Demolition plans for the Harley Davidson building near 111th Street and Cicero Avenue will proceed. Demolition will begin during the next month, Deetjen said.

Phelan, a graduate of Brother Rice High School, mentioned that Tom Mitchell, the longtime head football coach at Brother Rice, had died.

"Our condolences go to the Mitchell family," said Heilmann. "He is a guy who contributed a lot to Oak Lawn and a lot of families here."

Oak Lawn to test new tornado siren system

Sirens and warning messages in four languages may boom throughout Oak Lawn from Feb. 11 to 22 as the village tests a new tornado warning system during the installation process.

The village is replacing a 25-year-old system with one that will have better sound coverage and the capability to relay warning messages in English, Spanish, Polish and Arabic, according to a letter sent by the village to residents.

The test message may be played and siren tones sounded between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays of those two weeks, the letter said. When installation and testing are complete, residents will be notified that the new system is active, the letter said.

Sirens will be installed at 5500 W. 111th St. and Frontage Road, 102nd Street and Major Avenue, 103rd Street and Kostner Avenue, 93rd Place and Keeler Avenue, 6451 W. 93rd Place, and 91st Street and 52nd Avenue, the letter said.

Staff reports

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Elks to offer orthopedic assessments for children

Oak Lawn Elks Lodge 2254 and Chicago South Elks Lodge 1596, in cooperation with the Illinois Elks Children's Care Program, have established a free children's orthopedic assessment clinic.

The clinic will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. Feb. 6 at Parkview Musculoskeletal Institute, 7600 W. College Drive, Palos Heights. Appointments can be made by calling the Illinois Elks Children's Care Program at (800) 272-0074 between the hours of 1 and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The Elks Organization has been working with physically challenged children since 1928 and this is one of 18 clinic locations throughout Illinois. The clinic is an ideal chance for a child to be reviewed for bone and joint development. There is no charge for any diagnostic services at this clinic. The Elks will provide financial assistance to their best of their ability for children needing further treatment or specialty equipment when the family lacks sufficient resources to do so.

The organization said it expects to offer additional clinics at the Palos Heights location during the year.

Supplied to the SouthtownStar

Southtown Preview 1/30/2013, p.5

Oak Lawn Focuses on Crime

More Robberies in Village But Not More Overall Offenses, Police Say

By MICHELE BEATTIE

Oak Lawn Mayor Dave Heilmann welcomed a large group of residents to the third of four scheduled community safety meetings Tuesday night at Harnew School, 9101 S. Meade Ave., Oak Lawn.

As in previous meetings, Heilmann encouraged residents to become involved in the safety of their neighborhoods.

"I need people willing to work," said Heilmann. "Not just a feel-good-one-time contribution, but to get together to work on a comprehensive plan."

The theme throughout the evening was: "If you see something, say something. If you want a police officer now, call 911."

Heilmann acknowledged that there have been several armed robberies in the past year, but the police were able to stop two of the robberies before they occurred. In all cases, the robberies were committed by people not living in Oak Lawn.

Several residents praised the rapid response from the police when they are needed.

Oak Lawn Police Chief Bill Villanova reported that calls for police service were 29,110 in 2004 and 58,402 in 2012. However, Villanova said that when looking at the Uniform Crime Report numbers, "they're fairly consistent. They go up some years and go down another year. When we compare (our numbers) to other towns, we compare very favorably."

This information is available on the Illinois Police Web site under Uniform Crime Reports.

Villanova pointed out that since he has been police chief there have been a number of homicides but "they have all been domestic-related. In almost all the cases, the person was killed by someone they lived with. Not one involved a stranger."

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Several residents expressed concern with possible gang activity in their neighborhood. Villanova said there has been a slight increase but there are now six officers assigned to the gang and narcotics unit. Villanova explained that these two areas (gangs and narcotics) are connected.

"There are approximately 140 people in town that are claiming some sort of gang membership," said Villanova. "As far as them running our streets, no. That's just not happening."

Kathy Hansen, director of the village's emergency communications department, emphasized what had been said several times throughout the meeting. The 911 system is available anytime for someone who needs to contact a police officer. The 911 system is not just for medical emergencies, added Hansen.

"If there is suspicious activity on your block, call 911," urged Hansen. "If you want to see a cop right now, call 911."

Hansen explained the Everbridge Communication Alert system and encouraged all residents to register every phone used in the home, both land lines and cell phones. The system will notify residents in case of emergency situations in the area, such as tornado warnings, severe storm warnings or police emergencies in the neighborhood.

Residents may go to the village Web site at *www.everbridgealerts@oaklawnil.gov* or call (708) 499-7771 for assistance in registering. Residents were also able to sign up after the meeting.

Many residents also signed up to be part of the comprehensive plan proposed by Heilmann.

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Electronics waste collection makes Oak Lawn 'greener community'

CHERYL
PETZEL
Citizen journalist

Greetings fellow Oak Lawnians!

In case you aren't aware or have forgotten, Oak Lawn has a permanent electronic waste collection site. The drive-through site, which opened in 2009, is a wonderful resource for residents and neighboring communities, and everyone should take advantage of it and use it regularly.

"We're very proud of the Green Team — where we've come from and where we're going," said Alex Olejniczak, chairman of the Green Team.

Olejniczak said he credits village forester Heather Green and public works employee Jack Lopez, along with the Green Team, for the e-waste site's success.

Lopez, who oversees the collection site, said he not only is committed to making the program successful, but to making Oak Lawn a greener community.

"Jack is one of the most informational guys on e-waste that I've ever met. He's a great resource and a great resident," Olejniczak said.

Lopez is so committed to the cause that he volunteers his time at the collection site during its hours of operation to make sure it is fully operational and staffed with enough volunteers.

Besides Lopez, at least four other volunteers are needed.

The minimum age for volunteers is "middle school and above," Lopez said. It's a great way for students to earn their community service hours and learn about recycling.

The collection site is open from 2 to 4 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays and 10 a.m. to noon the second Saturday of the month. On designated Saturdays, volunteers are needed from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Lopez said he enjoys educating young volunteers on the importance of recycling and why our community and its residents need to do their part to reduce their carbon footprint.

Lopez always is at the site to greet you with a smile, along with his staff of friendly volunteers, who make sure the site runs efficiently. You just load up your vehicle with your disposable items and drive into the village's Public Works Garage, 5550 W. 98th St.

Oak Lawn residents can drop off old computers, components, televisions and other electronic items at the village's Public Works Garage, 5550 W. 98th St. | SUPPLIED PHOTO

Volunteers unload your vehicle and, in a few minutes, you're in and out.

Collection items include smoke alarms, cell phones, computers and monitors; cameras, and anything with an electrical cord, such as small appliances, coffeemakers, TVs and microwaves.

Batteries of all kinds, used inkjet and toner cartridges and lots of other items can be dropped off at the collection site. Refrigerators, stoves, air conditioners, glass items or items containing Freon cannot be disposed of at the collection site.

If you're interested in volunteering at the collection site, contact Lopez at (708) 499-7748 or jlopez@oaklawn-il.gov.

For information on items accepted at the collection site, visit www.oaklawn-il.gov and click on the link for "Green Team."

Celebrity announcements

Happy fifth birthday to Jack Makuch from his parents, Jamie and Jeff, and brother, Lukas. Sandy and Dave Wills send birthday wishes to their granddaughters, Ronnie Guagenti and Julie Smith, who are turning 9. Happy 10th birthday to Kevin and Mickey Haggerty, from their parents, Tim and Maurren.

Theresa and Wally Antonowicz wish their grandson, Anton Tomacic, a happy 10th birthday. Happy 15th birthday to Nicholas Maslanka, from his parents, and Rosemary and Michelle. Happy 20th birthday to Kyle Frega, from his parents, and Kody and Patrick.

Happy 21st birthday to Andrea DeMoss, from her family. Happy 21st birthday to Christina Pender, from her parents, Tina and Tim, and Rachel. Nina Thorell's parents wish her a happy 23rd birthday.

Happy 28th birthday to Kristen Brooks, from her family and Meaner. Happy 29th birthday to Holly Bubel, from her parents, Nancy and Roy, and Kelly, Brian and Grandma Bubel. Happy 34th birthday to Maurine Cody, from her mom, Patty.

Julie Busse's family wish her a happy birthday. Birthday wishes go out to Kelli Kelly, from her family and students. Bertha Tapia-Herrera's family wish her a happy birthday. Happy birthday to Yolanda Sawicki from her family.

Happy birthday to Helen Makina. Happy birthday to Bill Prusinski and to Jeff Blackburn from Mary. Happy birthday to Jim Bruen, from his children, Kelcey, Sean and Patrick.

Happy birthday to Jerry Hurckes. Les Sawicki's family wish him a happy 66th birthday. Happy 69th birthday to Hank Castillo, from his wife, Lori. Happy 70th birthday to William Braun, from his wife, Carol, and Dan, Tim and Julie.

Wedding anniversary wishes go out to Bob and Kathy Cook; John and Betty Kastros; and Michael and Beth Durkin on their ninth anniversary; Ian and Cori Ellis on their 25th anniversary; and Jim and Charlotte Dillon on their 35th anniversary.

Keep your fellow Oak Lawnians informed about birthdays, special events or special "stuff" going on with your family or within the community. Call me at (708) 899-9544.

NeighborhoodStar
2/3/2013, p.4

Oak Lawn officials debate the pros and cons of video gaming

by Matt Mayer

Officials discussed the pros and cons of the video gaming industry, which has recently become a popular topic of revenue in local municipalities. Governor Pat Quinn signed the Video Gaming Law Act into law back on July 13 2009, which legalizes video gaming and establishes a tax on the proceeds, a portion of which goes to the local municipality. An establishment must have a liquor license to have video gaming machines - a max of five terminals are allowed per establishment under the act.

Trustees Cynthia Trautsch, (D-1), said that we are now being inundated with bistros and cafes, that want to serve food and gamble. We not only have bars, we are also having restaurants requesting liquor licenses. "Do we cap them at a certain amount" said Trautsch.

Trustee Carol Quinlan (D-5) said that the income received from the gaming industry would benefit cash strapped Oak Lawn. She used the corner of 103rd and Central Avenue, which has empty storefronts as an example. "I have talked to residents that told me they would like to see something there rather than nothing," said Quinlan.

"The economic boost for the village would be worth considering. I estimate that Oak Lawn could receive an extra $500,000 annually from video gaming. However even with those advantages, I'm still concerned," said Quinlan.

Trustee Tom Phelan (D-6) said he thought that the village was giving licenses to existing businesses. Now we are getting all these requests. Trustee Bob Streit (D-3) said there has been 21 requests for liquor licenses just recently " It isn't a panacea but we as a board have to weigh each business case by case, such as how will it affect the neighborhood. Will it be a nuisance? What about parking," said Streit.

Business licensees and liquor licensees were approved for Penny's Place, 6346 W. 95th Street, and Bobush, 4911 W. 95th Street. Olejniczak said he had met with the owners of Bobush and they have no interest in video gaming. When asked, Village Attorney Paul O'Grady said that any business that receives a liquor license is eligible to have video gaming.

Mayor Dave Heilmann said perhaps and ordinance needs to be establishes specifically for video gaming to maintain control over the industry. "Oak Lawn already has an ordinance for liquor licenses," said Heilmann.

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Clarion Gives Oak Lawn writer five stars

The highly-regarded Clarion Book Review gave five stars to The Founders' Plot, a political thriller by Oak Lawn author Frank M. Victoria. "This is very rare," said Clarion spokesperson Jennifer Szunko, "Only a small percentage of our reviews get five stars."

The review said, "The Founders' Plot "will grip the hearts and minds of readers as they are swept into a tale of political maneuvering by Frank Victoria's masterful storytelling ... an intriguing and rich novel. The characters, dialogue and plot will entertain readers, and the constant twists and surprising conclusion will keep them guessing until the end."

Kirkus Reviews, another independent reviewer known to be tough in evaluating novels, also gave a highly favorable assessment of the novel, stating that "For readers on the hunt for a fictional account of a contemporary political dispute, this is a competent if not inspiring option."

The Founders' Plot focuses on illegal immigration, constitutional interpretation and government intrigue. A newly-elected governor of California pushes through a tough immigration law that's declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court, but he refuses to accept the ruling and continues enforcing the law. This ignites a clash between federal, state, and judicial power that threatens to jar the country's political and justice systems.

A savvy member of the opposition party combats the governor and will go to any length to force the governor to obey the Court decision, and her devious maneuvers throw his personal and professional life into turmoil. Meanwhile, tragedy befalls two Mexican families, in the country illegally, as they grapple with the hypertensive environment created by the law.

The book is available on-line at Amazon, Barnes & Noble and Atlas Books as well as bookstores nationally.

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Find Violations Against Bury

But Oak Lawn Mayoral Candidate Says Larger Issues Are at Stake

By DERMOT CONNOLLY

The Illinois State Board of Elections found following a hearing on Jan. 23 that Oak Lawn mayoral candidate Dr. Sandra Bury was guilty of several violations in failing to properly disclose her campaign expenditures last September.

Candidates are supposed to file financial statements quarterly with the state Board of Elections, disclosing contributions and expenditures. Bury, a local optometrist who is running against Mayor David Heilmann in the April election, announced her candidacy on Sept. 5.

She stated in her filings that she did not have any expenditures, although documents show she had paid a political consultant $2,500, and incurred costs for mailings, $1,500 for an attorney and other expenses. The state board found in favor of the claimant, attorney Norman Chimenti, of Westmont, and against Bury.

"It was just a matter of paperwork," said Bury on Wednesday. She said she made a mistake filing the documents because she is a newcomer to politics and was unfamiliar with the forms and procedure.

"This was vindictive," said Bury. "It was just a nuisance case," she said, which required her to take two days away from her business to go to Springfield for the hearing.

"I just refiled the documents correctly and that is the end of it," she said. The Board of Elections decision required her to refile within 15 days or face up to $5,000 in fines.

Bury maintained that the filing procedure, which is now done online, was confusing. "If you ever filled out a government form, you know what I mean."

"I am not a politician. Inexperience is no excuse, but it wasn't that I was trying to be secretive. But I presented documents to the board. I will do better. I am learning."

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She said her accusations that Heilmann is being secretive and non-transparent do not compare to the finding against her.

"He is a two-term incumbent and an attorney who has held elective office before," she said.

She pointed out that Chimenti, who filed the complaint, is an attorney and longtime associate of Heilmann's whom she has criticized in her campaign literature. Bury maintains that the two men have a conflict of interest, which should have been divulged when Chimenti was hired to do legal work for the village in the past.

Bury said that taking cases such as this to the Board of Elections is just taking attention away from issues affecting Oak Lawn residents.

"It distracts from the real issues, such as keeping taxes low, keeping and attracting businesses, and government transparency. These issues need to be discussed."

She said she decided to run against Heilmann in large part because she wants to bring a transparency to village government that she feels is lacking now.

The candidate said she filed several Freedom of Information requests to get access to village documents, and was denied. She accuses Heilmann of working to keep the documents out of her hands, and said that among other things, he wrongly used the village seal on ads for a fund-raiser at St. Linus Church, which amounted to campaign ads because they included his running mates, who are not elected officials.

"All of this is more serious (than the financial filings issue). I didn't run to the Board of Elections. The thought crossed my mind but it costs the village money and distracts from the real issues."

"The village has incurred thousands of dollars in legal expenses on FOIA's from Ms. Bury, asking our staff to search for records so she can try and dig up some dirt for a political attack," said Heilmann. "I am sorry that she feels that that conduct is acceptable while violating state election laws is a 'nuisance.'"

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Oak Lawn Native Enjoys 'Reptile World'

By STEVE NEUHAUS

As a young boy, Dave DiNaso was always fascinated by all creatures big and small.

He would catch any critter he could find. He even recalls the time during his high school years he sneaked a rattle snake into his bedroom. While he was in school, his mother found it, and needless to say she was very surprised.

The Oak Lawn boy decided this was something he would want to do for the rest of his life.

Growing up in Oak Lawn, DiNaso attended St. Germaine School and Brother Rice High School. The son of a local contractor and one of three boys, he decided not to follow in his father's foot steps in the construction business, but rather pursue his dreams and his passion for animals.

After returning home from college at Illinois State where he studied Communications, he decided to start his business: The Traveling World of Reptiles.

Since 1993, DiNaso and his employees have entertained thousands by performing more than 10,000 shows to not only entertain, but to educate audiences at hundreds of venues.

They have performed for many television and sports personalities, politicians and musicians, including

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SLITHERING AROUND—A young boy holds a snake as Oak Lawn native Dave DiNaso, of the Traveling World of Reptiles, looks on during a program held Jan. 27 before a large crowd at the Oak Lawn Library. (News-Herald Photo by Steve Neuhaus)

WORLD OF REPTILES—Oak Lawn native Dave DiNaso holds his black throat monitor lizard named "Zainy" as kids touch the pet during a showing Jan. 27 at the Oak Lawn Library. Juliette Bertalmio (left), 11, of Oak Lawn, pets "Dino" the green iguana, who goes along with DiNaso in his Traveling World of Reptiles show. (News-Herald Photos by Steve Neuhaus)

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players and reps from the Chicago Bears, Chicago Bulls, Washington Redskins, New Orleans Saints, Cincinnati Bengals, Minnesota Vikings, Seattle Seahawks, Chicago Cubs, and several times at the Cleveland Grand Prix.

The Traveling World of Reptiles has also been a part of the marketing of two Hollywood films "How to Train Your Dragon" and "Rango," and have performed at the premiers of both movies.

"We do not persuade people to like reptiles but rather to respect them and explain the reasons why they should be protected," said DiNaso. With more than 35 animals, Dinaso and his team offer more than 800 shows per year.

The Traveling World of Reptiles presents an entertaining, close-up, live, educational animal show lasting approximately 60 to 75 minutes.

DiNaso's collection includes African pixie frogs, Burmese python snakes, turtles and even a green iguana named "Dino" along with many other reptiles.

DiNaso's shows are typically at local libraries in the Chicago area.

When asked what he would say to kids who may be interested in collecting reptiles, DiNaso replied, "I usually do not encourage children to collect reptiles as pets because most of them do not make adequate pets, particularly at their age, and are difficult to take care of. Instead, I like to say to them this...If you have an interest or hobby that you think you may be able to incorporate into something you can do for a living, study it now, stay in school, and stay away from the people who tempt you to do things that aren't right."

DiNaso now resides in Downers Grove with his wife, Jeannette; sons, Danny 7, and Trevor, 5; daughter, Haley, 3; and, of course, his reptile friends.

Residents may learn more about The Traveling World Of Reptiles and their event schedule at *www.travelingworldofreptiles.com* or call (888) SLITHER (888-754-8437).

MIGHTY PYTHON—Oak Lawn native Dave DiNaso shows a large crowd of adults and youths his 16-foot, 150-pound Burmese python during his "Traveling World of Reptiles on Jan. 27 at the Oak Lawn Library. (News-Herald Photo by Steve Neuhaus)

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Oak Lawn Man Dies From Injuries in Fall

Oak Lawn Police detectives investigating the death of a 51-year-old man learned Tuesday through the medical examiner's office that the victim died from a head injury suffered in a fall.

The man, Terrence Reichert, of the 11000 block of Komensky Avenue, in Oak Lawn, died at about 10:30 a.m. Monday, according to the medical examiner's office.

The Oak Lawn Fire Department was called to check on a male subject injured and lying outside, near his front door on Jan. 30. The male victim was found with facial injuries and unable to speak to his girlfriend, police said. He was taken to Christ Hospital by ambulance.

Oak Lawn Police detectives were notified by the victim's girlfriend. She reported that her boyfriend may have been "jumped."

Police said that Reichert was at a Hometown tavern from about 7 p.m. until approximately 1:10 a.m. on Jan. 30. Shortly thereafter, his brother drove him home.

The brother did not stay long enough to watch whether his sibling went into the house, police said.

The victim was found by his girlfriend lying at his door step unconscious at about 6:10 a.m. on Jan. 30. She then called 911.

An autopsy determined that Reichert died from the injuries suffered in the fall. The medical examiner did note that alcohol intake and hypothermia were contributing factors in his death.

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Pain a lifesaver for Oak Lawn man

Hip pain reveals dangerous aneurysm

BY MIKE NOLAN
mnolan@southtownstar.com

John Dorgan, who had a large aneurysm on his aorta that required surgery, is seen at his Oak Lawn home with his wife, Barb. A doctor at Advocate Christ Medical Center inserted a small metal, mesh and fabric tube through a small cut in Dorgan's groin. Rather than an open, normal surgery which would have required about six months of recovery time, Dorgan left the hospital's ICU 34 hours after he arrived. | MATT MARTON-SUN-TIMES MEDIA

When he played football at Oak Lawn High School and later at the University of Illinois, John Dorgan was told to be tough and ignore pain.

"You're taught to run it off," the Oak Lawn man said.

But a year ago, when pain in his hips made getting out of a chair an excruciating experience, shrugging it off was no longer an option.

"My hips were getting worse and worse every day," he said.

But what his doctor, Andrew Macri, told him after an X-ray and MRI were performed made Dorgan's hip pain pale in comparison. The images revealed a large aneurysm on his aorta, the body's largest blood vessel. Aneurysms occur when the walls of a blood vessel weaken, causing it to widen or balloon outward.

"They said it would have ruptured within a year," Dorgan, 66, said.

Had the aneurysm burst, Dorgan likely wouldn't have survived, according to Dr. Wade-Wei Kang, the vascular surgeon at Christ Medical Center in Oak Lawn who operated on him.

Rather than performing standard surgery, which would have required about six months of recovery, Kang made small incisions in Dorgan's thighs and inserted a slender sleeve made of metal mesh and fabric to repair the aneurysm.

Dorgan and his wife, Barb, are planning a trip out west later this year, and Dorgan always carries two wallet-size cards that explain the procedure he underwent and the placement of the device. The information would be valuable not only should he have a medical emergency while traveling, but because the device is metal, the cards also help explain to airport security personnel what that beeping noise is all about.

John Dorgan shows the cards stating what is in his body, and a diagram of his surgery. | MATT MARTON-SUN-TIMES MEDIA

Dorgan underwent the procedure last March 31, the day after the couple's 39th anniversary.

He said that while he's not a particularly pious person, and was fully confident in the surgeon's skills, he nonetheless sought a little help from a higher power.

"I do believe in my God, I do believe in Jesus Christ, I do believe in prayer," Dorgan said.

Because the operation was less invasive than a typical surgery for an aneurysm, Dorgan said he was able to leave the hospital 34 hours after he'd arrived.

The pain in Dorgan's hips wasn't related at all to the aneurysm, and some medication took care of the problem.

He retired as an environmental inspector for Cook County, but over the years Dorgan had his own carpet business, sold computer equipment, and he and his wife operated an art gallery in Oak Lawn, Art at Studio 52, at 92nd Street and Cicero Avenue.

The couple have two children — a daughter who lives just a few blocks away in Oak Lawn and a son in Joliet.

Doctors told Dorgan that the aneurysm is likely genetic — his father also had one, although it didn't rupture — and Dorgan has to go in yearly for a follow-up MRI. Doctors also recommended that his 34-year-old son be checked.

Oak Lawn Preview
2/13/2013, p.8

Oak Lawn senior happenings

On Monday, February 25th at 10:00 Organist Dennis Colby will entertain. His fun filled, energetic PAT RACK and more show will take you back to the Sands Hotel in Las Vegas and those times created by Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis, Jr. Refresments will be served at the conclusion of his program.

On Thursday, February 28, at 10:30 a.m. lunch is planned.

The sponsors of the lunch are Waterford Estates and Advancare Healthcare. Waterford provides Independent Living, Independent PLUS and Assisted Living options to those ae 62+. Resident enjoy 12 beautiful acres, scenic views, lovely landscaping for those walk paths and a vibrant lifestyle that stimulates the mind, body and spirit.

Advancare Healthcare Services is a Medicare certified and Joint Commission accredited home health care agency that provides skilled nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, medical social workers and home health aides in the home setting.

The presentation begins at 10:30 a.m. followed by lunch and bingo. Tickets may be purchase for $4.00 at the Oak Lawn Senior Center, 5330 West 95 Street. For any further information you may call 708-499-0240.

Village View
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MAYORAL INTERVIEW—Oak Lawn resident Ed McElroy (left), host of "The Ed McElroy Show," recently interviewed Gerald (Jerry) Bennett, mayor of Palos Hills. That show will air at 8 p.m. Tuesday, March 5 and again on Tuesday, March 12 on Comcast Channel 19.

Southwest Suburban News-Herald
2/15/2013, p.2

Detail Need for Turning Signal

Oak Lawn Board Review Changes at Southwest Highway and Central

By MICHELE BEATTIE

Cook County Board Commissioner John Daley (11th) made an unexpected visit to the Oak Lawn Village Board meeting on Tuesday.

The purpose of Daley's visit was to refute reports that Cook County was not going to go forward with a plan for a 50 percent fund match to the village for the Southwest Highway and Central Avenue signalization project.

"The committee has been committed to this project from day one," said Daley. "We have been waiting to hear back from the village."

When the street project was reconfigured in the late 1980s, the turn signal was eliminated from the intersection. Some reports were that the residents did not want the street expansion at the time due to loss of some frontage property.

The intersection has become much busier over the years and safety issues are more of a concern.

Trustee Alex Olejniczak (2rd) defended the need for turn signals at the intersection, citing the fact that it is the only corner without a turn signal on Southwest Highway from 79th Street to 115th Street. He also pointed out that there are schools in the immediate area. St. Gerald School and Church is on that corner and Oak Lawn Community High School is two blocks away.

Daley concluded with compliments for Mayor Dave Heilmann, saying, "I want to congratulate you on the great work you're doing here, especially Christ Hospital. The expansion of this hospital is a credit to this community and the growth of this community. It is such a vibrant community that it's an honor to represent you at the county board."

Since the signalization project is part of a five-year plan, Trustee Carol

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Quinlan (5th) questioned whether delaying a vote will result in it being too late to continue with the project since the funding of $7 million from the Build America bonds is now at $1.2 million. The answer was "no" and the project will go forward when the Board approves.

The vote by the Board was 3-2 to postpone the project until it could be discussed in the context with other proposed village projects.

Discussion continued regarding how to use the $1.2 million. Trustee Bob Streit (3rd) proposed dividing the funds among each of the districts.

Bickering continued between Olejniczak, Quinlan and Thomas Duhig (4th). Again, as in past meetings, the debate about using funds for alleys vs. streets continued without resolution.

In other news, a proposal from Paulette Franklin and Nicole Smith for a special parking variation to allow a cheerleading and gymnastics facility at 4455 Southwest Highway was approved.

Approval was given for the purchase of 36 cases of Larvicide to reduce mosquito breeding for the 2013 summer season in the amount of $23,998.

Approval was given for the disposal and scrap of one 1996 Chevrolet chipper truck due to a blown engine and one 1990 Elgin Pelican sweeper due to a bad hydraulic pump.

In the President's Report, voting was postponed on a request for a Class "F" liquor license allowing Penny's Place Restaurant, 10316 S. Cicero Ave., and Stella's, 8759 S. Ridgeland Ave., to serve beer and wine and allow video gambling.

In the Trustee's report, Olejniczak introduced Jack Lopez, a volunteer on most Saturdays and expert on e-waste. Olejniczak was complimentary of the resident's cooperation with recycling. In 2012, there was 297,610 pounds of waste collected.

Quinlan reminded residents to have a working smoke detector on each floor of their homes. New smoke detectors now come with a 10-year battery, and the life expectancy of a smoke detector is also 10 years.

She said that fire department personnel will assist with the placement of smoke detectors in the home by calling (708) 499-7700.

Quinlan also said she has been receiving calls about a new phone scam targeting seniors. The caller tells residents they are from *Publishers Clearing House* and are told they need to go to Walmart immediately and purchase a $500 access card.

The callers have been threatening, according to Quinlan. If this occurs, residents should call the AT&T nuisance call line, (800) 348-8727, to have the phone number blocked.

Another nuisance call made to Oak Lawn residents during the past week was a "robo call" asking if they were planning on voting in the upcoming election. Several misleading questions regarding Christ Hospital are part of the phone message.

The calls are made to appear as if they are coming from the Village of Oak Lawn.

"I want to assure residents that the village had nothing to do with that," said Quinlan. "Village Manager Larry Deetjen called Christ Hospital and they assured him that they had nothing to do with it."

Quinlan said she believes the call is put out by someone involved in the upcoming election but did not give any names.

Next on the agenda was a report from Kathy Hansen, director of Emergency Communications in Oak Lawn. The current system cannot be heard in all areas of the village. The new emergency warning system will reach all areas in the village.

On the first Tuesday of each month beginning March 5, testing of the system will be broadcast in English, Spanish, Polish and Arabic.

According to Deetjen, new equipment will be installed in the next two weeks in six locations in Oak Lawn. The warning will start with a siren followed by a voice message saying "This is a test" in all four languages and repeated a second time.

Finally, Oak Lawn resident Guy Louis Marchbank received recognition from the Board for becoming an Eagle Scout. Marchbank is a member of Scout Troop 652 in Oak Lawn. He attended Harnew School.

His Eagle service project was to help the Oak Lawn Community Church with outside maintenance and lawn and garden care.

Heilmann presented Marchbank with a certificate of accomplishment, and he was given a round of applause for his accomplishments.

SPECIAL GUEST—Cook County Commissioner John Daley was a surprise visitor Tuesday night to the Oak Lawn Village Board meeting.

(News-Herald Photo by Michele Beattie)

Southwest Suburban News-Herald
2/15/2013, p.1

'Megan's Maze' Opens At Kids Museum in O. Lawn

A new exhibit, "Megan's Maze," was unveiled on Feb. 14 at the Children's Museum of Oak Lawn, 5100 Museum Drive.

The exhibit was created in memory of Megan Hurckes, daughter of Jerry and Mary Ann Hurckes.

Megan died several years ago in a vehicular accident over the Labor Day weekend. She would have turned 14 years of age this month.

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The exhibit was made possible through the Megan Hurckes Scholarship Fund and the Weglarz Family.

Michael McGinnis, inventer of "Perplexous," was commissioned to design and build the custom maze exhibit, which is a three-foot diameter clear "ball" with a maze inside of it.

The "player" must move a miniature ball inside the larger "ball" through a 3D maze. Participants move the outer ball to manipulate the ball inside. The maze includes shapes and thing that were important to Megan.

"Jerry and I had been talking for awhile about the possibility of the museum having an exhibit that would be in Megan's memory," said Adam Woodworth, executive director of the museum. "Mark Weglarz approached us with this idea, and it seemed to fit what we were looking for.

"Once we connected with Michael, the inventor of the Perplexous, and began discussing what the exhibit was for, he really put his heart into the project and customized it so that it would be reflective of Megan's life."

Inside the sphere and as part of the maze, visitors will find a softball bat and glove, which represents Megan's love of softball.

Inscribed in the bat is "Westside," signifying that she played on a softball league with Westside Baseball in Oak Lawn.

There are sea animals, also, that are part of the maze. These animals represent Megan's love of the ocean and her dream of getting into oceanography as a career.

"The exhibit will be a permanent exhibit at the museum," says Woodworth. "Right now, according to the inventer, there is no other Superperplexous at any other Children's Museum in the country.

"That, coupled with the customization of this exhibit, truly make it one-of-a-kind."

This is one of several exhibits at the Children's Museum in Oak Lawn since they opened in their new location in 2009.

The "Let's Chat" exhibit, funded by AT&T, and the "We the People..." exhibit, which includes two beam pieces from the World Trade Center Towers attacked in 2001, are also one-of-a-kind exhibits that can only be found at the Children's Museum in Oak Lawn.

SERVICE PROJECT—Guy Louis Marchbank is an Eagle Scout from Scout Troop 652. A graduate of Harnew School, Marchbank spoke at the Oak Lawn Village Board meeting Tuesday night about how his service project was to help the Oak Lawn Community Church with outside maintenance and lawn and garden care.

(News-Herald Photo by Michele Beattie)

Southwest Suburban News-Herald
2/15/2013, p.1

Daley addresses Oak Lawn Board on changes to Southwest Highway and Central Avenue

by Matt Mayer

Cook County Board Commissioner John Daley addressed the village board at the Oak Lawn Board of Trustees meeting regarding reports that Cook County wasn't going to go forward with a 50 percent fund match to the village for the Southwest Highway signalization project. The reports are false. "The committee has been committed to the project from day one. We have been waiting to hear back from the village," said Daley.

The traffic along Central Avenue has increased significantly since the 1980's when the road project was designed. At that time a left turn lane was eliminated from the project. Trustee Alex Olejniczak (D-2) has been a proponent for a left turn lane for years. This is the only intersection without a left turn lane from 79th Street to 115th Street. St. Gerald School and Church are on the corner and Oak Lawn Community High School is two blocks away, said Olejniczak. This intersection has also been proven to be dangerous. A rental house on the northwest corner of the intersection has had several vehicles crash onto their lawn over the years. Some years ago a vehicle crashed through the living room picture window of the house.

Trustee Carol Quinlan (D-5) asked if it would be to late to continue the project if the vote was delayed since the funding of Build America Bonds decreased from $7 million to $1.2 million. No the project will go forward when the board approves it, said Daley. The board voted 3-2 to postpone the project until it could be discussed along with other village projects.

Daley concluded by thanking Mayor Dave Heilmann on the great work he is doing. "This is such a vibrant community that it's an honor to represent you at the County Board." Daley said.

Village View
2/19/2013, p.2

Big Brother Sets an Example

by Annette Dixon

No, we are not referring to big government, but a youth with a big heart.

Mathew Ryl-Kuchar, 16 in March, grandson of Nelida Ryl-Kuchar, Oak Lawn resident, is the brother and mentor of Mark, Luke and John.

Like most boys, Mathew started out playing Teeball, Baseball, Soccer and Basketball. With almost six years age difference, Mathew can really be looked up to, especially since he had five years experience in various sports. His interest in sports did not wein for his father Eric, still drives him to practice and the games.

What is unique about this story is the triplets, Mark, Luke and John. Not only are they triplets, but these boys are named after the apostles. I just like saying all four of the boys names. They have the names of the four gospels. Mathew, Mark, Luke and John. You couldn't ask for anything better than this.

Now the story continues because Kathy, the boys mother, told me that each boy has to try out every year for the Traveling Team. Now what are the odds the triplets would make the team each year.

Hopefully, pretty good odds, since they have been involved in sports since they were three.

John

Luke

Mark

They, too, started with Teeball, just like Mathew, so big brother is there each year for his triplets.

Kathy, now a single mother, says between work and handling household duties, she enjoys the mentoring Mathew gives the young boys. Eric and Kathy both find time to see that the boys stay busy doing what they enjoy, even if it means driving in separate locations to see Mathew play soccer or basketball and the triplets in their games. The triplets, at the present time are point guard and forward positions and are numbers 42, 43, 44.

The Traveling Team is called Lincoln Way Xplosion and open tryouts are for the Manhattan, New Lenox, Mokena, and Frankfort Suburbs, with Dan Herlihy as Coach.

In the summer, the triplets will be 10 years old and they will be on the same soccer team as goalies.

They are really active in sports, for the team has a total of 12 league games, in which the team won 11 of the games. They are also 5 out of 9 of their tournament games, and there are 5 travel games. So you can see that Kathy and Eric are continuously driving and watching their sons enjoy sports. It also was mentioned that all the boys are doing well in school academically, so big brother must be setting a good example.

Village View 2/19/2013, p.6

"The Ed McElroy Show"

Ed McElroy, host of "The Ed McElroy Show", recently interviewed Cook County Board Commissioner Elizabeth (Liz) Gorman and Robert Streit, Village of Oak Lawn. That show will air at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 26th on Comcast Channel 19.

Pictured are Commissioner Liz Gorman, Ed McElroy and Oak Lawn Trustee Robert Streit.

Oak Lawn Independent
2/21/2013 p.14

REMEMBERING MEGAN—The plaque inside the sphere honoring the memory of Megan Hurckes is unveiled on Feb. 14 at the Children's Museum in Oak Lawn, 5100 Museum Drive.
(News-Herald Photo by Michele Beattie)

Unveil 'Megan's Maze' at O.L. Kids Museum

By MICHELE BEATTIE

The Oak Lawn Children's Museum, 5100 Museum Drive, presented the newest addition to the museum on Feb. 14, "Megan's Maze."

Megan Hurckes was the 10-year-old daughter of former Oak Lawn Village trustee Jerry Hurckes. Megan was killed over Labor Day weekend, 2009

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MAZE HOLDS MEMORIES—The Oak Lawn Children's Museum, 5100 Museum Drive, presented the newest addition to the museum, "Megan's Maze," on Feb. 14. The maze was created to honor the memory of Megan Hurckes, who was 10 when she died in a motorized vehicle accident over the Labor Day weekend in 2009. On hand for the presentation were (from left) Vanya Weglarz, Mark Weglarz, twins Olivia and Nate Weglarz, 6, and Jerry Hurckes and Mary Ann Hurckes, Megan's parents.
(News-Herald Photo by Michele Beattie)

Megan's Maze

continued from page 1

in an accident involving a motorized vehicle.

According to museum Executive Director Adam Woodworth, "Jerry Hurckes and I had been talking for a while about what we could do at the Children's Museum. So, a mutual friend of ours and Museum donor, Mark Weglarz, found this Perplexous idea. We thought it would be a good fit, so I sought out the inventor, Michael McGinnis."

After Woodworth discussed the project with McGinnis, he agreed to design the maze. McGinnis wanted to know about Megan's hobbies, aspirations and accomplishments, and he incorporated these personal pieces into what has become known as the "Superplexous."

There are other superplexouses, but this is the only customized one. McGinnis' other creation, "Epic-perplexous," won Toy of the Year at the 2013 National Toy Show.

According to Hurckes, the project was made possible through the Megan Hurckes Scholarship Fund, which supports scholarships at Oak Lawn Community High School, grammar schools in the area, Westside Baseball and the Children's Museum, along with contributions from the Weglarz Family Foundation.

The sphere is a clear ball incorporating things personal to Megan, including many details, such as her favorite colors — purple and orange — a regulation sized left-handed baseball mitt, a regulation sized baseball bat inscribed "Westside" for the softball league Megan played on, and a seahorse wearing a flotation device because of her love of the water and aspiration to study oceanography.

According to Woodworth, McGinnis' other Perplexous spheres internal parts have all been made of wood. This is the first one made of a new material and the first of its kind in a children's museum in the United States.

There are only four or five other Perplexous spheres in this country. There is also one in Germany, one in the United Kingdom, one in Australia and one in Sweden. Only nine others exist in the world.

Woodworth pointed out again, "None are like this one. It is one of a kind, and will always be one of a kind. It is customized for Megan."

Eventually, the maze will be moved upstairs in the museum and other mazes added to the theme to be titled "Megan's Maze."

The Children's Museum is open from 9: 30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays to Saturdays, and noon to 5 p.m. Sundays. More information may be found at *www.cmoaklawn.org*.

Southwest Suburban News-Herald 2/22/2013, p.1

SPEED RACER

Diego Arana, of Oak Lawn, took first place in the boys 10 to 14 division of the Illinois State Cyclo-Cross Championship. Arana rides for the Beverly Bike-VeePak Racing Team. | SUPPLIED PHOTO

NeighborhoodStar
2/24/2013, p.11

Oak Lawn Seeks Input On 95th St.

The Village of Oak Lawn is looking for input to help improve the appearance of the 95th Street Corridor.

Made possible through funding by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, the village is working with Teska Associates to identify opportunities for planning improvements along the corridor.

Improvements in the study may include new shops and dining, safer pedestrian crossings, bike routes and amenities, landscaping and community signage.

The survey will be open until Monday, April 8.

More information about the survey may be obtained by calling Josh Jones at (708) 499-7055, or by emailing him at *isjones@oaklawn-il.gov*.

Southwest Suburban News-Herald
3/1/2013, p.12

Traffic Signal Light Is Paid For

Oak Lawn Will Welcome First New Store at 111th and Cicero

By MICHELE BEATTIE

There was no shortage of good news shared at the Tuesday Oak Lawn Village Board meeting.

Cook County Board Commissioner John Daley (11th) made a second surprise visit to the Village with the news that the Cook County board of Commissioners has elected to pay 100 percent of the cost for the Southwest Highway and Central Avenue signalization project. The previous agreement was for a 50/50 split between the Village and Cook County for the project.

Daley said, "We know this project has always been a concern of yours and so this is what (Cook County Board) President Preckwinkle and the entire Board would like to do. To provide this for you and work with you." There was applause for Daley at the end of the announcement.

Cook County Superintendent of Highways John Yonan then followed up with offering support for any upcoming issues.

Yonan said, "This is real money in this project. The money comes from the Illinois Department of Transportation, so it's just a matter of when right of way is completed."

Yonan said construction may be able to start by the end of 2014 or early 2015.

Daley thanked everyone on the Board for their ongoing cooperation before leaving, and he received more applause.

More good news came in an announcement from Mayor Dave Heilmann. That news was the confirmation of the first tenant at the 111th Street and Cicero Avenue project.

The Phase One anchor store at the site will be Mariano's Fresh Market. It will be a 70,000 square-foot facility on the north end of the site facing 111th Street.

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SIGNAL AHEAD—John Yonan (left), Cook County Superintendent of Highways, and John Daley, Cook County Board Commissioner, announced plans for a signalization project at Southwest Highway and Central Avenue during the Oak Lawn Village Board meeting on Tuesday night.

(News-Herald Photo by Michele Beattie)

Oak Lawn

continued from page 1

Mariano's is a high-end, Milwaukee-based full service grocer and pharmacy. The first Mariano's opened in 2010. The chain is owned by Bob Mariano, who was recently profiled in the *Chicago Tribune*.

"This is a terrific addition to the Village of Oak Lawn," said Heilmann. "This is something that fills a need in Oak Lawn, brings in literally hundreds of millions of dollars in tax revenues, and very significantly, hundreds of jobs."

He believes that a store like Mariano's will be beneficial in drawing other quality tenants to the site because of the volume of customers visiting Mariano's.

Other Mariano's locations are in Vernon Hills and Arlington Heights. Heilmann described these markets as having an Italian coffee shop, a sushi bar, an on-site chef, wine and cheese shop and a full service pharmacy.

When you enter the store, Heilmann said, there is a piano playing and people having a glass of wine.

"You can have food cooked for you to bring home," he said. "There is a salad bar and food bar for sandwiches."

Many requests from residents were received by all trustees for a Trader Joe's or that type of shop. Mariano's is described as being like Trader Joe's and Whole Foods in the type of services provided with the addition of a full service pharmacy.

According to Village Manager Larry Deetjen, when Trader Joe's was approached about coming to Oak Lawn, they declined the invitation to put a store at the site.

In other community development news, the CEO for Laredo Hospitality, Gary Leff, spoke in support of the liquor license and gaming request for Stella's.

This is a proposed restaurant/bar/gaming establishment at 8759 S. Ridgeland Ave.

Questions were raised at the Feb. 5 board meeting about the increasing number of establishments requesting liquor and gaming licenses in Oak Lawn.

When Leff was asked by Trustee Alex Olejniczak (2nd) whether Stella's could stand alone as a restaurant without gaming, Leff initially said "no," but then offered that he would be willing to work with the board to make adjustments in the proposed plan.

Much discussion continued between Olejniczak, Trustees Thomas Duhig (4th) and Thomas Phelan (6th) with concerns about increasing gaming licenses in Oak Lawn.

The request for a beer and wine only restaurant and an ordinance to increase the number of Class "F" liquor licenses in the village was approved, with Heilmann breaking a tie vote on the issue.

Heilmann then clarified the issue of gaming, saying that the Board will meet independently to discuss gaming and if they as a Board ban video gaming licenses, then the gaming licenses can be revoked.

In the trustees reports, Cynthia Trautsch (1st) announced that the fish fry to be held at St. Louis de Montfort Church, 8840 S. Ridgeland Ave., Oak Lawn, will be from 6 to 9 p.m. today (Friday, March 1). Also, the Knights of Columbus fish bake will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, March 8 at the Oak Lawn Community Church, 9000 S. Ridgeland Ave.

Olejniczak spoke of the need to put cameras in all schools in Oak Lawn and to link with a national database. Phelan agreed with the proposal.

Trustee Robert Streit (3rd) discussed the linked bike trail proposal from Oak Lawn's bike trail to the Alsip bike trail and on to Lemont.

In general village matters, Village Clerk Jane Quinlan announced that voter registration will begin at the Village Hall on Tuesday, March 12. Early voting for the upcoming election will take place at the Village Hall March 25-April 6.

Quinlan announced that Sward School has been awarded the Academic Excellence Award by the State of Illinois for 2012.

Heilmann said the next community safety meeting will take place at the Oak Lawn-Hometown Middle School on March 18.

Southwet Suburban News-Herald
3/1/2013, p.1

Help improve the 95th Street Corridor

The Village of Oak Lawn is looking for your input to help us improve the function and appearance of the 95th Street Corridor.

Made possible through funding by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP),The Village is working with Teska Associates to identify opportunities for planning improvements along the Corridor. Improvements in the study may include new shops and dining, safer pedestrian crossings, bike routes and amenities, landscaping and community signage. Please take 10 minutes to complete the survey and be sure to include your email address at the end of the survey if you would like to continue to be involved with planning for the future of 95th Street. The survey will be open until April 8, 2013. For more information contact Josh Jones by phone at 708-499-7055, email to jsjones@oaklawn-il.gov. or at Village Hall, 9446 S. Raymond Avenue, Oak Lawn, IL 60453.

Survey address: www.surveymonkey.com/s/oaklawnplanning

Also, be sure to visit the project website and comment map which is awaiting your input. The website will be updated with public meeting dates, events, and documents for your review.

Website address: http://oaklawn95thstreetcorridorplan.wordpress.com/

Village View
3/5/2013, p.2

Pillars of Honor in Oak Lawn

The original scale model of the World War II Memorial in Washington DC will be unveiled, during a program honoring veterans that includes a formal presentation of the colors, live patriotic musical performances, and a historical presentation of the WWII Memorial. Free, open to the public, call 847-954-0520 to reserve.

To be held on Saturday, March 23, 2013 at 2 p.m. at the Blake-lamb Funeral Home, 4727 W. 103rd St., Oak Lawn

Village View
3/5/2013, p.5

Oak Lawn teen helps teens fighting cancer

Oak Lawn teenager Megan Bradbury (age 14) is giving back to teens fighting cancer. Megan went shopping recently with money she'd received for her birthday and during the Christmas holiday season, all with the aim of benefiting the Pediatric Oncology Treasure Chest Foundation (POTCF), a non-profit organization that provides toys, gifts and gift cards to children and teens diagnosed with cancer nationwide.

Shortly after her successful shopping venture, Megan visited the Treasure Chest Foundation's Orland Park warehouse and shared her reactions to the positive experience. "I'm always looking for a nice thing to do and I think the Treasure Chest Foundation is a great way to help other teens," said Megan.

POTCF Founder and CEO Colleen Kisel is grateful for Megan's help. "I'm overwhelmed by Megan's remarkable demonstration of thoughtfulness," said Colleen. "We are so blessed to have her support. What better match than a teen helping a teen."

If you would like further information about the Treasure Chest Foundation, please contact Colleen Kisel at 708-687-TOYS (8697) or visit the Foundation's web site at www.treasurechest.org.

Village View
3/5/2013, p.6

SIGN OF THE TIMES—Dr. Sandra Bury, an Oak Lawn optometrist, displays one of her signs in her race for mayor of Oak Lawn. She will face incumbent Dave Heilmann, who is in his eighth year as Oak Lawn mayor.

Has New 'Vision' for Oak Lawn

Oak Lawn Optometrist Says She Is Better Option for Mayor of Village

By DERMOT CONNOLLY

Dr. Sandra Bury is an optometrist who has her eyes set on being the next mayor of Oak Lawn.

Bury, 51, who is running against incumbent Mayor David Heilmann in the April 9 election, has lived in Oak Lawn since 1979. She joined the Complete Vision Care business now located at 6209 W. 95th St. in 1995.

After first partnering with Dr. Floyd Woods, who founded the business in 1951, she succeeded him when he retired. She has been an active member of the Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce, and the Rotary Club, among other organizations.

"(Dr. Woods) was active in the Kiwanis and I kind of patterned my career after his. Community service has always been a cornerstone of my practice," said Bury, who will remain in business if elected mayor, which is a part-time position.

She said her campaign is focused on "complete transparency" in local government, and attracting more family-oriented businesses to Oak Lawn, rather than massage parlors and gambling establishments. She wants all decisions by the Village Board to be made available on the government's Web site.

Last year, Bury led successful efforts to get the Oak Lawn Metra station renamed the Oak Lawn Patriot Station, to call attention to the 9-11 First Responders memorial that the Rotary Club erected on the site. And explaining how she became interested in running for mayor, Bury said that after her one-year term as president of the Rotary Club ended last September, she began to turn her attention to local government.

"I started attending more meetings, and I was not impressed by what I saw," she said.

The candidate maintains that during Heilmann's tenure as mayor, he has

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AWARD FOR MONUMENT—Dr. Sandra Bury (second from left) represented the Oak Lawn Rotary Club at a November 2012 ceremony in Springfield in which Oak Lawn was awarded a Governor's Hometown Award for the 9-11 First Responders Monument that the Rotary Club erected at the Oak Lawn train station. With her are (from left) Village Manager Larry Deetjen, Police Chief Bill Villanova and Village Clerk Jane Quinlan.

Sandra Bury

continued from page 1

created division on the board and in the village. "I was horrified by what I saw at meetings. I don't want our legacy to be fighting lawsuits and backroom deals," said Bury, who grew up near Marquette Park in Chicago, and graduated from Maria High School. Her 91-year-old father and brother also live in Oak Lawn.

"I love this community, and my goal is to go in and clean it up. Stop the fighting. Stop the special deals for friends, family and school buddies," she continued, alluding to accusations she has made against Heilmann, who has been mayor for eight years.

She said she was disappointed to see Heilmann break a tie at the Feb. 26 Village Board meeting, allowing Stella's, a new business at 8759 S Ridgeland Ave., to receive both liquor and video gaming licenses.

Following the vote, Heilmann clarified the issue, saying that the Board will meet independently to discuss gaming and if the board decides to ban video gaming licenses, then the gaming licenses can be revoked.

Bury said the gaming licenses should be reserved for existing businesses, and enough have them already.

Bury said she is looking forward to participating in a candidate forum, whenever one can be arranged. But she asserted that Heilmann has rejected several suggested dates, citing his involvement with the Oak Lawn Community Theater program.

"He is getting paid to be mayor, but he is not making himself available to answer questions from residents," said Bury. "There is a disconnect with the community."

Asked to respond, Heilmann said, "Unfortunately, she seems obsessed with attacking me instead of talking about what we should do for Oak Lawn. This has been her entire campaign for 10 months. Attack the mayor, and don't let truth get in the way. As for the forum, I responded immediately that I would participate and I thought we were doing it (March) 14. The Chamber decided not to, and Ms. Bury then attacked them."

The mayor rejected Bury's suggestion that he is afraid to debate her. "I look forward to the opportunity and I'll give it my best," he said.

Bury said Heilmann has criticized her for filing too many Freedom of Information requests, but she said they were necessary in order to bring issues to light that were not being discussed in open forums.

She alleges that Heilmann does not acknowledge conflicts of interest when they arise, citing, among other things, the hiring of attorneys that were college classmates.

Further, she said that as mayor, she would take more of an active role in the business community than Heilmann has.

She maintains that the mayor seldom attends Chamber of Commerce meetings, or Southwest Conference of Mayors meetings, and does not do enough to reach out and help struggling businesses.

"He has never gone to Springfield (to lobby) for Oak Lawn," she said. "A business closed across the street from Village Hall, and no one contacted the owner."

She said business owners are not informed about local incentives available that could allow them to keep their doors open.

She said that rather than increasing the cost of business licenses, the village leaders should make it easier for businesses to open. Bury said neighboring communities such as Evergreen Park have been more successful than Oak Lawn at attracting new businesses.

Bury said she understands the need for development at the 111th and Cicero Avenue TIF property, but said existing businesses there, such as Flapjacks restaurant and the Park Lawn facility located on the edge of the property, should not be brushed aside.

The candidate said that she hopes to continue her charity work if elected. Through her involvement with the Rotary Club and an organization called Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity, for the past 14 years, Bury has traveled the world providing vision care and glasses to underprivileged communities.

Last year, she went to a remote area of Bolivia. "I loved it," she said, recalling the glee of a young child who was able to see for the first time after being given a pair of glasses. "The campaign prevented me from taking another trip this spring, but I hope to go later in the year," she added, noting that the group provides the same services for homeless people at local PADS shelters.

Bury also participated in the Polar Plunge last week, jumping into the freezing waters of Lake Michigan with the Complete Vision care team led by Dr. Casey Hogan.

"It was like jumping into a Slurpee," she said. "It made me think of the Titanic victims. But we raised $6,000 for Special Olympics."

She said that if elected, she would have no problem working alongside trustees who may have backed Heilmann in the election.

"I have reached out to (Trustees) Cindy Trautsch (1st) and Carol Quinlan (5th). I am an easy-going person. I will work with anyone as long as their interests are focused on the people of Oak Lawn," she said.

Southwest Suburban News-Herald
3/8/2013, p.1

Oak Lawn woman's book on bipolar disorder inspires

REGINA
SABADOSA
Citizen Journalist
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How do you define bravery? How difficult can it be for someone to face their fears? As the saying goes, "what doesn't kill you makes you stronger."

Oak Lawn's Beata Gaudry recently took a giant step out of her comfort zone. Not only had she been journaling about some really dark moments in her life, but she chose to self-publish her writings, sharing her most intimate struggles with the rest of us.

Gaudry's book, "Living with Bipolar, Drive and Soul" and is on sale in both paperback and Kindle versions on Amazon.com.

In her words, "This book is about my journey living with bipolar (disorder) and the struggles and triumphs it has brought to my life. I am hopeful it will inspire others to get help."

Prior to authoring her book, Gaudry was a published poet and a professional photographer with an online greeting card and calendar business. She did all this while being a broadcast engineer with a major Chicago television station spanning more than three decades. Her book also features much of her original poetry.

Most people, including her co-workers, never knew that she was battling bouts of depression and alcohol abuse as she tried to overcome her "secret" illness.

It wasn't until 2001 that a name was given to her condition — bipolar disorder. Gaudry explains that it's a "brain chemistry imbalance — with drugs and 'talk therapy' one can live a fairly normal life."

In her book, Gaudry writes, "When you are in the manic stage, you feel as if you can do anything and your personality goes through the roof, you feel so high." Some of the abnormal behaviors she experienced are "increased energy with hyperactivity and a decreased need for sleep, inflated self-image, excessive spending, racing thoughts and substance abuse — followed by extreme depression and sometimes suicidal thoughts."

Beata Gaudry

Being an only child, Gaudry was used to getting a lot of attention from her parents, Barbro and Harris Metzdorff. By her teenage years, her parents were drinking heavily. Both parents had major medical issues, and this weighed heavily on her during her formative years.

Gaudry met Bill, her husband of 36 years, while both were students at DePaul University in Chicago. They married in 1976 when she was 18. When her dad died suddenly a few months later, it crushed her mother and her.

"My mom turned to alcohol, and I followed right behind her. She became my enabler, and my life was out of control," she said.

Eventually, Gaudry realized that she needed help and started receiving counseling. She also discovered the "New Age" music of Yanni and becoming a serious fan — finding comfort in the people she met as she followed him on many tours.

Unfortunately, before she knew it she had "charged over $100,000 on my Yanni adventures along with other luxuries that we could not afford."

Gaudry believes the unconditional love and support of Bill was the only thing that saved her during these times. She eventually lost her job in television because of her mental disorder. Together, the couple have managed to stay afloat and are working their way out of bankruptcy.

After reading one of my recent columns showcasing four newly published authors from the Oak Lawn Writers Group, Gaudry began to attend their meetings at the Oak Lawn Library. She started by sharing her poetry, and later, with the encouragement of the group members, started writing her book. Within two months, she was ready to publish.

She was fortunate to receive unsolicited help from an Internet acquaintance who transcribed her book, removing any grammatical errors. Since publication, she has received several encouraging reviews. One reader said, "This book is filled with hope, encouragement, is truthful and her poetry is wonderful to read. I highly recommend this book as it will uplift each reader."

Gaudry is pleased with her accomplishment and gives a lot of credit to her therapist who "helped me sort out my life" and gave her a better outlook on life.

"I don't know what I would have done without her," she said.

Gaudry's message is clear. Sometimes we can't handle things on our own. We shouldn't be embarrassed to admit we need help. In this spirit, Gaudry hopes to help others with bipolar disorder through her honest and inspirational book.

NeighborhoodStar
3/10/2013, p.9

Board Approves Resolutions For

Road Improvements

The Oak Lawn Board of Trustees voted on two resolutions that will bring a left-turn lane and other improvements to the corner of Southwest Highway and Central Avenue to fruition. Cook County Commissioner John Daley attended two recent board meetings to assure village officials that the county has budgeted the $1.2 million cost of the project in the county budget.

The board passed a resolution that will allow the acquisition of property for right-of-way purposes. The other resolution will allow an intergovernmental agreement between the county, Wight Engineering and the village of Oak Lawn for the project.

After the rights-of-way are procured, the project can begin in earnest.

The Board mourned the passing of Rev. Patrick Henry, pastor of St. Catherine of Alexandria Church, who died suddenly on Monday. Fr. Pat served as pastor for about 10 years. Previously, he served at St. Christina in Mt. Greenwood and St. Symphorosa in Chicago.

Fr. Pat's funeral and wake will be held at St. Catherine, 10621 S. Kedvale, on Saturday, March 16th beginning at 12:30 p.m.

It was reported that Sunday's massive power surge was caused by a raccoon. Over 1,000 ComEd customers were affected by the power surge, which damaged computers, television sets, cable boxes, refrigerators and other appliances.

After complaints from customers, ComEd officials said they were not responsible for the damage since the incident was an 'act of God' and not their equipment.

A proclamation was read concerning Earth Hour on March 23rd. It was stated that residents should turn off any unnecessary lights for at least one hour to demonstrate how much can be saved if less energy is used.

Oak Lawn Independent
3/14/2013, p.1

Oak Lawn Hit by Power Surge

Trustee Olejniczak Thinks ComEd Has Not Provided Enough Answers

By MICHELE BEATTIE

In a shorter than usual Oak Lawn Village Board meeting Tuesday, the power surge that knocked out power to over 1,000 Oak Lawn residents shortly after midnight March 10 was at the top of the list of concerns.

Alex Olejniczak (2nd) discussed the impact of the power surge that burned out computers, refrigerators, washing machines and small appliances, and cut out electrical power for at least two hours overnight March 10.

There were calls to the police and fire department to visit homes because of concerns over the smell of smoke in these residences.

According to Olejniczak, the homes with the most damaged property were between 90th and 91st and 49th Avenue and 52nd Street.

After speaking with a Com Ed representative, Olejniczak said there was an agreement to meet with residents this past Wednesday to discuss their concerns.

The concern, Olejniczak said, is that it took three days for ComEd to determine the cause of the surge to be a raccoon. The contract with ComEd states that damage caused by "wildlife contact" will not be reimbursed.

"I think this is an absolute shame, a tragedy," Olejniczak said. "We need to investigate, because I have a real problem with this.

"This is the second time in six years that a major power surge in the 2nd District has occurred. I'm concerned that Commonwealth Edison has not told us the whole story to prevent them from having to pay for the damages."

Although Edison has not committed to any further meetings with the public, it is still a possibility based on the number of complaints still coming into Olejniczak's office.

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In other news, Trustee Thomas Duhig (4th) expressed concern regarding the Chucky Cheese Restaurant on 95th Street near Pulaski. There have been ongoing concerns with capacity issues in the restaurant, he said.

After contacting the managing company for Chucky Cheese, there is an agreement to provide an unmarked Oak Lawn Police car to patrol the parking lot on busy nights.

Because the patrons, according to Duhig, are 90 percent children and only 10 percent adults, the request was made for Mayor Dave Heilmann not to renew the restaurant's liquor license, which will expire in April.

Village Clerk Jane Quinlan spoke of the sudden death on March 10 of the Rev. Patrick Henry, from St. Catherine of Alexandria Church, 10621 S. Kedvale Ave., in Oak Lawn.

Fr. Pat, as he was known, was very popular with his parishioners and well known by other board members, including Heilmann, Thomas Phelan (6th) and Quinlan.

A funeral Mass for the reverend will be held at St. Catherine's at 12:30 p.m. Saturday, March 16.

Quinlan also reminded residents to register to vote at any Village Hall location until Saturday, April 6.

Early voting will take place at the Village Hall from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. March 25 to April 6, and also from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Easter Sunday. (March 31).

Quinlan confirmed with state officials that voting will take place on Easter Sunday because the day is not a recognized holiday.

Earth Hour was approved by the board. This is a designated energy savings reminder movement. On March 23, lights may be turned off for the hour between 8:30 and 9:30 p.m.

Ordinances approved were for a street side yard variation at 5900 W. 87th Place, and a parking lot variation at 9000-9022 S. Cicero Ave.

Heilmann announced the next Safety Meeting will be held at Oak Lawn Hometown Middle School at 7 p.m. Monday, March 18.

Southwest Suburban News-Herald 3/15/2013, p.1

EVALUATING THE LAW—Oak Lawn Mayor David Heilmann speaks to students at Oak Lawn-Hometown Middle School. Once a year, the mayor, who is a practicing attorney, evaluates trial advocacy classes at the school at 5345 W. 99th St., Oak Lawn.

Heilmann Says He Wants To Remain Mayor

By DERMOT CONNOLLY

Oak Lawn Mayor David Heilmann is running for a third term on April 9, saying the rancorous atmosphere at Village Board meetings in recent years has not deterred him.

"I'm raising children in this community and you want it to be a great community, like it was for me growing up here," said Heilmann, 50, an attorney and lifelong resident of the village.

He and his wife, Erica, have four young children, and they both remain very involved in the Oak Lawn theater program he co-founded in 1990.

Heilmann points to his ongoing efforts to redevelop the 111th and Cicero TIF district among his successes. He was pleased with the latest news, that a Mariano's grocery store is moving in to the property.

He said discussions are also under way with the existing Flap-Jacks restaurant, now at 4830 W. 111th St., to remain, perhaps in a new building. The goal is to attract upscale eateries and businesses to the site.

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"I proposed that in 2005, and we were criticized at the time," he said.

He said concerns that Park Lawn, an agency serving developmentally disabled people on the western edge of the TIF district, will be pushed out are unfounded.

"I always work closely with them, and Park Lawn is a wonderful, wonderful asset. I will always be at the forefront supporting them," he said.

Heilmann maintains that his opponent in the race, Dr. Sandra Bury, an optometrist, is spending too much time criticizing him and not saying what she would do to improve Oak Lawn.

"Unfortunately, she has spent 10 months attacking me and not talking about what are we going to do for residents, how we are going to make their lives better," Heilmann said.

Bury has criticized Heilmann for not attending Southwest Conference of Mayors meetings, or going to Springfield to lobby for the village. But Heilmann said he is in regular contact with area mayors, and is always working for Oak Lawn.

He said he has been serving Oak Lawn in various capacities for 23 years. In addition to founding the theater program, he founded Broadway Jr. for children in 2001, served on the Park District Board, and is on the advisory board of Ronald McDonald Charities and Intersect for Ability.

Bury is campaigning on a platform of government transparency, alleging that Heilmann has been involved in "backroom deals" and will stop that.

"There have been no backroom deals with me," he said. "Everything has been above board."

The mayor calls Bury's rhetoric "disingenuous" and "absurd," considering how the rift between him and several trustees began four years ago.

Soon after he ran with Village Clerk Jane Quinlan on the Unity Party ticket with several trustees now aligned against him, Heilmann said the coalition collapsed after he raised concerns about firing one law firm and hiring another led by a fraternity brother of Trustee Thomas Phelan (6th). He said that led to a federal investigation, and noted that Phelan, who is not running for re-election, is Bury's "campaign manager."

"I haven't been in the majority for four years, so anything that was decided has to have been approved by them," he said.

This year, Heilmann is running on the Independence Party ticket with village clerk candidate Missy Moran, a teacher at St. Germaine School. The others on the ticket are incumbent Trustee Cynthia Trautsch (1st) and candidates Julie Misner (2nd), Tim Reilly (4th) and Carol Sheahan (6th).

ALL IN THE FAMILY—Mayor David Heilmann, holding his youngest daughter, Brooke, and his wife, Erica, are joined by the Heilmanns' other children (from left): Mikey, Joey and Natalie.

The mayor said that in 2010, when tensions were high, he proposed having round-table discussions to talk about heated issues away from cameras, but the meetings were abandoned when three trustees refused to attend.

"Decisions are being made simply due to politics," he said, asserting that the faction opposing him finds fault with everything he proposes, and several times did not even inform him that meetings on various issues were going to be held.

"That is a poor way to govern. I'm sorry that elected officials feel you can govern that way. You can't make decisions from political factors. Only working together, whether in Oak Lawn or (at a national level)."

"I'm always willing to work with anyone, as long as you are willing to sit down with them."

He said that while he and Village Manager Larry Deetjen "have a lot of differences," they can work together.

In addition to attracting good businesses to Oak Lawn "that will not attract a criminal element," Heilmann said his focus, if re-elected, will be public safety.

"We have seen other communities become unsafe. We can't just assume everything will be all right," he said, especially due to Oak Lawn's location on the border of Chicago, which is receiving national attention for the murder rate.

"From a developmental standpoint, we have to be aggressive; we can't stand still...We want Oak Lawn to be safe for residents living here, and also attractive for businesses and people considering a move here," he said.

"I think our Village Board has to be working in a more collaborative way on this," he added. "The board meetings shouldn't be just a complaint department."

Heilmann is holding meetings throughout Oak Lawn, including one on March 18, to discuss public safety with residents and business owners, and plans to form a group of volunteers to partner with the police department and put suggestions into action.

"We will study every element of public safety, including personal safety (and) schools to the Internet," he said.

Southwest Suburban News-Herald
3/15/2013, p.1

Andy's Thin Mint Concrete benefits Oak Lawn Girl Scout Troop

When Andy's Frozen Custard places "Thin Mint Concrete" in bold letters on its seasonal treat menu, not only do customers enjoy this cookie-filled confection, Oak Lawn Girl Scouts benefit as well as Andy's purchases its supply of cookies locally from Girl Scout troop 60840.

"As a company, we purchase all of the Thin Mint cookies locally as a way to support area Girl Scout troops," said Andy Kuntz, president of Andy's Frozen Custard. "Our store managers normally obtain their supply of cookies from relatives or friends whose daughters are selling Girl Scout cookies. We then place an order for what is normally the troop's largest single sale of cookies."

Andy's Frozen Custard purchases 3,500 boxes of Thin Mint cookies annually for its Illinois, Missouri, Arkansas and Texas locations. With 30 cookies in each box, Andy's serves more than 100,000 Thin Mint cookies in its specialty concrete.

Andy's added the confection to its seasonal line-up in 2004. The concrete joins the menu beginning in mid-February with availability until the end of March or until supplies of the minty cookies last. The company's James River location in Springfield, MO sells the most Thin Mint concretes – 10,000 in a five to six-week period.

"We're pleased to assist local Girl Scouts with their fundraising efforts and offer Andy's fans a special treat they're sure to enjoy," added Kuntz.

For additional information on Andy's Frozen Custard, please visit www.eatandys.com.

Village View
3/19/2013, p.3

Casino Night Benefits O.L. Kids Museum

Casino Night will be held from 6:30 to 11 p.m. Saturday, April 27 at Hilton Oak Lawn, 9333 S. Cicero Ave.

Tickets are $80 per person or $150 per couple ($100 at the door per person, $170 at the door per couple).

A paid ticket will allow a guest four hours of an open bar, hors d 'oeuvres, auctions and raffle opportunities.

Proceeds from this event will go to the Children's Museum of Oak Lawn.

Prizes that may be won include chef for a day, a Chicago Bulls player Taj Gibson autographed basketball, a week-long trip to Orlando, a free burger a week from a local restaurant, and free child hair cuts for a year.

A Texas Hold 'Em Tournament will be held with a $1,000 prize for the winner. The entry fee is $100.

Space is limited. Reservations may be arranged by calling (708) 423-6709, ext. 204.

Tickets may be obtained at the Children's Museum, 5100 Museum Drive, Oak Lawn, or at *www.CMOakLawn.org*.

Southwest Suburban News-Herald 3/22/2013, p.3

Power Surge Meetings Are Set

But Oak Lawn Trustee May Want Residents Compensated by ComEd

By DERMOT CONNOLLY

ComEd representatives have agreed to hold two public meetings in April in Oak Lawn to address a major power surge that occurred March 9 in the village, but Trustee Alex Olejniczak (2nd) said he will not be satisfied until all the affected residents are fully compensated.

"We met with them last Wednesday (March 13) and they said they still didn't know what happened with the outage and surge," said Olejniczak on Wednesday.

He said the power company officials promised to have answers for residents at the public meetings, set for 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 10, in the auditorium at the Village Hall, 9446 S. Raymond Ave.

"I think they have gone into damage-control mode. This is a multi-billion-dollar company and they don't have the answers yet?" wondered the trustee, who noted that following the outage and surge, ComEd did put out a press release blaming a raccoon for the problem.

He said that as many as 150 homes were affected by the incident, with the worse damage centered in his district, between 90th and 92nd streets from 49th and 51st avenues. Much of the damage revolves around computers, TVs and other equipment being burned out. Olejniczak said he knows of 55 constituents who filed claims and shared their information with him, including one woman who had $6,000 worth of damage.

"We had another power surge six years ago, but this was unlike any I have heard of," said the trustee. "There were surge protectors smoking."

There were no reports of fires being caused by the incident, but the fire department was called. He further pointed out that it is not yet known how much power was surging through electrical wires in

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homes, or what damage it might have caused that is not yet evident.

"Is ComEd going to take care of that? I will only be satisfied, when and if our residents, are compensated. This is a multi-billion company, and these poor people don't have someone to speak up for them. Otherwise, nothing will happen."

"I have to wonder why these things continue to happen. They can't predict when a raccoon is going to come and do damage, but they don't have any preventative measures.

"That is my biggest concern They would rather deal with the problems after they happen than prevent them."

Southwest Suburban News-Herald
3/22/2013, p.1

Oak Lawn teen helps cancer patients

Megan Bradbury is helping fellow teens fight cancer.

The 14-year-old recently took the money she got for her birthday and for Christmas and bought gifts to help the Pediatric Oncology Treasure Chest Foundation, a nonprofit that delivers toys and gifts to children and teen cancer patients.

"I'm always looking for a nice thing to do and I think the Treasure Chest Foundation is a great way to help other teens," Bradbury said in a news release.

The Orland Park-based foundation's services help more than 7,900 young cancer patients each month.

For more information, contact Colleen Kisel at (708) 687-8697 or visit www.treasurechest.org.

Staff reports

Megan Bradbury

NeighborhoodStar
3/24/2013, p.13

Easter Bunny On Village Green

The Village of Oak Lawn is sponsoring an Easter Egg Roll on the Village Green on Saturday, March 30th. Three Easter Egg Hunts are planned for children ages preschool through fourth grade at 11:30 a.m., 12 noon and 12:30 p.m. Bring your camera to take pictures of the children with the Easter Bunny in the gazebo. No pre-registration is required.

The Oak Lawn Village Green is located at 94th & Cook Ave., north of the Oak Lawn Library.

Oak Lawn Independent
3/28/2013, p.24

Honor Retiring Police Chief

Oak Lawn Village Board Salutes Efforts of Bill Villanova

By MICHELE BEATTIE

The Oak Lawn Village Board meeting on Tuesday night was dedicated to honoring the achievements of retiring Oak Lawn Police Chief Bill Villanova.

Villanova started as a patrol officer in March, 1977. He served as an evidence technician and field training officer until his transfer to the detective division in 1989.

Villanova rose to the rank of sergeant and became supervisor of the tactical narcotics unit. He was then selected as team leader of the newly formed south suburban major crimes taskforce.

Villanova rose to lieutenant in 2003, and was appointed chief of detectives in 2004.

In 2006, Villanova was appointed police chief. He then received many awards in the years that followed.

In 2012, Villanova was named Police Chief of the Year by the Illinois State Crime Commission.

Mayor Dave Heilmann read Villanova's achievements to a board room packed with family, friends, police and fire personnel.

Heilmann then presented a plaque to Villanova in honor of his service to the village. March 28 was then proclaimed to be "Police Chief William V. Villanova Day" in Oak Lawn by Heilmann.

In an emotional thank you with frequent stops to regain his composure, Villanova praised the Oak Lawn Police Department.

"This is a great police department," Villanova said. "I couldn't be prouder leading this group of men and women.

"The things you said about me, struck me in the core. It means a lot to me that this department had your support and that your support will continue even though I'm gone.

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POLICE CHIEF TO RETIRE—Oak Lawn Police Chief Bill Villanova and his wife, Linda, attended the Oak Lawn Village Board meeting Tuesday night. Villanova, who began his career as a patrol officer in 1977, will retire as police chief on Monday, April 1. He has been the Oak Lawn police chief since 2006.

(News-Herald Photo by Michele Beattie

Oak Lawn

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"I won't be far away. I'll be watching."

Villanova's retirement begins Monday, April 1.

In the Public Comments segment of the meeting, Krista Wilkinson, mother of Kaylah Lentine, 14, who was killed in May, 2012 while crossing the intersection of Southwest Highway and Cicero Avenue, again asked the board to continue to pursue a turn signal and walk light designation at that corner.

It is an intersection wider than most and does not have adequate vehicular/pedestrian control, said Wilkinson.

Heilmann acknowledged that "everything you said is true." Village Manager, Larry Deetjen agreed and said that the problem has not been forgotten but that it is an issue that IDOT (Illinois Department of Transportation), as well as the Village, are working on together.

In other news, 2012 Fire and Public Safety coloring contest winners were presented a plaque and $25 gift certificate by Heilmann. The winners were second- through fourth-grade students from Oak Lawn grammar schools.

Fire Safety coloring winners were Kayla O'Brien, first place; Aleksander Petrovic, second place; and Mila Revell, third place.

The Public Safety coloring winners were Hiba Ouarerhni, first place; Andy Schroeder, second place; and Alessandra Vincento, third place.

The board also approved the sixth annual Oak Lawn Community Multiple Sclerosis Walk for Sunday, May 5, beginning at 9 a.m. at Richards High School, 10601 S. Central Ave.

Approval was given for the 6th annual Running for Hope 5K run/walk to be held Sunday, June 2.

An announcement was made for the opening at Christ Hospital of Gilda's Club of Chicago. This is a cancer support service.

National Telecommunicators week is set for April 14, Earth Day is April 22, and Arbor Day April 26.

Early Voting began Monday and continues through Saturday, April 6 at the Village Hall.

The Police Department received approval to waive the formal bid process and purchase a Ford Utility Police Interceptor from Hawk Ford for $27,660.

Southwest Suburban News-Herald
3/29/2013, p.1

Mary Kay Barton
Your Correspondent In
OAK LAWN
9412 S. 55th Ave. (708) 423-7405
(Oak Lawn, IL 60453)

Hello, Villagers!

I am beginning to hate technology. The other day, I went to the ladies room with my cell phone in my coat pocket. Yep, you guessed it. The cell phone fell in you know where. Thank God I was able to retrieve it without too much trouble.

Unfortunately, I did not return home until quite late. So I rushed to my kitchen cabinet and took out the only rice I had, Spanish rice. I took the phone apart, put in a throw-away container, dumping the box of rice on it. I left it there for two days, and guess what? It worked after it dried out. No, it does not speak Spanish. So I got my phone back.

Well, that special guest, the Easter Bunny, is coming to Oak Lawn on Saturday, March 30 for the great Easter Egg Hunt. Bring your camera. The event is for children of pre-school to fourth-grade age. Children must bring an Easter Basket for the hunt. There is no pre-registration. There will be hunts starting at 11:30 a.m., noon and 12:30 p.m. at the Village Green, which is at 94th and Cook, just north of the Oak Lawn Library.

Early Voting at the Village Hall, 9446 S. Raymond Ave., will continue from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Saturday and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday until April 6.

Larry Bergnach will feature the singers and musicians of the 1940s, including the Andrews Sisters, Mills Brothers, Ink Spots, Glenn Miller and more, at 2 p.m. Thursday, April 11 at the Oak Lawn Library, 5300 W. 95th St. For more information, call the library at (708) 422-4990 or visit *www.oaklawnlibrary.org*.

A class on gentle-chair yoga will be held from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Mondays in the Cardiff Center at St. Linus, 10300 S. Lawler Ave. The class is for those who are limited to lighter forms of exercise. The fee is $7. For more information, call Jan O'Rourke at (708) 425-2760.

St. Gerald Church, 9310 S. 55th Court, is once again having Trivia Night in Chapell Hall on Saturday, April 13. Reservations are $15 per ticket, and may be made by April 10 by contacting the Development Office at (708) 422-2194 or at the following: *development@stgerald.com*. Teams will have as many as 10 players. Don't worry if you don't have a full team. Sign up, and the table will be filled in.

Here is a chance to get up close to one of the hottest teams anywhere — the Blackhawks. St Gerald's Holy Name Society will be holding its 10th annual smoker on Friday, April 5 in Chapell Hall. Doors open at 6 p.m. The guest speaker will be former Chicago Blackhawks star and current Blackhawks and NHL commentator Eddie Olczyzk. Tickets, $50 each, may be obtained by contacting Tim Pender at (708) 560-4592.

Classmates are being sought for a St. Killian's Grammar School Reunion. Contact Carol Vasil Donnelly at *cdonle1@sbcglobal.net*.

Happy Birthday to Sandi Linde Digangi, who has a very big heart.

Until next time, keeps those cards, snail mail, and email coming. My email address is *marbar311@aol.com*.

Southwest Suburban News-Herald 3/29/2013, p.2

Back Row, left to right: Bureau Chef Jim Leikel , Oak Lawn Fire Department; Chief George Sheets, Oak Lawn Fire Department; Michelle William, First Midwest Bank and Chamber 1st Vice President; Joann Reiser, Marquette Bank; Patti Johnson, Suburban Bank & Trust; Glen Kato, Cusack Insurance Agency; Christy Hernandez, Archer Bank; Officer Jim Pacetti, Oak Lawn Police Department.
Front Row, left to right: Mila Revell of Harnew Elementary School (3rd Place Fire Safety); Alessandra Vicenteno of St. Linus ((3rd Place Public Safety); Aleksandar Petrovic of Columbus Manor Elementary School (2nd Place Fire); Andy Schroeder of St. Gerald's (2nd Place Public Safety); Hiba Ouarerhni of Kolb Elementary (1st Place Public Safety); Kayla O'Brien of St. Linus (1st Place Fire Safety).

Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce recognizes winners of Annual Fire and Public Safety Coloring Book Contest

Winners selected from hundreds of entries submitted by local grammar school students.

The Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce recognized winners of the annual Fire and Public Safety Coloring Book contest during the March 26th Village board meeting. Representatives from the Oak Lawn Fire and Police Departments were on hand to congratulate the winners who were honored by Village President, Dave Heilmann, during the meeting. Also in attendance were Christy Hernandez, Past President of the Oak Lawn Chamber, Michelle Williams, 1st Vice President of the Oak Lawn Chamber, Fire Chief, George Sheets; Bureau Chef, Jim Leikel; Police Chief, Bill Villanova and Police Officer, Jim Pacetti.

Following the presentation, the winners and their families gathered in the lobby of the Village Hall for refreshments sponsored by Cusack Insurance Agency. Representatives from the Chamber membership who sponsored the $25 gift certificates were: 21st Century Chiropractic Family Wellness, Archer Bank, First Midwest Bank, Marquette Bank and Suburban Bank & Trust. A Family Membership to the Children's Museum for the 1st place winners was donated by The Children's Museum in Oak Lawn.

Village View
4/2/2013, p.4

Candidates Ready for Election

Contested Races Are in Oak Lawn While Others Are Unopposed

By DERMOT CONNOLLY

With the national elections over since November, many people may not be paying too much attention to the April 9 local elections, but there may be some interesting races to watch, especially in places like Oak Lawn and Stickney Township, where most of the local contested races are.

Many candidates, such as Stickney Township Supervisor Lou Viverito, are unopposed. But in Burbank, voters will be asked in a referendum, "Shall the City of Burbank have the authority to arrange for the supply of electricity for its residential and small commercial retail customers who have not opted out of such program?" Similar referenda passed recently in Oak Lawn and Bridgeview.

There are some contested Stickney Township races; but all the candidates running for seats on the Burbank City Council, including Mayor Harry Klein, City Clerk Patricia Roach and the seven trustees, are running unopposed.

The same goes for Bridgeview, where three incumbent trustees, Claudette Struzik, Michael Pticek and Mary Sutton are running unopposed for the three seats up for election.

So that leaves Oak Lawn, where several races for seats on the Village Board are hotly contested. In the race for mayor, incumbent David Heilmann is seeking his third term. But Dr. Sandra Bury, a local optometrist, is running against him. They both argue that they would be the best candidate to bring an end to the strife that has been increasingly evident at village board meetings since the coalition broke down nearly four years ago between Heilmann and the three trustees who ran with him four years ago.

In this election, incumbent Village Clerk Jane Quinlan is running as an

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April 9 Election

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independent against Melissa "Missy" Moran, a teacher at St. Germaine School who is running with Heilmann as a member of the Mayor's Independence Party.

In Oak Lawn's 1st District, incumbent Trustee Cynthia Trautsch is also running on the mayor's slate against Tim Desmond, a construction contractor and operating engineer who owns Jack Desmond's bar in Chicago Ridge. They are running for a two-year term. Trautsch was appointed to fill the seat vacated by Jerry Hurckes, who resigned.

Also running for re-election is Trustee Alex Olejniczak (2nd), who is running as an independent for a third term against Julie Misner, on the Mayor's Independence Party.

Olejniczak is a member of the faction on the board opposed to Heilmann. He said recently that he is not taking the election for granted, and spends many evenings and weekends going door-to-door in his district meeting residents.

Most recently, he has been at the forefront of efforts to get ComEd to pay for property losses due to power outages and surges

Tim Reilly

in the village, and cites successful efforts to get more police on the streets, fight property tax increases and pushed for economic development, and opposition to "sweetheart deals and no-bid contracts."

In the 4th District, incumbent Thomas Duhig is running for a second term against two opponents: Tim Reilly and Terry Voerderer.

Reilly, 45, is running on the Mayor's Independence Party. The steel salesman and his wife, Julie, and three children, have lived in Oak Lawn for 14 years. A 1986 graduate of Leo High School, he said the "lack of communication" between Duhig and his constituents was the main reason he decided to run.

"There have been more federal investigations than community meetings in the last four years," said Reilly. He said that, among other things, Duhig has not kept his constituents informed about the expansion project under way at Christ Hospital.

Reilly said he is involved at St. Germaine Church, as well as Oak Lawn baseball and softball, and the St. Rita Fathers' Club, and anticipates scaling back some of his volunteer work to devote time to the village if he is elected.

Rounding out the election for the Oak Lawn Village Board are the three people campaigning for the 6th District seat being vacated by Thomas Phelan, who chose not to run for re-election. He is managing Sandra Bury's campaign in an effort to unseat Heilmann, and backs Mike Carberry, who is running as an independent, to succeed him.

Carberry is a lifelong Oak Lawn resident. He was appointed to replace state Rep. James D. Brosnahan (D-36th) when he stepped down in 2010. Carberry served as state representative until January, 2011.

His opponents in the race are Joseph Sorrentino, another independent, and Carol Sheahan, who is running on the Mayor's Independence Party.

Southwest Suburban News-Herald
4/5/2013, p.1

Driver Dies After Crashing Into Home

Oak Lawn Police and Fire units responded to reports of a car that crashed in to a home last Friday night that resulted in a fatality.

At about 10:30 p.m., police and fire units arrived at 10440 S. Georgia Lane and observed that a 2001 black Audi had crashed into a house at that location.

The driver of the Audi reportedly was traveling west on 105th Street at a high rate of speed. The Audi left the road and crashed into the house.

The Audi contained three adult males. A front seat passenger and a rear seat passenger sustained injuries that required transport to Advocate Christ Medical Center by Oak Lawn Fire ambulances.

With the information learned at the time of the crash, it did not appear that passengers suffered life threatening injuries. However, the 22-year-old male driver died at the scene from injuries. The driver was taken to the Cook County Medical Examiners office.

The front garage portion of the house suffered significant damage. Two adults that were in the house were not injured, according to police.

The Oak Lawn Police traffic crash investigation unit is conducting an investigation into the incident.

The Oak Lawn Police are encouraging anyone who may have witnessed this crash to call (708) 422-8292.

Southwest Suburban News-Herald 4/12/2013, p.4

NO THIRD TERM—Oak Lawn Mayor Dave Heilmann lost in his bid for a third term as Dr. Sandra Bury, an Oak Lawn optometrist, won the election. Bury becomes the first female mayor of Oak Lawn.

Bury Is New Oak Lawn Mayor

Defeats Heilmann and Become's Village's First Female President

By DERMOT CONNOLLY

"It is a new day in Oak Lawn," was a phrase heard numerous times at the election night party at the Stony Creek Golf Course clubhouse following Dr. Sandra Bury's mayoral victory over incumbent Dave Heilmann on Tuesday.

The optometrist even seemed a bit surprised by the substantial margin of victory. With all 41 precincts reporting, according to the Cook County Board of Elections, she garnered 5,542 votes or 53.65 percent, to 46.35 percent, or 4,788 votes for Heilmann, who was hoping for a third term.

"When I started this, I just hoped to make a statement," said Bury, a former president of the Oak Lawn Rotary Club

"It is such an honor," said Bury. "It is a brand new day for Oak Lawn. It is exciting," she said, thanking her family and staff for their work. She noted that none of the four trustee candidates allied with Heilmann won seats, so the Village Board will have a lot of new faces.

Bury said she was very happy to see Tim Desmond, owner of Jack Desmond's bar and restaurant in Chicago Ridge win the seat in District 1, as well as incumbent Alex Olejniczek in District 2, Terry Voerderer in District 4, who won a three-way race to unseat Thomas Duhig, and Mike Carberry, who won the District 6 seat vacated by Thomas Phelan, an ally of Bury's who decided not to run for a third term. Carberry is a former state representative.

"They are all dedicated to transparency, like I am," she said, saying she looks forward to working with all the newly elected trustees. Olejniczek, who ran with her, she said, is "the most dedicated trustee, always working for the people."

For his part, Olejniczak said he was "humbled" by his victory, and "proud

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VICTORY NIGHT—Dr. Sandra Bury talks to one of her supporters during the celebration party Tuesday night at Stony Creek Clubhouse, Bury, a local optometrist, defeated Dave Heilmann in the race for mayor. Heilmann was seeking a third term. Bury become's the village's first female mayor.

(News-Herald Photo by Dermot Connolly)

ELECTION CELEBRATION—Dr. Sandra Bury (right) greets a supporter Tuesday night at the Stony Creek Clubhouse. Bury, a local optometrist, defeated incumbent Dave Heilmann with 53 percent of the vote.

(News-Herald Photo by Dermot Connolly)

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to work alongside the first female president of the board in the history of Oak Lawn."

Bury played down the woman angle, except to say that she thought, "The style of women (in government) is more collaborative."

"We have a lot of work to do," noted Bury, who said she is dedicated to putting an end to the discord that has plagued the board for most of the last four years. Her immediate goals include instituting ethics reform on the board.

"I want to eliminate pension benefits for the board members," she said. "Part-time positions should not get pensions."

She also favors term limits for board members. "It will be up to the board to decide what the limits will be.

"I want to focus on public safety too. Acting instead of talking," said Bury. "I just look forward to getting to know the residents more, and being sworn into office in May.

"The future is so bright for Oak Lawn," she said.

Chuck Groebe, a local real estate broker who met Bury through their work with the Rotary Club, was among those celebrating her win the Stony Creek party.

"She has always been very caring and she gives to the community without any expectation of a return. She embodies service," he said.

Southwest Suburban News-Herald
4/12/2013, p.1

Jane Quinlan Wins, As Does Olejniczak

Southwest Suburban News-Herald
4/12/2013, p.1

By DERMOT CONNOLLY

Incumbent Oak Lawn Village Clerk Jane M. Quinlan, running as an independent, won a decisive victory on Tuesday over Melissa "Missy" Moran, a teacher at St. Germaine School who ran on Mayor Dave Heilmann's Mayor's Independence Party slate.

In fact, no one on Heilmann's slate won election, including the two-term mayor, who lost to Dr. Sandra Bury, a local optometrist.

According to Cook County Board of Elections data, with all 41 precincts reporting, Quinlan received 66.86 percent of the votes (6,872), over 33.14 for Moran, or 3,406.

Quinlan, who was first elected in 2005, was celebrating her win Tuesday night alongside Bury at the Stony Creek Clubhouse.

"There are some very smart voters in Oak Lawn. I am just thankful that I can continue to work for the people of Oak Lawn, and move this community forward. This is a big night for Oak Lawn," said Quinlan.

Like Bury, Quinlan expressed happiness about the election overall, noting that in addition to Trustee Alex Olejniczak returning to office for a third term (2nd), three new trustees were elected. Most if not all of them were at the election night party.

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"We'll all work well together with Sandy. You won't see any negativity — just positive from now on. Oak Lawn deserves that," said Quinlan.

In the trustee races, incumbent Cynthia Trautsch, a Heilmann appointment to fill the seat vacated by Jerry Hurckes, lost to local business owner Tim Desmond, who was elected to a two-year term. Desmond won with 62.46 percent, or 797 votes, to 497 votes for Trautsch.

In the 2nd District, incumbent Olejniczak, an ally of Bury's, won with more than 66 percent of the vote (66.61), 1,091 votes, over Julie Misner, who ran with Heilmann, and received 547 votes.

"I'm just humbled," said Olejniczak. "The residents of the village have spoken and I am happy to serve on the board with the first female president in the history of Oak Lawn. The people have spoken. I am just so appreciative."

In the 4th District, incumbent Thomas Duhig, who ran as an independent, lost his bid for a second term to Terry Vorderer in what was a three-way race with Tim Reilly, who was allied with Heilmann. The unofficial tally showed Vorderer, an independent, winning with 785 votes, or 47.4 percent, to 460 votes for Reilly (27.78 percent) and 411 (24.82 percent) for Duhig.

In another three-way race, Mike Carberry won the 6th District seat left open by Thomas Phelan, who decided to focus on Bury's campaign instead of running himself.

Carberry, a former state representative allied with Bury, won with 41.75 percent (921 votes) over Carol Sheahan, a Heilmann ally, with 30.05 percent (663 votes), and independent Joseph Sorrentino. He came in third, with 622 votes (28.2 percent).

Ground breaking for Mariano's Fresh Market in Oak Lawn

The Village of Oak Lawn is excited to announce the ground breaking ceremony for Mariano's Fresh Market, the anchor tenant at the 111th Street and Cicero Avenue development.

The Oak Lawn Mariano's is the 10th announced Mariano's store, after the first store opened in Arlington Heights in July of 2010. The 70,000 square-foot neighborhood shopping environment will employ about 400 people and will feature upscale architectural aesthetics, and both locally grown food and specialty products imported from the world over.

The Village and Mariano's will continue to work together with the developer, Hamilton Partners, to secure other successful tenants in the overall development. Additional information is available by contacting Larry R. Deetjen at ldeetjen@oaklawn-il.gov or 708-499-7743.

Village View
4/16/2013, p.2

Ground breaking for Mariano's Fresh Market in Oak Lawn

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Oak Lawn Independent 4/16/2013, p.2

Man Run Over In Accident Dies at Scene

A woman who did not see her husband behind her as she was backing out of her Oak Lawn driveway ran over him, resulting in his death.

The incident took place at about 12:05 p.m. last Friday in the 10800 block of LaPorte Avenue. The 70-year-old homeowner called 911 to report she accidentally hit her husband with the car.

Oak Lawn Police and Fire units arrived and said they learned that her 70-year-old husband had exited the car to open the driveway gate.

The husband was then run over by the 2010 Toyota passenger car. The husband was trapped under the car and died at the scene, according to police. The wife was not injured.

The Oak Lawn Police traffic crash investigation unit is conducting and investigation into the incident. However, the police department does not anticipate any charges.

Southwest Suburban News-Herald
4/19/2013, p.4

Oak Lawn Will Have New Mayor, Ideas

The people have spoken in Oak Lawn with the results coming in from the April 9 election.

Well, the people who bothered to vote, that is. Voter turnout was low as expected and not helped by the rain and frigid temperatures on Election Day. Of course, voters have different options today than they did in the past. Early voting is available to those who are unable to or do not want to cast their ballots on Election Day.

Oak Lawn has a new mayor in Dr. Sandra Bury, a local optometrist who has been active in a variety of community organizations. We must admit to some surprise that she was able to defeat Dave Heilmann, who was seeking a third term.

We are not stating that Bury is not up for the job. Hardly. She has been a longtime fixture in Oak Lawn and once was the president of the Oak Lawn Rotary Club. It was her drive that got the Oak Lawn Metra Station on 95th Street to add Patriot Station to its name. She also spearheaded the drive to have the monument built near the Metra Station honoring first responders after the 9/11 tragedy.

But it is often difficult to defeat an incumbent, especially when you have not been an active participant in the political arena. Bury had not been active in politics before deciding to run. Hard work is not enough. She obviously had a lot of support and a crew of volunteers who helped to stir through the political waters.

As for Heilmann, it is not certain if he will remain active in local politics. He became the focus of debate by his opponents, who accused him of making decisions in private that resulted in the village being overcharged for certain services.

Heilmann denies those charges, which he often said were misleading. If we were to point to some high points of Heilmann's tenure, it would have to be opening up village hall meetings to the public. Although the meetings are often filled with melodrama, the question-and-answer period before the meetings allows citizens to address certain topics.

The meetings are now televised, which began during Heilmann's years as mayor. He also, ironically, led the TIF project at 111th Street and Cicero Avenue in an effort to revitalize an area that had become stagnant.

But this, too, became a political football. Critics wondered if Flap-Jacks, the popular breakfast restaurant, would be included. Others wondered about the Harley Davidson shop. Harley Davidson was bought by the village but Flap-Jacks remains.

Our opinion on that is, that with some progress, some contention will follow. We believe that development of this corner was necessary. We are not big proponents of TIFs, which we often believe are misused and become a form of extortion used by some large businesses who will not take part in any development unless they receive major tax breaks.

But we do believe that Mariano's Fresh Market will liven up the corner of 111th Street and can be the centerpiece for the TIF District that will be able to draw other businesses and provide a boost to the adjacent Wolfe Wildlife Refuge Center.

It is time to move on. We are confident that Bury can be an effective leader. She will work hard and listen to the needs of Oak Lawn residents. She pointed to her business background, which she believes will help the business climate in the village.

That would be welcome, indeed.

Southwest Suburban News-Herald
4/19/2013, p.6

GROUNDBREAKING—Groundbreaking ceremonies took place last Friday for the Mariano's Fresh Market, that will occupy a large section of 111th Street and Cicero Avenue in Oak Lawn. Taking part in the groundbreaking were (from left) Trustee Thomas Duhig (4th), Trustee Alex Olejniczak (2nd), Trustee Bob Streit (3rd), Bob Mariano, owner of Mariano's Fresh Market; Village Clerk Jane Quinlan, Trustee Carol Quinlan (5th) and Trustee Thomas Phelan (6th).

(News-Herald Photo by Joe Boyle)

Southwest Suburban News-Herald
4/19/2013, p.9

Oak Lawn Woman Has Fine History in Softball

When Cheryl Teale was about 9 years old, she and her sister Cathy, along with the neighborhood boys, started playing baseball in the streets of Oak Lawn, using the sewer covers as bases.

When the Oak Lawn Park District decided to form a girls softball league, Cheryl and her sister, Cathy, joined, and their mother, Mary, managed the team, which they named the Kool Kats.

That year, Cheryl hit 15 home runs, drove in 63 runs, and earned the team's MVP award.

The Kool Kats went on to take first place honors for several years and Cheryl was awarded many all-star awards.

Teale then attended Queen of Peace High School and played 16-inch softball until her senior year, when the school left the Chicago Athletic Conference 16-inch league and joined the GCAC 12-inch league.

Her big break into 16-inch softball started in 1976, when she was 17 and was asked to play for the Ringers, a dominant team at the time that played in the Bedford Park and Oak Lawn Park District women's leagues. She then switched to the Flames (renamed the Angels the following year).

Her real skills were in her southpaw hitting. Teale's nickname was Scooter, and it came from her ability at rounding the bases.

During her almost 30 years of playing softball, she hit hundreds of home runs and drove in hundreds of runs as the cleanup hitter.

Teale also played 16-inch softball for several other teams throughout her career, including the Diamond Girls.

The Diamond Girls dominated 16-inch softball in the 1990s, just like the Angels did in the 1980s. They played softball mainly in Tinley Park, where they won the league championship every year from 1992-2001.

After the Diamond Girls called it quits, Teale continued to play 12-inch softball until she retired in 2007 at the age of 48.

Teale played fast-pitch 12-inch softball at Moraine Valley Community College, where she earned her Associates degree in Science.

Teale continued her education at Illinois Benedictine College, where she played softball for another two years. Once her eligibility expired, she became an assistant coach for her college team.

She graduated at IBC with a bachelor of Computer Science degree.

Teale continues to reside in Oak Lawn and currently enjoys training her dog in agility, spending time up in Michigan enjoying water sports and scuba diving in the Caribbean.

Southwest Suburban News-Herald
4/19/2013, p.14

Casino Night Aids Kids Museum

Casino Night will be held from 6:30 to 11 p.m. Saturday, April 27 at Hilton Oak Lawn, 9333 S. Cicero Ave.

Tickets are $80 per person or $150 per couple ($100 at the door per person, $170 at the door per couple).

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A paid ticket will allow a guest four hours of an open bar, hors d 'oeuvres, auctions and raffle opportunities.

Proceeds from this event will go to the Children's Museum of Oak Lawn.

Prizes that may be won include chef for a day, a Chicago Bulls player Taj Gibson autographed basketball, a week-long trip to Orlando, a free burger a week from a local restaurant, and free child hair cuts for a year.

Southwest Suburban News-Herald
4/19/2013, p.1

Man Run Over In Accident Dies at Scene

A woman who did not see her husband behind her as she was backing out of her Oak Lawn driveway ran over him, resulting in his death.

The incident took place at about 12:05 p.m. April 12 in the 10800 block of LaPorte Avenue. The 70-year-old homeowner called 911 to report she accidentally hit her husband with the car.

Oak Lawn Police and Fire units arrived and said they learned that 70-year-old husband had exited the car to open the driveway gate.

The husband was then run over by the 2010 Toyota passenger car. The husband was trapped under the car and died at the scene, according to police. The wife was not injured.

The Oak Lawn Police traffic crash investigation unit is conducting and investigation into the incident. However, the police department does not anticipate any charges.

Southwest Suburban News-Herald
4/19/2013, p.23

Break Ground For Market At 111th St. Site

By JOE BOYLE

Despite cloudy skies and a steady drizzle, groundbreaking ceremonies took place last Friday morning for the beginning of the construction phase of Mariano's Fresh Market, which will be located at 111th Street and Cicero Avenue in Oak Lawn.

Construction plans for Mariano's Fresh Market is the centerpiece of a Tax Incremental Financing District (TIF) project to rejuvenate this particular Oak Lawn intersection.

The project has been often debated over the past eight years because of the uncertainty of the future of local businesses currently at the location, such as the popular Flap-Jack's restaurant.

Mayor Dave Heilmann, along with village manager Larry Deetjen, played major roles in the TIF plans.

Deetjen had stated during a recent Oak Lawn Village Board meeting that Trader Joe's was pursued for the corner but they declined.

Heilmann had also stated that Trader's Joe's was considered because of its upscale food products.

But Deetjen and village trustees are more than happy to have Mariano's Fresh Market at the 111th Street location.

Bob Mariano, owner of Mariano's Fresh Market and chairman and CEO of Roundy's Supermarkets, Inc., was on hand for the ceremonies.

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"We are going to give (Oak Lawn) the best service," said Mariano. "We promise the most phenomenal shopping experience."

Deetjen added his excitement of adding Mariano's Fresh Market to Oak Lawn.

"You (Mariano's) are all about customer service, and we had our chances (at other businesses) but we have the one that will be a great addition to the village," said Deetjen.

Deetjen and Mariano stated that not only will the food market be the centerpiece of the TIF project but it will also be an integral part of linking future development of the adjacent Wolfe Wildlife Refuge Center.

This will be the 10th location for Mariano's. The first store opened in Arlington Heights in July 2010.

Plans for the 70,000 square-foot shopping facility will employ about 400 people and will feature upscale architectural aesthetics at the Oak Lawn location, according to village officials.

"This was Mayor Heilmann's vision to have this development," said Trustee Carol Quinlan (5th). "We are all happy to have Mariano's aboard. We are ready to get started."

Earlier this month, Heilmann lost in his bid for third term as Oak Lawn mayor. He was defeated on April 9 by Dr. Sandra Bury, a local optometrist and former president of the Oak Lawn Rotary Club.

Heilmann did not attend the groundbreaking. Quinlan, who was not up for election, was an ally of Heilmann. Bury did attend the ceremony.

Trustee Bob Streit (3rd) is also a supporter of the TIF District on 111th Street.

"It was always a great idea to have this TIF District," said Streit, who also was not up for election. "That we have Mariano's as part of it makes it better. They are a great success story."

Other current trustees in attendance were Alex Olejniczak (2nd), Thomas Duhig (4th) and Thomas Phelan (6th). Olejniczak easily won his election against Julie Misner. Duhig lost a three-way race to independent Terry Voerderer. Phelan did not run for another term. However, the candidate he backed, Mike Carberry, was victorious.

Village Clerk Jane Quinlan won her election and returns for a third term. All the current trustees and Jane Quinlan took part in the ceremonial groundbreaking.

Voerderer also took part in the festivities, along with Bury and Tim Desmond, who won his election for 1st District Trustee against incumbent Cynthia Trautsch.

Olejniczak did ask Mariano when the project will be completed. Mariano said he did not know but plans for the store's completion are scheduled to completed within a year.

While Heilmann was not in attendance, he did mention during a February village board meeting that Mariano's Fresh Market will be a great addition to the site and will draw other businesses to the 111th Street location.

MARKET COMES TO OAK LAWN—Bob Mariano (left), owner of Mariano's Fresh Market, talks to Larry Deetjen, village manager for Oak Lawn, during a groundbreaking ceremony on April 12. Mariano's Fresh Market will be at 111th Street and Cicero Avenue in Oak Lawn as part of the centerpiece of a TIF District.

(News-Herald Photo by Joe Boyle)

Heilmann described Mariano's as having an Italian coffee shop, a sushi bar, an on-site chef, wine and cheese shop and a full-service pharmacy.

Deetjen also lauded the efforts of Hamilton Partners, the developer of the Stony Creek Promenade project. Deetjen said that the village and Mariano's will continue to work with Hamilton Partners to secure other successful tenants to the development.

Mariano's is noted for having locally grown food and specialty products imported from around the world.

Southwest Suburban News-Herald
4/19/2013, p.1

The Board Of Trustees

Old Problems For A New Board

The regular Oak Lawn Village Board meeting on Tuesday was the last gathering of the current village board. Mayor Dave Heilmann and Trustees Trausch and Duhig lost their re-election bid and Tom Phelan, who announced his decision to leave his post, will be replaced by the new mayor-elect Sandra Bury and new trustees Tim Desmond, Terry Vorderer and Mike Carberry will be sworn in on May 14th along with Village Clerk Jane Quinlan and Trustee Olejniczak.

In business brought before the board, Village Manager Larry Deetjen updated the board on the recent storms that left the area waterlogged and for the most part flooded. He reported that despite the heavy, record-breaking rainfalls, Oak Lawn faired better than it had done in past years. Many of the retention ponds and reservoirs were full to capacity, but many of the streams did not overflow their banks. Still some residents experienced flooded basements and sewer backups.

After declaring a state of emergency for the village, Deetjen advised residents to call their insurance companies first, then to call the village. During a state of emergency, FEMA funds may be available to residents for clean-up

A discussion was held on the request for a new roof for the public works streets and sewer facility. This has been before the board before. The main bone of contention was the price of the project. Trustee Carol Quinlan had taken Village Manager Larry Deetjen to task for not returning an e-mail or informing her of the particulars of the new contract that were being voted on.

After much heated discussion it was stated that the new contract and the new specifications for the roofing materials and labor performance were included in the new contract and not in the old contract.

The resolution to approve the roof repairs by Olson Roofing was passed in a 5 to 2 vote with Trustees Streit and Trausch voting no.

It was announced that yard waste pick-up has already begun.

The board also honored the winners of the recent Green Scene contest and Oak Lawn High School's Drama Team for earning the 2013 IHSA State Drama Championship.

Sarah Dynia was also recognized for her volunteer efforts. She earned the 2013 Governor's Volunteer Service Award for her non-profit program called Stuff Love. The program makes pillows for anyone who needs them but is mostly for patients in the hospital, elderly and the homeless. The program is in its third year and has gone nationwide.

Oak Lawn Independent
4/25/2013, p.1

Public Information Meeting

The Village of Oak Lawn is looking for your input to help improve the function and appearance of the 95th Street Corridor. Made possible through funding by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP), the Village is working with Teska Associates to identify opportunities for improvements along the corridor. Improvements may include new shops and dining, safer pedestrian crossings, bike routes and amenities, landscaping and community signage.

A Public Information Meeting will be held Tuesday, April 30 at 7 p.m. at Village Hall to learn more about the Corridor Study and to provide your feedback. This will be the first of three public meetings.

Be sure to visit the project website where you can provide your input 24/7. The website will be updated with public meeting dates, events, and documents for your review.

Website address: http://oaklawn95thstreetcorridorplan.wordpress.com/.

Oak Lawn Independent
4/25/2013, p.20

Elks Clinic Helps Kids With Orthopedic Issues

Two Elks lodges, Oak Lawn 2254 and Chicago South 1596, will sponsor a free children's orthopedic assessment clinic from 2 to 4 p.m. Wednesday, May 1 at the Parkview Musculoskeletal Institute at 7600 W. College Drive, in Palos Heights.

The clinic will be held in the third-floor office of Dr. Mark E. Moran.

Appointments are required and may be obtained by calling the Illinois Elks Children's Care office at (800) 272-0074 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. weekdays.

Medical referrals are not needed for the clinic but physicians are welcome to refer patients for a specific reason or second opinion. School nurses are also welcome to refer children and families to the clinic.

This is one of 17 clinics being held in Illinois.

The clinic provides an opportunity for children to be assessed for bone and joint development. Those with feet pointing in or out, back curvature or pain in legs or joints may be seen at the clinic.

There is no charge for any diagnostic service

Southwest Suburban News-Herald
4/26/2013, p.14

JAMES E. DWYER

Obituary

James E. Dwyer, Vet US Army, WWII. Beloved husband of Mary T. Linehan, nee Kallem and the late Mary T., nee Kenny. Loving father of Mary Catherine, Kathleen, Patricia (Michael) Vaci, Maureen (Michael) Byrnes, Deborah Karwoski, James (Sharon), Edward (Katherine), Madonna (Michael) Boaz, Walter (Janet), Sheila, Regina (Gregory) Pohrebny, Daniel and the late Therese. Fond stepfather of Mary Linehan, Loretto (Steven) Swan and Joseph Linehan. Proud grandfather of David (Rachel) Rycerz, Brian and Robert Nemtusak, Kelly (Chris) McBride & Thomas O'Neill, John (fiancee, Beth Chiaramonte) and David Vaci, Lara Kill (Dan) Naughton, Alicia Karwoski and Bethany (Emmett) Karwoski/Lynskey, Megan, Frank and Kevin Dwyer, Tomarah (Chad) Thompson and Conor Dwyer, Maureen Galan, David and Mary Boaz, Jack and Kevin Dwyer, Amanda, Gregory and Molly Pohrebny and Daniel, Shannon, James, Michaela and Luke Dwyer. Great grandfather of Calvin, Riley, Ia, Felicity, Larry, Audrey, Elle, Meade & David. Dear son of the late Walter & Catherine, nee Gilroy. Brother of the late Walter, Mary Therese, Jack, Phillip, Eugene and Patrick. Funeral Monday 9:15 a.m. prayers at Beverly Ridge Funeral Home; 10415 S. Kedzie to Queen of Martyrs Church, Mass of Christian Burial 10:00 a.m. Interment Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. Oak Lawn Village Trustee from 1957 to 1973. Principal of Chicago Public Schools 1965-1985. In lieu of flowers, contributions to Queen of Martyrs St. Vincent de Paul or Little Company of Mary Hospice would be greatly appreciated. Visitation Sunday 2:00 to 8:00 p.m. 1-773-779-4411.

Chicago Tribune
4/26/2013

Bury To Be Sworn In on May 14

But Mayor-Elect Questions Need for Special Ethics Ordinance

By DERMOT CONNOLLY

Dr. Sandra Bury, mayor-elect of Oak Lawn, will be sworn into office on May 14, along with four newly elected trustees, and she wants to hit the ground running.

"It is going to be a busy 90 days," predicted Bury, a local optometrist and past president of the Oak Law Rotary Club who campaigned on a platform of transparency and ethics reform. "I don't want to be anti-Heilmann, but I do want to clean it up," she said, referring to the perception that there is a "pay-to-play" atmosphere in the village.

"The first thing is ethics reform," she said, when asked what is on top of her agenda.

But prior to it being held, Bury questioned the need for trustees Robert Streit (3rd) and Carol Quinlan (5th) to call a special board meeting on Friday, April 26, as they did, to vote on an ordinance barring former elected officials from being hired or appointed to a village position for two years after their elective term ends.

The ordinance passed with Mayor Dave Heilmann's support (see related story) but Bury maintained, "Any ethics reform should be comprehensive...It shouldn't be done in dribs and drabs."

Further, she claimed the hiring issue was never mentioned as one of the ethics problems that residents spoke to her about during the campaign. Bury said it would be more important to focus on issues such as limiting campaign contributions from vendors.

"The businesses are being asked for a lot," said Bury. "A trustee certainly has a right to raise money, but to demand skyboxes (for sporting events) from village vendors? That is unnecessary."

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She also said that board members should divulge if they receive campaign contributions from companies bidding on village contracts. "I would like and expect them to disclose that information, and recuse themselves (if the board is voting on personnel or issues with which they have a personal or financial connection)."

Aside from the ethics issues, Bury said she is looking forward to getting involved with the Southwest Conference of Mayors, and going to Springfield with Village Clerk Jane Quinlan and others when the need arises to lobby for the village.

Bury said that touring local neighborhoods affected by the recent flooding with Trustee Alex Olejniczak (2nd) was a learning experience, seeing how the geographic layout of the village contributed to flooded basements in certain areas but not others.

"The water is a constant issue. Oak Lawn kind of dodged a bullet, in that other nearby communities were hit harder. But if your basement is flooded, it doesn't matter that the community as a whole wasn't badly damaged. It is still a problem for you."

She said that in addition to the ongoing work on the 111th and Cicero TIF district, she expects that during the next four years, Oak Lawn will be closely involved with county and state officials regarding the planned improvements on Cicero Avenue following the Cicero Avenue Corridor Study.

Improvements are planned taking in the section of Cicero Avenue between 55th Street in Chicago to 127th Street in Alsip.

"Oak Lawn obviously has a big footprint on Cicero Avenue," she noted, adding that improving safety measures at the intersection of Cicero and the Southwest Highway is of prime importance.

She said she is looking forward to an upcoming Southwest Conference of Mayors legislative breakfast.

"It's exciting to be working with other communities," she said. "I'm excited to sit at the table...I'm really looking forward to getting started.

"I just want to thank the people of Oak Lawn for giving me that strong show of support," she added, pledging to keep all the campaign promises she made.

She said the transition to the mayor's office is going smoothly, and credited trustees such as Tom Duhig (4th), who lost his seat in the election, for helping her "get up to speed" on certain issues.

Bury foresees being able to work with everyone on the board, including allies of outgoing Mayor Dave Heilmann, such as Trustee Carol Quinlan. "I reached out to her, and told her she brings a lot of energy to the board."

While mayor, Bury said she will continue her work as an optometrist, and hopes to make an overseas trip later this year to bring glasses and vision care to people in impoverished regions of the world.

Through the Rotary Club and other organizations, Bury has made such trips for many years. Due to the election campaign, she was unable to make a trip last fall "for the first time in 14 years." She was in Bolivia most recently, and is considering going there again.

"I'm not one for sitting on a beach with a cold drink during my vacations. After one of these trips, when I am having a bad day, I feel better when I think about my experiences and the various people I have met and helped to see," she said.

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Ethics Measure Gets OK But Not All Agree

By DERMOT CONNOLLY

At a rare Friday evening meeting with half the trustees missing, the Oak Lawn Village Board approved an ordinance April 26 that will bar former elected officials from being hired or appointed to village positions for two years after their elected term ends.

The ordinance was proposed by trustees Robert Streit (3rd) and Carol Quinlan (5th), who had wanted it to be voted on at the regular meeting on April 23. With Village Manager Larry Deetjen sitting nearby, Streit claimed at the meeting that Deetjen wrongly kept the ordinance off the April 23 agenda.

"I'm sorry we had to bring everybody out here tonight...But in my 22 years on the board, I have never seen an instance such as this," said Streit, asserting that Deetjen went beyond his duties in preventing the measure from being put on the agenda although he had brought the proposed ordinance into the Village Clerk's office on the previous Thursday, which he understood to be the deadline.

"We've all heard the rumors that one trustee agreed to not run for re-election, in exchange for getting appointed to the Village Treasurer position," said Streit, referring to Trustee Thomas Phelan (6th). He said the ordinance was simple, and was aimed

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at preventing such agreements. "It is not forever, it is just for two years," he said.

Phelan and trustees Alex Olejniczak (2nd) and Thomas Duhig (4th) were not at the meeting, so the ordinance passed with the support of Trustee Cynthia Trautsch (1st), and Streit and Quinlan — the only two current trustees who will be on the board after the new term begins May 14. Outgoing Mayor Dave Heilmann cast the fourth vote.

"It is not the village manager's job to decide what goes on the agenda," said Heilmann. "It is completely inappropriate for the village manager to act as the filter.

"As for this particular ordinance, I don't think you should leverage your weight to get a job afterward, so I am in favor of it. As a general rule, you don't want people to use their jobs in this way."

Heilmann pointed out afterward that during a discussion of Robert's Rules of Order at the board meeting on Aug. 14, 2012, Phelan is mentioned agreeing that as long as an item is submitted to the Village Clerk's office by the Thursday before the Tuesday meeting, it should be put on the agenda.

"Eight months later, that was not followed," he said.

Deetjen said afterward that he was not playing any political games when he made the decision to keep the ordinance off the agenda. He said Village Clerk Jane Quinlan was on vacation when Streit called, so Deputy Village Clerk Christine O'Grady asked him about the procedure when Streit called about getting the ordinance on the agenda.

He said the deadline was actually Tuesday, and Streit was told that. When Streit came in with the prepared document at 4:50 p.m. Thursday, Deetjen questioned it because the village attorney had not seen it.

Deetjen said, "It is important that the attorneys vet these ordinances before they are voted on" to avoid legal complications later.

Deetjen noted that he was busy handling flooding issues that day, and got no response from Streit or Quinlan when he asked for more information. He said keeping to the deadline was important, because residents want to be able to pick up the agenda before the offices close on Friday.

Deetjen said that, by email, he offered a compromise to the two trustees, saying the item could be put up for discussion and then voted on at the following meeting.

"There was no need for this Friday meeting," said the village manager. "Ordinarily, things like this are handled on the alternate Tuesday, when there is no regular board meeting."

Deetjen said that he held up the agenda deadline until Friday evening, waiting for a response from the trustees, but none was forthcoming, and he said they avoided speaking to him at a retirement party that night for Police Chief Bill Villanova.

Newly elected mayor Sandra Bury observed the meeting, and while Streit and Quinlan said she and her allies should be happy since they campaigned on a platform of ethics reform, Bury said the ordinance was mainly a personal attack against Phelan, and the hiring issue was not important to anyone she met on the campaign trail.

For his part, Phelan said this week that there was no truth to the rumors of him wanting the treasurer position anyway.

He called Streit's ethics reform claims "sad, pathetic and beyond hypocritical. And a waste of everyone's time, too."

He recalled Streit "pounding the table in April 2005 over the then-Board of Trustees' efforts to pass laws and approve the Target development," and "decrying the lame-duck efforts of those board members and their blatant disregard of the message the voters sent" in the recent election.

"I don't need to be on a committee or appointed to a position to continue to expose the corruption and fraud. Not when people like Streit and his allies make it so easy to do. I ran the campaigns of the Oak Lawn First candidates because I wanted to stop the damage that Bob Streit, Dave Heilmann and their allies were doing to Oak Lawn. And I am grateful that the clear majority of Oak Lawn voters wanted the same thing," said Phelan, asserting that the two trustees are "going to bizarre and almost comical lengths" to prevent corruption and fraud from being exposed.

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Oak Lawn Resident Is at PEAK of Game

On a recent weekend, Oak Lawn resident Dennis Dawe raced at LeMons with Traxxas TORC Series Off-Road champion and former motocross champion Ricky Johnson.

This year, PEAK signed on as the official Motor Oil and Antifreeze sponsor for 24 Hours of LeMons.

As part of the sponsorship, three sweepstakes winners were given the chance to team up with PEAK professional drivers to drive in a LeMons race.

The prize was an all-expense-paid trip to a 24 Hours of Lemons race weekend. The winners receive a spot on a LeMons team to race in the PEAK "Marketing Tools" 1989 Mustang 5.0L GT alongside a PEAK-sponsored professional driver.

As the first winner, Dawe, who began racing as a kid at Santa Fe Racetrack in Chicago in their Spectator Races, was able to travel to Michigan's Gingerman Raceway and spend the weekend on a team with Ricky and his brother, Luke Johnson.

Dawe is a married father of two girls, Samantha and Alexandra. He and his wife are avid Indy 500 fans, having gone the past three years.

Dawe has been involved in some motorcycle and stock car racing in the past, and lately has taken to off-road ATV riding.

Dawe entered the Peak Lemons contest online, while he was researching products for his daughters 1990 Mustang GT and noticed the "Like us" on PEAK's Facebook page. After seeing the sweepstake information on Facebook, he knew he had to enter.

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FROSTY OUTLOOK—Members of the Oak Lawn Frost T-ball baseball team (ages 5-6) are seen here on Tulley Avenue during a parade Sunday marking the opening of the Oak Lawn Baseball season.

(News-Herald Photo by Steve Neuhaus)

Southwest Suburban News-Herald
5/3/2013, p.13

Mayor Dave Heilmann presides over his final board meeting

by Matt Mayer

Mayor Dave Heilmann thanked village employees, fellow board members and residents at last months Oak Lawn Board of Trustees meeting. This was his last official board meeting after being defeated by Sandra Bury in the April 9 consolidated election. Heilmann said, "Despite the worst of disagreements you put your names on a ballot and left your home and you went up here and you served". He also spoke about the steep price of being elected to public office and losing friends when he had to turn down ethical breaches. "It wasn't the possibility of losing an election that kept me up at night, it was the mayoral campaign", said Heilmann.

Other highlights: The board honored Sarah Dynia for her volunteer service. She won the 2013 Governors Volunteer Service Award for her Stuff Love which is a non profit program that makes pillows for anyone in need primarily for hospitalized patients, the elderly and the homeless. She began the program three years ago and since then, the program expanded and has gone nationwide. The board also honored the winners of the Green Scene contest and the Oak Lawn High School Drama Team for achieving the 2013 IHSA State Drama Championship.

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SCOUTS CLEAN GAZEBO—Girl Scout Troop 60627 out of Sward School took it upon themselves last month to clean the area around and in the Oak Lawn Gazebo at the Village Green. Troop members who took part were (top row, from left) Elise Oldham, Lily Butler, Emily Stefanisin, Reya Graham, Mia Segura, Jessica Paschke, Sara Jordan, Tamia Brown, Nicki Cody, (bottom row) Samantha Marrufo, Olivia Jeziorczak, Neila Pirkl, Isabella Kaleta, Anna Enderle, Mackenzie Tamer, Lorelei Paschke and Abby Cody.

Girl Scouts Clean Gazebo In Oak Lawn

Under the watchful eyes of Leader Laurie Paschke and Scout Unit Manager Helen Gesell, on April 14, Girl Scout Troop 60627 took it on themselves to do something to give back to their community.

They noticed that the Oak Lawn Gazebo at the Village Green had debris and litter and decided that they needed to do something about it.

Un-coaxed by their leaders, they decided to clean the entire area, removing the debris from the premises.

"They had a blast!" said Paschke.

At the Tuesday, May 28 Oak Lawn Board of Trustees meeting, the girls will receive a certificate of recognition for their initiative.

Girl Scout Troop 60627 Brownies meets at Sward School. For more information about joining Girl Scouts, contact Paschke by email at *cubssforever@hotmail.com*.

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Golden Apple Award Honor

Oak Lawn Resident and Teacher Is Surprised at Mount Carmel

Curt Ehrenstrom, a science teacher at Mount Carmel High School, 6410 S. Dante Ave., Chicago, is a recipient of the Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching.

The 2013 Golden Apple honorees, all high school teachers, were selected from a pool of 510 nominees from throughout the Chicago metropolitan area.

Ehrenstrom, who teaches AP Physics, Honors Physics and coaches the football and water polo teams at Mount Carmel, was surprised on May 1 in his classroom by a television crew and Golden Apple CEO and President Dominic Belmonte.

Ehrenstrom was presented with a Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching in front of 30 of his Advanced Placement physics students.

Ehrenstrom is a 1979 graduate of Mount Carmel High School and has been on the faculty for 29 years.

Ehrenstrom, or "Coach E" as he is known at Mount Carmel, said after 30 years in teaching, he is resolute in staying current with new technologies and teaching strategies and has spearheaded the evolution of his school into a 21st century learning community by introducing classes in Forensic Science, Sports Medicine, Advanced Placement Environmental Science and a range of online summer school classes, while also insuring that all science and technology classes include a lab component.

JUST GOLDEN—The Rev. Tony Mazurkiewicz (left), O.Carm, president of Mount Carmel High School, and John Stimler (right), principal, celebrate with Mount Carmel High School science teacher Curt Ehrenstrom after Ehrenstrom was surprised in his classroom with the Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Ehrenstrom, an Oak Lawn resident, came to teaching physics with a background in the Humanities.

"Mr. Ehrenstrom is extremely deserving of this honor," said the Rev. Tony Mazurkiewicz, O.Carm., president of Mount Carmel. "His selfless dedication to his students is evident in the time, creativity, and thought he puts into making the classroom experience an exciting and productive one for his students."

"When you walk by his classroom, you see an engaged group of young men eager to learn," added John Stimler, principal of Mount Carmel. "(Ehrenstrom) brings great passion and energy to his teaching. His enthusiasm is contagious to his students."

Golden Apple has recognized outstanding Chicago-area educators annually since 1986. Each Golden Apple Award recipient receives a tuition-free, spring quarter sabbatical to study at Northwestern University. Each recipient also receives a $3,000 cash award.

Golden Apple teachers become Fellows of the Golden Apple Academy of Educators, providing a stronger voice and a larger stage from which to make an impact in education.

Fellows participate in ongoing professional development and engagement in education reform, as well as provide instruction and mentoring of future teachers through the Golden Apple Scholars of Illinois program, which has prepared 1,400 college students to teach in schools of high need in Illinois for a minimum of five years.

Following the surprise in Ehrenstrom's classroom, Mount Carmel held an all-school assembly in the Cacciatore Athletic Center to announce the award before the entire student body as well as faculty, staff, parents, and members of Ehrenstrom's family.

The recipients of the 2013 Golden Apple Awards for Excellence in Teaching will be honored at a black-tie event on Friday, Oct. 25 at WTTW-TV (Channel 11) studios in Chicago. WTTW will also broadcast the awards in a one-hour television program following the event.

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5/10/2013, p.10

Bury Is New Oak Lawn Mayor

New Trustees Are Also Sworn In As Heilmann Does Not Attend

By MICHELE BEATTIE

A party atmosphere dominated the Tuesday Oak Lawn Village Board Meeting with the swearing in of the new mayor and board of trustees.

The auditorium was packed with family members and well wishers of the newly elected village board.

Absent from the meeting were outgoing President Dave Heilmann and Trustee Carol Quinlan (5th). Thomas Duhig (4th), who lost reelection to former Oak Lawn police officer Terry Vorderer, was designated President pro tem.

Congratulations to the new board and best wishes were delivered by defeated board members Cynthia Trautsch (1st), Duhig and Thomas Phelan (6th), who did not seek reelection.

Cook County Commissioner John Daley also offered congratulations to the new board and pledged to continue to work with new Mayor Sandra Bury and the rest of the trustees.

Bury and each new and returning trustee were then sworn in by Judge Denise K. Filan.

In the business portion of the meeting, Bob Streit (3rd) proposed a recommendation that discounted vehicle stickers be available to disabled residents. Currently, a $5 vehicle sticker is offered only to senior citizens ages 62 or older. There was not a vote on the proposal.

In other news, several ordinances were approved without debate or further discussion, including the promotions to the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners of one police lieutenant and one police sergeant from the current eligibility list.

Approval was granted for the purchase of an F250 truck for the Oak Lawn Fire Department in the amount of $34,000.

A request for a parking variation at 6101 W. 95th St was approved along

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with plans for a medical facility building on the site. However, it appears there may be debate in the future regarding the House of Brides currently on that site and JenCare Medical Center.

A lease agreement between the Village of Oak Lawn and the Oak Lawn-Hometown School District 123 regarding relocation of the Senior Center was approved.

Bury proclaimed May 15 as "Ride of Silence." This is meant to be a reminder to share the highway with bikes.

National Public Works week to recognize the contributions of public works departments is set for May 19-25.

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Oak Lawn Has New Mayor and New Ideas

It is the changing of the guard in Oak Lawn.

On Tuesday night, Dr. Sandra Bury, an optometrist in the village, was sworn in as the new mayor of Oak Lawn. She was joined by three new trustees — Tim Desmond (1st), Terry Vorderer (4th) and Mike Carberry (6th).

Alex Olejniczak (2nd) returns for his third term after winning his election. Village Clerk Jane Quinlan was also sworn in and returns for a third term. Olejniczak and Quinlan had a falling out with the departing mayor, Dave Heilmann, who lost in his bid for a third term.

Desmond replaces Cynthia Trautsch, who was appointed by Heilmann after Jerry Hurckes resigned. Carberry essentially replaces his friend, Thomas Phelan, who decided to resign so he could concentrate on defeating Heilmann.

I think you get the picture here. Political tug-of-wars are nothing new to Oak Lawn. In an earlier editorial, we praised Heilmann for bringing more of an open door policy to village government. He also was at the forefront of establishing the tax incremental district to 111th Street and Cicero Avenue. While the project stalled because of the declining economy, the TIF District is finally beginning to take shape. The groundbreaking took place recently for Mariano's Fresh Food Market, which will provide the anchor to draw more businesses to this once stagnant area.

However, the people have spoken, or at least the ones who decided to actually vote. While Heilmann introduced some positive changes, including televising the village board meetings for the local cable channel, he came under fire for what his critics said were huge costs on legal fees for the village. He was also accused during the campaign of providing work for this attorney associates who were not qualified to handle village business.

Heilmann denies all of this and summed it up as campaign rhetoric. In any event, Oak Lawn residents felt it was time for a change and think that Bury is the best option for the future.

Bury, who has served as president of the Oak Lawn Rotary Club, says that her ties to the business community will be a benefit to the village. Bury adds that she will frequently visit Springfield on behalf of the village to make sure they are well represented.

We believe that Bury has the temperament to work with others. However, Oak Lawn's history of political discourse will test her good nature. Her business acumen has been well noted. We believe it will be a plus for the village. However, she will soon find out who her true friends and enemies are. She will have to become educated in the world of politics in a short time.

Bury will then have to make decisions on what she believes are in the best interests of the Oak Lawn. If Bury can do that, she is on the right path. And if she can work together with a board whose members are not always harmonious, then she is indeed going in the right direction.

We may be in the minority here, but we believe Oak Lawn's political spats are often beneficial. We know of too many instances where mayors run their cities or villages with a rubber stamp. That is not in the best interest of these communities. Some discussion should take place on policy. Residents should have a say in the matter.

We think Bury will keep that in mind. Do not forget the voters. They have the final say.

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5/17/2013, p.6

Oak Lawn's new Mayor and other officials sworn in

by Matt Mayer

Cook County Judge Denise K. Filan administered the oath of office to newly elected Mayor Sandra Bury, incumbent Village Clerk Jane Quinlan, incumbent Trustee Alex Olejniczak and newly elected Trustees Tim Desmond (D-1), Terry Vorderer (D-4) and Mike Carberry (D-6) at the May 14 Oak Lawn Board of Trustee meeting.

Outgoing Mayor Dave Heilmann and Trustee Carol Quinlan (D-5) were absent. Trustee Tom Duhig (D-4) who lost re-election to Terry Vorderer was president pro-tem for the meeting.

Outgoing Trustees Cynthia Trautsch (D-1), Tom Duhig (D-4), and Tom Phelan (D-6) congratulated the new board and extended their best wishes. Cook County Commissioner John Daley also congratulated the new board and pledged to work with the newly elected mayor and village board.

Other highlights: An ordinance which Bury requested be drafted which establishes a legislative license and ethics committee was approved. This was one of Bury's campaign promises to reinstate this committee. An ordinance for a variance to allow the construction of a swimming pool at 8749 Newland Avenue was approved.

An intergovernmental lease agreement between the Village and the Oak Lawn Hometown School District 123 to relocate the Senior Center was approved. The building on 95th street, which housed the Senior Center, is in the process of being sold. The promotions to the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners of one police lieutenant and one police sergeant from the current eligibility list was approved as well as a fire department request to purchase a F250 truck for $34,000. May 19-25 was proclaimed Public Works Week.

Village View
5/21/2013, p.1

Backs Discount For Disabled Area Residents

Oak Lawn Village Trustee Robert Streit (3rd) has proposed the "Help a Disabled Neighbor" initiative that he said will provide disabled Oak Lawn citizens with discounts on village vehicle stickers and garbage hauling bills.

Under the program introduced by Streit at the May 14 village board meeting, eligible residents would receive the same discounts that are currently available for senior citizens. Residents over the age of 62 qualify for one vehicle sticker per household for $5 instead of the usual $25.

In addition, at age 65, seniors qualify for a discount of $3.93 off their refuse bill, according to Streit.

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Streit introduced the measure and asked the village's attorneys to draft the appropriate ordinance for the board to approve at an upcoming meeting.

Streit said that the village has excellent discounts for senior citizens and other programs for the needy. However, the trustee said that the disabled population does not have a similar discount in place despite the fact that almost 30 percent of Oak Lawn's disabled live below the poverty line.

This past year, 224 handicapped placards were issued in Oak Lawn. In addition, due to their inability to work, many disabled experience financial hardship, Streit said.

"It's only fair that we recognize and help citizens within Oak Lawn who already have a difficult path as they cope with a permanent disability," said Streit.

Streit said that Oak Lawn has always been known as a community that prides itself on helping its neighbors.

"We are a community that comes together to assist each other in time of need", said Streit, who is the longest serving trustee in the village.

He praised the past efforts of the village and community organizations for programs that serve the poor and the seniors. He cited the food pantries and The Public Action to Deliver Shelter Program (PADS), which serves the 8 percent of Oak Lawn residents who are below the poverty level.

He also noted that the village has recognized veterans, who make up almost 9 percent of Oak Lawn residents, and he noted that there is a service on Veterans Day. And a village program for seniors to provide help shoveling snow and raking leaves is very popular, added Streit.

Since the budget for 2013 did not include these discounts, Streit suggested

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Plan Memorial Day Services In Oak Lawn

By DERMOT CONNOLLY

While many people plan menus for backyard barbecues for this coming Memorial Day weekend, local veterans organizations are planning for the annual commemorations being held Monday to honor the men and women who died in all of America's wars.

Among the largest events is likely to be the event set for 9 a.m. Monday at Resurrection Cemetery in Justice. Rich Beloz, of Rhine VFW Post 2729, has been organizing the annual event for 30 years, and said about 10 area VFW and American Legion posts will be participating, along with their women's auxiliaries. Cong. Dan Lipinski (D-3rd) is scheduled to be the guest speaker, along with a representative of the Veterans Administration.

Following the ceremony at the veterans monument in the cemetery, Beloz said Cardinal Francis George will celebrate Mass in the chapel.

"We have been doing this for 55 years, and we used to have more people participating, but due to our members passing away, (the memorial services are not as big as they once were)."

Beloz encourages members of the public to come out and support the veterans. "We honor the fallen from all the wars, from the Revolutionary

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War through to Afghanistan and Iraq. Some of those weren't even called wars, but conflicts and police actions, but we lost a lot of men and women so they are wars," he said. "Memorial Day is not just about barbecues," added Beloz, 70, who was stationed in Germany in the 1960s, when the Berlin Wall was being built. "If we are going to continue as viable organizations, we should continue to hold these memorials. People need to see that freedom isn't free...I stress to the young people who want all these cars and TVs and cell phones that we wouldn't have any of that without the veterans.

"Someone has to fight to keep our culture alive, and some people are going to die."

Dave Goodfriend, commander of the Johnson-Phelps VFW Post 5220 at 9514 S. 52nd Ave. in Oak Lawn, said his organization will be among the local groups participating in a commemoration at the monument on the Oak Lawn Village Green at 11 a.m. Monday. Lipinski may speak there as well, as he often does.

Goodfriend said four wreaths will be laid for the four branches of the service as part of the ceremony, which will be followed by a reception back at the post, with coffee and fresh bakery goods. Like Beloz, he said members of the public are invited as well as veterans and their families.

While some veterans organizations will still be distributing poppies in exchange for donations this weekend, Goodfriend said his organization did that earlier in the month.

"We still have some canisters coming in, with donations collected at local

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Second Meeting For Bury

Conducts Stormy Meeting

The weather wasn't the only thing that raised a fuss at the regular Oak Lawn Village Board meeting Tuesday night. The second meeting of the newly elected Dr. Sandra Bury featured not only massive thunderstorms, but also accusations and arrests.

The start of the meeting hid what was to come. The board lauded Girl Scout Troop 60627 for their efforts at the Village Green after a visit that spurred the Troop to grab garbage bags and fill them with trash they found at Oak Lawn's premier recreation site. The girls of the troop received a certificate of appreciation from Trustee Robert Streit and Mayor Sandra Bury.

Recognition was also given to Eagle Scout Stewart Licursi on his receiving his Eagle Scout Rank. Licursi completed his Eagle Scout badge requirements and his Eagle project was to organize and lead a food collection for the Pilgrim Faith Church food pantry. He said, "With the help of friends, family and residents, the pantry now has enough food for at least 2 or 3 months."

The board thanked him for his efforts and congratulated Licursi on achieving the coveted Eagle Scout Rank.

The board went on to swear in new police officers and confirmed the promotion of Dennis Keenas to Police Sergeant; Ross Finnelly to Police Lieutenant and finally, Michael Murray to the office of Police Chief.

Several ordinances were passed changing the zoning on property formerly owned by the village. The ordinances were for the future Beverly Bank and Trust which will be located at 5300 W. 95th Street. The zoning was changed to a commercial business zone to allow for the construction of the bank building.

The Fall on the Green band contracts were postponed due to a change in the committee assignments that were made by Mayor Bury.

Mayor Bury made her committee assignments, which caused a lot of dissention between Trustee Robert Streit and Trustee Carol Quinlan.

Accusations flew about a 'hit list' of employees and others who did not support Dr. Bury's run for office. Supposedly, the commission appointments were the work of retired trustee Tom Phelan. With heated discussion, Mayor Bury's list of committee assignments were for the most part approved by the board in a 4 to 2 vote with Trustees Robert Streit and Carol Quinlan voting no. Trustees Vorderer and Quinlan removed themselves from a committee saying they had no desire to serve on them. Painfully missing from the committee assignments was Trustee Robert Streit, who only received two committee of the whole assignments and was replaced as events liaison by Trustee Tim Desmond.

During the meeting, resident Andy Skoundrianos, who is a very vocal critic of village board politics, was arrested, handcuffed and hauled out of the auditorium after refusing to leave when asked. Skoundrianos began 'talking back to trustees.' He was asked to stop several times before he was taken away.

After the confirmation of the board assignments, the board retired to executive session to discuss the issue with the House of Brides rental, in which it was said that Village Manager Larry Deetjen supposedly acted inappropriately to the proposed renters of the property.

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Auto Show And Vendor Fair

The Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce, with support from the Village of Oak Lawn, will host its seventh annual "Spring Into Summer" event on Friday, June 7th and Saturday, June 8th, sponsored by Mancari's Chrysler Jeep Dodge, Hawk Ford and Kelly Nissan. The event features the Pet Parade, Vendor Fair and Auto Show. The event will be held at 95th Street and Cook Avenue.

Again this year, the event will kick off with an Auto Show Preview on, Friday, June 7th from 6 to 11 p.m. Everyone is invited to check out the more than 40 autos on display from Oak Lawn Auto Dealers.

During the Preview Night, beer and wine will be available through onsite ticket sales. Food will be available for purchase from local Oak Lawn restaurants. Entertainment will be provided by the band, Walk-Ins.

Starting off Saturday will be the Pet Parade, lead by the Stockyard Kilty Band, Johnson-Phelps VFW #5220, Oak Lawn Fire Department and Oak Lawn Fire Department. The parade line-up begins at 9:30 a.m. at the Oak Lawn-Hometown Middle School at 99th Street.

Step-off is at 10 a.m. The parade will march north on 54th Ave. to Cook Avenue. Following the parade, participants can visit with a variety of pet vendors including pet rescues, bakeries and shops. There is no cost to participate in the parade, but all dogs must be vaccinated. Those without pets are invited to decorate their bicycle, wagon or stroller and march along. There also will be contests for "Best Dressed Pet" and "Pet-Owner Look-a-Like" with judging at 9:45 a.m.

If you own or operate a business in Oak Lawn and are interested in participating in the Spring Into Summer Vendor Fair, contact the Chamber office at (708) 424-8300 or visit www.oaklawnchamber.com for an application.

Oak Lawn Independent
5/30/2013, p.11

Bank Traffic Sparks Discussion

Oak Lawn Trustee Claims 'Hit List' Is Targeted Against Some Members

LEAD BY EXAMPLE—Stewart Licursi speaks before the Oak Lawn Village Board Tuesday night. He was recognized for his Eagle Scout accomplishments.
(News-Herald Photo by Michele Beattie)

By MICHELE BEATTIE

The second board meeting of the newly elected Oak Lawn Village Board contained a little something for everyone's interests.

There were Girl Scout awards, an Eagle Scout award, police department appointments and promotions, conflicts between board members — new and returning — along with supposedly cohesive new Board members against each other. Rounding out the evening, was the removal in handcuffs of the often outspoken Andy Skoundrianos.

Village Clerk Jane Quinlan officiated at the swearing in of newly appointed Police Chief Michael Murray. Other police department promotions were Sergeant Dennis Keenan and Lieutenant Ross Finnelly. New police officers sworn in were Luke Sevening, Scott Petersen, Daniel Stone and Matthew Harland.

Stewart Licursi, a 2013 graduate of Oak Lawn Community High School, received an Eagle Scout recognition award for his work in supplying the food pantry at Pilgrim Faith Church in Oak Lawn. The award, according to Licursi, requires that he develop and implement a plan of his own to benefit others. Due to his efforts and help from family and friends, he was able to secure enough food to stock the pantry for two to three months.

Licursi will be attending Northern Illinois University in the fall.

Trustee Bob Streit (3rd) presented awards to Girl Scout Troop 60627 for their efforts to clean the debris around the Village Green. Each Girl Scout brought a trash bag and collected litter from around the Gazebo. Streit acknowledged their hard work, saying, "They made it look real nice."

Members of Girl Scout Troop 6027 are Tamia Brown, Lily Butler, Abby Cody, Anna Enderle, Reya Graham,

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NEW POLICE CHIEF—Oak Lawn Village Clerk Jane Quinlan swears in Michael Murray as the village's new police chief during the Oak Lawn Village Board meeting Tuesday night.

(News-Herald Photo by Michele Beattie)

Oak Lawn

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Olivia Jeziorczak, Sara Jordan, Isabella Kaleta, Samantha Marrufo, Elise Oldham, Jessica Paschke, Lorelei Paschke, Neila Pirkl, Mia Segura, Emily Stefanisin and Mackenzie Tamer.

Laura Paschke is the troop leader, and Helen Gesell is the unit manager.

In the Village Trustee's report, Tim Desmond (1st) called for "less talk, more action" at the village meetings. Desmond advanced an idea to help the village's high school graduates get some business experience.

"There are 500 businesses in Oak Lawn," said Desmond. "If we could get 1 percent of those businesses to hire our high school graduates and offer apprenticeships to students in school now, that would create new careers and give 17- 18-year-olds the skills they need to go anywhere in the world."

Alex Olejniczak (2nd) expressed disappointment and concern that ComEd is not willing to pay the $10,000 to $20,000 in damages caused by the failure of their system and an energy surge that occurred two months ago.

Olejniczak said there were about 65 residents affected.

He requested that Village Attorney Paul O'Grady bring some documentation from Springfield to the next Board meeting, saying that ComEd is not willing to pay for damages.

Terry Vorderer (4th) said he had a positive meeting with Advocate Christ Hospital representatives on Tuesday. There will be a new left turn signal on northbound Kostner Avenue in the near future.

Mike Carberry (6th) suggested a discussion at a future board meeting to provide bus service for seniors on Sundays to their local churches. Carberry also stated that he will not accept a pension for a part-time position and requested a vote at the next Board meeting to eliminate pensions.

Carberry announced that the annual carnival at St. Catherine of Alexandria Parish is June 6-9.

Village Manager Larry Deetjen reminded everyone about the open house for the new Senior Center. The open house was held Thursday at the former McGugan School, 5220 W. 105th St.

There was discussion and approval given for the planning, development and rezoning with consolidation of three lots into one lot at 5300 W. 95th St. The space will become the new Oak Lawn Bank and Trust. The petitioner for the project is Beverly Bank and Trust Co.

The project will take approximately eight months to complete. Entrance to the building will be at the east end on Raymond Avenue.

There will be a temporary bank trailer at the site until the three-story project is completed.

Trustee Carol Quinlan (5th) raised the question of parking and traffic being an issue with the new building. Olejniczak and Streit also expressed concerns about traffic flow in the area.

Streit asked Deetjen if the land was sold to the bank for the purpose of balancing the Oak Lawn Village budget. Deetjen answered, "No."

Olejniczak asked Deetjen, "Then was the sale of the land ultimately used to balance the budget? If we didn't have the money from the bank, would we be able to balance the budget?"

Deetjen's lengthy answer concluded with, "The money was included in the 2013 budget. That is correct."

In Mayor Sandra Bury's report, she requested that the investigation of matters pertaining to The House of Brides at 95th Street and 55th Avenue be removed from the agenda and continued in executive session due to a possible litigation issue.

Bury then announced her choices for committee assignments. Finance and Quality Control would be committees with all six trustees contributing. All other committees were to be led by and included newly elected board members.

O'Grady asked that each committee be voted on independent of each other.

The Finance committee was voted on first. When Bury asked if there were any objections, Quinlan said, "Absolutely. I'm just looking at the 'hit list' that we are all so aware of that former Trustee (Thomas) Phelan put together based on the group discussion everybody knows about, and it's exactly the same list."

Quinlan continued to explain that the "hit list" was the result of a meeting at Palermo's Restaurant between Phelan, Bury, Carberry, Desmond and Olejniczak.

According to Quinlan, Vorderer was not invited to the meeting because of possible criticism of the committee assignments.

Bury denied a secret meeting and asked Quinlan to provide proof of this meeting. Quinlan responded, "Did you not receive a copy of this list that went out? It's exactly what Tom Phelan put together as a summary of your discussion."

Tempers flared, with Streit also accusing Bury of secret meetings. When Bury pressed him to provide proof, Streit said he did have proof but did not provide any documentation at the meeting. Bury again denied there was a secret meeting.

Streit went on to say, "So transparency and ethics was just a campaign slogan."

Skoundrianos then began shouting back at Streit and Quinlan, who called him out of order. Two police officers came to handcuff and remove Skoundrianos from the room. He has in the past refused to leave after an outburst, but was physically removed at this meeting.

Carberry and Bury both called the incident "unfortunate."

When approval of Carberry for Police Chair/Liaison was sought, Vorderer did not vote to approve. His stated reason was, "I am disappointed. I feel I am in a unique position to represent the police department. I have 30 to 40 years of experience. I think I can do a better job. I do feel this should have been my appointment."

Vorderer, Quinlan and Streit voted against the Carberry appointment. The tie breaking vote was cast by Bury in favor Carberry for Police chair.

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5/31/2013, p.1

Oak Lawn Mayor appoints committee members

by Matt Mayer

The May 28 Oak Lawn Board of Trustees meeting commenced with Village Clerk Jane Quinlan administering the oath of office to newly appointed Police Chief Michael Murray. The swearing in of other police department personnel are as follows: Ross Finnellly as Lieutenant; Dennis Keenan as Sergeant; Luke Sevening, Scott Peterson, Daniel Stone and Matthew Harland were sworn in as police officers.

The meeting heated up when Mayor Sandra Bury announced her committee meeting appointments. Trustees Quinlan and Streit asked Bury if she and former Trustee Tom Phelan, who worked on her campaign, had created a "hit list" of employees to be replaced. Quinlan (D-5) said, "I'm looking at the "hit list" that former Trustee Tom Phelan put together and it's exactly the same," said Quinlan. "I would like to ask you about this list and your meeting with the new board members".

Bury asked what meeting she was referring to. Quinlan said," A meeting between you, Tom Phelan, Mike Carberry, Alex Olejniczak and Tim Desmond at Palermo's." Bury asked Quinlan for proof of her allegations. "Former Trustee Tom Phelan is not here today ", said Bury. "I solicited advice from every trustee at this table and information from each of you. The list was prepared after my meeting with you and I make my own decisions," said Bury.

Bury's committee assignments are as follows: Finance and Quality Control (village board will meet as a committee of the whole); Fire Department liaison- Alex Olejniczak; Special Events liaison - Tim Desmond; Legislative and License - Tim Desmond, Mike Carberry and Terry Vorderer; Technology - Tim Desmond, Alex Olejniczak, Mike Carberry; Police Department liaison - Mike Carberry; Public Works - Alex Olejniczak, Mike Carberry, and Tim Desmond.

Trustee Terry Vorderer (D-4), a retired Oak Lawn Police Division Chief, disputed Bury's appointment of Mike Carberry as police department liaison. "Mike Carberry is a qualified individual but I feel I can do a better job with my 34 years of experience. I'm very disappointed, it should have been my appointment. I feel I'm in a unique situation to represent the police department. I know these were your appointments and I respect your choice of candidates," said Vorderer. Both Vorderer and Quinlan asked to be removed from the Technology Committee. Vorderer said he wasn't interested in serving on that committee.

The "hit list" that was referred to and allegedly prepared by Tom Phelan was mailed to Oak Lawn residents. Village committee/ board members who supported or didn't support Bury's mayoral campaign were listed on the color-coded hit list. Columns headed Committee/board, names, districts, address, terms (yrs), lawn sign, support, and term were in red for those who were against Bury and blue for those who were with her. The list also included advice such as "Always Reward Support" and "Immediately Replace Non Supporters with No Apologies." Trustee Bob Streit also accused Bury of secret meetings. Bury asked him for proof and denied there was a secret meeting. Streit went on to say, "So transparency and ethics were just campaign promises". Andy Skoundrianos began shouting back at Streit and Quinlan, who called him out of order. Two police officers handcuffed and removed Skoundrianos from the council chambers. Bury and Carberry said this was unfortunate incident.

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Opening of a new Senior Center

The Village of Oak Lawn would like to publicly announce the grand opening of its new senior center. The Village worked in partnership with Oak Lawn-Hometown School District 123 to secure space at the former McGugan School, located at 5220 West 105th Street, to provide the senior citizens of Oak Lawn with their own wing of the building that includes a multipurpose room, lounge space, kitchen facilities, and staff offices.

Village View
6/4/2013, p.8

New OL Senior Center Opens

But Group of Residents Complain About Old McGugan Site

By JOE BOYLE

The Village of Oak Lawn on May 30 held the grand opening for the new senior center, which is located at the former McGugan School, 5220 W. 105th St., Oak Lawn.

Guest speakers were on hand and seniors were provided with a meal and refreshments, which was followed by bingo.

However, not all the seniors were in a celebratory mood.

A group of seniors was scheduled to meet yesterday (Thursday, June 6) with Mayor Sandra Bury and Village Manager Larry Deetjen to discuss their disappointment.

"We have been kicked around for two years, and we were not told about this ahead of time," said Catherine Apicella, who organized the meeting with Bury and Deetjen.

Deetjen was aware of some of the seniors' grievances. Deetjen stated he has met with Oak Lawn-Hometown School District 123 to secure the site at the former McGugan School to provide seniors with their own wing of the building, which is scheduled to include a multi-purpose room, lounge space, kitchen facilities and staff offices.

"We are going to improve the parking lot and that takes a little more time," said Deetjen. "Change is never easy. But any complaints you have, forward them to me."

Bury also attended the grand opening and ribbon-cutting.

"If you have concerns, let me know," said Bury. "This is a nice place. Everybody has worked hard to get this done."

Village Clerk Jane Quinlan also spoke at the grand opening and acknowledged more has to be done.

"We have a lot to do but I think it is very nice," said Quinlan. "We have worked with School District 123 and they have done a fine job. Nobody

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likes change but I believe this will be for the best."

Plans had been originally set for the new senior center to be located at the old Brandt School site, 8901 S. 52nd Ave. However, an agreement could not be reached and the village then began to discuss the possibility of McGugan.

The Oak Lawn Senior Center had been located at 5330 W. 95th St. Many seniors who attended the grand opening said they were in the dark about plans to move to McGugan.

Village officials said that the McGugan location had been targeted for months after an agreement with Brandt fell through.

Apicella was under the impression that a new senior center was going to be built near the 95th Street location. The village last month approved a deal with Beverly Bank to build a facility on the site where the old senior center and Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce offices were.

The Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce office is now located at the Metra train station.

Apicella, who has lived in Oak Lawn for 37 years, believes seniors are treated like second class citizens by the village.

SENIOR CENTER OPENS—Village Manager Larry Deetjen is joined by Village Clerk Jane Quinlan for the grand opening on May 30 of the new Oak Lawn Senior Center, located at 5220 W. 105th St., Oak Lawn.
(News-Herald Photo by Joe Boyle)

As far as the 95th Street location, Apicella said the parking was more than adequate while the present location is a nightmare.

But what angers Apicella, who had worked with the late Mayor Ernie Kolb and former Village Clerk Jayne Powers on fund-raisers in the past, said that the McGugan site is too small. It has only one rest room for the disabled, she said.

When she arrived on Monday, her list of complaints increased.

"When we went there, it was cold," said Apicella. "They treat seniors like garbage. And I don't understand why we have to purchase our own materials."

Deetjen said the issue of parking will be taken care of. The parking lot in the back of the building in which seniors enter will be expanded. And other problems will be addressed soon, he said.

Also attending the grand opening were Oak Lawn Trustees Alex Oljeniczak (2nd), Bob Streit (3rd), Terry Vorderer (4th) and Carol Quinlan (5th).

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6/7/2013, p.1

View Second Phase of 95th St. Corridor

By DERMOT CONNOLLY

Dozens of people attended the second of three public information meetings on the 95th Street Corridor held May 30 at the Village Hall, 9446 S. Raymond Ave.

At what was called a "public visioning workshop," residents were invited to give feedback on the improvements needed on 95th Street between Pulaski Road and Harlem Avenue.

The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning is heading up the project, and funding 80 percent of it, with Oak Lawn paying for the remainder. The project is divided into three parts — economic development, streetscapes and transportation — and three stations were set up in the meeting room, with representatives of the three agencies involved to explain the details.

The displays included maps and photos of what is on 95th Street now, and designs of possible additions or improvements, and residents who signed in were each given five $5 bills in play money to deposit in envelopes titled with their prime concerns.

Suggestions could also be jotted down on sticky notes and applied to the maps.

Suggested improvements included bringing certain new shops and

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restaurants to the thoroughfare, or building parking garages, adding alley parking or traffic calming devices or street closures.

The addition of new signage, street improvements, or a civic plaza were also among the suggested areas of improvement, along with safer pedestrian crossings, bike routes and landscaping.

"We already have a committee. I'm here to listen, as a village manager. I will spend my money as a resident," said Village Manager Larry Deetjen, holding up his play money, "but I am mainly here to listen," he added, before sitting down to chat with residents during the gathering. "I love to see the influx of new faces," he said, noting that many of the participants are not the same ones who come to the Tuesday night Village Board meetings.

Carole Nemec, a mother of two preschoolers, suggested more family-oriented businesses along the street. She said an indoor splash-pool, with a coffee bar for parents would be nice.

"We're not going anywhere. We're very happy with the way the village is now, but more people should come out to talk about how we can make it better," she said.

"Progress is always good," said Pat Ryan, who added that giving resident input was a good idea. She said that as an avid walker, she would like to see "alleyscapes" created or improved behind the businesses on 95th Street. "I already walk everywhere, but we don't want to walk on 95th Street," said Ryan, who has lived in Oak Lawn since 1963.

The third public meeting has not been set yet, but Jodi Mariano, a landscape architect with Teska Associates, a community planning firm involved in the project, said officials will be compiling the comments and suggestions gathered from residents before any decisions are made. She said residents still have time to read up on the details, take a survey and leave feedback on the 95th Street Corridor Web site at *http://oaklawn95thstreetcorridorplan.wordpress.com*.

"We have not drafted any proposals yet. We want to hear from you," said Mariano.

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PLANNING IMPROVEMENTS—Jodi Mariano (at center, in black dress), a landscape architect involved in the 95th Street Corridor improvement project, speaks at a public information meeting held May 30 at the Oak Lawn Village Hall.

(News-Herald Photo by Dermot Connolly)

Oak Lawn Deserves New Senior Center

It appears many seniors in Oak Lawn are not happy with the new senior center.

That's the general consensus we reached when a *News-Herald* reporter attended a meeting in which seniors aired their frustrations with the new facility, located at the old McGugan School site at 5220 W. 105th St. The meeting was held June 6 at the Village Hall. Oak Lawn Mayor Sandra Bury and Village Manager Larry Deetjen listened to their concerns.

The general complaints were about not having enough handicapped-accessible washrooms, lack of space, and parking. One of the seniors even said the building was cold one day. Not enough space is available for exercise and other programs, the seniors insist.

Bury and Deetjen complimented Oak Lawn-Hometown School District 123 for their assistance in getting the McGugan site after negotiations ceased with officials at the old Brandt School site. Bury and Deetjen should be both credited for listening to the complaints about the new center. The meeting lasted just over two hours.

We were pleased that both Bury and Deetjen did not pay the seniors lip service. They both said they would do their best to improve conditions at the present site while looking for other options in the village. Deetjen said that if another site can be found, the lease could be broken at the McGugan site.

So, it sounds as if there is some middle ground here. We can understand the frustration of residents. They look at neighboring Burbank and Evergreen Park and they see facilities and programs they wish they had.

We are not going to criticize previous Oak Lawn administrations in regards to programs for seniors. But we think it is time to get a first-rate facility for seniors in Oak Lawn. The village has a large population of seniors. We think they should be going to programs in Oak Lawn and not other communities.

The June 6 meeting could prove to be a new beginning. Local seniors have to inform the village what they want in a senior center and what programs they would prefer.

Let the dialogue begin.

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6/14/2013, p.6

O.L. Bowler Achieves Two-Handed Perfection

Chris Schuch of Oak Lawn knew something special was in the air at the National Bowling Stadium last Friday as he recorded the 25th perfect game of the 2013 United States Bowling Congress Open Championships.

The 27-year-old, who uses a two-handed approach to attack the lanes from the right side, kicked off his team event with a 224 game before lining up 12 consecutive strikes.

He finished with 213 for a 737 series and helped Lawn Lanes 3 of Homer Glen to a 3,063 team total.

After leaving a few single pins in his opening game, Schuch told a teammate something special might be on the horizon, and then the strikes started to mount.

"I left a couple of 10 pins and a 4 pin," said Schuch, who made his fourth USBC Open Championships appearance. "I told my friend in the fourth frame I was feeling something special.

"I don't know how I did it, but I kept striking. It was awesome. There's no better feeling than shooting 300 here. It's unreal."

Schuch was a part of a 10-team group at the NBS last Friday and was mobbed by friends and fellow bowlers after all 10 pins fell on his final delivery.

Schuch has been using the two-handed style his entire bowling career, and now, it has led him into the Open Championships record books.

"I've been doing that my whole life," Schuch said. "I started bowling like that when I was 8 years old and my grandma bought me my first bowling ball, and I've stuck with it.

Three pairs away, another member of the group nearly matched Schuch's effort the following game, as Matthew Kuba of Burbank closed his own team set with a 298 game.

The 21-year-old right-hander made his Open Championships debut this year and started his day with games of 153 and 221 before his run at perfection ended with the 6 and 10 pins still standing for the second 298 of this year's tournament and a 672 effort.

Kuba led Team Supanich to a 3,062 total

"Coming in, it was a little overwhelming, since it was my first tournament," said Kuba, who bowls collegiately at Calumet College in Whiting, Ind. "My whole family was bowling as well, so there was a little more pressure.

"I really struggled early and was playing the wrong part of the lane. My uncle was helping me a bit, and I moved right and never moved again.

"On the last one, I'm not going to lie, I got a little nervous and just got it too far out. It came back and left the 6-10."

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Argue Over Pension, Repairs

Bob Streit Is in Center of Debates with Other Oak Lawn Trustees

By JOE BOYLE

Oak Lawn Trustee Bob Streit (3rd) arrived a few minutes late for the Oak Lawn Village Board meeting on Tuesday night.

However, Streit wasted little time in stirring the pot as tempers flared during several debates with other trustees over public policy.

Streit said he is concerned about "matters that we don't have enough information."

The trustee was also involved in several other heated exchanges during the May 28 meeting, which was the first under the new administration of Mayor Sandra Bury.

"This administration has stated that there will be more transparency," said Streit. "This is an obvious attempt to hide things from the trustees. What is it this administration wants to keep from the public?"

A debate followed over when to bring items to be placed on the agenda for the Oak Lawn Board meetings. Streit felt that some items are being discussed in which he has no prior knowledge.

Village Clerk Jane Quinlan said it is imperative that items be placed on the agenda in advance. If not, it becomes a "nightmare" and she assured Streit that nothing will get by her at the last minute.

But for most of the evening, verbal battles continued between Streit and Trustee Alex Olejniczak (2nd) and Mike Carberry, the new trustee for the 6th District.

Streit questioned the credentials of Pat O'Donnell, who was being considered as the new village treasurer. He said that O'Donnell's eventual appointment is because he contributed to Bury's campaign and is a friend of Tom Phelan, the former 6th District trustee.

Carberry took issue with those comments.

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"Pat O'Donnell is someone I do know, but I think he is qualified," said Carberry. "He didn't support me (in his campaign) and I don't know who he did support. He is a tireless worker. His character is without question."

O'Donnell was approved later by the board to become the new treasurer by a 4-2 margin. Streit and Trustee Carol Quinlan (5th) were the only "no" votes. O'Donnell replaces Jim McGovern, who had served as treasurer for seven years.

Another debate ensued over a resolution to terminate the participation by elected officials in the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund.

The board approved the measure to eliminate the pensions but not without some discussion.

Carberry said that pensions for part-time politicians are not necessary. He added that with the ongoing pension problems going on in the state, Oak Lawn could lead the way in helping the taxpayers.

Those officials currently receiving pensions will continue to receive them. Future employees will not.

Carol Quinlan said she has no problem with the decision but does have some concerns.

"If the board makes this decision, there is no going back. It may be fine now, but to speak for people 15 years from now their situations may be different. It's something to think about."

She also told Carberry that being a trustee is far from having a part-time job. Trustee Terry Vorderer (4th) agreed.

"I agree with Carol, but this is a public servant job," he said.

Streit again verbally sparred with Carberry and later Olejniczak over pensions. But his comments over Carberry's pension with Cook County drew the ire of the board, although Carberry insisted Streit finish.

"You are a class act," Carberry told Streit sarcastically.

Even village health benefit came under question as Streit said board members who have approved eliminating pensions are hypocritical. He referred to a trustee who is currently unemployed and has health benefits through the village.

Olejniczak responded that he is currently out of work but plans to drop the plan when he finds employment. He was visibly agitated by Streit's remarks and at one point referred to him as a "low life."

He also took issue with Streit when he led a committee for the Fall on the Green Festival. Olejniczak said he is going to file a complaint over what he claimed was Streit's misappropriation of funds.

Distribution of funds for infrastructure projects also was questioned by Carol Quinlan, who thought that Olejniczak's 2nd District was being disbursed more money than other districts.

"When we started looking at these numbers, they just don't add up," Carol Quinlan said. "That's why I was a huge supporter of splitting up the reallocation of funds."

Streit jumped into this fray as well, stating that a full 60 percent of funds are going to Olejniczak's 2nd District and "where the mayor lives."

Village Manager Larry Deetjen said that expenditures in the 2nd District actually have been greatly reduced.

"Rather than an equal distribution, (repairs) were recommended by village engineers," said Deetjen. "That's how we came up with the improvements. Next year, we go over the whole process again."

Carberry stated that trustees should not question the motives of village engineers, who he said do a great job. The decisions made on infrastructure improvements are not politically motivated, he added.

Olejniczak still has concerns with ComEd over a power outage that occurred in his district this spring. He said that ComEd officials been evasive and have given incoherent answers to the power outage that occurred that caused many residents thousands of dollars.

"Just because the weather is bad, that does not mean ComEd can't put out reliable service," said Olejniczak. "ComEd is not putting money into our infrastructure. What ComEd hides behind is, this was an isolated incident. We as a community need to stand up to ComEd."

Olejniczak said he is going to contact the Illinois Commerce Commission about ComEd. He also does not buy ComEd's explanation that the power outage may have been caused by wild life, possibly raccoons.

In other news, the board approved an amendment to village's code regarding signs and advertising structures.

Several business owners during the opening public comments segment stated that allowing for no signs to be placed outside their shops have hurt businesses financially.

Some businesses do not have the resources to have marquees outside their businesses, some of the owners stated.

The board approved a parking variation for McDonald's at 10549 S. Cicero Ave., while tabling a parking variation for Group's Penny Place, 6346 W. 95th St., stating that they need more information.

Board members were in agreement about Heather Green, the village's arborist and Green Team Committee member.

All had kind words for Green's dedication and hard work. Green is moving to New Hampshire.

She will be replaced by Matt Basile, a graduate of Chicago Agricultural High School and the University of Illinois, where he was on the dean's list.

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Sound Off On New Oak Lawn Senior Center

By JOE BOYLE

A meeting was organized by local seniors on June 6 to let Oak Lawn Mayor Sandra Bury and Larry Deetjen, the village manager, know what they think about the new Oak Lawn Senior Center.

The village officials got an earful.

Complaints about the new senior center, which is now located at the old McGugan School site at 5220 W. 105th St., Oak Lawn, ranged from not having enough handicapped-accessible rest rooms to a lack of room for some activities. One senior even referred to the new site as "a dump."

The move to the McGugan site was necessitated because the old senior center at 5330 W. 95th St. is part of series of adjoining buildings that will be leveled for a new Beverly Bank facility.

Originally, the senior center was going to be located at the old Brandt School site, 8901 S. 52nd Ave. However, negotiations for a lease broke down.

The grand opening and ribbon-cutting for the new senior center took place on May 30.

Bury admitted that a scramble for a new senior center occurred after negotiations with Brandt broke down. The Oak Lawn Village Board had approved earlier this year a plan for $1.8 million in development along

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95th Street that would include a Beverly Bank facility.

The mayor said that the McGugan location is a "work in progress" and more has to be done. However, Bury and Deetjen both said that Oak Lawn Hometown School District 123 have been accommodating.

Deetjen said the parking issue would be alleviated because additional space would be made available in the back of the building.

But that did not satisfy a group that included about 40 seniors who turned out for the morning meeting at the Village Hall.

Catherine Apicella, who has lived in Oak Lawn for 37 years, organized the meeting with Bury and Deetjen.

"This new senior center is totally unacceptable," said Apicella, reiterating complaints about having one handicapped-accessible rest room. "The one room we have is too small to play cards."

Other seniors complained about exercise facilities. About 18 elderly residents showed up for an exercise class and said they were shoulder-to-shoulder, way too tight for any movement. Another resident complained about the gym not being handicapped accessible.

Bury said that a handrail will be put in the gym.

"Lots of people liked the 95th Street location," said Apicella, who also admitted that it was far from perfect. "If the village is going to put more money into this or another location, we should see if this is worthwhile to do this."

Others seniors complained about a lack of programs for the elderly in the village. One resident said that they go to Evergreen Park for line dancing. Other residents go to Burbank for their senior programs.

"I have trouble opening doors, and this is an unsafe place," added Apicella. "The building probably would not be up to code. It is quite antiquated."

Deetjen said that the old senior center on 95th Street did have its deficiencies. The roof had to be replaced, added Deetjen.

"It was decided by the old board that a better center is needed," said Deetjen.

The seniors at the meeting would prefer a site in the middle of town that is close to shopping.

"Is there a possibility we could go build a senior center near the old site? The answer is yes," said Deetjen. But the village manager, along with Bury, told the crowd they have to decide what programs they want and what is of the most importance for a new senior center.

"The board will get their arms around this," said Bury. "If you want your own center, we can look at it."

Seniors asked about the Oak View Center, 4625 W. 110th St., and the old Beatty Lumber site in the middle of town. Deetjen said both sites were discussed. But Oak View has a lot of programs already in place. The old Beatty Lumber site near the Metra Station along 95th Street was discussed under the previous administration of former Oak Lawn Mayor Dave Heilmann. However, it never got past the discussion stage.

Apicella also wondered why seniors had to purchase their own materials for the senior center.

"I agree with you 100 percent," responded Deetjen. "But it has come to my attention that a special account had been set up. But it does not show up on the books."

Bury and Deetjen were informed of a special account that had $40,000. However, Deetjen said that he has seen a written account of $6,000.

The village manager said this matter would have to be looked into to determine why there is such a disparity.

Deetjen explained to the group that the old McGugan site was chosen because they have a two-year lease with an option for five. The village is paying $15,000 a year to lease the building.

"We worked hard to get the Brandt site, we were disappointed," said Deetjen. "The building would have been more energy-efficient. It didn't work out. We should be at the top, not a follower with a senior facility."

Bury agreed that more has to be done for Oak Lawn seniors.

"I always felt in my heart that we should do more for seniors. It's important that you tell what you want," said Bury. "Let's work together and let's stay positive."

Apicella wondered why they had to leave the 95th Street site and added, "I'm sorry, Oak Lawn does not need another bank."

Deetjen explained that in a free society, the village cannot dictate demands to a developer that buys property.

"You should be happy that we have 40 banks in Oak Lawn," added Deetjen.

Bury reminded the crowd to fill out questionnaires asking what they want for the senior center.

Deetjen added that his wife would volunteer to plan day trips and other excursions.

"We live near a world class city (Chicago), let's take advantage of it," added Deetjen, who reminded seniors that transportation is available through the village to and from the center.

When asked if the lease could be broken at the old McGugan site if a better location for a senior center could be found, Deetjen said yes. However, he pointed out, programs have to be decided on and an agreement on the site has to be resolved. Architect drawings would also have to be drawn up before a center could be built.

The meeting concluded with seniors filling out the forms to determine what programs and what type of building they want in a new senior facility. Bury and Deetjen said they both would look into their requests.

After the meeting, Oak Lawn resident Alice Betz summed up the feelings of the seniors.

"My concern is, I don't want them to put thousands of dollars into a new senior center that is not adequate."

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Oak Lawn approves elimination of pension for elected officials

by Matt Mayer

Several hot button issues dominated the contentious June 11 Oak Lawn Board of Trustees meeting one being a resolutions which was proposed by newly elected trustee Mike Carberry (D-6) to eliminate the Illinois Municipals Retirement Fund for elected officials. Carberry said, "Once we finish serving, the village should be done paying us". He added that part time public officials should not be given pensions. Trustee Carol Quinlan (D-5) countered Carberry's statement by saying "You're new here, being a trustee is far from a part time job. Newly elected Trustee Terry Vorderer (D-4) agreed with Quinlan, adding that this is a public service job". Vorderer also asked, "In a sense of fairness, how will this affect trustees who have served 8 to 20 years - how will this affect their pension? Bury deferred this question and any others to the union rep who said this will only impact prospective elected officials. The rep said that current officials would not be affected.

Quinlan said that she wanted the board to understand there is no going back and if this board makes this decision, this benefit will no longer be available. "I think that we are speaking for people 15 to 20 years from now. Once the Village of Oak Lawn eliminates this benefit, it is then irreversible.

Trustee Bob Streit (D-3) said that the IMRF is the best funded pension in the State. The rep concurred with his statement. "This pension benefit offered today is the same when I was first elected in 1991, and so is the compensation of $150 per week", said Streit.

"It may sound good to talk about the pension crisis and eliminating a public pension. An elected official is not eligible for a pension until they serve for 8-years. The pension equates to about $10 dollars a month for each year of service", said Streit. "For example, if I were to retire today after 22 years, I would receive $220 per month once I reach age 62. Each month I put in 4.5-percent of my trustee pay into the fund and the village contributes the same. Over the course of a year, the village contribution is $27 per month or $324 per year. So eliminating the pension for elected officials will have no significant affect on the budget whatsoever. While the difference this will have on the village budget is insignificant, the impact that it may have on the pension of other employees could be very important", said Streit.

Streit's comments regarding Carberry's County Pension resulted in Trustees Carberry, Olejniczak, Streit and the Mayor talking over one another. Also Quinlan asked Bury to call to order the people in the audience that were speaking out. Bury instead called for a vote, however Carberry asked her to let Streit finish. Bury continued calling for a vote - no point of order was called. Carberry said in regards to his pension benefit with his employer that he can't reject it and that he won't receive a pension. "I would have to be there until I was 70 years old," said Carberry. He also sarcastically told Streit, "You are a class act". The resolution passed 4-2, Streit and Quinlan dissented. Bury gave her pension money to the police department. Trustees Olejniczak, Desmond, Carberry, and Vorderer opted out of the pension program prior to passing the resolution to eliminate the program.

Village View
6/18/2013, p.2

Oak Lawn Farmers Market

The Oak Lawn Farmers' Market is anticipating another successful season in the heart of Oak Lawn, beginning June 5th and every Wednesday (except September 4th), until October 161h. Our Farmers' Market is open from 7:00a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Shoppers will gather at Dumke Drive at 52nd Avenue to purchase a selection of fresh vegetables, fruit, delicious homemade jams, flowers, shrubs, homemade breads, spices, popcorn, jewelry, arts and crafts, and much more. Our market features over 35 vendors.

Opening day will feature the Chamber of Commerce serving coffee and doughnuts to kick off the morning shopping.

Village View
6/18/2013, p.3

EARNS HONOR—The Oak Lawn Lions honored the village's police officer and firefighter of the year at their annual Law and Order Dinner on May 14 at the Hilton Oak Lawn. Oak Lawn Fire Battalion Chief Norman Rick and Police Tactical Officer Michael McNeela have been named firefighter and police officer of the year. Rick and McNeela were nominated by their colleagues, and chosen by a committee comprised of members from the village's police and fire departments. Rick (above, left) accepts his award from a Lions officer.

(News Herald Photo by Steve Neuhaus)

Southwest Suburban News-Herald
6/21/2013, p.4

TODAY AND YESTERDAY—Oak Lawn resident Larry Hansen (right) had problems talking about some of the situations he encountered as a soldier during World War II (above). Hansen took part in the Battle of Normandy and survived a bomb explosion. Hansen has lived in Oak Lawn since 1947.

WW II Soldier Survives D-Day And Explosion

(This is the fourth of a series of stories that will focus on the "Greatest Generation, veterans of World War II, and also recollections of how life was during the 1930s and the Great Depression.)

By JUSTYNA KRUK

Long-time Oak Lawn resident and World War II hero Lawrence Hansen was 21 years old when he was drafted into the United States Army.

What started out as a seemingly harmless three month commitment, however, quickly turned into anything but. Four years and several countries later, Hansen returned home having survived a devastating barrack explosion that killed 19 of his men and left him trapped beneath debris for days.

Hansen entered the Army on April 5, 1941, and was placed into the Army's coast artillery unit. After minimal training at Fort Sheridan in Lake County, Ill., Hansen and his unit traveled to Virginia and then to Morehead City, N.C., where they were stationed in an old Civil War fort. There, he and his men were responsible for protecting the United States from invasion by German submarine saboteurs.

"I carried a very big gun," Hansen recalls, "a Browning automatic rifle."

Soon thereafter, his unit was shipped to Nova Scotia by rail and

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then to Northeast Iceland, where they guarded a fjord that had a naval tanker that was fueling ships traveling to Murmansk, Russia.

Hansen explained that anti-submarine gates across the fjord were used to protect the submarines from coming in, but they also had guns to keep the German battleships from coming too close.

"They never made an attempt, but occasionally German bombers came overhead from Normandy and we'd have to fire shots at them," Hansen explains.

From Iceland he and his unit made their way to England, where they began to prepare for the invasion of Germany. Despite weeks of training proper execution, more modern equipment arrived and was used in the first wave of invasions.

Instead, he and his men went in on June 16, 1944, or "D +10" days later. They landed on Omaha Beach in France, and on their very first night there they shot down a German pilot flying an American P-38 plane.

Because the area was considered a "no-fly zone," even for friendly aircraft, Hansen and his men knew that it could not have been an American pilot, and they were right.

Apparently, a German unit had overtaken a British airfield in Africa and it was there that they got these planes.

It was a few months later when Hansen would experience the event that earned him his Purple Heart.

In November, his unit, alongside General George S. Patton, reached the German border and set up camp in a French artillery camp that had been overtaken by Germans.

Hansen remembers exactly what General Patton told them as they reached their destination.

"You have gone to Normandy to here without any rest. Go into this camp and clean your vehicles and ammunition."

Though the engineers had said the building was safe, a woman had entered the building and flipped a light switch that set off the timers for a bomb that was planted underneath the stairs. Because there was no electricity, none of the men paid attention to the position of the light switch.

Despite the tragic loss of lives that fateful evening, this story is one of hope, fate, and survival.

As Hansen's daughter, Karen Hansen, helped explain, her father and his roommate slept in bunk beds, and Hansen slept on the top bunk. That night, however, he had night watch so his roommate offered to switch beds so that Hansen would not have to climb over him when he came in.

As fate would have it, when the building blew up, the ceiling collapsed, the soldier on the top was killed, and Hansen was cushioned between the bunk beds.

For three days Hansen laid below the rubble. A big piece of wood had punctured his cheek and mortar dust was entering his mouth, forcing him to breathe through his cheek.

"After the explosion I didn't really think I was going to get out of there and I kept thinking about my family," Hansen remembers.

Even after engineers found him, it would be several days before they finally got him out.

Like many veterans, Hansen did not speak of his ordeal when he returned from the war. Only recently have the memories began to trouble him.

In 2003 he had to have an MRI, explained his daughter. During the test, Hansen actually began to sweat because the sound of the MRI machine reminded him of the jackhammers that were used to dig him out from out under the rubble.

Despite experiencing a life or death situation, Hansen insists he enjoyed his time in the military and frequently thought about reenlisting. Before the draft, he was a carpenter by trade and so for a time he was responsible for building chairs and tables for the officers. He even trained soldiers how to correctly identify aircraft using silhouette cutouts.

Hansen's story, like so many others who comprise what journalist Tom Brokaw coined as "The Greatest Generation," is one of unrelenting heroism and love of country.

A South-Sider through and through, he moved to Oak Lawn upon returning to Chicago after having lived in Philadelphia with his young bride. After beginning a construction business with his father, he built his home in Oak Lawn in 1947, where he lives today.

Southwest Suburban News-Herald
6/21/2013, p.1

Mayor Likes Pension Removal

Majority of Oak Lawn Board Approves Measure As Win for Taxpayers

By JOE BOYLE

Oak Lawn Mayor Sandra Bury said she is delighted that the village has become one of the first large municipalities in the state to eliminate pension benefits for elected officials.

The elimination of benefits for elected officials in Oak Lawn includes the mayor and village's six trustees.

The measure was proposed by Mike Carberry, the 6th District trustee, and discussed at the June 11 village board meeting.

Trustee Bob Streit (3rd) opposed the elimination of pension benefits. Trustee Carol Quinlan (5th) also had misgivings about eliminating the benefits.

"If the board makes this decision, there is no going back," Quinlan said during the June 11 meeting. "It may be fine now, but to speak for people 15 years from now, their situations may be different. It's something to think about."

Carberry insisted that this is a part-time job, which Quinlan said it really is not. But Carberry did not waver in his opinion, stating that Oak Lawn can help lead the way to aid the taxpayers.

Streit, who has been a trustee for 20 years, strongly opposed the move and continued to argue with Carberry over pensions and other issues during the June 11 meeting.

Carberry eventually called for a vote. Joining Carberry in approving the measure were trustees Alex Olejniczak (2nd), Tim Desmond (1st) and Terry Vorderer (4th). Bury also supported the measure but her vote was not required.

Carberry, Olejniczak, Desmond and Bury ran for election in April on a platform called "Oak Lawn First" that promised pension reform and other measures designed to help taxpayers.

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"I'm ecstatic that the Board approved Trustee Carberry's proposal," said Bury in a statement. "But I'm disappointed it was not a unanimous vote."

"People are frustrated and angry at politicians for the stalling and inaction on pension reform, and they are tired of all the gimmicks and abuses that have drained our pensions to the point of bankruptcy" Carberry said after the meeting. "With this vote Oak Lawn is putting the interests of the taxpayers ahead of the politicians and taking a leadership role in helping address our state's pension problems."

Streit and Quinlan both opposed the measure.

Those officials currently receiving pensions will continue to receive them. Future employees will not.

Vorderer is a new trustee and reminded residents at the June 11 meeting that he will hold his first forum at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, July 11 at the Oak Lawn Park District Administration Building, 9400 S. Kenton Ave.

Quinlan referred to an incident that occurred at a village board last month in which a resident had to be removed from the meeting for heckling.

She would like the mayor to be more forceful in curbing rude behavior, such as yelling out at meetings.

"Frankly, I'm just tired of it and a lot of other people are too," said Quinlan.

The board also approved a new treasurer. Pat O'Donnell was approved by the board. He replaces Jim McGovern, who held the position for seven years. McGovern is moving out of the area.

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6/21/2013, p.1

John O'Sullivan Receives Award

The Illinois State Crime Commission/Police Athletic League of Illinois is honoring Oak Lawn resident John O'Sullivan (pictured) at its 17th annual "Salute to Those who Make a Difference" Awards Dinner at the Drury Lane Oak Brook this Wednesday evening. O'Sullivan is being presented with the prestigious Bishop Shiel Award for his outstanding service to community. John O'Sullivan is a long time member of organized labor who has previously served as a member of the Illinois General Assembly as a State Representative and currently serves as the Worth Township Committeeman. John has also served as a volunteer wrestling coach at his alma mater Mt. Carmel High School, a football coach at St. Catherine of Alexandria and a baseball coach in the Oak Lawn Little League. John and his wife Trish are the proud parents of three sons Johnny, Joey and Tommy.

"We are so proud to honor someone who has done so much for so many others and feel that John O'Sullivan is most worthy of receiving our Bishop Sheil Award," stated Illinois Crime Commisssion Executive Director Jerry Elsner.

Oak Lawn Independent
6/27/2013, p.1

Village Of Oak Lawn Named

Purple Heart City

In a moving ceremony, the Oak Lawn Board of Trustees passed a proclamation that honored the Military Order of the Purple Heart Oak Lawn Chapter 575. The proclamation declared that all wounded veterans and their families and supporter, past and present, are to be remembered for their sacrifices for the freedom of this country.

The proclamation declared the Village of Oak Lawn the first Illinois Purple Heart City to honor those veterans and their families, in a way of thanking them for their service.

The trustees again complained about the response by ComEd concerning the massive power outages that came after the massive storm on Monday. After 24 hours, nearly 3,500 homes were still without power. Trustee Alex Olejniczak reported that although public works was out right after the storm stopped, not one ComEd truck was seen in Oak Lawn.

Olejniczak said that he was frustrated after talks with the electric company, who he said had no firm plans for any kind of disaster. Nor would they accept responsibility for the damages done to homeowners during power outages. He asked that the board complain to the ICC to get something done.

It reported that power should be back on possibly by Thursday. In light of the oppressive humidity and temperatures, the village has announced that the Pavilion, Senior Center, Library and possible cooling busses will be available to the elderly and residents.

Commercial Parking in the Commuter parking tower was discussed. It was reported that business have been requesting parking spaces in the Commuter Parking tower to be used for customers. The board approved 20 spaces on the first floor for that purpose.

Discussion was held though on using the whole first floor for commercial spaces. However, it was stated that when asked, commuters didn't like the idea for one reason or another. It was stated that there was an "A-1" business interested in some of the vacant property, but wanted close parking, which is not offered now.

Though the 20 spaces were approved, dedicating the first floor to commercial parking will be discussed at the next board meeting.

Discussions on pension reform were tabled until a future meeting. At the last meeting of the board, Newly-elected Trustees and Mayor Sandra Bury had refused their pensions and passed an ordinance that would take pensions away from part-time elected officials in the future. This move brought on comments from Trustee Bob Streit who disagreed with the measure. He stated at the time that the ordinance would not save the village much in funds since pensions for trustees and the mayor were minimal.

Mayor Bury had made appointments to the Fire Pension Board. Pat O'Donnell and Jerry Dillon were her choices for the passions. Again, this solicited comments from Trustee Streit. He felt that there was not enough information in the trustee packets for trustees to make an informed decision. He brought up that one of the commissioners was being replace because he was on the infamous "Hit List," which contains the names of appointees and appointees that did not support the present board.

When the question came up about consolidating adjudication judges to one person, a move that is supposed to save the village at least $10,000 a year, Trustee Streit again brought up the 'hit list,' which one of the judges was apparently on. As Streit tried to give his opinion on why the move was not a good one,, Mayor Bury dismissed his remarks and asked for a vote on the matter. Trustee Streit continued to ask that he be allowed to speak, but Mayor Bury ignored him and continue with the vote.

"What," Streit said as the vote was taken, "I can't express my opinion?" He was totally ignored.

Mayor Bury brought up 'board decorum.' She said that if a board member starts a discussion and brings in personal attacks or does not address the issue at hand, they would be warned twice and then censured.

Oak Lawn Independent
6/27/2013, p.1

Wants Review Of Vehicle Stickers in O.L.

Oak Lawn Trustee Bob Streit (3rd) asked the Oak Lawn Village Board on Tuesday night to look into allowing seniors to purchase vehicle stickers online.

Streit said the reason seniors have to come in to get their stickers is that a "software problem" has developed. He has discussed the problem with the village staff.

The trustee also mentioned the demolition of a parking lot adjacent to Advocate Christ Medical Center, 4440 W. 95th St., Oak Lawn, to make way for a seven-story tower.

"I want to thank Christ Hospital, who has spent $600,000 to give the community much needed hospital beds," said Streit. "They are an economic engine that creates jobs in construction and health."

Southwest Suburban News-Herald 6/28/2013, p.11

Objections To Fire Pension Bd. Appointments

By JOE BOYLE

The storms that raged through Oak Lawn on Monday night were not the only issues that created some thunder at the Oak Lawn Village Board on Tuesday night.

As has been the case at the last two board meetings that coincided with the new administration under new Mayor Sandra Bury, Trustee Bob Streit (3rd) voiced his displeasure, this time over fire pension board appointments.

Bury appointed Pat O'Donnell, who was recently appointed village treasurer, and Jerry Dillion to the board.

Streit said that the board should spend more time looking over the qualifications of the candidates. While supplied with resumes that day, Streit said that not enough time was allowed to study their qualifications.

Sparks ignited when Streit implied that the only reason the two were being considered for the job is that they supported Bury and they are somehow associated with former Trustee Tom Phelan.

Bury was annoyed at the suggestion and said that these appointments are not subject to a vote.

Streit added that one attorney is being let go despite the fact his term runs through 2015. Streit was reminded that Bury can legally do that.

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Larry Deetjen, the village manager, said a fixed fee has been approved over two fiscal years of no more than $60,000, reduced from $71,000.

Trustee Carol Quinlan (5th) also weighed in on the appointments and said that a meeting by Phelan created a "hit list" of public officials he wanted out. Two attorneys have been removed.

"I'm never opposed to saving the village money, but if you plan to consolidate...I just want to look at all the options," added Quinlan.

"I know some of you are new to public service but this is no excuse for what you are doing," said Streit, who has been a trustee for 22 years. "Why are we getting rid of these individuals? (Because) these names appeared on Tom Phelan's hit list."

Streit then took exception with Deetjen regarding the interview process in relation to the two attorneys. Deetjen replied that the attorneys said they only want what's good for Oak Lawn.

Trustee Terry Vorderer (4th) said that the decision was made on what is best for Oak Lawn.

"I know nothing about a hit list," said Vorderer. "What I hear is that we can save the taxpayers $25,000."

The fire pension board appointments were approved 3-2. Streit and Quinlan were opposed.

While Streit continued to talk, Bury stated that "deliberate lies (by public officials) on the dais will result in censure."

Bury added that "past village presidents may allow such conduct but it will not be tolerated here."

Southwest Suburban News-Herald
6/28/2013, p.1

Says ComEd's Response Lacking

Oak Lawn Board Is Frustrated with Utility Following Monday's Storm

By JOE BOYLE

The aftermath of the storm that created havoc in Oak Lawn on Monday was the subject of much debate during the Oak Lawn Village Board meeting Tuesday night.

While the storm caused serious damage to homes due to falling trees and limbs, Trustee Alex Olejniczak (2nd) said ComEd's reaction following the heavy rains was ineffective at best.

"I'm personally disappointed with ComEd," said Olejniczak. "ComEd people didn't have a plan. ComEd said power would be back on Thursday. That is unacceptable."

Other trustees were in agreement that ComEd officials could have done more after Monday night's storm raced through the village, causing serious damage to homes in some areas.

Trustee Tim Desmond (1st) did not attend the meeting due to the death of his father.

"Trustees were out there and we didn't see any coordination by ComEd," added Olejniczak. "They had no boots on the ground after the storm."

Olejniczak estimated that more than 4,000 households were without power after the storm. He added that many residents were not able to watch the Chicago Blackhawks Stanley Cup victory over Boston due to no electrical power.

"We were at a meeting earlier with ComEd and they had no answers," added Olejniczak. "They do not do a good job of preventive maintenance."

Olejniczak asked the board to consider filing a complaint to the Illinois Commerce Commission for what he said was a lack of urgency displayed by ComEd after the storm.

"I'm fed up," said Olejniczak. "We need better, reliable service."

Oak Lawn Mayor Sandra Bury echoed Olejniczak's sentiments by

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HEARTFELT—Oak Lawn Mayor Sandra Bury reads a proclamation for the Illinois Wounded Veterans, Military Order of the Purple Heart, during Tuesday night's Oak Lawn Village Board meeting. Bury thanked the veterans for their efforts in supporting village projects and their attendance at various ceremonies. Bury stated that Oak Lawn has become one of the state's few "Purple Heart Villages."

(News-Herald Photo by Joe Boyle)

Oak Lawn

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saying that she was "very disappointed" with ComEd.

Bury joined Olejniczak on Monday night to inspect the damage and check with residents following the storm. Both said they had not seen a ComEd truck as of 11 p.m. Monday night.

Larry Deetjen, the Oak Lawn village manager, was also disappointed with ComEd. He was frustrated that no senior officials from ComEd attended a meeting Tuesday afternoon.

Deetjen also pointed out that there was no power at 95th and Cook and 95th and Central. Many people were out celebrating the Blackhawks Stanley Cup victory and it could have been dangerous, Deetjen added.

"I'm disappointed with ComEd," said Deetjen. "I hope the board reaches out to their CEO. That's why we went to aggregation in the first place. At least we have saved the residents some money."

Also being considered was a request to assign 20 parking spaces on the first floor of the Metra parking garage for the use of employees and employers of local businesses.

Trustee Carol Quinlan (5th) had some concerns about the proposal. She felt that the parking should be on a first come, first-served basis.

"My big thing is that the commuters pay and they pay for prime spots," Quinlan said. "Who is going to pay for those spots? Are the businesses going to pay for those spots? Talking to commuters they are very upset. They don't want to give up those spots."

Bury replied that as far as first come, first served in regards to parking, the corporation considering to locate near the Metra station pointed out there is a lack of parking.

The franchise requested 30 to 50 spots but the village worked out a compromise of 20 parking spaces, excluding the Oak Lawn Children's Museum.

Quinlan countered that if that is the case, other businesses like Starbucks could also make such requests. Where is the line going to be drawn, she asked.

"It's an experiment," said Deetjen. "We start with 20. They wanted 30 to 50. But right now what I'm hearing (from businesses) is that we are not parking-friendly."

Deetjen added that the garage is underutilized right now and a partnership with businesses needs to be developed.

Trustee Mike Carberry (6th) then suggested developing the whole first floor for businesses.

After a brief pause, Deetjen said Carberry's suggestion was well worth noting.

The board agreed to consider the matter at a later date.

In other news, Bury read and presented a proclamation to members of the Illinois Combat Wounded Veterans, Military Order of the Purple Heart. She thanked them for supporting causes and projects in Oak Lawn. She also said that Oak Lawn "is officially the Purple Heart Village."

Olejniczak also thanked those residents and community leaders who took part in the second Oak Lawn Bicycle Tour. The nine-mile tour drew a large crowd of participants of all ages, including an 83-year-old, said Olejniczak.

During the question-and-answer session before the meeting, a resident said that he heard a rumor that Mariano's Fresh Markets, destined to be the anchor store at the 111th Street and Cicero TIF site, was pulling out of the project to locate in Evergreen Park instead.

Deetjen responded that Bob Mariano, owner of Mariano's Fresh Markets, is indeed locating in Evergreen Park. They plan to open a store in Frankfort, as well. However, Mariano's is still definitely coming to Oak Lawn, Deetjen pointed out.

Village Clerk Jane Quinlan said that she and Bury attended a variety of events this past weekend.

She noted that Sunday was the final Mass celebrated by the Rev. William Corcoran, the pastor at St. Linus Parish. Corcoran will soon be leaving St. Linus. Jane Quinlan said that the Mass was well attended and very emotional.

The next Oak Lawn Village Board meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 9.

Southwest Suburban News-Herald
6/28/2013, p.1

Oak Lawn approves Fire and Pension Board appointments

by Matt Mayer

Another hot button issue arose at the June 28 Oak Lawn Board of Trustees meeting as had the previous two board meetings. Trustee Bob Streit (D-3) said he was concerned with Mayor Sandra Bury's appointments to the Fire and Pension board of Pat O'Donnell and Jerry Dillon. O'Donnell was also appointed Village Treasurer at a previous meeting. "Being that we were supplied with resumes the day of the meeting, it doesn't allow us enough time to study their qualifications", said Streit.

Tempers flared when Streit said the only reason the two were being considered is because they supported Bury and also somehow associated with former Trustee Tom Phelan. Bury sharply responded and said these appointments are not subject to a vote. Trustee Carol Quinlan (D-5) said, "A meeting by Phelan created a hit list of public officials he wanted out. Two attorneys have been removed", said Quinlan.

The list, which had been mailed to residents, was reported at previous meetings. Streit also said that one attorney is being let go despite the fact that his contract doesn't run out until 2015. Bury ignored Streit's comments and called for a vote while Streit asked if he would be allowed to speak. "What, can't I express my opinion", asked Streit. His request was ignored and Bury called for a vote. The appointment was approved 3-2, Trustees Streit and Quinlan dissented.

Bury also brought up "board decorum" which is seldom used and said that if a board member starts a discussion and brings in personal attacks or does not address the issue at hand, the official will be warned twice and then censured.

Village View
7/2/2013, p.1

Texas Corral Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Chamber Members and Village Officials gathered on Friday, June 30th to welcome Texas Corral to Oak Lawn. Village Clerk Jane Quinlan cut the ribbon to officially open their new location at 6616 W. 95th Street.

Following the ceremony visitors were treated to complimentary samples from their delicious menu. Texas Corral restaurant Manager Bill Dixon and staff could not have been more welcoming.

Texas Corral Restaurants is an Indiana-based casual dining company known for its family-friendly properties where you can "Just Throw the Shells on the Floor." Texas Corral's focus on a total dining experience with quality food, exceptional guest service, and big values has earned it loyal guests since 1997.

We encourage the community to support this new business as well as all local business. Stop by Texas Corral for a Rootin' Tootin' good time.

Oak Lawn Independent
7/4/2013, p.13

WALKING THE LINE—Teamsters 727 members picket outside of Blake-Lamb Funeral home, 4727 W. 103rd St., Oak Lawn, on Tuesday. The union funeral directors, drivers and embalmers voted to strike against Houston-based Service Corporation this week after rejecting SCI's final offer. Members of the union filed unfair labor practice charges against SCI for engaging in what they claim is bad faith bargaining by making unlawful omissions and misrepresentations in memos issued to its employees and negotiators. The strike affects 17 Chicago-area funeral homes, including Blake-Lamb and Chapel Hill Garden South in Oak Lawn, and Kenny Brothers in Evergreen Park.

(News Herald Photo by Steve Neuhaus)

Southwest Suburban News-Herald
7/5/2013, p.23

Qdoba Says Adios To Oak Lawn on 95th Street

Southwest Suburban
News-Herald
7/5/2013, p.1

By STEVE NEUHAUS

If you have a taste for the three cheese quesso burrito, taco salad or the Mexican gumbo you won't find it anymore near 95th and Tulley as the Oak Lawn Qdoba Mexican Restaurant at 5141 W. 95th St. closed its doors last Friday.

Several other Chicago area locations, according to a press release from Jack in the Box, Qdoba's parent company are slated to close as well, including the Orland Park location.

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NO MORE QDOBA—The Qdoba Restaurant at 5141 W. 95th St., Oak Lawn, closed its doors last Friday. The sign that appears on the facade was taken down by the end of the weekend. (News-Herald Photo by Steve Neuhaus)

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Qdoba President Tim Casey says the closures are required to help grow the brand and increase the quality of customers' dining experiences.

However, that probably comes as little consolation to the southwest suburban Qdoba fans who will soon be without a nearby place to get their Qdoba fix.

"By closing these locations and optimizing our company footprint, we can be more effective in focusing our advertising and marketing resources to support existing and planned restaurants in our core markets where we have high levels of brand awareness," Casey said in a press release."We also expect to provide an even better dining experience for our guests as our operations teams concentrate their efforts on supporting these markets."

Oak Lawn Meets with ComEd

But Village Trustee Is Not Confident That Changes Will Occur

By DERMOT CONNOLLY

Oak Lawn officials, including Mayor Sandra Bury, Village Manager Larry Deetjen and Trustee Alex Olejniczak (2nd), met with ComEd representatives on Wednesday afternoon to discuss the chronic problem of power outages in the village.

All three spoke about the problems at the June 25 Village Board meeting.

The latest outages, affecting more than 4,000 homes, occurred during heavy rains on Monday, June 24, preventing many residents from watching the Chicago Blackhawks win the Stanley Cup.

The areas affected, according to Olejniczak, included the area between 87th and 91st streets, between Ridgeland and Harlem avenues, in the western section of the village.

Another harder hit section of the village was between 91st and 94th streets, from Cicero to Sproat Avenue. While electricity was restored to some houses by 11 p.m. that night, others, mainly in the section near 91st and Sproat, were without power until Thursday.

"The issue is not that they lost power, but why we are continuing to have this problem so often," said Olejniczak, pointing out that many of the same residents were affected a few months ago, when a power surge ComEd attributed to a raccoon chewing wires caused widespread outages. Olejniczak referred to that as the "Rocky Raccoon incident."

Part of the problem this time was due to a tree falling on power lines near 91st and Sproat. But Olejniczak maintains that ComEd should have called out the vegetation department to clear the tree first, knowing that power could not be restored until then, rather than waiting until Wednesday to do it.

"The difference between restoring power on Thursday rather than

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rather than Wednesday could mean whether you lose everything in your refrigerator or not," he said.

The trustee said he spoke to a crew called in from Michigan to do some of the repairs, and they told him "the right hand didn't know what the left hand was doing," referring to ComEd leadership.

Olejniczak said before the meeting with ComEd that he and the other officials have many questions for the utility representatives, but expressed doubt that they would get any better answers than he received during past meetings.

"It shouldn't be an issue in this day and age. Why does it consistently happen in the same areas? Other places don't have it. People should not automatically expect their power to go out every time it rains," he said.

Olejniczak asserted that a lack of attention to infrastructure is to blame for the ongoing problem. "ComEd basically admitted this because they recently raised rates to pay for infrastructure improvements."

He suggested that state legislators may need to get involved to solve the problem, and neighboring communities should band together to address the problem. "I know places like Burbank and Chicago Ridge are affected a lot too."

He noted that ComEd is self-regulated. While it reports to the Illinois Commerce Commission, it is not required to make public any records or back up any claims.

Olejniczak pointed out that while a raccoon was blamed for causing the power outage this spring, no evidence was provided of that claim.

Also, he said that while residents affected by the outage may submit claims to ComEd, no rebates are required for outages.

"But no matter what, the bill arrives at the same time each month, and if we don't pay it on time for whatever reason, we will be penalized," he added.

Southwest Suburban News-Herald
7/5/2013, p.1

Police Search For Missing O. Lawn Man

Police are searching for a man whose car was found in a forest preserve near 95th Street and LaGrange Road on June 29.

Algimantas Bauza, 58, of Oak Lawn, was last seen by his wife at 7 a.m. June 29. He reportedly spoke to his wife at 8 a.m. and indicated he was going out for a walk.

However, his wife tried to reach at him at 10 a.m. Relatives have been looking for him since. They have looked over the area near County Lane Woods, where his car was found.

Bauza had told his wife he was going to work out. That was not unusual. He worked out there often, police said.

The missing man was wearing blue sweat pants and gray gym shoes and an unknown color-type shirt. He recently started taking medicine for depression, according to reports.

Oak Lawn Police officers met with his son, Giedrius Bauza, of Willow Springs. Giedrius said that his mother contacted him after she was not able to get a hold of his father.

Giedrius also tried to call him numerous times but his father did not answer his phone.

The son said his father has never gone missing before. The son added that his father has never made any

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Algimantas Bauza

Missing Man

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previous statements about harming himself.

Giedrius said that his father has been taking medication for the past two weeks because he has been having trouble sleeping.

Algimantas' wife reportedly found the car.

The Cook County Forest Preserve District Police have been searching the woods for the missing man. They were joined by canine units and Joliet Police.

Firefighters searched a nearby pond with no results. The search continued through Tuesday. No new information was available at presstime on Wednesday afternoon.

Bauza is described as being white, 6'2 and 220 pounds, with blue eyes, balding gray hair, and a fair complexion.

Anyone with information on the missing man may call the Oak Lawn Police Department at (708) 422-8292.

Southwest Suburban News-Herald
7/5/2013, p.1

Quinlan Demands Explanation

Weiler Asked To Retire

During the new business portion of the regular Oak Lawn Village Board Meeting, Trustee Carol Quinlan demanded to know why board members were not informed about the request for the retirement of Business Director Chad Weiler.

According to Quinlan, Weiler was asked to retire on July 2nd and given 22 days to sign the retirement papers. Quinlan said that in the 'spirit of transparency' which is the mantra of the newly elected board members and Mayor Sandra Bury and since there was only one regular board meeting for the month of July, this should have been brought up to the board at this current meeting.

This brought up discussion by board members that included accusations of the fact that Weiler, who for the most part has been the driving force behind many of the successful family events in the village, was not entirely supportive of the present mayor or new board members.

The discussion was cut short with Mayor Bury, supported by village Attorney Paul O'Grady, that this should be a discussion for an executive session, not in an open meeting. Village Manager Larry Deetjen alluded to the fact that there were facts that could not be discussed in open meeting.

In other business, Mayor Sandra Bury called for a Conflict of Interest disclosure policy concerning members of the board and those who hold appointed commissions. She explained that a conflict of interest which includes board commissioners or any of their family members who could gain personally, financially or otherwise, if they should vote on village business. She said that a board member should excuse him or herself from voting on an issue if there is a conflict of interest.

The board also discussed the use of Robert's Rules of Order at the meetings. Both Trustee Robert Streit and Carol Quinlan said that they felt that other board members and Mayor Bury were treating them unfairly. Quinlan pointed out that it seemed that only she and Trustee Streit have been gaveled down and ignored when they had something to say or were debating.

According to Robert's Rules, no one can stray off the issue or be derogatory to other people. Mayor Bury said that she reacts to what is being said and not to the person who said it. If the debate starts to get derogatory, she will dismiss the speaker.

After this debate subsided, Mayor Bury and board members agreed that they should carry on in a respectful manner and work for the good of the village.

The Board voted on several variance and rezoning ordinances that will allow the Walgreen's store at 95th and Melvina to move to McVicker Ave. The residential zoned parcel will be rezoned for commercial development. The First Midwest Bank building will be demolished making way for a smaller bank and the new Walgreen's.

Trustee Alex Olenjiczak reported on his meeting with Commonwealth Edison and what the electric company is doing in regards to Oak Lawn's frequent power outages. According to the trustee, ComEd provided him with an overlay of what the company has done and is prepared to do. Much of the problems with the electric supply seems to come from aging infrastructure in parts of the village.

But in contention is the power company's reaction time to heavy rain and wind damage. Trustee Olejniczak said that he is complaining to the Illinois Commerce Commission on the company's lack of response time in Oak Lawn. He wants the power company to take responsibility for the outages and their consequences.

Oak Lawn Independent
7/11/2013, p.1

Continue Debate on Pensions

O. Lawn Village Board Also OKs Construction of Bank and a Walgreens

By DERMOT CONNOLLY

In between heated discussions about Robert's Rules of Order, the recent decision to eliminate pensions for part-time jobs such as mayor and trustee, and conflict of interest and personnel issues, the Oak Lawn Village board approved zoning variances and other details required to allow a new bank and a Walgreens to be built on 95th Street, near McVicker Avenue.

Trustee Alex Olejniczak (2nd) also gave an update on the efforts of the village to get answers from ComEd regarding power outages in the village in March and June, following a meeting with utility officials last week.

"Oak Lawn officials requested that ComEd partner with Oak Lawn" to find a solution to the chronic problem, said Olejniczak. He said ComEd has still not provided details about the power surge in Oak Lawn that ComEd blamed on a raccoon chewing wires.

"It's very obvious that the infrastructure is aged and antiquated," said the trustee, noting that during a tour of the village with ComEd officials, they saw utility poles dating back to the 1940s and '50s. Some had not been inspected for 14 or 15 years, when 10 years is supposed to be the longest interval between inspections, he said.

"We've requested an overview of infrastructure upgrades...We'll make sure we hold them accountable," said Olejniczak, who said village officials want residents who lost perishable foods and equipment during the outages "to be made whole."

The arguing began when, during his report, Trustee Robert Streit (3rd) criticized the recent 4-2 decision of the board to do away with state pensions for trustees, the mayor and other part-time personnel. He said the pension plan only costs the village $2,000 out of a $50 million annual

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Oak Lawn

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budget, and will do nothing to solve the state pension reform issue.

"The last thing Oak Lawn needs is a Springfield solution to a problem that doesn't exist," he said. "What you've done is pretend there is a problem and offer a solution."

"I absolutely support pension reform, but not political gimmicks," said Streit, who singled out Trustee Mike Carberry (6th) for criticism, saying the former state representative voted for the state income tax increase but did nothing about the pension reform issue during the 10 months he spent in Springfield.

Carberry, who was appointed to replace retiring State Rep. James D. Brosnahan (D-36th) in March 2010, held the post until the following January. He said he doesn't mind criticism but took issue with being held up as the "poster boy" as a former state representative, and contended he had a valid reason for proposing that the pensions for part-timers be dropped.

He pointed out that under the present system, someone could serve on a part-time basis as trustee or mayor for 26 years, followed by four years as a full-time state employee, and then retire with a state pension based on the full-time salary.

"A lot of people don't know that can be done, but it is done. I've seen it." He said he pushed for eliminating part-time pensions "as a symbolism, so we can ask others to do the same. And it will save the state and pension funds a great deal of money," said Carberry, insisting his comments would be the last he will make on the subject.

Another heated discussion broke out when Trustee Carol Quinlan (5th) brought up a personnel matter involving Chad Weiler, the director of business operations,

She said she would like to ask Village Manager Larry Deetjen why, on July 2, he gave Weiler "a retirement and release form, giving him 21 days to sign it, when he is only 53 years old."

Mayor Sandra Bury and village attorney Paul O'Grady both urged Quinlan to wait until executive session to discuss the topic privately, but Quinlan said Weiler, who was not at the meeting, gave her permission to discuss it. She asked when the board was going to be told of the matter, since it was not on the agenda.

Quinlan also said the move was "political retribution," asserting that Weiler was told he was "in a pickle" because he had a campaign sign for former Mayor Dave Heilmann and Missy Moran, his candidate for village clerk instead of one for Clerk Jane Quinlan, who won the election.

Deetjen did not comment on the issue, but Jane Quinlan told the trustee, "There is absolutely no truth to your comments regarding the matter. This is enough, the election is over."

A discussion of Robert's Rules of Order, the directions for running public meetings, also became heated, with Streit and Quinlan asserting that the mayor treats them differently than her allies on the board.

For her part, Bury said she was trying to maintain order and move the meetings along, and said the two trustees were selective in the rules they said should be followed.

After the meeting, Bury said it was "exceedingly reckless and frankly malicious to speak about the matter involving Weiler. "This seasoned trustee is well aware of the sensitive nature of personnel issues and one can only assume her actions were to make this Village deliberately more vulnerable to litigation, which is shocking and, if true, questions if she is representing her loyalty to former elected officials over consideration to the needs of the citizens who elected her."

"Despite the efforts by a few trustees to turn these business meetings into the Jerry Springer show," Bury pointed to the "very positive things" that happened at the meeting.

"We will have a new and stunning Walgreens and First Midwest Bank building on 95th Street. We will have a robust conflict of interest policy that will stop the pay-to-play in Oak Lawn. We will come together to fight to preserve pension benefits for the next generation of Village employees."

During the meeting, she also unveiled the new Village of Oak Lawn Facebook page, and noted that during the two-hour meeting, the page received hundreds of likes.

She also led congratulations for Oak Lawn native Brian Bogusevic, whose contract was bought by the Chicago Cubs.

Southwest Suburban News-Herald
7/12/2013, p.1

Time for change

by Kelly White

Tuesday, April 9th marked a day of change for three southside suburbs as Sandra Bury, Sharon Rybak and Mary Werner were elected into office. Sandra Bury captured 53 percent of the vote to Dave Heilmann's 46 percent in a stunning upset victory over the two-term mayor; and, with Rybak beating former Midlothian Mayor Terry Stephens and Werner taking the lead in final votes against former Worth Mayor Randy Keller, this was the first time in history three female mayors were elected by city voters.

A new era in Oak Lawn began as the village's first woman to be elected mayor took her oath of office this past spring. Mayor Sandra Bury, a small business owner, feels it has been a privilege to help the people of Oak Lawn since she started her optometric career in 1995, and it is her goal to help residents now see the issues at hand. From her many years of service and commitment to Oak Lawn, she's put together a plan and ideas for moving Oak Lawn forward.

Mayor Bury is proud to take on the new leadership role, believing the city is ready for fresh, new leadership in Oak Lawn. Her intentions are to work strongly with the residents, to make sure their voice is heard, to ultimately make for a better, more positive Oak Lawn.

Mayor Sharon Rybak is also no stranger to her hometown of Midlothian. Born and raised in this town, she walked to and from Bremen High School, where she is a member of the school board. Mayor Rybak also is finance director for the Midlothian Park District, where she serves lunches to seniors. As the mother of four children, now of which are all adults, she's done her share of volunteering for Scout troops and athletic organizations.

Mayor Rybak is not afraid of hard work and said she will do her homework on the issues facing the village, such as economic development and Lake Michigan water. Midlothian has joined with other suburbs to see if they can become their own water agency.

Mayor Rybak stated upon being elected mayor, one of her main goals is to get Midlothian back on the map, to make sure young families can raise their kids within the community.

Mayor Rybak also wants to get more people involved in volunteering in town and hopes to reach out to them and keep them informed by improving the village's website. She also would like to reopen the village hall on Saturday mornings.

"I love this place," Mayor Rybak said.

While running for office, Mayor Rybak pledged to make village government more accessible and transparent. She said she intended to "make a difference" and hoped residents would give her a chance. After the April 9th electoral outcome, it was no question they did.

Not only bringing in the first female mayor, but for the third time since the start of the 21st century, a new mayor has been elected in Worth, with the election of Mary Werner. She has yet to

Oak Lawn approves the redesign of the village website

by Matt Mayer

A resolution regarding a proposal from Vision Internet for website redesign services was unanimously approved at a recent Oak Lawn Board of Trustees meeting. Trustee Tim Desmond said that he had attended the technology meeting and was impressed by the technology staff. "The current provider is charging the village $3,000 a month to manage the Website. The new provider after initial set up will be charging the village $6,600 per year", said Desmond. The new Website will be almost completely interactive. People that normally come to the village to conduct business will now be able to do business online. I think it will be a huge benefit to the residents", said Desmond.

Other highlights: A resolution authorizing the submission of the 2013 Urban Area Security Initiative grant application to the Cook County Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management was approved. Trustee Terry Vorderer said that this is a great security device for District 4. "I understand that this grant will actually incorporate areas of District 4 around Advocate Christ Medical Center", said Voederer.

The following requests for this years Fall on the Green were approved: a the 2013 band contractors contracts; a (special events only) Class "C" Liquor License as well as an ordinance increasing the number of class "C" liquor licenses. The fest will be held on Sept. 6 thru 8.

A request from the Traffic Review Committee for a residential permit parking only sign in front of 4028 W. 106th Place was approved as well as an ordinance approving this request. A resolution regarding the Oak Lawn Community High School Homecoming Parade on Sept. 26 was also approved.

The winners of the Oak Lawn Garden Club Beautiful Yard contest are: 1st Place, Alice Healy, 9643 S. 52nd Avenue; 2nd Place, Ann Powers, 9619 S. Normandy Avenue; 3rd Place Virginia Kilcran, 9739 S. Warren Avenue.

several projects requiring immediate advancement. The amount anticipated to be allocated for Mr. Casey is $10,000. Should the scope of the work orders increase, the agreement may be modified to include additional work requiring additional funds.

McDonald's Restaurant, at 9110 W. 159th Street, requested and was granted permission for a major overhaul that includes changes to both the building and site plan. The building footprint will remain as is, but updated building facades on all four sides will reflect the current McDonald's corporate style and will appear to be a newly constructed building with updated signage and architectural features. The site will also be re-landscaped and the garbage enclosure will be re-located to the rear of the site. Handicapped spaces will be re-located to the front of the building and will be connected with a sidewalk and crosswalk to the restaurant entry and to the 159th Street sidewalk. The existing McDonald's Restaurant was constructed in 1984 as a part of the Park Hill Planned Development.

complete her first four-year term as a village trustee, however, defeated former Mayor Randy Keller, who was running for his second term as the village's highest elected officer. Werner received 928 votes to Keller's 784 final votes.

Mayor Werner and her fellow Village Board members were sworn in at the Terrace Center this past May, where Trustee Colleen McElroy informed residents a lot of change will be seen within the next four years, and she also shared in Mayor Werner's sentiments to the voters stating, "These are the kind of things that make us the Friendly Village."

Very humble and pleased with the voting outcome, she believes the residents of Worth are ready for change and are putting the village in good hands.

Residents within the three communities responded positively to the election of three female mayors, stating the sex of the mayor does not matter; however, the changes made within the community are what truly matters.

Editor note:

Village View Publications would like to state that all three Mayors were telephoned and none have returned a call, so Kelly White wrote this article with researching various sources for information.

Village View
7/16/2013, p.2

Local Funeral Directors Strike

Drivers Also Refrain from Going To Work Over Pension Debate

By DERMOT CONNOLLY

Since July 1, 59 funeral directors and drivers have been on strike at 16 Chicago-area Dignity Memorial chain of funeral homes owned by SCI Illinois Services Inc.

The local funeral homes affected include two in Oak Lawn, Blake-Lamb Funeral Home at 4727 W. 103rd St., and Chapel Hill Gardens South Funeral Home, 11333 S. Central Ave.

On the Southwest Side of Chicago, Funeraria del Angel Sagrado Corazon, 5218 S. Kedzie Ave., and Ridge Funeral Home, 6620 W. Archer Ave., are also affected. Most were family-owned institutions until the 1980s and 1990s until being bought by SCI, a Houston-based company with hundreds of funeral homes throughout the United States and Canada.

Picketers are rotating between 11 of the funeral homes. Among the strikers is Craig Operzedek, a funeral director at Ridge, which was founded by his father, who is now retired. He was joined by fellow funeral directors Esmeralda Ramirez and Monica Rodriguez, holding signs outside Ridge on Monday. One of the main issues is the move by SCI to replace the pension plan with a 401k.

"Some of us have been in the business for decades," said Operzedek, an Oak Lawn resident and 30-year veteran himself. He and the others said they were happy with the pension plan, and did not want to switch to a 401k.

Teamsters spokesperson Brian Rainville said the two sides entered negotiations for a new contract on June 14, and spent 40 hours negotiating about benefits and other issues. But he said the SCI team made an offer that was not much different than what they had previously, "members voted overwhelmingly to go on strike" after the old contract expired at the beginning of the month.

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"The ball is in SCI's court now," he said.

He said some of the union members had gone without a raise for three years, and some longer than that. Rainville said one of the main sticking points is that SCI wants to do away with the pension plan, and replace it with a 401k retirement plan

He said SCI officials offered a 6 percent raise on a 27-month contract, but said that would only be a 2 percent increase if members put the maximum 4 percent allowable into the 401k. For their part, SCI officials said they said they would match what was put into the 401k. Prior to this, employees did not contribute to their healthcare insurance.

Shannon Quinn, a spokesperson for SCI Illinois, a Glendale Heights-based division of SCI International, said according to the documents SCI received from the pension managers, as of June it was underfunded by $68 million. But Rainville said it is in good shape and healthy.

In a press release, SCI officials said the funeral directors and drivers were offered a fair contract, including a 6 percent raise the first year of the contract, and 3 percent the second.

The company also has proposed giving employees the choice to opt out and receive cash compensation if they decide they do not want or need the Teamsters' healthcare plan or the legal and educational assistance plan.

"The Teamsters leadership made it very clear that a critical issue is continuation of the pension plan. We have expressed our concern over the history of serious underfunding in this pension plan and the risks it brings to both the company and its employees," said Larry Michael, managing director of SCI Illinois. "The fund also has been a source of rampant litigation initiated by the Teamsters."

The press release also noted that due to "serious concerns relating to Teamsters' benefits," SCI Illinois Services, Inc. filed a lawsuit in federal court in late 2011. That lawsuit is currently pending and involves allegations under the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization Act (RICO).

Quinn said no negotiations are currently planned, but expects they will be.

"We have made a very fair proposal to the union and hope this situation is resolved soon," said Michael in the press release. "In any case, our highest priority is our client families. We will continue to serve them with the same professionalism, dignity and quality care they have come to expect from us."

The affected funeral homes are still open, and SCI officials said they are staffed with "caring, dedicated professionals, including Illinois-licensed funeral directors."

"We hope this situation is resolved soon. We offered a very fair contract with a generous wage increase," said Michael.

The striking funeral directors said they also want to get back to work as soon as possible, but said they do not want to lose any of the benefits they had either.

"We want to be helping people. There was a wake on Sunday, and our place is in there, helping people. But we want to be treated with dignity and respect too," said funeral director Monica Rodriguez outside Ridge, as a few cars drove by honking in support.

During the strike, the funeral directors and Teamsters Local 727 are asking people who need funeral services but do not want to cross picket lines to visit *www.integrityinillinois.com*. The Web site set up by Teamsters Local 727 explains the grievances and includes a list of alternative funeral homes that are not affected by the strike.

Southwest Suburbn News-Herald
7/19/2013, p.1

Elks Lodges Sponsoring Kids' Orthopedic Clinic

Two area Elks lodges, Oak Lawn 2254 and Chicago South 156, with the Illinois Elks Children's Care Corp., are sponsoring a free children's orthopedic assessment clinic from 2 to 4 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 7, at the Parkview Musculoskeletal Institute, 7600 W. College Drive, Palos Heights.

Appointments are necessary for the clinic, which will be in the third-floor office of Dr. Mark E. Moran.

Medical referrals are not necessary but physicians are welcome to refer patients to the clinic for a specific reason or second opinion. School nurses are also welcome to refer children and families to the clinic.

Appointments may be made by calling the Illinois Elks Children's Care office at (800) 272-0074 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. weekdays.

There are no charges for any diagnostic services at the clinic, one of 17 being held throughout Illinois.

The clinic is an opportunity for children to be assessed for bone and joint development. Those with feet pointing in or out, back curvature, or joint or back pain may be seen.

The Elks organization offer as much financial assistance as possible if families cannot afford further treatment or specialty equipment.

Southwest Suburban News-Herald 7/26/2013, p.23

Funeral Home Strike Persists, Talks Stalled

By DERMOT CONNOLLY

The strike by 59 funeral directors and drivers working at funeral homes owned by the SCI Illinois Services Inc. has been under way for almost a month. No negotiations were planned as of Wednesday, and officials from Teamsters Local 727 believe SCI is deliberately muddling the issues to turn people against the strikers represented by the union.

Since July 1, when their contract ended, funeral directors and drivers have been on strike at 16 Chicago-area Dignity Memorial chain of funeral homes owned by SCI Illinois Services Inc. The local funeral homes affected include Blake-Lamb Funeral Home at 4727 W. 103rd St., and Chapel Hill Gardens South Funeral Home, 11333 S. Central Ave., both in Oak Lawn; and Funeraria del Angel Sagrado Corazon, 5218 S. Kedzie Ave., and Ridge Funeral Home, 6620 W. Archer Ave., both in Chicago.

Most were family-owned institutions until the 1980s and 1990s until being bought by SCI, a Houston-based company with hundreds of funeral homes throughout the United States and Canada.

Teamsters spokesperson Brian Rainville said SCI's attempt to replace the union pension plan with a 401k retirement plan is one of the main sticking points between the two sides.

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He said SCI officials offered a 6 percent raise on a 27-month contract, but said that would only be a 2 percent increase if members put the maximum 4 percent allowable into the 401k. For their part, SCI officials said they said they would match what was put into the 401k. Prior to this, employees did not contribute to their healthcare insurance.

Shannon Quinn, a spokesperson for SCI Illinois, a Glendale Heights-based division of SCI International, said documents SCI received from the pension managers, showed that as of June it was underfunded by $68 million. But Rainville finds fault with that assessment, asserting that the fund is healthy.

"They cherry-picked numbers out of the report. All pension funds are going to be seriously underfunded (depending on how the numbers are calculated)," said Rainville on Wednesday, asserting that the $200 million fund is actually 92 percent funded, and on its way to being 100 percent funded.

Rainville said to get the 68 percent figure, SCI just looked at future liabilities for everyone now in the plan, but did not take into consideration the revenue being generated to cover those costs in the coming years.

He explained that pension plans are audited annually and judged to be in either the red zone, yellow zone or green zone, with green being most financially stable.

"This pension plan has never been out of the green zone," said Rainville.

In a press release, SCI officials said the funeral directors and drivers were offered a fair contract, including a 6 percent raise the first year of the contract, and 3 percent the second. The company also has proposed giving employees the choice to opt out and receive cash compensation if they decide they do not want or need the Teamsters' healthcare plan or the legal and educational assistance plan.

But Rainville said that in addition to the pension plan, SCI also wants to get rid of the Teamsters healthcare plan, which gives members and families full coverage for $1,000 a month, with no co-pays or out of pocket expenses. He said the healthcare plan does not allow for co-pays, and if they are made, the member would be removed from the plan.

"That is what they want, so the employees would have to join the SCI plan, which requires them to pay 20 percent of costs." He said SCI criticizes the union members for having benefits that do not require them to pay for their own health care. "The question is, why should anyone have to pay 20 percent. If you are working (that should be one of the benefits)."

Larry Michael, managing director of SCI Illinois, also criticizes the pension fund, calling it "a source of rampant litigation initiated by the Teamsters." However, Rainville said SCI is just mad because the Teamsters have filed at least 10 lawsuits against the company.

"We file suit every time an independent audit shows that SCI has not paid into the fund as required. And none of them actually go to court. They always settle because they know they are wrong," said Rainville.

He predicted that another lawsuit filed by SCI against the Teamsters will be dismissed at a hearing in August.

Striking funeral directors said they also want to get back to work as soon as possible, but do not want to lose their benefits.

The Web site *www.integrityinillinois.com*, set up by Teamsters Local 727, includes a list of alternative funeral homes for people who do not want to cross picket lines.

Southwest Suburban News-Herald
7/26/2013, p.1

Contention dominates Oak Lawn board meeting

by Matt Mayer

Contention between Mayor Sandra Bury, her slate of trustees, and the board minority trustees continues to dominate board meetings. This occurred again at a recent Oak Lawn Board of Trustees meeting when Trustee Carol Quinlan asked Village Manager Larry Deetjen, why on July 2 he gave the Director of Business Operations, Chad Weller, a retirement and release waiver form, giving him 21 days to sign it, when he's only 53 years old, with a deadline two days before he is fully vested.

He is close to his eight years and he has been praised for his work, especially with Fall on the Green, the 4th of July Parade, Movie Night, Sunday Concerts to name a few. He was born and raised in Oak Lawn. Bury talked over Quinlan when she asked why would the Village Attorney Paul O'Grady call this a smart idea and why as a board member I have to find this out by a third party.

O'Grady and Bury continued to say this matter was for executive session. Quinlan countered again by saying, "Absolutely not - this is about transparency. I asked for the executive session agenda and this is not on the agenda." O'Grady said this was not on this evenings board agenda for discussion. Quinlan countered again and said, "This is new business because I just found out about it. Being a board member and to find out a member of our management team is being asked to retire, I find offensive and would like to ask why he was given this," she added.

Quinlan also said, " I'll tell you what I heard. Two days after the election, our village manager pulled him in and said, "You're in a pickle, Chad, because you had a Heilmann-Moran sign. You should have cut out the Moran and put a Jane Quinlan sign up." O'Grady and Bury were talking over Quinlan, while Bury was pounding the gavel. Bury then asked, "Carol, why didn't you call me and talk to me about it? Bury, O'Grady and Quinlan continued to talk over one another. Quinlan managed to say this could cost the village a lot of money. Bury continued to pound the gavel saying this was for executive session. Quinlan again countered that this was not on the executive session agenda. "We're not having another meeting in July. It's the appropriate thing to do", said Quinlan.

"You can call a special meeting with two trustees, I believe," said Bury. Quinlan again countered and said, " Madam President, your campaign was as you keep saying, all about transparency. It is so far from that. You have a select group on this board that was aware that you're trying to get rid of Chad.Bury again pounded the gavel and asked that Quinlan recognize the chair. "This is not appropriate for open meeting discussion", said Bury. Quinlan was then gaveled out.Trustees Streit and Quinlan contend there's a double set of standards when it comes to Bury's management of the board.

Village View
8/6/2013, p.1

Les Brothers Marks Its 40th Anniversary

Oak Lawn Restaurant Owners Say Key To Success Is Is Having Family Approach

By DERMOT CONNOLLY

The Les family of restaurateurs, which has deep local roots, is celebrating the 40th anniversary of the original Les Brothers Restaurant at 8706 S. Ridgeland Ave., in Oak Lawn.

Brothers Harry, George and Angelo Les, with their father, Bill, founded the popular restaurant in 1973. Since then, they have opened several other eateries, including another Les Brothers restaurant at 7730 W. 95th St., in Hickory Hills, and the sports-themed Prime Time Restaurant & Bar beside it, at 7750 W. 95th St. Prime Time also has a Stadium Club Room, and offers a banquet menu for special occasions,

The family also owns Les Brothers Pancake House in Highland, Ind., Bonfire Steakhouse in Homer Glen, and Williamson's Restaurant and Bar in New Lenox, which is similar to Prime Time.

"We are just so thankful and grateful to our customers (for our success)," said Georgia Les, daughter of George. She and several of her cousins, including Jimmy Les, are involved in managing the various restaurants.

"We all grew up in Oak Lawn. Our roots are in Oak Lawn," said Georgia recently, noting that her grandfather, Bill Les, still lives in the village. She said her late grandmother, Georgia Les, was also involved in starting the business.

Asked what she thought keeps the customers flocking to the original restaurant, which is open 24-hours a day, Georgia cited a number of reasons.

"It's a family environment, which we pride ourselves on. And of course we have a wide variety of choices on the menu."

"We're really happy with the staff too," she added, praising the chefs and other kitchen workers, as well as the waitstaff for making diners' feel welcome and at home.

She said her father and uncles began as chefs, and are still involved in every aspect of the business.

During the ongoing anniversary celebrations, "We are running different specials every day," she said, mentioning one more reason customers keep coming back.

"Our $3.95 breakfast, available from 6 to 11 a.m. daily, is a really great deal and very popular," she added.

40th ANNIVERSARY–Cousins Jimmy and Georgia Les, whose fathers and grandfather founded Les Brothers restaurant in 1973, pause for a photo during another busy day at the restaurant at 8706 S. Ridgeland Ave., Oak Lawn. (News-Herald Photo by Dermot Connolly)

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Outsourcing Jobs Debated In Oak Lawn

By JOE BOYLE

Budget recommendations suggested at the Oak Lawn Village Board meeting Tuesday night were viewed with suspicion by two trustees who are concerned about outsourcing jobs.

A resolution calling for discussion on reorganizing and restructuring of the service delivery system for regional emergency dispatching services was debated.

Trustee Bob Streit (3rd) said that what the village wants to do is outsource jobs.

"This is about saving money," said Streit. "I know that is the root of the reason. But I'd like to know if we have considered reorganizing services. We don't want to have delays when calls go to 911.

"It will save money, I guess. "But we take comfort in the fact that our dispatchers do a great job of getting information to our first responders. It is a matter of life and death."

Village Manager Larry Deetjen said that sacrifices will have to be made and added that the service in Oak Lawn is great.

"This not a service issue," said Deetjen. "They have an outstanding service. But every day we do the status quo, we are losing money,"

A 28-2 vote was taken by the union recently to restrain from making any changes.

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"My preference is (for the union) to work with us to keep them," added Deetjen.

The Oak Lawn dispatchers also help serve Evergreen Park, Burbank and portions of Bedford Park.

Deetjen added that he would like to mitigate, or cap, rate costs. He would like to work with the union to provide job security.

Trustee Terry Vorderer, who was elected in April and is a former Oak Lawn police officer, said that he can sympathize with the dispatchers.

"There is a unique relationship between the police and the dispatcher," said Vorderer. "I think we will be missing something if they lose their jobs. I ask the unions to consider that and make some concessions."

Deetjen added that reigning in costs will be painful, and he mentioned that Oak Lawn Mayor Sandra Bury and Trustee Alex Olejniczak went to Springfield to try and get costs down for wireless phone service.

Olejniczak said that with so many people using wireless phones from anywhere in the country, the village cannot accumulate any revenue as opposed to landline phones, which are diminishing.

The authorization to discuss the possibility to approve the restructuring of the regional emergency dispatching services was approved by a 4-2 margin. Only Streit and Trustee Carol Quinlan (5th) voted against the resolution.

Health care for village employees was also debated. The village is considering United Health Care, which Deetjen said has provided reasonable rates.

Quinlan, however, wondered why the choice of a health care provider was not up for bid. Deetjen said the rates were fair in comparison to other providers but a decision had to be made soon.

The board approved the United Health Care recommendation with only Streit and Quinlan objecting.

Quinlan was upset that Chad Weiller, who was head of the Department of Business Operations, was recently let go from the position. The department was being considered for elimination.

Deetjen said it was a cost-cutting measure and that those duties would be spread among other employers, including himself.

"Larry, you have a lot on your plate right now," said Quinlan. "My worry is that you are just not going to have the time to attract new businesses."

Deetjen shared her concerns but added that his expertise is in economic development, and pointed to drawing the Texas Corral restaurant to 95th Street.

Streit was more direct over the situation about Weiller, who took on the head of Business Operations in 2008.

"Weiller is being let go because he supported Dave Heilmann (the previous mayor)," said Streit. "This is purely political."

The board approved dissolving the Department of Business Operations. Again, Streit and Quinlan objected.

Due to the length of the meeting, several items were tabled, including a call for term limits for village public officials that was proposed by Trustee Tim Desmond (1st).

A recommendation to prepare a "transition plan" to outsource senior services to the Oak Lawn Park District was approved by a 4-2 margin. Streit and Quinlan were against the recommendation.

"Oak Lawn is awesome, but we are not providing services for seniors," said Bury. "We just don't do this well. This should be in the hands of the park district."

In other news, a request for a restaurant and liquor license for Clancy's at 4624 W. 103rd St. was approved. The owners have no plans for gaming machines.

A liquor license was approved for TC Pub at 9906 Southwest Highway. The owner has plans for a country and western bar.

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the help of St. Gerald Parish. Murphy collected clothing.

A request to allow the Children's Museum in Oak Lawn's "Fun Fest" was approved. The fun fest will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 29 at the museum, 5100 Museum Drive.

Bury reported that the Metra Station on 95th Street will now officially be called the 9/11 Memorial Patriot Station. The effort for the name change was not only to honor the victims of 9/11 but to recognize the efforts of first responders.

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To Break Ground for Mariano's

But Budget Woes Brings Heated Debate at Lengthy Oak Lawn Meeting

By JOE BOYLE

The news that construction will begin next month for Mariano's Fresh Markets should have been a ray of optimism during the Tuesday night meeting of the Oak Lawn Village Board.

However, news that the anchor store that has been described as the centerpiece of the Tax Incremental Financing District (TIF) project at 111th Street and Cicero Avenue was tempered by budget recommendations that could result in the loss of village jobs.

During a meeting that lasted nearly four hours and 20 minutes, board members discussed and debated recommendations to lower the village's debt.

Pat O'Donnell, the new treasurer for the village, provided a pre-budget presentation for board members and residents who attended the meeting.

His preliminary five-year budget and pension plan would include multi-year budgeting while having a more transparent explanation for residents.

In a phrase that was mentioned often during the lengthy meeting, O'Donnell said the village could no longer "kick the can down the road" in terms of the village's annual budget, which in large part is due to pension liabilities.

The slide presentation was filled with figures indicating a greater budget deficit during the next five years if adjustments are not made.

O'Donnell suggested a 90-day freeze on hiring and starting new projects. O'Donnell added that would not include current projects.

When discussing options for the future, the subject of pension contributions came up. O'Donnell indicated an antiquated system that dates back to the 1970s is no longer adequate to record future projections in terms of pension contributions.

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EAGLES FLY—James Spoto speaks before the Oak Lawn Village Board Tuesday night as Mayor Sandra Bury listens. Spoto was honored for this Eagle project where he collected eyeglasses for those in need.

(News-Herald Photo by Joe Boyle)

Oak Lawn

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Taking into account that people are living longer than they were 30 years ago indicate adjustments are needed for the future, according to O'Donnell.

"Detroit was once a great city," said O'Donnell about the Michigan city that recently declared bankruptcy. "Whatever way it goes will make a difference everywhere."

O'Donnell mentioned that adjustments will have to be made for future village pensions, specifically for fire and police.

To prevent the stalemate that is occurring in Springfield over the pension crisis, O'Donnell suggested that the board approve a 2014 budget to include 90 percent of actuarial recommended pension payment. While implementing a 90-day freeze on new hires, O'Donnell suggested a 90-day spending freeze on new projects and any new loans.

He also suggested that the board consider a 90-day freeze for all non-union employees.

Board members listened intently to O'Donnell's presentation. But Trustee Bob Streit (3rd) wondered if all these adjustments are necessary.

Village Manager Larry Deetjen countered that these decisions on pension benefits are decided on in Springfield

"If we are going to rely on Washington or Springfield, it isn't going to happen," said Deetjen.

Mayor Sandra Bury interjected at this point, saying that "if we do nothing, it will snowball.

"This is the big gorilla in the room," added Bury. "We just can't ignore it."

Streit commented on the village's recent agreement with Advocate Christ Medical Center that will result in $3.2 million for the village.

While admitting that it is a lot of money, Streit said he knew nothing about the deal until he read a newspaper that day.

"There was another way to approach this," said Streit. "We could have entered into a partnership."

Under previous Mayor Dave Heilmann, Christ Hospital was not paying any taxes. Streit said a meeting took place with Christ Hospital officials in which an agreement was considered for the hospital to fund future projects.

Deetjen, at the urging of Trustee Mike Carberry (6th), replied that he did not know of any such agreement.

Bury replied that the village wanted the hospital to pay its fair share. The mayor and Trustee Alex Olejniczak (2nd) said this is what residents wanted as well.

The hospital has agreed to pay $167,000 by Jan. 16 and up to $500,000 through 2016, Bury said.

Streit insisted that a partnership was a better method.

"Of course the hospital wants to pay its fair share," said Streit. "I think they got off easy."

Terry Vorderer (4th), who was elected this year, disagreed.

"I'm very pleased with the settlement," he said. "It was an amicable agreement. I give a lot of credit to Tom Duhig (the former 4th District trustee), who led the charge on this. This agreement came about through a lot of hard work."

Trustee Carol Quinlan (4th) was appreciative of O'Donnell's slide presentation. However, she is concerned that such extensive details need to be examined in depth.

"We need to have more PowerPoints (on this)," said Quinlan. "This is a lot of information to wrap your brain around."

A resolution authorizing Deetjen to retain Kathleen Field Orr and Associates as Village TIF Counsel was the subject of a debate.

Deetjen said that Orr and Associates were chosen because of their economic planning expertise with TIF Districts. It was also at a lower cost, he said.

While most of the evening was spent on budget concerns, the meeting began optimistically with the news that Hamilton Partners will begin the first phase of construction in September on Mariano's.

Hamilton Partners is the the developer of the Stony Creek Promenade project. Deetjen said that the village and Mariano's will continue to work with Hamilton Partners to secure other successful tenants to the development.

Representatives from Hamilton Partners gave a slide presentation of what the store will look like and possible landscaping plans for the future.

The parking lot will be completely landscaped to include green space before the curbs, a departure from its present 1970s look.

Deetjen said that Olejniczak has worked with the village's Green Committee to integrate the project with Mariano's and the nearby Wolfe Wildlife Refuge Center. Bicycle paths may extend to the Cal-Sag.

A big glass rotunda will be a prominent feature of Mariano's, greeting customers and motorists along Cicero Avenue.

Deejten said that Mariano's sales average about $15 million per year at their five other locations. The development will result in at least 800 new jobs, according to Deetjen.

With Mariano's as the anchor, at least five stores have either shown an interest or have contacted Hamilton Partners and the village about becoming a part of the Stony Creek Promenade project.

Mariano's will be 72,000 square feet when completed.

In other news, James Spoto and James Murphy received awards for Eagle Scout projects. Spoto collected eyeglasses through

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Oak Lawn faces budget crisis

by Matt Mayer

A range of business issues was covered at the four and a half hour Aug 13 Oak Lawn Board of Trustees meeting. One of the most disconcerting was the budget report presented by recently appointed Village Treasurer Pat O'Donnell. The report follows last weeks downgrading of the village's general obligation bonds by Moody's Investments Service to A-1 form Aa3.

O'Donnell provided figures in his "preliminary 5 year budget and pension impact" document, which shows the current village budget of $49.6 million which appears to be balanced on paper. However due to underfunding of pensions and retiree medical plans, the village is actually running nearly $4.8 million in the red. The annual short fall will balloon to a projected amount as much as $9.5 million in 2018, said O'Donnell.

O'Donnell said that Oak Lawn is in better fiscal shape than most other Illinois municipalities, but cautioned officials against "kicking the can down the road" which is a phrase used several times referring to congress temporarily increasing the debt ceiling which now keeps the federal government running until September 30. A Washington Post column headlined "Congress's addiction to kicking the can down the road" refers to congress continually to temporarily extend the debt limit , "when it comes to last minute short term extensions" , so as not to shut down the federal government.

O'Donnell referred to Detroit's recent bankruptcy as "what ever way it goes will make a difference everywhere." We don't want to be another Detroit he added. In the Detroit matter, Michigan Governor Rick Snyder appointed Washington D.C. Bankruptcy Attorney Kevin Orr as emergency city manager. Detroit is one of 6 Michigan financially strapped cities in which Snyder appointed an emergency city manager according to Huff Post-Detroit.

O'Donnell said adjustments need to be made for future village pensions especially police and fire departments. He suggested the board approve a 2014 budget that would include a 90-day spending freeze on new projects and new loans as well as a 90-day freeze on hiring and include a 90 percent actuarial recommendation pension payment.

Following a lengthy heated discussion regarding the possibility of restructuring or possibly outsourcing the regional emergency dispatching service 911, which also serves Evergreen Park, Burbank and portions of Bedford Park, a resolution authorizing the reorganization and restructuring of the regional emergency 911 dispatching services was approved 4-2, Streit and Quinlan dissented.

A request to change health care providers from Blue Cross Blue Shield to United Health Care in a cost saving effort as well as the elimination of department of business operations, which resulted in Chad Weller losing his job, was approved 4-2, Trustees Streit and Quinlan dissented. Trustee Quinlan reiterated what she said in the previous meeting that this was political retribution because Weller had a Heilmann/ Moran lawn sign instead of a Jane Quinlan sign. Deetjen countered by saying this was a cost saving measure. And the duties of that office would be spread among other employees, including him.

Village Manager Larry Deetjen said this is about saving money. This is not a service issue "they provide an outstanding service, but every day we do the status quo we are losing money. Recently a 28-2 union vote was taken to restrain from making any changes. "My preference is for the union to work with us and keep them. I would like to mitigate, or cap rate costs and work with the union to provide job security," said Deetjen. Reining in costs will be painful, he added.

Mayor Sandra Bury said the budget is the big gorilla in the room. "I and every one on the board will work hard not to increase property taxes to cover the shortfall," she added. Village owned property was sold last year to cover the short fall in lieu of a property tax increase.

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Disposing of e-waste

by Kelly White

What do I do with my old computer or is there somewhere I can drop off my old cell phone? These are questions you might have found yourself asking, well the answer is here: e-waste drop-offs.

In March of 2008, The Oak Lawn Green Team held their first meeting and it is a success. Appointed by Mayor Heilmann, Trustee Alex Olejniczak led a spirited group of Village associates and citizens in the first meeting of this initiative. Topics discussed included recycling, energy efficiency, LEED certification for future buildings, fleet efficiency, purchasing policies by the Village and sustainability.

As a result of this, The Village of Oak Lawn hosts a permanent electronic waste collection facility at the Oak Lawn Public Works Garage 5550 98th Street (98th and Central) in October of 2010. You can bring your electronics to this drive-through site during the following hours of operation: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. and on the second Saturday of each month from 10:00 a.m. until noon.

"Since we opened up, things have been working out really well," Oak Lawn Public Works employee, Jack Lopez reports.

The e-waste drop-off facility is overseen by Lopez, who was described by Olejniczak as one of the most informational guys on e-waste that he's ever met.

The Village of Oak Lawn, committed to making their Village "greener" and assist to provide compliance to the new law, is operating the permanent Electronic Recycling collection program for their community. All residents are welcome to participate by recycling old, broken and no longer wanted or needed electronics.

As of January 1, 2012, with the exception of individual and household consumers, all other consumers including businesses, private or public corporations, not for profit corporations and government entities, etc. may not dispose of, or place for collection intended for disposal, electronic waste at a solid or hazardous waste management facility in the state. Beginning January 1, 2015, this disposal ban will applied to all persons in the state, including individual and household consumers.

Acceptable items at the e-waste drop-offs, such as the Oak Lawn facility include but are not limited to: personal computers, laptops, monitors, radios, printers, keyboards/electronic mouse, CPUs, CD ROM/zip/tape drive, CDs, DVDs, floppies, speakers/stereo systems, televisions, VCR, DVD, Laser Disc Players, hand held games, video game systems, word processors, fax/scanner machines, adding machines, telephone/cell phones, CBs/two way radios, paper shredders, answering machines, pagers, batteries (automotive /deep cycle, rechargeable, single use), smoke detectors, fluorescent light bulbs and holiday lights. It is important to dispose properly of e-waste materials because certain components of some electronic products contain materials that render them hazardous, depending on their condition and density.

Residents are encouraged to clean off any personal information on hard drives (The Village of Oak Lawn is not responsible for any information stored on computer equipment left for recycling). Residents may also take materials to the drop-off only during hours of operation and cannot take any items that have already been dropped off. Once the items have been placed in the collection box, they are part of the recycling program. This area will be monitored via video surveillance twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

The hauling of any and all items from the resident's vehicle to the collection containers is the sole responsibility of the resident.

The Oak Lawn Green Team consists of Recycling Committee the Green Corridor Committee, the Oak Lawn Lake Committee, the Water Quality Committee, the Energy Committee and the Public Relations Committee. "Although, there are several departments put together to make up the Green Team, no individual department runs the team," Lopez explained, "The Green Team was formed a few years ago by a group of volunteers, who ran it by and got it approved from the Oak Lawn board of trustees. To this day, the e-waste facility is run only on a volunteer basis."

Volunteers are always welcome at the Oak Lawn Green Team e-waste facility, 5550 98th Street (98th and Central). Lopez stated service hours will be given out to any high school students who volunteer, although anyone from any town is welcome to come volunteer even just a day's work. "Right now my biggest volunteer is a man from Worth," Lopez said, "You don't have to be from Oak Lawn to use the e-waste facility or even to volunteer there, because it doesn't matter where you live, all of our garbage is eventually going to go to the same place; and, we are here to aid in the recycling process."

Volunteers are asked to arrive at the site a couple hours before opening, so on Saturdays at 9:30 a.m. for any rules and training and work a day until noon. Any interested volunteers can contact Lopez directly at 708-449-7748.

The committee meets monthly and sends out e-mail news. All meetings are the last Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Oak Lawn Village Hall, 9446 S Raymond Avenue, unless otherwise noted or changed. To be included in the e-mail list or for more information, please contact The Oak Lawn Green Team at aolejniczak@oaklawn-il.gov or greenteam@oaklawn-il.gov.

Other Southside suburbs offer temporary e-waste drop-offs, often during a spring cleanup week, including the Village of Chicago Ridge. Will County has one-day hazardous waste collection each spring and fall. However, there are other permanent e-waste drop-off facilities that run year, besides the Oak Lawn Green Team location. Year round there is also a permanent site, funded by the County and State of Illinois: Fire station at 1971 Brookdale Road, Naperville every Saturday and Sunday from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Beginning the first week of January, the Village of Midlothian has established an Electronic Waste Drop Off Center at the Midlothian Fire Station II located at 14700 South Homan Avenue. Midlothian's e-waste drop-off hours are from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays and from 1:00 p.m. until to 5:00 p.m. on Saturdays. The City of Glenview also holds another permanent location at Abt Electronics, 1200 North Milwaukee Avenue, which runs from 9:00 a.m. until noon daily.

In the City of Chicago, there are three permanent locations; one on the west side at the Chicago Center for Green Technology, 445 North Sacramento Boulevard, which runs from 5:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. daily and one located in the Chicago Loop on the corner of Michigan Avenue and Lake Street, which runs from 6:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. daily and one on the north side of Chicago, located at 2501 West Bradley Place, which runs from 6:30 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. daily.

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Dispatchers Worry About Jobs

Attorney Says More Discussions Are Needed with Oak Lawn Officials

By JOE BOYLE

Budget recommendations that were raised during the Aug. 13 Oak Lawn Village Board meeting have drawn concerns from 911 dispatchers who believe their jobs may be lost through outsourcing.

Attorney Ronald Cicinelli, who represents the Metropolitan Alliance of Police (MAP) that includes the village's 911 dispatchers and non-police personnel, is aware of budget concerns in Oak Lawn.

But Cicinelli, who grew up on Chicago's Northwest Side and is a former suburban police officer, said that 911 dispatchers should not be exclusively targeted for outsourcing and that there is room for discussion.

Cicinelli said that MAP is under contract in Oak Lawn through Dec. 31. He said discussions on coming up with alternatives may begin as early as Monday.

"We ratified the existing contract right around November of 2012," said Cicinelli. "That took about two years of long negotiations."

However, in December the village advised the chapter that they would like to talk again. It was about a month later that Cicinelli said that he was told by village officials about their budget concerns.

Cicinelli said that he was told that the village retained the services of Ronald Bloom, of PSAP Concepts and Solutions. Bloom is a partner and managing director at PSAP.

Bloom has garnered several awards. He was first elected private sector director of the National Emergency Association (NENA).

But Cicinelli wonders why he had to learn in late January or early February that the village had retained Bloom's services. It may just be a coincidence, but discussions about the village budget and talk of outsourcing

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began during this period, according to Cicinelli.

"Why wasn't this brought up earlier," wondered Cicinelli.

During the Aug. 13 Oak Lawn Village Board meeting, a lengthy pre-budget presentation was given by new treasurer Pat O'Donnell in which he provided projections of finances during the next five years. He suggested a 90-day freeze on hiring and beginning new projects.

Pension contributions was brought up and O'Donnell alluded to an antiquated system that dates back to the 1970s that he said is no longer adequate to record future projections in terms of pensions.

"We can no longer kick the can down the road," said O'Donnell, a phrase that was later repeated by Larry Deetjen, the village manager.

Cicinelli is aware of the concerns of the village.

"They want to outsource (911 dispatcher) jobs," said Cicinelli. "But they still want to maintain the same center the (current dispatchers) work in now. The equipment is antiquated. How much is that going to cost?"

Both Cicinelli and Deetjen are in agreement that the 911 dispatchers, who also assist Burbank, Evergreen Park and portions of Bedford Park, do an outstanding job.

"But every day we do the status quo, we are losing money," said Deetjen at the meeting. "My preference is (for the union) to work with us to keep them."

Cicinelli said it is more complicated than that and further discussion is necessary.

"I can only take Deetjen's presentation on its face value," replied Cicinelli. "He brings up $369,000 in costs. Without having an auditor going over the books, I just cannot say. But why just the dispatchers? What about the fire, police and other departments?"

Cicinelli added three telecommunicators have resigned and have not been replaced. Kathy Hansen is director of the low level telecommunicators and oversees team leaders, which is part of the contract work force.

Since the three telecommunications positions have not been filled, it calls for additional manpower to replace them, Cicinelli said.

Cicinelli said that without the team leaders, overtime has skyrocketed as other telecommunicators have to pick up the slack. He estimates that it has cost the village $100,000 in overtime.

"During the (President) Clinton era when I was a police officer and things were going well, you did not see municipalities say that we are going to give you more money," added Cicinelli.

However, despite their differences, Cicinelli said that he is optimistic that a more civil tone will develop and that some of these issues can be resolved.

"It's not like we are unsympathetic," added Cicinelli. "It's not like we are thumbing our noses at them. We know there are costs. We get it.

"We have another chapter meeting on Monday. We plan to go forward with the possibility we can reach an amicable accord."

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8/23/2013, p.1

Dispatchers Should Not Take Only Budget Hits

Some exciting days are ahead for the village of Oak Lawn. In September, plans to finally start digging for the new Mariano's Fresh Markets at 111th Street and Cicero Avenue is expected. This anchor store is the centerpiece for the Stony Creek Promenade TIF District project.

It's a time for celebration indeed. However, behind those expectations is a dark cloud that hangs over the village that is sure to bring some verbal storms ahead.

During the Aug. 13 Oak Lawn Village Board meeting, the board veered away from the Mariano's announcement to talk about a budget crisis. The meeting, which lasted four hours and 20 minutes, hit on a variety of topics but concentrated on the possibility of layoffs or outsourcing.

The Oak Lawn 911 dispatchers seemed to be in the center of this storm when discussions of outsourcing was raised. The board voted to approve discussing that possibility, while holding out hope that a resolution is forthcoming.

We know that the village has budget problems. How great that budget hole is debatable. But if this is a reality, then those sacrifices need to be shared. The Oak Lawn dispatchers should not take the brunt of those sacrifices.

Everyone seems to be in agreement that the dispatchers do a great service. It should be noted that they not only serve Oak Lawn but Evergreen Park, Burbank and portions of Bedford Park. They are experienced and have a great relationship with the police. This was mentioned by Oak Lawn Trustee Terry Vorderer (4th), a former police officer, who said that "there is a unique relationship between the police and the dispatcher" during the Aug. 13 village board meeting.

We just don't see outsourcing as the answer. Some sacrifices may have to be made. We understand that. But we think those sacrifices need to spread around to other departments as well. That includes the village officials. Outsourcing will result in a detached and overstretched operation that may cost the village more in the long run.

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8/23/2013, p.6

Oak Lawn To Host Casualty Exercise Event

The Village of Oak Lawn, in conjunction with Oak Lawn Community High School and Advocate Christ Medical Center, is hosting a Full Scale Exercise to test response capabilities to a Mass Casualty/Active Shooter Event.

The event will be held Sunday morning, Aug. 25 at Oak Lawn Community High School, 9400 Southwest Highway.

First-responders from more than 25 local police and fire departments, along with representatives from local hospitals, Cook County, state and federal agencies, will be participating in this drill.

This exercise will test the capabilities of first-responders to respond to the immediate and long-term implications of a mass casualty/active shooter event and local hospitals' ability to surge and treat mass trauma victims.

This will be one of the largest multi-agency events occurring in the state prior to the start of the new school season.

Participating in this event will be Alsip, Advocate Christ Medical Center in Oak Lawn, Bedford Park, Bridgeview, Burbank, Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center, Burbank, Chicago Ridge, Central Stickney. Orland Park, Palos Heights, Palos Park, Roberts Park and Summit.

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Fall On The Green Planning Underway

The Village of Oak Lawn will hold its 18th annual Fall on the Green Festival on Sept. 6, 7 and 8. This family-friendly event has everything you look for in a festival - great food, wonderful entertainment, games, and vendors of all types. This event will take place on the Village Green located at 95th Street & Cook Avenue. There is no charge for admission, parking or rides. The only cost to attendees is the purchase of food and drink.

Some of the entertainment scheduled to appear are area favorites including: Wild Daisy, Maggie Speaks, Rendition, Kennedy Compound, The Walk-Ins, South of Disorder, Shannon Baker and the Daze of Yore, Recycle the Day, The Opinions, American English, The Hat Guys, Seam & Charlie, Special Consensus, Chicago Tribute Anthology, and Slippery When Wet.

There will be many activities for children including inflatables, face painting, obstacle course, Eurobungy, Ferris Wheel and so much more!

The food court will sell pizza, Italian Ice, Italian sausage, Brats, corn on the cob, kettle corn, riblet sandwiches, hot dogs, pulled pork sandwiches, sub sandwiches, hamburgers, cheeseburgers, riblet sandwiches, corn dogs, Orange Chicken, Fried Rice, Buffalo Chipotle burgers, funnel cakes, snow cones, Rainbow cones, and so much more!!

The Arts & Crafts Show will be held on Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. with many crafters and exhibitors. There is also a Business Tent area featuring local businesses from Oak Lawn and the surrounding suburbs.

The Village would like to thank all the local businesses for their generosity and sponsorship efforts.

Any questions or concerns, contact Steve Barrett at (708) 499-7749 or email sbarrett@oaklawn-il.gov.

Oak Lawn Independent
8/29/2013, p.1

Plan for Fall on Green

The Village of Oak Lawn will hold its 18th annual Fall on the Green Festival on Sept. 6, 7 and 8.

This family event includes entertainment, games and vendors of all types.

The fest will take place on the Village Green, 95th Street and Cook Avenue, in Oak Lawn.

Admission is free and that includes parking and rides. The only cost to guests is the purchase of food and drink.

Some of the entertainment scheduled to appear are Wild Daisy, Maggie Speaks, Rendition, Kennedy Compound, The Walk-Ins, South of Disorder, Shannon Baker and the Daze of Yore, Recycle the Day, The Opinions, American English, The Hat

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Guys, Seam & Charlie, Special Consensus, Chicago Tribute Anthology, and Slippery When Wet.

There will be many activities for children, including inflatables, face painting, obstacle course, Eurobungy and Ferris Wheel.

The food court will sell pizza, Italian Ice, Italian Sausage, brats, corn on the cob, kettle corn, riblet sandwiches, hot dogs, pulled pork sandwiches, sub sandwiches, hamburgers, cheeseburgers, riblet sandwiches, corn dogs, orange chicken, fried rice, funnel cakes, snow cones and rainbow cones.

The arts and crafts show will be held from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday with many crafters and exhibitors. There is also a business tent area featuring local businesses from Oak Lawn and the surrounding suburbs.

Those with questions may contact Steve Barrett at (708) 499-7749 or *sbarrett@oaklawn-il.gov*.

Southwest Suburban News-Herald
8/30/2013, p.1

Village Prepares for Disasters

Hold Drill at Oak Lawn Community High School To Keep Kids Safe

By STEVE NEUHAUS

A frantic 911 call is made reporting shots fired inside Oak Lawn Community High School.

Seconds later, students are seen running through the halls screaming. Immediately, law enforcement officers from several surrounding communities arrive and begin searching for suspects and survivors.

This was the scene this past Sunday morning as the Village of Oak Lawn, along with Oak Lawn Community High School and Advocate Christ Medical Center, hosted a Full Scale Exercise to test response capabilities to a Mass Casualty/Active Shooter Event.

More than 25 local police and fire departments, along with representatives from local hospitals, Cook County, state and federal agencies, participated.

This drill tested the capabilities of First Responders to respond to the immediate and long-term implications of a Mass Casualty/Active Shooter event and local hospitals ability to surge and treat Mass Trauma victims.

"We live in a different age today," Oak Lawn Police Division Chief Michael Kaufmann said. "It's better to have a plan than no plan at all."

Commander Art Clark, of the Oak Lawn Police Department and coordinator of the village's emergency management services, spent six months planning this drill.

Oak Lawn School District 123 Superintendent Paul Enderle also attended the drill as an observer.

"I felt the experience was greatly beneficial to school leaders in better understanding the roles and responsibilities of each first responder during a large scale emergency situation," Enderle said.

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IMPORTANT DRILL—The Oak Lawn Police Department "Mock Disaster" drill was held Sunday at Oak Lawn Community High School. A volunteer acting as an injured student is being transported to the area trauma center.

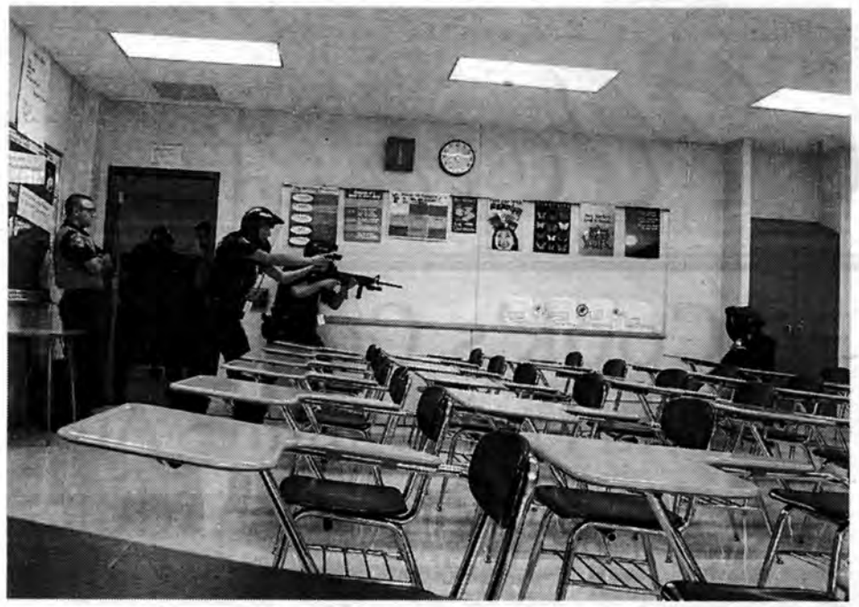
(News-Herald Photo by Steve Neuhaus)

DISASTER CALL—Oak Lawn Police Intern Jillian Urbas makes the frantic 911 call from inside the school to the police command vehicle in the parking lot during the disaster drill held Sunday at Oak Lawn Community High School.

(News-Herald Photo by Steve Neuhaus)

ON ALERT—The Oak Lawn Police Department, along with other law enforcement agencies, took part in a "mock disaster" drill Sunday at Oak Lawn Community High School. A SWAT team (above) gathers in one of the hallways of the high school waiting for commands. Local law enforcement officers (right) storm the halls in search of a gunman.

(News-Herald Photos by Steve Neuhaus



PREPARING FOR THE WORST—The Oak Lawn Police Department, along with other agencies, conducted a "mock disaster" drill Sunday at Oak Lawn Community High School. In this exercise, police locate the "gunman" in a classroom and arrest him.

(News-Herald Photo by Steve Neuhaus)

Mock Disaster

continued from page 1

"It was an excellent learning experience that helped me gain a wider perspective of our long-term response as a school system to a major event," Enderle added. "Overall, I enjoyed the opportunity to partner with our community and learn more about best practices in emergency-related scenarios."

Southwest Suburban News-Herald
8/30/2013, p.1

Funeral directors locked out in labor fight

PHIL
KADNER
pkadner@southtownstar.com

Funeral directors and drivers picket outside a Blake-Lamb Funeral Home in Oak Lawn. Their union is opposing an attempt by a Houston-based corporation to have workers give up their pension in exchange for a 401(k) program and opposes a demand that they pay for health insurance.
| PHIL KADNER-SUN-TIMES MEDIA

It's a battle between working stiffs and a billion-dollar corporation trying to take away their hard-earned benefits.

Or it's a fight between greedy union members with unrealistic expectations and a company that's trying to make a profit for stockholders.

"We're just taking a stand because at some point you have to fight for what's right," said Karen Hannah, 44, an Evergreen Park resident and mother of three who is a funeral director at Blake Lamb Funeral Home, 4727 W. 103rd St., Oak Lawn.

Funeral directors and drivers at 16 funeral homes in the Chicago area went on strike July 2 during a dispute with Service Corporation International, which is headquartered in Houston.

Last month, a spokesman for Teamsters Local 727, which represents the funeral directors, said employees offered to return to work unconditionally. That's when the strike turned into a lockout.

Other Southland funeral homes impacted by the labor dispute include Kenny Brothers in Evergreen Park, Hennessy-Nowak in Calumet City, Chapel Hill Garden South in Oak Lawn and Ridge Funeral Home in Chicago's Garfield Ridge community. All of them, including Blake Lamb, are open and continue to operate.

SCI contends that a "significant number of the funeral directors" earn more than $100,000 a year and have enjoyed benefits that few others in the American labor force have these days, such as fully paid health insurance and a pension.

Those two benefits are among the key elements in the dispute, with SCI demanding that employees switch from the pension system to a 401(k) retirement account that will have an employer match of up to 4 percent of an employee's salary. The company also wants the employees to pick up a share of their health insurance cost.

"What they don't tell you is many of us have been working without a raise for three years, some for as many as six years," said Walter "Pat" Quinlan, who lives in Oak Lawn and has been with Blake Lamb for 24 years. "They say they're offering a 9 percent raise over the next two years, but 4 percent of that would go into our 401(k) under their plan and we would have to pay for our health insurance. In addition, they want to break our seniority rules.

"They claim there are a significant number of people making $100,000, but that's not true," Quinlan said. "Very few funeral directors here make that much money. We make an average of about $25 an hour, and some of us may earn as much as $35 an hour and if you put in enough overtime, yeah, maybe you can break $100,000.

"But other funeral home directors in the area are making more money. We just want to make a competitive wage."

I told the folks manning the picket line Wednesday outside Blake Lamb that my guess was that most people wouldn't have much sympathy for their plight.

A lot of people have lost their jobs over the past five years. Many of the unemployed who have found work are now being paid about half of what they used to earn.

And then there's the funeral director thing. Other than used-car salesmen and newspaper reporters, I'm not sure there's a group held in greater disdain by the general public.

Quinlan and others who were on the line quickly tell me that SCI is one of the reasons for the public's attitude toward their industry.

"We're forced to charge $3,000 more than other funeral homes in the area right off the bat," he said. "That's the corporate directive. And regardless of a person's ability to pay, they demand full payment up front. They claim to be concerned about people in the community, but their main concern is the bottom line."

The Teamsters claim (and financial reports bear them out) that SCI has posted a profit in each quarter for the last five years.

"This is not a company facing financial problems," Quinlan said. "They're making money. Profits are up."

As for the health insurance dispute, the union members claim that their current plan is cheaper and offers better coverage than the one SCI is offering.

The funeral directors expressed a belief that if they give in to the corporation's demands, there will be more concessions sought down the road.

Funeral director Vincent Giff, who like all the others who were on the line is also an embalmer, said he understands that he has a good job.

"We all know how lucky we are, but we took these jobs with certain expectations of benefits," Giff, 53, who lives in Oak Lawn, said. "Those are the reasons we took these jobs to begin with."

Contrary to my cynical view about the public's perception of funeral directors and unions, those on the picket line said they've heard mostly support from neighbors and community residents.

They point to a letter signed by 51 clergymen, expressing their support for the union, and another by U.S. Rep. Dan Lipinski (D-3rd). Lipinski's letter to SCI says the funeral directors and drivers "seek nothing more than parity with other Chicago-area funeral employees and the benefits they deserve."

"On behalf of the community I serve, I once again urge you to come back to the table ready and willing to engage in meaningful negotiations with the union."

Another bargaining session is scheduled for Sept. 17.

It's almost always difficult to decide who is right and who is wrong in these sort of labor disputes. A lot depends on what your beliefs are about a working wage and employee benefits versus an employer's responsibility to generate profits and produce dividends for stockholders.

But there are fewer and fewer jobs in this country that allow people to raise a family, pay for college tuition and have enough money for a comfortable retirement.

The middle class for decades has driven the national economy with its ability to spend money without fearing the future.

Perhaps that wasn't the wisest personal policy, but it created the greatest economic growth in world history.

Maybe that's coming to an end. Maybe it is inevitable.

It is certainly worrisome.

SouthtownSta
9/12/2013, p.2

Two charged in teen brawl in Oak Lawn

Two teenagers have been charged with battery after an Oak Lawn police investigation of a wild brawl last month between two groups of teens at the Wolfe Wildlife Refuge, 107th Street and Laramie Avenue.

The brawl, which broke out about 9:30 p.m. Aug. 14, was between a group of five white teens and one with six black youths, police said. They said there are differing accounts of how the fighting started, and police are calling it "undecided."

Several teens were injured, none seriously, and some received medical care, according to police, who said one teen was thrown into Stony Creek during the fight.

After Cook County prosecutors reviewed the police reports, Stephen Hyde, 18, of 10721 Lawler Ave., Oak Lawn, and Hexadore Randall, 19, of 5414 N. Western Ave., Chicago, were charged with battery, police said.

Steve Metsch

SouthtownStar
9/12/2013, p.6

Oak Lawn board OKs $15M bond sale for water system

BY HOWARD LUDWIG
Correspondent

The Oak Lawn Village Board has approved a $15 million bond issue to improve its Lake Michigan water distribution system, which serves about 325,000 people in the Southland.

Trustees on Monday night voted 4-2 for the bond sale, which will help pay for a systemwide overhaul that's expected to top $166 million. The total cost will be shared through higher water rates among the 12 communities that get lake water from Chicago via Oak Lawn.

Village manager Larry Deetjen said the aging water system badly needs improvements and will be converted into a "looped system" with a large new water main that will allow Oak Lawn to continue to provide water even in the event of a broken pump or water pipe.

The planned improvements will greatly reduce energy costs by installing more efficient turbines at pumping stations and improve safety through an upgraded electrical system, Deetjen said. Plans also call improved technology to detect problems in the system before there is a water main break.

He told trustees that the village incurring the bond debt will have long-term benefits as Oak Lawn will gain increased revenue from providing water to its "downstream" customers.

Not everyone was as enthusiastic. Trustee Alex Olejniczak (2nd) was concerned by the ever-changing cost projections for the project. Trustee Mike Carberry (6th) worried about adding to Oak Lawn's mounting debt load. Both requested a two-week extension to further review the financial aspects of the plan.

Deetjen warned trustees that an extension could be costly because the current 1.93 percent interest rate on the bonds expires at the end of the month. The rate is expected to go up to at least 2 percent in October, he said.

Trustees Robert Streit (3rd) and Terry Vorderer (4th) reminded the board and the audience that the water improvement project has been five years in the making and little would be gained by delaying the vote.

After the approval of the bond sale, Deetjen lauded trustees for taking the first step in support of the regional water improvement project, saying, "everyone is looking for a leader. I commend that you are the leaders."

SouthtownStar
9/12/2013, p.6

Ground Breaking to commence for Mariano's at K-Mart site

by Matt Mayer

Representatives from Hamilton Partners gave a slide presentation at a recent Oak Lawn Board of Trustees meeting on what the upscale Mariano's and the green space is slated to look like at the former K-Mart site at 111th and Cicero Avenue, which is now named "Stony Creek Promenade". Officials said at lease 5 other stores have contacted either the developer or the village expressing interest in becoming part of the development, however no details were released.

The site is a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District, which was created by the previous board in 2006 and is bounded by 111th Street on the south, Cicero Avenue on the east, Leamington Avenue on the west and condominiums and the Wolfe Wildlife Center on the north. Village Manager Larry Deetjen said that the village would continue to work with the developer to attract other successful tenants to the development.

The 72,000 sq ft building will feature a big glass rotunda to draw motorist attention on Cicero Avenue and 111th Street. The parking lot will be completely landscaped to the curb, said Deetjen. Trustee Alex Olejniczak (D-2) will work with the village green committee to integrate the project with the Wolfe Wildlife Refuge Center. Additional information about other developments by Hamilton Partners may be obtained at www.hamiltonpartners.com/

Mariano's sales average approximately $1.5 million per year at their other 5 locations. The development will also create a minimum of 800 new jobs, said Deetjen. Former Mayor Dave Heilmann announced the lease agreement with Mariano's at the Feb 26 Board of Trustees meeting. Mariano's is headed by former Dominick's CEO, Bob Mariano. Mariano's website may be obtained at www.marianos.com/.

Village View
9/3/2013, p.1

Oak Lawn approves water distribution system upgrades

by Matt Mayer

Officials discussed the issuance of a $15 million dollar revenue bond issue for the improvement for a system wide overhaul of the water distribution system that supplies water to 12 municipalities. The slated improvements are expected to reduce energy costs with the installation of improved turbines at pumping stations, which are more energy efficient. Safety is also expected to improve through an upgraded electrical system, which includes technology to detect problems in the system before there is a water main break said village manager Larry Deetjen.

The actual cost for the system wide overhaul is expected to exceed $166 million. The total cost will be shared through higher water rates among the 12 communities the village serves, said Deetjen. Trustees Mike Carberry and Alex Olejniczak both requested a two-week extension to further review the financial plan due to the ever-changing cost projections for the project.

Trustee Bob Streit (D-3) said, " This has been going on for five years. What more do you expect in the next two weeks?" Deetjen also said the extension could be costly. The current interest rate on the bonds, which is currently 1.93 percent, expires at the end of the month. The rate is expected to then go to 2 percent, said Deetjen. The issuance of the revenue bond was approved 4-2, Carberry and Olejniczak dissented.

Village View
9/17/2013, p.2

Village Of Oak Lawn Sponsors Fall On The Green

The Village of Oak Lawn sponsored a very enjoyable and successful Fall on the Green event, from Friday, Sept. 6 through Sunday, Sept. 8. Entertainment, children's activities, food, refreshments, and more were offered. Village officials and staff worked very hard to bring a great event to the residents, business people, and community. Volunteers also assisted their efforts. Standard Bank and Trust Company was one of the major sponsors, and donated $10,000 to the event. Bank employees also donated their time, by serving guests in the Village hospitality tent, and decorating and clearing the tables as attendees listened to the music of the entertainers from the main stage. Dr. Sandra Bury, Village President and Mayor (second left), accepted the contribution from the Bank, as she gathered with Standard Bank officers who were among the many volunteers, including (left to right) Oak Lawn branch manager Vicki Scanlon, Group Senior Vice President Laura Shallow, and investment advisor Laura Fasan.

Oak Lawn Independent
9/19/2013, p.11

Trustee Streit's Discounts For The Disabled Becomes The Law

Oak Lawn Village Trustee Robert Streit, (Dist. 3), announced Sept. 12th that the Village Board has unanimously approved a measure to provide disabled citizens discounts on village vehicle stickers and their garbage collection bills.

Under the program introduced by Streit at the May 14th board meeting, eligible residents will receive the same discounts that are currently available for senior citizens. Each household with a permanently disabled resident will receive a vehicle sticker for $5 rather than the usual price of $25. Disabled residents will also receive a 7.3% discount off each garbage pickup bill.

Streit, a longtime independent Village Trustee, received a cool response from other board members when he initially introduced the measure in May and asked the village's attorneys to draft the appropriate ordinance. However, after Streit provided evidence that the discounts will have a minimal effect on the village's budget, his fellow board members joined Streit in approving the measure on Sept. 10. Streit said that he was ecstatic that his less experienced fellow board members reviewed the evidence he provided and rightly voted for the ordinances.

Streit had noted that the village has excellent discounts for senior citizens and other programs for the needy but that the disabled population did not have a similar discount. Streit developed the idea while working on behalf of one of his district's residents who happens to be disabled. Streit is the only Village Trustee to maintain a staffed district constituent services office in the village. The resident called Streit's district office asking if he was entitled to a discount because of a permanent disability. After investigating the need in the community, Streit prepared an ordinance. Streit said that the measure was long overdue because almost thirty percent of Oak Lawn's disabled live below the poverty line.

This past year, 224 handicapped placards were issued in Oak Lawn. In addition, Streit explained that many disabled residents experience financial hardship because of their inability to work. Mr. Streit said, "It's only fair that we recognize and help citizens within Oak Lawn who already have a difficult path as they cope with a permanent disability".

Streit noted that Oak Lawn has always been known as a community that prides itself on helping its neighbors. "We are a community that comes together to assist each other in time of need", said Streit, who is the longest serving Trustee in the Village.

A village program to provide help shoveling snow and raking leaves to seniors is very popular. Seniors are also entitled to discounts on refuse bills and vehicle stickers.

Streit praised the past efforts of the Village and community organizations for programs that serve the poor and the seniors. He cited the food pantries and The Public Action to Deliver Shelter Program (PADS) which serve the 8% of Oak Lawn's residents that are below the poverty level. He also noted that the Village has recognized veterans who make up almost 9% of Oak Lawn residents, with points towards village jobs, and a service on Veterans Day.

Oak Lawn Independent
9/19/2013, p.11

Large Crowd Attends 'Shuffle'

Despite Threat of Rain, Many Participate in Annual Oak Lawn Event

IN CHARGE OF SHUFFLE—Janet (Haubenreiser) Meyers, president of the Sully Shuffle Foundation, prepares to read off the winners of the fifth annual Sully Shuffle 5K race. A 3K walk was also held. Funds from the event go to fund Parkinson's disease research.
(News-Herald Photo by Joe Boyle)

By JOE BOYLE

Skip Sullivan, a former teacher and varsity baseball coach at Oak Lawn Community High School, always remains optimistic.

"It's a beautiful day," said Sullivan, moments before the beginning of the fifth annual Sully Shuffle. "It's a great day for a run."

Sullivan said this despite gray skies and a slight drizzle that managed to stay away during the 5K run and 3K walk.

But for friends and associates of Sullivan, being optimistic has always been the trait of the former teacher and baseball coach.

Sullivan has been dealing with Parkinson's disease for nine years. He also dealt with the disease during the end of his tenure as the head baseball coach at Oak Lawn High School.

He continues a daily workout regime to keep himself as fit as possible. Complaining is not something Sullivan is going to do.

The Sully Shuffle was started in 2009 by Janet (Haubenreiser) Meyers, who is also the head girls basketball coach at Oak Lawn High. Sullivan is currently an assistant varsity girls basketball coach.

The first year of the run and walk raised $20,000 in donations for Parkinson's disease research.

In 2012, the fourth Sully Shuffle raised $25,000 with hopes that this year's event will surpass that total.

Sullivan is a lifelong resident of Oak Lawn. He starred in football, basketball and baseball at Oak Lawn High in the late 1960s.

Meyers was inspired to create the race and walk for Sullivan, who she feels is an inspirational figure.

"His positive attitude and eternal optimism continues to inspire many," Meyers wrote in this year's flyer.

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OFF TO THE RACES—Participants (at top) in the fifth annual Sully Shuffle 5K race take off Sunday morning from the starting line at 91st and Austin Avenue next to Oak Lawn Community High School. Dan Buys (above, left) placed first overall with a time of 16:30. Elizabeth Lemrise (above, right) is about to cross the finish line in 19:35 to top all female competitors. Lemrise was the top female runner in 2012 as well. Both Buys and Lemrise are graduates of Oak Lawn Community High School.
(News-Herald Photos by Joe Boyle)

Sully Shuffle

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"We are grateful for the support and dedication for our community and the commitment of our participants."

Meyers also wrote that entering this year's event, proceeds from the Sully Shuffle has raised a total of $93,000 for the American Parkinson Disease Association Midwest Chapter to fund PD research.

In addition to baseball and girls basketball, Sullivan has also served as an assistant football and golf coach at Oak Lawn High.

The overall winner of this year's Sully Shuffle run was Dan Buys, who raced in at 16:30, a clip of 5:19 per mile. Buys, 26, was greeted at the finish line by Sullivan. Buys is a graduate of Oak Lawn Community High School.

Placing second overall was last year's winner, Thomas Zero, 27. He raced in at 17:09, a mile pace of 5:32.

Placing first overall among female competitors was Elizabeth Lemrise, who finished in 19:35, a mile pace of 6:18.

Lemrise, 29, was the top female runner last year. She is also a graduate of Oak Lawn Community High School.

Placing second overall among female runners was Tracy Dykstra, who raced in at 21:33, a mile clip of 6:56.

Dykstra, 26, who grew up in South Haven, Mich., and moved to the area two years ago, felt good after the race and her attempt to catch Lemrise.

"I was with her for the first mile," Dykstra said. "After that, I just lost sight of her."

Placing third overall was Rob Lininger (18:34), followed by Tomasz Mariak (19:31), Lemrise, Frank Espinoza (19:58), Alex Fleming (20:55), John Hernandez (21:02), Billy Blaettler (21:12), Justin Waters (21:23) and Dykstra.

South Suburban news-Herald
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SW Symphony To Celebrate Its 50th Year

The Southwest Symphony Orchestra kicks off its golden anniversary season with a concert titled "Timeless Melodies" at 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 6 in the Ozinga Auditorium of Trinity Christian College, 6601 W. College Drive, Palos Heights.

Concert pianist Tomasz Robak, featured on WFMT's Introductions and Impromptu series, is the soloist for Grieg's Piano Concerto in A minor.

Repertoire also includes The Moldau and Four Dance Episodes from Copland's Rodeo.

Tomasz Robak

Tickets, from $5 to $25, may be purchased in advance by calling (708) 802-0686, or by going online at *www.southwestsymphony.com*.

Tickets may also be purchased at the door.

Seniors pay $15. Children ages 12 and younger may attend free.

Instrumentalists wishing to audition for the Symphony should call the number above.

This program is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency.

Southwest Suburban News-Herald 9/20/2013, p.14

Focusing on Oak Lawn Budget

Initial Construction Plans To Begin for Mariano's Fresh Markets

By JOE BOYLE

Discussion centered on the budget and projections for the next five years was the main focus of the Oak Lawn Village Board meeting Tuesday night.

Pat O'Donnell, the new village treasurer, provided a slide presentation to board members and residents who attended the meeting. He was assisted by Brian Hanrahan, the director of finance for the village.

Absent from the meeting was Village Clerk Jane Quinlan, who was in Springfield to take some courses. Christine O'Grady, the deputy village clerk, filled in for her.

Trustee Alex Olejniczak (2nd) was not able to attend the meeting.

O'Donnell, as he did at the Aug. 13 board meeting, presented slides and made projections on the village budget through 2018.

The village treasurer included figures from the General Village Bond notes, Build American Bonds and the 111th Street TIF.

O'Donnell said that home equity loans have been taken out to rebuild streets and sewers.

The Stony Creek Promenade project on 111th Street and Cicero Avenue is not providing any economic growth currently but should in the near future when Mariano's Fresh Markets is constructed, O'Donnell said.

During the slide presentation, O'Donnell and Hanrahan informed the board of incurring debt that the village is saddled with. Funding for pensions has to take place soon, added O'Donnell.

In a statement that was mentioned several times at the Aug. 13 meeting, the village can no longer "kick the can down the road" in terms of dealing with the pension liabilities and incurring debts.

"We just have some gigantic challenges," added O'Donnell.

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Oak Lawn

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Mayor Sandra Bury concurred with O'Donnell's assessment.

"We no longer can be in denial. We need to get a plan and get a hold on this," said Bury.

Village Manager Larry Deetjen agreed with O'Donnell's projection. However, he wanted to point out that while resources from the 111th Street TIF project are stagnant after the demolition of Kmart and Dominick's, the addition of Mariano's and other businesses will more than make up for those losses.

"The Mariano's store alone will double sales at what Dominick's was doing at 111th Street and 87th Street combined," said Deetjen.

Deetjen said that area will be further fenced off to make way for early phase of construction plans for Mariano's next week.

Deetjen also referred to progress along the 95th Street Corridor with the addition of new medical facilities that occurred through TIF funding

While no more TIFs will be discussed, Deetjen added that he would not rule out looking at properties that are not generating any revenue.

Deetjen also discussed the need to eliminate overtime hours from the Oak Lawn Fire Department when it is not necessary.

"It has to be done," said Deetjen. "In this environment, it can't be ignored."

Deetjen said further discussions with the fire department and other unions are forthcoming. He thanked the unions for their input in previous conversations.

The village manager said the pension crisis, which ultimately has to be resolved by the Illinois Legislature, has become an issue because many village workers have been retiring early and are living longer.

He pointed to a *Chicago Tribune* article that appeared Monday detailing the Illinois Constitution being amended in 1970 regarding pensions. Many legislators at the time said the pension problems would result negatively in the future by amending the Constitution.

The Constitution was amended in 1970 to guarantee public workers that their pensions would not be cut.

Trustee Bob Streit (3rd) questioned O'Donnell about some of the projections he gave at the Aug. 13 meeting. Streit reminded O'Donnell that he suggested a hiring freeze at the August meeting.

O'Donnell pointed out that these are only suggestions based on current debts and projections over the next five years. He added that he would be willing to work with the board on any budget recommendations they may have.

Streit also wondered with a budget deficit where the funding for landscaped areas near the tollway along 95th Street came from.

Deetjen explained that an agreement was reached with the Illinois Tollway years ago and projects such as these are occurring in villages throughout the suburbs.

Trustee Carol Quinlan (5th) asked why Deetjen is hiring more employees when budget cuts are looming.

Deetjen replied that he is not hiring more employees. He is just finding out if current part-time employees want to take on more hours working on projects they are best suited for.

The funding for additional hours — $101,000 — has already been budgeted for, said Deetjen. He added that funding for these additional hours will actually result in less than $100,000 spent.

Deetjen also discussed a bus tour conducted by Metro Strategies and the Southwest Conference of Mayors that took place Sept. 18. The trip included a tour of key developments along the Harlem Avenue Corridor that began at Toyota Park.

While the area of Oak Lawn seen from the tour was minimal, Deetjen said that he has already received calls from developers who are interested in areas of the village.

Bury also thanked members of the Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce for holding up signs along the bus route indicating that the village was open for business.

Trustee Terry Vorderer (4th) is concerned about a recent trend in the village in which corporations or companies are buying up homes. While this is not unique to Oak Lawn, Vorderer views this as worrisome. He wonders if these homes will be kept up and cared for. He added that the village should monitor these purchases.

Carol Quinlan brought up the issue of the basketball court at Little Wolfe Playground, which is adjacent to the Wolfe Wildlife Refuge Center near 109th Street and Laramie. The trustee said that she has received numerous complaints about unruly behavior by teens and young adults who are playing basketball.

"When people are feeling intimidated and they can't let their kids ride their bikes, that's not right," said Quinlan.

She asked about some basketball courts in Evergreen Park that have been removed. Quinlan said that she was informed that the behavior is better at these parks. However, Quinlan said she has had little response from the Oak Lawn Park District on this matter.

Quinlan said she would like to hear from the community, whether they agree or disagree with her proposal.

The Oak Lawn Park District Board will hold its next meeting at 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 21 at the Oak View Center, 4625 W. 110th St., Oak Lawn.

Quinlan said she also heard many complaints from elderly residents at the recent senior citizen picnic. The complaints she heard was regarding the new proposed site for Memorial Park, 102nd and Major. Quinlan wondered whose idea was this for a Memorial Park location and how is it being paid for?

Some seniors are concerned they have no control over the proposed center, according to Quinlan.

Trustee Mike Carberry (6th) said that he has reached out to Bob Mariano, owner of Mariano's Fresh Markets. Carberry said that Mariano "is very excited about being in Oak Lawn. He chose to come to Oak Lawn."

Carberry said that paving will most likely begin next week and should be completed by the end of October.

In concluding remarks, Bury said that the senior citizens picnic was a success, despite Quinlan's objections.

"They had a lovely time," added Bury.

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9/27/2013, p.1

Tow Trucks For Tots Seeks Out More Toys

Tow Trucks for Tots, the world's largest tow truck parade, will be held at 9 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 10 beginning in Joliet.

Oak Lawn resident Ed Forsythe, from Jack's Towing, is president of the Professional Towing and Recovery Operators of Illinois. He is helping to organize the parade, which is about 41 miles.

The parade will continue from Joliet to the Stevenson Expressway (I-55) and will continue to Harlem Avenue and exit at Toyota Park, 7000 S. Harlem Ave., Bridgeview.

Unwrapped new toys may be dropped off during October in the lobby at the Oak Lawn Village Hall. No stuffed animals, toy swords or guns will be allowed.

This Tow Trucks for Tots parade will attempt to set a Guinness record for most tow trucks in a parade.

All toys collected at this event will be turned over to the Toys for Tots organization.

More information may be obtained by email at *Rherpich@oaklawn-il.gov* or *jquinlan@oaklawn-il.gov*.

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LCM Seeks Volunteers At Oak Lawn Site

Little Company of Mary is looking for energetic and friendly individuals to donate their time to greet and guide patients at their newest state-of-the-art medical facility in Oak Lawn.

The Outpatient Center is a 51,000-square-foot, three-story state-of-the-art medical center at 6700 W. 95th St.

Volunteers at Little Company of Mary will perform many services.

The Little Company staff is searching for men and women to help provide directions, greet patients, and escort patients throughout the facility.

Those who would like to become a volunteer at Little Company of Mary are asked for a minimum commitment of four hours a week for one year.

For more information about volunteer opportunities at Little Company of Mary's Outpatient Care Center in Oak Lawn, call Volunteer Resources at (708) 229-5280.

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Oak Lawn faces budget woes

by Matt Mayer

Village Treasurer Pat O'Donnell and Finance Director Brian Hannigan gave an overview presentation regarding the village financial budget shortfalls at the recent Oak Lawn Board of Trustees meeting. O'Donnell's options encompass cuts and layoffs in several departments, tax hikes, as well as a review of 2013 expenditures. Otherwise the village will continue to "kick the can" by not paying recommended pension contributions, and incurring additional debt, said O'Donnell.

The village must fund its pension obligations at 90 percent in the next 3 years or the state will begin collecting local sales tax revenue to make up for the shortfall said Hannigan. Village manager Larry Deetjen said there is little change in the $50.7 million revenue for 2013 as well as the projected figure over the next few years, which raises the deficit $10.6 million in 2015 and $11 million in 2016 respectively.

In 2013 the village sold a parking lot and a group of stores to Beverly Bank for $1.8 million. One of the stores housed the Senior Center along with the Chamber of Commerce. Upon completion the site will be the home of Oak Lawn Bank and Trust. This one time influx of money helped plug the budget shortfall, said Hannigan

The village pensions and retires medical plans caused the 2013 budget to fall short by $4.8 million. Under- funded plans are responsible for $5.8 million of the projected $8.7 million budget shortfall in 2014. There are also more retirees and they are living longer, said Deetjen.

Estimated sales taxes are expected to rise slowly from $13.7 million in 2014 to $15.4 million in 2018. With the opening of Mariano's at 111th and Cicero Avenue, sales tax revenues are expected to increase, said Deetjen. Mayor Sandra Bury said she and several trustees are committed to solve the budgetary crisis without raising property taxes. Officials will begin discussing the financial choices in detail at the Oct 16 Board of Trustees meeting.

Oct. 19. Check-in starts at 8:30 a.m., and the race begins at 9:15 a.m. between Buildings C and D on campus, 9000 W. College Pkwy., Palos Hills. The race will take runners twice and walkers once around the perimeter path encircling the campus.

Participation in the 5K, or 3.1-mile jaunt, is free and open to the community, ages 16 and older. Refreshments will be provided following the event, and prizes will be awarded to the top male and female finishers of both the run and walk.

The event is sponsored by Moraine Valley's Health Fitness Center. Registration forms can be picked up and dropped off in the Fitness Center in Building G. Participants also can register the day of. For more information, call (708) 974-5701.

Village View
10/1/2013, p.5

'This is so horrendous'

Police seek motive in brutal murder of 6-month-old in Oak Lawn

BY STEVE METSCH

smetsch@southtownstar.com

Ella Hennessy, 8, tells her aunt, Carrie Hennessy, about the sympathy card she made for the family of Vivian Summers, the baby allegedly murdered by her grandmother in Oak Lawn. | STEVE METSCH~SUN-TIMES MEDIA

A police investigation into the brutal murder of a 6-month-old girl centers on determining the motive of the alleged killer — the baby's grandmother — an Oak Lawn woman who has been charged with first-degree murder, an official said Tuesday.

"We'll try to get information (about her) from the family. We don't know what her life was like in Poland. Was there something going on in the family that nobody wants to share at this point? That's undetermined right now," Oak Lawn Police Division Chief Michael Kaufmann said.

The grisly murder was the hot topic of conversation Tuesday in Oak Lawn, be it at the police station, the village hall, coffee shops, the library or the 6600 block of 91st Street, where a makeshift memorial of stuffed animals, sympathy cards and candles sat in front of the house where the baby was killed.

One man from Burbank, neighbor Caren Hennessy said, stopped Monday evening to put up a small pink cross with the words "Vivian RIP." That's for Vivian Summers, the Bolingbrook baby whoM police say was murdered Sunday with a sledgehammer and carving knife by her grandmother, Alfreda Giedrojc.

Giedrojc, whose 62nd birthday is Wednesday, was at Cermak Hospital, on the grounds of Cook County Jail, on Tuesday and was expected to undergo psychiatric evaluations, Kaufmann said. A sheriff's spokeswoman said Giedrojc has been in the jail hospital since a judge denied her bail.

"She is under constant watch," Kaufmann said.

Close attention also is being given to the officers working on the case, especially those who were first to arrive at the nightmarish scene inside the bilevel home with a well-manicured lawn.

Counseling is available to any police personnel who have worked on the case, Kaufmann said.

"I'm not going to say particularly if anyone did (take up the offer). We do offer that in any kind of trauma situation. We offer it to anyone. We have a priest who came in, (and) staff from Christ Hospital," he said.

"Anyone who's involved in trauma, first responder or hospital staff, on something like this, the images are something you don't get out of your mind. You lay in bed at 4 o'clock in the morning and vividly remember things. A tender-aged child who can do nothing to protect themselves or provoke anybody? Those are the ones that certainly are most horrific. There's not always answers," Kaufmann said.

Even police officers hardened by years of dealing with criminals were shaken by what they found in the home on Sunday.

"You couldn't be a caring human without having this affect you in some way, shape or form," Kaufmann said.

At home Monday night, Kaufmann turned off the TV so his 12-year-old son wouldn't hear the gruesome details.

"Our job, with a heinous crime such as this, is to get that person off the street. You're looking at something so horrific. Is that an evil act, or is it something with mental illness? We can't determine that. That's going to be up to the courts," Kaufmann said.

Police, he said, "have what we think is a very, very solid case for what she was charged with."

Back on 91st Street, a steady stream of curious mourners drove past the house Tuesday, neighbors Caren Hennessy and Maggie McGowan said.

"Some of the older women were crying. This is so horrendous. A normal person doesn't do this. An innocent baby ... " Caren said, shaking her head.

McGowan said none of the Giedrojc family members has been at the house or at Giedrojc's son's house across the street since Sunday.

McGowan and Hennessy both thought the baby had been shaken to death when they heard a baby had died.

"Not what she (allegedly) did," McGowan said.

Giedrojc

Moments later, two Polish women stopped their car in front of the house.

"It's terrible, terrible," said an older woman, dabbing her eyes.

They admired the memorial that included a card reading "Sorry for your loss, feel better soon" made by 8-year-old Ella Hennessy.

"I feel bad for them," Ella said.

Her sister, Maggie, 10, also made a sympathy card. Their aunt, Carrie Hennessy, said it's been painful for many in Oak Lawn.

"It's just sad. You feel badly for the whole family because they've lost two family members. It's hard to not judge the grandmother, but we just don't understand why," Carrie said.

Giedrojc, who is from Poland, moved to America 30 years ago but still needed a Polish interpreter in court Monday to explain the charges levied against her.

Her next court date is Oct. 28 at the courthouse in Bridgeview.

SouthtownStar
10/9/2013, p.3

O. Lawn Board Argue Over Transparency

Southwest Suburban News-Herald
10/11/2013, p.1

By MICHELE BEATTIE

Issues related to conflict of interest and lack of transparency dominated the Oak Lawn Village Board Meeting on Tuesday night.

An ordinance was introduced amending the Oak Lawn Village code and creating a new section entitled "conflicts of interest and improper influence." Trustee Bob Streit (3rd) said while the ordinance was a good start, it does not go far enough to address all of the possible conflicts of interest, ethical issues and loopholes with regard to members of the board.

Streit directed his comments to each board member, village attorneys, village manager Larry Deetjen and Mayor Sandra Bury.

The attorneys, Streit said, should not be exempt from the ordinance especially since they are the highest paid officials in the village and "have a great deal of influence on this administration." Streit said that the attorneys have been paid over $1 million a year and continue to be paid at that level this year. Therefore, the attorneys, says Streit, "should be held to the same standards that we hold others."

Streit then pinpointed a suggestion made by Deetjen at a June 13 board meeting in which Deetjen said that Wells Fargo was interested in getting business from the Oak Lawn Village.

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Oak Lawn

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"Former village trustee, Tom Phelan," Streit said," who created the infamous 'hit list' and influences this administration works for Wells Fargo and would be able to get business from us even if the ordinance before us is passed. Let's close that loophole because it isn't a good ordinance unless it applies to everyone."

Streit also asked for a clearer definition of "domestic partner" in the ordinance as it applies to the mayor and trustees.

He acknowledged that all members of the board are married except for Bury. Streit felt that the ordinance should define "anyone who has a sexual or cohabitation relationship with any official." And that the term 'domestic partner' does not describe all relationships people have today.

Streit said, "The mayor's relationships should not be exempt just because she is not married."

Streit continued to bring attention to members of the board who own businesses. Bury is an optometrist who owns Complete Vision Care in Oak Lawn. Trustee Tom Desmond (1st) operates a bar in Chicago Ridge that Streit says is popular with a variety of contractors, some of which are doing work in Oak Lawn.

Streit requested that the ordinance be referred back to Committee for review. The vote to proceed with the ordinance passed 4-2 with Streit and Trustee Carol Quinlan (5th) voting against passage. Trustee Terry Vorderer (4th) qualified his approval saying Streit made some valid points and that the ordinance is a start, but needs adjustments.

Bury then asked Streit for an apology related to his innuendo about her personal and professional life. Streit felt he said nothing inappropriate and refused to apologize.

Another agenda resolution requested by Streit and Quinlan addressed records open for inspection reports. Quinlan felt that all records should be open to all members of the board.

Currently, personnel records are open only to the mayor and village manager. Vorderer felt there would be a security failure if more people were allowed to view records. After discussion among board members a vote was taken with only Streit and Quinlan voting to amend the current policy.

"This administration ran on a policy of transparency," said Streit. "One would think that transparency would include providing village records to all trustees. This administration does not have a good record on transparency."

Then after a lengthy defense of the need for transparency, Streit said,"what is it that this Board has to hide?"

In other news, a request by Deetjen to approve a renewal of the $5m line of credit with Standard Bank set to expire in 2016 was approved.

Johnson-Phelps VFW Post 5220 on behalf of Boy Scout Gioacchino Fasullo, Jr. was granted a request for a special event permit. Fasullo will be collecting worn U.S. flags and conduct a retirement ceremony under the guidance of the Oak Lawn Fire Department as part of his Eagle Scout project. Dates will be set for November or March, 2014.

Recognition and a plaque was presented to Noah Kaniuk, 9, for his good deed. When Noah found $200 in an Oak Lawn park, he asked his father, Gary, what he should do with the money. Gary directed his son to take the found cash to the Oak Lawn Police Department. The money was held for two months. When no one claimed the money, it was returned to Noah.

An ordinance was approved for a three lot subdivision with variations in lot size at 9614 and 9616 S. 52nd Ave. The three lots will each be 41.67 feet wide. The standard lot in the Village is 50 feet wide.

Police Look Into Child's Death

Oak Lawn Grandmother Is Charged with Murdering 5-Month-Old

CHARGED WITH MURDER—Oak Lawn resident Alfreda Giedrojc has been charged with the killing of her 5-month-old granddaughter, Vivian Summers. Giedrojc is charged with striking the infant with sledgehammer and slitting her throat.

By DERMOT CONNOLLY

Alfreda Giedrojc, charged with the murder of her 5-month-old granddaughter at her Oak Lawn home on Sunday, was being held in Cermak Hospital, on the grounds of Cook County Jail this week, following a bond hearing at Bridgeview Courthouse on Monday.

At the hearing, Circuit Court Judge Kerry Kennedy denied bond on the first-degree murder charge at the request of prosecutors. Afterward, outside the courthouse, Cook County Assistant State's Attorney Michael Deno outlined the case against Giedrojc, of 6605 W. 91st St., who turned 62 on Wednesday.

Deno said that Giedrojc's son-in-law, Bolingbrook resident Joe Summers, had brought his infant daughter, Vivian Summers, to the grandmother's house in the 6600 block of West 91st Street on Sunday, while he went across the street to Giedrojc's son's house to help with a repair project.

Giedrojc's husband, Boleslaw, soon followed him across the street to check on the project, leaving her alone with the baby.

The prosecutor said Giedrojc then moved the child off the couch, where she had been sleeping, and placed her on the floor. He said she then retrieved a sledgehammer from a closet, and began hitting the child with it in the head and body. Because the baby was "still crying and moving," he said, Giedrojc got a "large carving knife" from the kitchen and used it to slit the baby's throat.

The baby was taken by ambulance to Christ Hospital but died a short time later.

Deno said Giedrojc, a native of Poland who has lived in Oak Lawn with her family for more than 20 years, admitted in a videotaped confession that she had placed the

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MURDER DETAILS--Assistant Cook County State's Attorney Michael Deno conducts a press briefing following a bail hearing on Monday for Oak Lawn resident Alfreda Guedrojc, charged with first-degree murder in the death of her 5-month-old granddaughter. Prosecutors say she gave a videotaped confession, admitting to using a sledgehammer and carving knife to kill the infant in her home on 91st Street.

(News-Herald Photo by Steve Neuhaus)

OAK LAWN MURDER—The house at 6605 W. 91st St. where Alfreda Giedrojc allegedly murdered her 5-month-old granddaughter on Sunday, is surrounded by police tape earlier this week. At right, Oak Lawn Police Chief Mike Murray discusses the case following a hearing at the Bridgeview Courthouse, where a judge denied Giedrojc bond.

(News-Herald Photos by Steve Neuhaus)

Infant Killed

continued from page 1

sledgehammer in the closet the previous night. He would not speculate whether that meant it was premeditated murder, or about any motive for the crime. She had no previous criminal record.

Oak Lawn police responded to a 911 call from the house at 10:46 a.m. Sunday, which Division Chief Michael Kaufmann said was placed by Giedrojc's son.

"It is a tragedy. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family," said Oak Lawn Police Chief Michael Murray at the press briefing outside the courthouse. A 26-year veteran, Murray said he could not recall any crime quite this horrific in his career. This was the first murder in three years in Oak Lawn.

"This is going to be a very difficult time for everyone, including our officers and the people who responded to the scene." He said counseling has been offered to the responding officers and other village employees.

The next court hearing for Giedrojc is set for Oct. 28.

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CRASHES INTO BUILDING—Oak Lawn Police and Fire units responded to an incident on Oct. 3 in which a driver crashed into a medical building at 4445 W. 95th St. in Oak Lawn. The driver was hospitalized with non-threatening injuries at Advocate Christ Medical Center. He was cited for failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident.

Crashes Into Building On 95th Street

Oak Lawn Police and fire department units were dispatched to a 911 call after a driver of a vehicle crashed into a building at 4445 W. 95th St. at about 8:49 a.m. on Oct. 3.

The 23-year-old male driver from Chicago was taken to Advocate Christ Medical Center in Oak Lawn, with non-threatening injuries, by Oak Lawn paramedics.

No other injuries were reported. Police said there were no other passengers in the car.

Upon arrival by police and fire units, the driver of the 1997 Saturn had crashed into a medical building. The Saturn's front half was inside the building's east wall.

The driver was cited for failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident. The driver was traveling east on 95th Street and Kilbourn Avenue and could not explain how he lost control, police said.

According to reports, the driver of the Saturn hit the curb and a light pole, and ended up crashing into the building.

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HONESTY IS BEST POLICY—A plaque was presented to Noah Kaniuk (right), 9, for returning $200 he found to the Oak Lawn Police Department. The money was held for two months. When no one claimed the money, it was returned to Noah. Also on hand were his brothers (from left) Seth and Sam and his father, Gary.

(News-Herald Photo by Michele Beattie)

Southwest Suburban News-Heral
10/11/2013, p.22

Oak Lawn approves amendment to ethics ordinance

by Matt Mayer

Officials discussed an ordinance amending a title and a section regarding conflicts of interest and improper influence at the Oct. 8 Oak Lawn Board of Trustees meeting. Trustee Bob Streit (D-3) said, "It isn't a good ordinance if it doesn't apply to everyone. For example Former Trustee Tom Phelan, who created the infamous "Hit List" and influences this administration, works for Wells Fargo. Under this ordinance he would be able to receive business from the village if the ordinance was passed", said Streit. "Lets close all the loop holes because it isn't a good ordinance unless it applies to everyone". Streit was referring to Village Manager Larry Deetjen's comment at a previous board meeting that Wells Fargo was interested in getting business from the village.

Streit also said the ordinance needs to apply to all officials including village manager, Mayor Sandra Bury, board members and attorneys. But following the discussion, the amendment to the ordinance was approved.

Another topic of discussion was the relocation of the longtime village operated Senior Center, which was located on 95th Street. In 2013 the village sold the parcel of stores, which also housed the Chamber of Commerce and a parking lot to Beverly Bank for $1.8 million to help plug a budget shortfall. At this time the village entered into an intergovernmental agreement with McGugan School, 5220 W. 105th Street. Following a backlash, the village began to seek another site to better serve the seniors. A memo sent by the village informed seniors that the village board authorized Village Manager Larry Deetjen to explore the feasibility of transferring the Senior Center to the Park district for the renovation of the bath house at the former Memorial Park pool, 102nd and Major Avenue, which closed a few years ago, into a free standing Senior Center.

Bury said the Park District is better equipped than the village to provide services to seniors. Trustee Carol Quinlan said the mayor has never explained why the Memorial Park pool bathhouse was chosen as a preliminary site or discussed how renovations would be funded. The village board should meet with seniors before the proposal moves forward. This is a terrible idea, Quinlan added.

A freedom of information request regarding an intergovernmental agreement between the village and the park district regarding senior services and a senior center provided no information, said Streit. "They do exist", said Bury. Streit countered and said if they exist the village needs to provide them. Bury has totally disregarded the Senior Citizens Commission by not seeking their input on her proposal, Streit added.

Village View
10/15/2013, p.1

Fall Craft and Vendor Fair

Johnson Phelps VFW Ladies Aux.is hosting a Fall Vendor & Craft Fair;

Sunday, October 20th., 10am -3pm; at the Post home, 9514 S.52nd Ave. Oak Lawn,IL; to benefit their Veteran and Community programs.

Shop two floors of vendors and crafts- Tastefully Simple, Pampered Chef, Scentsy, Nomads, Origami Owl, Premier Design, and many more. There will be a Raffle Table, and Bake Sale.

Food/beverages available for purchase. Admission is Free-Call 708-423-5220.

Village View
10/15/2013, p.2

Oak Lawn Village will host 6th annual Pumpkin Festival

The Village of Oak Lawn is sponsoring their 6th Annual Pumpkin Festival on the Village Green on Saturday, October 19, 2013. This event will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Bring the family to enjoy some free fun! The festival will include hay rides, pony rides, and pumpkins for sale! There will also be a pig train, moon jump, and a 90 foot fun slide!!

The Oak Lawn Village Green is located at 94th & Cook Avenue; north of the Oak Lawn Library.

Village View
10/15/2013, p.6

Digging Begins At Stony Creek TIF Promenade

By JOE BOYLE

The first phase of the construction is taking place at the Stony Creek Promenade project along 111th Street and Cicero Avenue in Oak Lawn.

Residents have been questioning the Oak Lawn Village Board when actual work would begin for the TIF project. A Kmart and Dominick's store were demolished to make way for Mariano's Fresh Markets.

Construction workers were out in force last Saturday afternoon, digging up concrete to make way for new pavement at the site.

Larry Deetjen, the village manager, informed the Oak Lawn Village Board at its Sept. 24 meeting that construction would begin within a week.

Details about the current Oak Lawn budget took place at the same meeting.

Larry O'Donnell, the new village treasurer, said that currently the 111th Street TIF project is not providing any revenue. He quickly added that with the completion of the project, the location will see a boost in economic growth.

Deetjen informed everyone at the meeting that the project is on schedule and that it will provide much needed resources to the village.

"The Mariano's store alone will double sales at what Dominick's was

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doing at 111th Street and 87th Street combined," said Deetjen.

Despite cloudy skies and a steady drizzle, groundbreaking ceremonies took place on April 12 for the beginning of the construction phase of Mariano's Fresh Market.

Construction plans for Mariano's Fresh Market is the centerpiece of a Tax Incremental Financing District (TIF) project to rejuvenate this particular Oak Lawn intersection.

The project has been often debated over the past eight years because of the uncertainty of the future of local businesses currently at the location, such as the popular Flap-Jack's restaurant.

Deetjen had stated during an Oak Lawn Village Board meeting earlier this year that Trader Joe's was pursued for the corner, but they declined.

But Deetjen and village trustees were more than happy to have Mariano's Fresh Market at the 111th Street location.

Bob Mariano, owner of Mariano's Fresh Market and chairman and CEO of Roundy's Supermarkets, Inc., was on hand for the ceremonies on April 12.

"We are going to give (Oak Lawn) the best service," said Mariano. "We promise the most phenomenal shopping experience."

Deetjen added his excitement of adding Mariano's Fresh Market to Oak Lawn.

"You (Mariano's) are all about customer service and we had our chances (at other businesses), but we have the one that will be a great addition to the village," said Deetjen.

Deetjen and Mariano stated that not only will the food market be the centerpiece of the TIF project but it will also be an integral part of linking future development of the adjacent Wolfe Wildlife Refuge Center.

This will be the 10th location for Mariano's. The first store opened in Arlington Heights in July 2010.

Plans for the 70,000-square-foot shopping facility will employ about 400 people and will feature upscale architectural aesthetics, according to village officials.

Deetjen also lauded the efforts of Hamilton Partners, the developer of the Stony Creek Promenade project. Deetjen said that the village and Mariano's will continue to work with Hamilton Partners to secure other successful tenants to the development.

Mariano's is noted for having locally grown food and specialty products imported from around the world.

Southwest Suburban News-Harold
11/18/2013, p.1

Eliminate Basketball Hoops?

Oak Lawn Trustee Would Like To See Them Removed After Fight

By DERMOT CONNOLLY

Oak Lawn Trustee Carol Quinlan (5th) would like to see basketball hoops removed from Little Wolfe Playground, at least temporarily, citing problems with people who use them, but Park District officials say they are monitoring the location, but have received no complaints.

Quinlan, who lives near the park at 107th and Laramie Avenue, said this week that constituents had been calling her complaining of problems with people using the basketball courts long before the Aug. 14 fight that occurred there between two groups of teens, one black and one white. Two people were arrested following the fight, and the issue gained more attention.

Quinlan said the issue is not racially motivated, but said the courts, especially during the summer, were mainly being used by people from outside Oak Lawn.

"As of last winter, I've had a lot of residents complaining about the noise, bad language and litter (around the basketball courts)," she said. "A lot of residents say they don't feel safe there," when 10 or 15 people are gathered around. She said several people, including grandmothers, have complained of harassment from basketball players making vulgar comments or gestures as they pass.

"I need to address it when that many people are calling me," she said, adding that the adults and older teens at the basketball court also hang on the children's play equipment nearby, possibly damaging it.

"That equipment is not made for people over 150 pounds," she said. "I don't have any kind of agenda here. I am just responding to the concerns of residents."

She said she spoke to officials in Evergreen Park, where outdoor basketball nets were removed from

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HOOPS OR NO HOOPS—The basketball court at the Little Wolfe Playground recreation center near 107th and Laramie Avenue in Oak Lawn has become a source of controversy after a fight broke out during a game played there in August. A group of black and white teens got into a fight that resulted in some of the teens needing hospitalization. Oak Lawn Trustee Carol Quinlan (5th) said she has received numerous complaints about unruly behavior at the basketball court. Quinlan would like to see the basketball hoops taken down, at least temporarily.

(News-Herald Photo by Joe Boyle)

Basketball

continued from page 1

parks, and that apparently solved similar problems there.

Quinlan suggested the possibility of taking the hoops down temporarily, to see if the problems are resolved.

"It is sad because when my kids were young, they used to play basketball there, but it is not local kids playing there anymore. It can be accessed from a lot of areas," she said, noting that the paths through the adjoining Wolfe Wildlife Refuge are used to get there.

"Hopefully we can come up with something that makes everyone happy."

"If they are calling (Quinlan), they are calling the wrong place," said Park District Board President Sue Murphy. "She has nothing to do with the parks. She represents the village."

Murphy said park district officials and police have not received any complaints about problems there, and have not seen any since the incident in August.

"We are monitoring it, and the police are monitoring it. And there have been no problems," Murphy said. In addition to basketball courts, the playground includes volleyball nets, a tot lot and walking paths.

"It is a safe place to come and play," she added.

The Park District meets monthly, and Murphy said Wednesday that the issue will not be discussed at the Oct. 21 meeting unless someone puts it on the agenda.

Anyone who has experienced problems there may call the park district at (708) 857-2222.

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10/18/2013, p.1

A healthy dose of arguing at Oak Lawn meeting

Whacking board members' health insurance and many hot issues dominate Tuesday's gathering

Trustee Tim Desmond

Mayor Sandra Bury

By Bob Rakow
Staff Reporter

Several political hot-button issues dominated Tuesday's Oak Lawn Village Board meeting as trustees bickered over transparency, the future of the senior center and political fundraising techniques.

A majority of trustees, however, expressed support for a proposal to eliminate health insurance for board members.

The proposal was put forth by Trustee Tim Desmond, who called for "shared sacrifice" at a time when the board is considering several significant cuts to balance the village budget.

Desmond, who joined the village health plan in April, asked that the proposal be placed on the Nov. 12 agenda.

Several trustees and Mayor Sandra Bury currently take full or partial health benefits.

Trustee Alex Olejniczak said he does not plan to participate in the village health insurance plan in the next fiscal year. Bury said she does not take her salary as liquor commissioner, which is comparable to the cost of her insurance and praised Desmond for his leadership in making the proposal.

"I think he sees the hypocrisy, as I did," Bury said.

While Desmond's proposal was met with approval, discussion on other topics was not as harmonious.

For example, Olejniczak took issue with Streit's contention that he participated in a secret meeting with Bury, Village Manager Larry Deetjen, Park Board Director Maddie Kelly and Park Board President Sue Murphy to discuss a plan to transition senior services to the district.

He said Streit misled people by saying that the meeting was attended by a majority of village board members.

Trustee Carol Quinlan, meanwhile, repeated her request for a meeting between the board and seniors to garner feedback regarding plans to outsource senior services and renovate the Memorial Park bathhouse into a senior center.

Quinlan, who previously called for such a meeting, did not receive a response to her proposal.

"I'd love to know what's going on," Quinlan said.

Olejniczak also chastised Streit for pressuring residents and businesses to attend his recent fundraiser by calling them numerous times in the days leading up to the event.

"You would think that if somebody said, 'No, I'm not attending or no, I'm not going to be there,' that would be enough," he said.

Three people who placed the fundraising calls attended the meeting and said they were offended by remarks made at the Oct. 8 board meeting alleging that pressure tactics were used to convince people to attend the fundraiser.

"It never occurred," Streit said. "People have a right to make campaign donations. My campaign fund is in complete compliance with all laws."

Streit, meanwhile, proposed an ordinance requiring website transparency, which would require a plethora of information such as videos of meetings, public records, budgets, audits, contracts and salary and benefits be available on the village's website.

The information is similar to items on the Illinois Policy Institute's transparency checklist, which Bury is following in the development of a new website.

Oak Lawn Reporter
10/24/2013, p.3

Oak Lawn Trustees Approve

Fixed Attorney's Contract

In order to save the village money in its current financial crisis, Village Manager Larry Deetjen proposed a contract that will consolidate the position of attorney for the fire and police commissions, the village adjudicator and village prosecutor. The consolidated position would cost the village approximately $60,000 per year.

Attorney Kevin Cunningham has been picked to fill the position. After Trustee Robert Streit questioned his credentials, it was stated that Cunningham is certified as an adjudicator as is required.

During the last board meeting, it was brought up that someone on the Streit campaign "strong armed" people to make contributions or attend the recently held campaign fundraiser. Several campaign workers addressed the board stating that they were angry at the accusation since none of them would ever act that way. However, it was stated that calls were received that complained about the tactics. Mayor Sandra Bury stated that she would stand by her comments and that she was told it was 'a male voice' that was heard.

The board approved the 'financial assistance' agreement between the village and Advocate Christ Medical Center. The agreement will see the hospital paying the village approximately $2.3 million for construction fees as well as payment instead of taxes. This payment will last until January 2016 but is expected to continue in the future. The hospital being a not-for-profit entity does not have to pay taxes but does have an impact on the village's resources. This agreement is designed to help cover the village's finances.

The board also approved the implementation of 4-way stop signs at 97th and Marion and 97th and Merrimac to help alleviate traffic problems at that intersection.

A plea for volunteers was made for the village's annual Snow Removal program. Trustee Alex Olejniczak, who started the annual program, said the village is need of more volunteers for the program, which starts on Dec. 1st. Seniors must apply to the village so they can be paired with snow shoveling volunteers.

This is a chance to fulfill community service hours for students, scout troops and youth groups. Those interested in volunteers can call the Oak Lawn Police Department at (708) 499-7880.

Owner-operator of Stacked reported that the restaurant, located across from the village hall, will be hosting WGN on Nov. 2nd and asked for permission to erect a tent on the side of the building to keep overflow patrons safe and not to bother any neighboring business. The event is for the Thanksgiving Food Drive. He was given permission.

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Fund-raiser Stirs Controversy

Oak Lawn Trustee Receives Support and Some Criticism

By JOE BOYLE

The Oak Lawn Village Board approved several measures Tuesday night, while debates ensued over a senior center and a recent fund-raiser.

During the public comments segment at the beginning of the meeting, several residents spoke out claiming they were criticized over perceived tactics they used when making phone calls on behalf of Trustee Bob Streit (3rd).

The residents were making calls to businesses for donations to a fund-raiser sponsored by Streit. They spoke about how they were criticized at a recent board meeting by Mayor Sandra Bury and Trustee Alex Olejniczak (2nd), specifically.

Bury and Olejniczak were critical of what they said were some of the tactics of the callers. The two board members said some of the callers implied that if they did not donate to the fund-raiser, they would suffer repercussions.

Streit later came to the defense of the callers. A couple of the residents who made the calls asked for an apology. Olejniczak later responded to the complaints by saying he was indeed sorry if he offended anyone. However, Olejniczak said he did receive some complaints about strong-arm tactics by some callers who, he added, were pressuring businesses to donate to Streit's fund-raiser.

Olejniczak added that his criticism is more with Streit than those residents who made the calls.

The meeting began to heat up when Trustee Tim Desmond (1st) thanked residents who attended his recent open house event. But he quickly added that "we are going to be facing some tough decisions." He then called for all part-time employees, which includes board members, to no longer accept pensions.

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HONOR DENTIST—Oak Lawn Mayor Sandra Bury reads a proclamation in honor of the late Dr. Bart Kostrubala, a longtime Oak Lawn dentist who died on Sept. 24. Bury read the proclamation during the Oak Lawn Board meeting Tuesday night honoring Kostrubala for his years of community service to the village. Standing to the right of Bury is Gary Kostrubala, the son of the dentist, who is joined by other family members.
(News-Herald Photo by Joe Boyle)

Oak Lawn

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His proposal was met mostly with approval by board members, including Trustees Terry Vorderer (4th) and Mike Carberry (6th). Streit objects to eliminating pensions.

The topic of the senior center was addressed by Olejniczak. Streit insists that a new senior center could have been built if the board approved a plan worked out by previous Mayor Dave Heilmann and his administration with Advocate Christ Medical Center. The village and Advocate would have worked out a partnership in which a senior center could have been built at the old Beatty Lumber site, Streit said.

"The problem we have now is where a new senior center will be," said Olejniczak. "But there is misguided information out there."

Olejniczak did say that the previous administration worked out a deal for the Oak Lawn Bank and Trust to locate on 95th Street, which meant that the Oak Lawn Senior Center at 5300 W. 95th St. and the adjacent Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce had to move. The chamber is now located at the Metra Station.

Officials and residents attended the Oak Lawn Bank and Trust groundbreaking that was held Tuesday morning.

The new senior center is temporarily at the old McGugan School site at 5220 W. 105th St. Plans for another senior center are being looked into by the current administration.

Olejniczak said that while the Heilmann administration worked out the details for the Oak Lawn Bank and Trust to come to Oak Lawn, no set plans were made for where the senior center was going to move to.

Streit went to the defense of the previous administration.

"The current board implied that the village wasn't run well in the past," said Streit. "Actually, it was in fine financial condition. They can carry out this agenda of slash and burn, but I know better."

Streit stated that recent figures indicate that the village is lacking in online transparency, stating that Oak Lawn is listed with a figure of 41.5 out of 100 points. Streit proposed an ordinance for specific online information be provided, ranging from contracts, taxes and fees.

Bury responded to Streit's complaints about the village Web site, stating that "it is going to be done." She told Streit that he is well aware that it is going to be taken care of. She added that Orland Park had problems a year ago before they resolved their issues.

A motion to approve a fixed contract fee for attorney Kevin Cunningham was met with some resistance from Streit. Larry Deetjen, the village manager, stated that Cunningham's "performance has been exceptional" and that he is doing the work done previously by three attorneys.

Vorderer said that consolidating three attorneys into one will save the village money.

"Good job, Mr. Deetjen," said Vorderer.

The board approved the fixed contract fee for Cunningham by a 4-2 margin. Streit and Trustee Carol Quinlan (5th) opposed the motion.

Coincidentally, a flyer arrived at many Oak Lawn homes on Tuesday under the title of "Oak Lawn News." The flyer referred to health insurance coverage taken by Bury, Desmond and Olejniczak. The flyer also criticized Bury for hiring Cunningham, stating that he supplied 10 campaign workers for the then mayoral candidate.

The issue was brought up at the board meeting by Streit. Bury responded that she had hundreds of supporters during the campaign.

Another argument took place over funding for the 9/11 Memorial near the Metra Station. Streit insisted that funding came from taxpayers. Streit's criticisms were leveled against Bury, who was president of the Oak Lawn Rotary Club at the time and led the effort for the memorial.

Deetjen countered that funding came through contributions from local businesses and the fire and police departments, which resulted in more than $400,000.

An emotional moment occurred at the board meeting when a proclamation was read by Bury for the family of Dr. Bart Kostrubala, a longtime dentist from Oak Lawn, who died Sept. 24.

Kostrubala was active in several organizations in the village. He started a speed skating team and was a member of the Marist Fathers Club.

"He was patient, diligent and silently resolute," said his son, Gary. "He was a great man and I really miss him."

Clay Gervais, from the Oak Lawn Kiwanis, made a plea to residents at the meeting. The organization is in need of new members. Without new members, Gervais said, the local Kiwanis chapter may have to disband.

The Oak Lawn Kiwanis will hold a meeting at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 29 at the Village Hall. They will answer any questions residents have at this meeting.

The board also approved a referral to the Traffic Review Committee for stop signs at 97th Street and

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Dream Comes True For Oak Lawn Resident

Winning the lottery is a dream come true – literally – for Abeer Asfour (pictured). "I've been having a recurring dream that I won the lottery, and my dream came true!" Asfour said after matching all five numbers – 08 – 09 – 15 – 18 – 24 – to win $500,000 in the October 4th Lucky Day Lotto midday drawing.

Asfour, an Oak Lawn resident for 20 years, is married with four children. She and her husband plan to invest the windfall for their children. "We will also donate to our church and we might buy a new car." When asked if she had any advice for other lottery players, Asfour said, "If you have a dream that you won the lottery, you should buy a ticket!"

An occasional lottery player, Asfour said she buys a Lucky Day Lotto ticket once or twice a month. She purchased her winning Quick Pick ticket at Hani's Liquor Station, 2601 West 51st Street in Chicago. The retailer received a $5,000 bonus, equal to 1 percent of the prize amount, for selling the winning ticket.

Jackpots for Lucky Day Lotto start at $100,000. Drawings are twice a day, seven days a week with over 40,000 winners every day. That's over 250,000 winners in Illinois every week! For more information, visit www.illinoislottery.com.

Oak Lawn Independent
10/31/2013, p.1

Faces Judge, Accused Of Killing Infant

By DERMOT CONNOLLY

A hearing was held Monday for Alfreda Giedrojc, who is accused of murdering her 5-month-old granddaughter at her Oak Lawn home on Oct. 6.

Giedrojc appeared before Circuit Court Judge Kerry Kennedy accompanied by her attorney, Michael Wilson, who is a Cook County public defender.

During her five minute appearance in court, Giedrojc, 62, made no comments. Translation was provided in Polish for Giedrojc, who was born in Poland.

No plea was given at the hearing. Giedrojc's next court appearance is scheduled to be Thursday, Nov. 14.

Giedrojc, of the 6600 block of West 91st Street, is accused of killing her grandchild, Vivian Summers. Bolingbrook resident Joe Summers, Giedrojc's son-in-law, had brought the infant daughter to the grandmother's house.

The son-in-law then went across the street to Giedrojc's son's house to help with a repair project.

Giedrojc's husband, Boleslaw, soon followed him across the street to check on the project, leaving the grandmother alone with the baby.

According to the prosecution, Giedrojc then moved the child off the

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Murder

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couch, where she had been sleeping, and placed her on the floor.

Police said that she then retrieved a sledgehammer from a closet, and began hitting the child with it in the head and body. Because the baby was "still crying and moving," according to Assistant State's Attorney Michael Deno, Giedrojc got a "large carving knife" from the kitchen and used it to slit the baby's throat.

The baby was taken by ambulance to Christ Hospital but died a short time later.

Giedrojc has lived wither her family in Oak Lawn for more than 20 years. She admitted in a videotaped confession that she had placed the sledgehammer in the closet the previous night, according to Deno.

Deno would not comment if this was premeditated. Giedrojc has no previous criminal record.

Oak Lawn Police responded to 911 call from that house at 10:46 a.m., which Division Chief Michael Kaufmann said was placed by Giedrojc's son.

Oak Lawn Police Chief Michael Murray said he could not recall any crime this horrible during his career.

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11/1/2013, p.1

OL Trustee Tim Desmond proposes to eliminate health insurance for board members

by Matt Mayer

Trustee Tim Desmond at the Oct. 22 Oak Lawn Board of Trustees proposed to eliminate health insurance for board members, calling it a "shared sacrifice". Desmond joined the village health insurance plan after winning election in April. Mayor Sandra Bury is currently receiving full or partial health benefits. Bury said she is not taking her salary as liquor commissioner, which is comparable to her insurance cost. "I think he sees the hypocrisy- referring to Desmond - as I did", said Bury. Desmond also asked for this to be placed on the next agenda.

Trustee Alex Olejniczak said he doesn't intend on participating in the village health insurance plan in the next fiscal year. A flyer titled the "Oak Lawn News" was received by a number of residents the Monday prior to the meeting. The flyer stated that Bury along with Olejniczak and Desmond were covered by the village health insurance plan.

The meeting heated up when Desmond (D-1) thanked residents who attended a recent open house event. And then said, "We are going to be facing some tough decisions." He proposed that all part-time employees including board members, no longer accept pensions. Trustee Streit objected to the elimination of pensions.

Olejniczak brought up the topic of the Senior Center. Streit fervently insists that a new senior center could have been build at the former Beatty Lumber site if the board would have approved a partnership plan worked out by former Mayor Dave Heilmann and his administration and Advocated Christ Medical Center. Olejniczak said that the previous administration worked out a deal to sell buildings at 5300 W. 95th Street to Beverly Bank for the construction of the Oak Lawn Bank and Trust. The building incorporated the Senior Center and the Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce.

Olejniczak also said that while the Heilmann administration worked out the details for the bank, no set plans were made for the location of the Senior Center. "The problem we have now is where a new Senior Center will be located. There is misguided information out there", said Olejniczak. Talks continue about moving the Senior Center to a bathhouse at the former Memorial Pool site, which then would be under the operation of the Park District rather than the Village. The Senior Center is now located at the former McGugan School, 5220 W. 105th Street.

Village View
11/5/2013, p.1

Jazzercise moves to new location in Oak Lawn

Jazzercise dance-fitness classes has open up in Oak Lawn area. Jazzercise instructor Cindy Lunz has moved the location to First United Methodist Church, 10000 S. Central Avenue. The classes will take place at 9:15 a.m. on Monday , Wednesday and Fridays.

"I'm excited about the growth of Jazzercise locally," said Lunz. In addition to this location, there are also classes in Mt. Greenwood at the Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences, 3857 W. 111th Street, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, at 7:15 p.m. and Saturday morning at 8:30 a.m. There are also classes at Chicago Ridge Mall on Tuesday and Thursday at 8:30 a.m. "Jazzercise offers a unique blend of fitness and jazz dance that local area residents have discovered is a lot of fun. The classes will just make it easier for participants to enjoy a workout where and when it's convenient for them."

The 60-minute Jazzercise class includes a warm-up, high-energy aerobic routines, muscle-toning and cool-down stretch segment. Jazzercise combines elements of dance, resistance training, Pilates, yoga, kick-boxing and more to create programs for people of every age and fitness level. Alternative formats include Jazzercise Lite, Jazzercise Personal Touch and Junior Jazzercise.

Benefits include increased cardiovascular endurance, strength, and flexibility, as well as an overall "feel good" factor. For more information on Jazzercise contact Lunz at 773-238-7716. For worldwide class information, go to jazzercise.com or call (800) FIT-IS-IT.

Village View
11/5/2013, p.3

Join The Oak Lawn Garden Club

Join the Oak Lawn Garden Club on Thursday, Nov. 21st, Meeting starts promptly at 9:30 a.m. at the Oakview Center, 4625 West 110th St.

The presentation will be Making Gardening "Fairy" much fun.

Jami Flaws has been creating fairy gardens to delight children for years. Now she is teaching adults how to use natural materials to make beautiful fairy gardens.

There is a $5 fee for non members.

More information about the Garden Club can be found at www.oaklawn gardenclub.org.

Oak Lawn Independent
11/7/2013, p.1

Trustees Approve Ordinance For

Water Works Improvements

After years of trying to figure out what to do and how to do it, the Board of Trustees set in motion improvements to the village Water Works and Sewer System. The board unanimously passed the ordinance that will be referred to Oak Lawn's water customers for approval.

However, Trustee Terry Vorderer questioned the 100-page document. Vorderer said that because of the length of the document, he was 'uncomfortable' with passing the ordinance. He felt that the board might not have gotten the document in time to give it a thorough reading.

He asked that if the board passed the ordinance tonight, would the trustees be able to change it in anyway.

Vorder was told that when the ordinance was passed it would be distributed to Oak Lawn's water customers for their approval and input. The final ordinance would come back to Oak Lawn for finalization.

The approximate multi-million dollar project will bring much-needed repairs to the village's water works and sewerage system as well as long-term sales and purchase agreements.

It was stated that the agreements could last up to 40 years with only 11 per cent of the cost to be paid for by the village.

In other business, changing health benefits of village trustees may not be as easy as the board would like. Aside from state law, dropping health benefits for trustees could not be done until the next election. The village attorney stated that it might be possible to eliminate benefits if it is included in the budget talks, but he would have to check guidelines to make sure. Any discussion was tabled until more information was gathered.

Making the village look good is proving to be a chore. The village sign ordinance discussion was also tabled due to the fact that insurance to business for the changes would be astronomical. Further discussion will be held on the subject.

Expansion of the red-light camera enforcement was discussed. Village Manager Larry Deetjen requested that the village look into beta testing a program to include school crossings. He also stated that right now there is technology for the program but it can only be used for cities with populations of 1 million people or more. Deetjen asked if the village could find a way for the technology to be used in communities of a lower population.

When he presented the request to Red Flex, the village's current service provider, it was said that the current contract could not be expanded. Deetjen suggested that the village go out for bid on School Crossing Technology so that major crossing would be made safer. However, as discussion continued, it was questioned if the privacy of residents would be put in jeopardy since cameras might be facing homes as well as the crosswalks. Also, it was suggested that a zero tolerance policy be established for school zones where an offender could be ticketed or fined no matter what.

If it was decided to go out for bids on the program. Red Flex asked if they could bid, Deetjen told them that all bids would be welcomed.

This was held for further discussion and information.

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11/14/2013, p.1

Weather Radios for Residents

Grant Money Has Been Made Available in Oak Lawn

By MICHELE BEATTIE

Tuesday's Oak Lawn Village Board Meeting was conducted in a rarely seen atmosphere without any conflicts or trustee confrontations.

Police Chief Michael Murray talked about "The gift of preparedness."

Christ Hospital, Walgreens and the Village of Oak Lawn are partnering to bring down the cost of a weather radio to residents.

According to Murray, grant money from Christ Hospital was used to create a discount coupon for residents to use at Walgreens to purchase a weather radio at a "greatly reduced cost, enabling us to move forward with a safer Oak Lawn, safer community."

This goes along with the new tornado sirens installed around the village earlier this year.

Many questions are still being raised, Murray said, by residents not being able to hear the sirens inside their homes. Again, Murray said, that the sirens are meant to be heard outside the home for people who are not near a radio to be warned of impending dangerous weather.

Inside the home, the weather radio will notify residents of weather conditions. The coupons will be available at the Village.

An adequate number of coupons will be available for each trustee's district Dec. 2-6. On Dec. 7, the coupons will be available at the Walgreens on 95th Street and Cicero Avenue. More information will be available soon on the Oak Lawn Village Web site, *www.oaklawn-ilgov*, and on the Walgreen's Web site.

Village Manager Larry Deetjen displayed a copy of a bulletin that will be seen soon in the village with the topic "Bike to Metra."

The bulletin will provide a map and legend, according to Deetjen, "that will take you to the Stony Creek Promenade under construction with

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Mariano's to Wolfe Wildlife to Metra to Centennial Park and links to our schools. That is our ultimate goal."

Discussion of a plan to expand the village's red light camera enforcement program was not voted on at Tuesday's meeting. Under state law, the population of a community must be at least one million to allow for the red light cameras at busy intersections.

Trustee Carol Quinlan (5th) expressed concerns apart from the population requirement saying that there are homes very close to the intersections in question at Oak Lawn Community High School, St. Gerald School and Covington where the cameras may present a privacy issue to homeowners.

An ordinance to continue the regional water system that provides for the sale and delivery of water and service to suburbs of Mokena, New Lenox, Orland Park, Oak Forest and Tinley Park was passed by the Board.

The current plan includes a 40-year agreement with the City of Chicago that went into effect in February. Deetjen reminded the Board that Oak Lawn owns the system used for water distribution to other suburbs.

A request to approve a Class L liquor license to Party Rooms, Inc. in District 3 at 9902 Southwest Highway, was postponed.

The banquet room owner, Robert Olson, acknowledged that video gaming would be part of the licensing he was asking for in the request. It was unclear if a Class L license would allow for gaming.

Mayor Sandra Bury, after investigating the matter, questioned the petitioner if he had indeed contributed a total of $2,000 to an unnamed trustee in the past. He answered, "Yes."

Bury announced the Honor Flight program, which allows World War II veterans to be flown to Washington, D.C. to visit the war memorial and flown back home later the same day. Anyone who has not taken advantage of the program and would like to go was asked to contact Village Clerk Jane Quinlan at *www.jquinlan@oaklawn-ilgov*.

Bury said, "I wish all veterans' could see the memorial. It's not just for veterans who have seen combat. It's for all World War II veterans. Let's spoil them and give them a day of honor."

Earlier Terry Vorderer (4th) talked about the "wonderful Veterans Day ceremony" held at the Oak Lawn Veterans Memorial on a cold, rainy day on Monday.

Cong. Dan Lipinski (D-3rd) was in attendance, and Vorderer noted that Lipinski was the only member of Congress who helped remove the barricades from the Washington, D.C. memorial for veterans to visit during the government shutdown.

In other news:

- Bury will have her online blog available at *www.mayorbury.com*.
- A resolution to limit the terms of the village president and village trustees to three consecutive terms was postponed.
- A request to approve the hiring of one police officer from the current eligibility list due to a resignation was approved.

Tim Desmond (1st) reminded residents of the "Santa on the Green" event from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 30. The parade starts at 1 p.m., with Santa then taking Christmas wishes in the gazebo on the Village Green, 94th Street and Cook Avenue.

The Dec. 24 Board of Trustees meeting is cancelled. Dec. 10 will be the last Village Board meeting for 2013.

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11/15/2013, p.1

Lipinski Hosts Veterans Fair In Oak Lawn

Cong. Dan Lipinski (D-3rd) will host a Veterans Fair from 10 a.m. to noon Tuesday, Dec. 10 at Johnson-Phelps VFW Post 5220, which is at 9514 S. 52nd Ave., Oak Lawn.

At the congressman's Veterans Fair, congressional staff, the Illinois and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs will be joined by other organizations to assist veterans with a variety of issues, including military personnel and medical records, veterans' claims and benefits, medals earned but not received, VA hospital billing, placement in VA homes, GI Bill information, nominations for U.S. Service Academies and requests for flags flown over the U.S. Capitol.

For more information about this event, call (312) 886-0481 or visit *lipinski.house.gov*.

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11/15/2013, p.2

JUDICIAL LESSONS—Oak Lawn native Thomas March, who attends Brown University, spent the summer at the Rhode Island Superior Courthouse interning for Associate Judge Jeffrey Lanphear (left).

Local Student Learns Under Judge's Tutelage

Thomas March, born and raised in Oak Lawn, spent the summer at the Rhode Island Superior Courthouse (Frank Lecht Judicial Complex) interning for Associate Judge Jeffrey Lanphear.

Under the guidance of Lanphear, March observed a variety of cases, from low level felonies up to murder, while also watching the district attorney and various defense attorneys different styles and approaches.

"Observing the judicial process from different vantage points gave me invaluable insight into the complete process that takes place in a courtroom," said March. "It was a privilege to serve as an intern to the accomplished and Honorable Judge Lanphear."

March is now back at Brown University as a senior with an intent to attend law school in the future.

At Brown, he is the vice-president of the Alexander Hamilton Society, contributing writer for the *Brown Spectator* (school magazine), president of the Republican Club, and a presidential host/ambassador for the Brown University president.

Southwest Suburban News-Herald 11/15/2013, p.4

OL tables health insurance for officials until further discussion takes place

by Matt Mayer

Officials at the Oak Lawn Board of Trustees meeting tabled and discussed a proposal by Trustee Tim Desmond at the Oct 22 Board meeting calling for the elimination of health insurance for board members, calling it "shared sacrifice". Trustee Mike Carberry (D-6) said there's going to be a lot of discussion that needs to take place. We need to get everyone's input - this is an overall compensation package and health benefits are a major cost," said Carberry "This needs to be discussed before we draft an ordinance. Part of the proposal will focus on a proposal which would allow the trustees to purchase health insurance if it is no longer offered by the village," said Carberry.

Village Attorney Patrick Connelly said, "I would like to hear some direction from you guys on the board on what you think. I have explored whether or not the repeal of health care benefits would take place after a board members term, said Connelly. "There seems to be a gray area in the law that might allow benefits to be repealed at the end of the fiscal year" said Connelly.

Trustee Tim Desmond (D-1) joined the village health insurance after winning election in April. Trustee Alex Olejniczak reiterated that he doesn't plan on participating in the village health insurance plan in the next fiscal year. Also Mayor Sandra Bury reiterated what she said at the previous meeting that she does not take her salary as liquor commissioner, which is comparable to the cost of her insurance.

Other highlights: Police Chief Michael Murray gave a presentation titled "The Gift of Preparedness", a joint venture between Christ Hospital, Walgreens and the Village of Oak Lawn, which will bring down the cost of weather radios to residents.. "Grant money from Christ hospital was used to create a discount coupon for residents to use at Walgreens to purchase radios at a greatly reduced cost. This enables us, along with the new tornado sirens installed around the village, to move forward with a safer Oak Lawn," said Murray.

An adequate amount of coupons will be available for each trustee's district from Dec. 2-6. Coupons will be available at the Walgreens at 95th street and Cicero Avenue beginning Dec. 7. Additional information will soon be available on the village website, http://www.oaklawn-ilgov/ and Walgreens website http://www.walgreens.com/ which is currently under reconstruction at the time of this writing. Mayor Bury plans on having an online blog at http://www.mayorbury/, com.

Village View
11/19/2013, p.2

Woman Pleads Not Guilty For Infant's Death

By DERMOT CONNOLLY

Oak Lawn resident Alfreda Giedrojc pleaded not guilty to first-degree murder charges in the Oct. 6 killing of her five-month granddaughter during a brief arraignment held Nov. 14 in the Bridgeview Courthouse.

Her next court appearance was set for Wednesday, Dec. 18, for a status hearing.

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Alfreda Giedrojc

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Giedrojc, 62, appeared at the hearing wearing blue jailhouse scrubs. No family members were in attendance. A native of Poland, she and her husband, Boleslaw, have lived in Oak Lawn for 20 years.

She has been held without bail in Cook County Jail since allegedly using a sledgehammer and carving knife to kill her granddaughter, Vivian Summers, in her home.

According to prosecutors, her son-in-law, the baby's father, Joe Summers, had left the child in her care while he and Giedrojc's husband went across the street to her son's home to work on a repair project.

Prosecutors said Giedrojc made a videotaped confession in which she admitted hitting the child with a sledgehammer she had placed in a closet the night before, and then cutting her throat with a carving knife.

A Polish interpreter translated the proceedings for Giedrojc, and Circuit Court Judge Colleen A. Hyland at the Nov. 14 hearing granted a request by Giedrojc's attorney, assistant Public Defender Michael Wilson, to have an interpreter present during all his meetings with her.

Giedrojc's attorney has not asked for bail in this case. But after Hyland told Giedrojc what she would have to do if she was released on bail, she asked the judge through her interpreter if she could be released on bail.

Alfreda Giedrojc

"She can't speak English, not well enough to participate in the court case," said Wilson when speaking to reporters after the hearing.

Wilson refused to say whether an insanity defense may be used at trial. "It is too early to say," said Wilson. "We've got a while to go. Come back next month," he added, noting that the prosecutors have not revealed their entire case yet.

The attorney also would not say if Giedrojc has been in contact with her family or if she had spoken about her granddaughter.

"I don't know, and if I did, I wouldn't say anyway," said Wilson.

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11/22/2013, p.1

Santa Claus To Visit Oak Lawn Village Green

The Village of Oak Lawn will host its annual Santa on the Green from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 30 on the Village Green, 94th Street and Cook Avenue, Oak Lawn.

Santa, Mrs. Claus and Frosty will make an appearance and be available for pictures.

Parents or guardians are encouraged to bring cameras to take photos of Santa and the kids.

A special appearance by Elf the Stilt Walker will be part of the festivities.

Children and adults may go on horse-drawn sleigh rides and a mini-train ride.

They may also enjoy caroling by the Sward and Kolmar School choirs.

Southwest Suburban News-Herald
11/22/2013, p.2

BUDDY TROPHY—Johnson-Phelps VFW Ladies Auxiliary to Post 5220 is the 2011-12 winner of the 3rd District VFW Ladies Auxiliary's Carl Rosenbaum Trophy for President of the Year, and the Mary Neville Buddy Poppy Trophy for outstanding fund-raising and promotion of the Buddy Poppy Program. The members are (front row) Sara Kaminski, secretary; (second row, from left) Florence Van, trustee; Pearl Balik, Betty Johnson, chaplain, Linda Krone, guard and Buddy Poppy chairman president; Sue Opila (with trophies); Lillian Beamis, trustee, Gayle Bukowski, Patriotic Inst.; (back row) Dorothy Hejl, trustee; Mary Ellen Szrendenski, flag bearer; Barbara Stachon, junior vice president; Maureen Lueman, senor vice president; Lenore Goodfriend, treasurer; Nancy Enk, conductress; and Jan Krejci, trustee.

Southwest Suburban News-Herald
11/22/2013, p.8

Rep. Lipinski Honors America's Veterans In Oak Lawn

U.S. Rep. Dan Lipinski (IL-3) on Veterans Day joined local residents, schoolchildren, elected officials and veterans' organizations in honoring America's veterans at Oak Lawn's Veterans Day ceremony at the Oak Lawn Veterans Memorial.

"Today we all should take a moment to reflect and honor those brave men and women who have served the United States of America. We would not be home to the greatest country in the world if not for the dedication and selfless service of those who wore our nation's uniform to protect our freedoms and our values. We owe them the life we know today," Rep. Lipinski said. "For these very reasons, I am committed to fighting for our veterans and military men and women to see that they are afforded the respect, recognition and assistance they deserve. I believe, as a nation, that this is our obligation to uphold not just today, but every day."

On Dec. 10 at Oak Lawn's Johnson-Phelps VFW Post 5220, 9514 S. 52nd Ave., Rep. Lipinski will be hosting a Veterans Fair from 10 a.m. to noon. At the congressman's Veterans Fair, congressional staff, the Illinois and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs will be joined by other organizations to assist veterans with a variety of issues, including military personnel and medical records, veterans' claims and benefits, medals earned but not received, VA hospital billing, placement in VA homes, GI Bill information, nominations for U.S. Service Academies and requests for flags flown over the U.S. Capitol.

For more information on this event, call (312) 886-09481 or visit lipinski.house.gov.

Oak Lawn Independent
11/28/2013, p.1

Law Internship

Thomas March, born and raised in Oak Lawn, spent the summer at the Rhode Island Superior Courthouse (Frank Lecht Judicial Complex) interning for the Honorable Associate Judge Jeffrey Lanphear. Under the wing of Judge Lanphear, March would observe a wide variety of cases from various low level felonies up to murder cases. While also watching the District Attorney and various defense attorneys' different styles and approaches. "Observing the judicial process from different vantage points gave me invaluable insight into the complete process that takes place in a courtroom", stated March. Who also said, "It was a privilege to serve as an intern to the accomplished and Honorable Judge Lamphear.

March is now back at Brown University as a senior with an intent to attend law school in the future. At Brown he is the Vice-President of the Alexander Hamilton Society, contributing writer for the Brown Spectator (school magazine), President of the Republican Club, and a Presidential Host/ambassador for the Brown University President.

Oak Lawn Independent
11/28/2013, p.1

50 YEARS—Oak Lawn resident Edward F. McElroy, of Comcast TV Channel 19 and past national commander of Catholic U.S. War Veterans, meets President John F. Kennedy at the White House in May of 1963. Last Friday marked the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Kennedy.

Southwest Suburban News-Herald
11/29/2013, p.18

Mayor Visits Assassination Site

Sandra Bury Travels to Dallas To Attend Memorial for Kennedy

By DERMOT CONNOLLY

Oak Lawn Mayor Sandra Bury spent much of last week in Dallas with her brother, Bob Bury, where they attended the memorial ceremony held Nov. 22 for President John F. Kennedy, in the city where he was assassinated 50 years ago.

"It was a lovely memorial," said the mayor. She and her brother were young children when Kennedy was killed, but Bob especially was a big fan of the president, and has read numerous books about Kennedy and his family.

"We had talked about going to Dallas for years, and it just worked out with my schedule that we could go (for the 50th anniversary)."

Bury said that while they didn't win the lottery used to award tickets for the VIP section for the ceremony in Dealey Plaza, they were able to sit farther away with about 1,500 other people, behind a large portrait of the fallen president.

"The weather was worse than it was for the Veterans Day ceremony on the Village Green," she said.

The mayor said she was impressed by the large number of people in attendance who came from foreign countries for the ceremony.

"It blew me away," she said. "They came from England, Ireland, France, Germany, even Japan. It had to cost a lot to come, but he meant that much to them. It just shows how the United States and our leader was held in such high esteem around the world, especially at that time."

"As an elected official, it showed me that if you have an inspiring plan, people will get involved," she added, citing the space program and the Peace Corps, which started during Kennedy's administration.

In addition to the memorial service, the brother and sister visited the museum now located on the sixth floor

continued on page 19

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of the Texas School Book Depository, where assassin Lee Harvey Oswald fired at the president's motorcade, and saw the much talked out "grasy knoll" on the other side of Dealey Plaza.

They also took a tour of other sites related to Kennedy and Oswald around the city, including the boarding house where Oswald lived.

They also visited other sites Dallas is known for, including "JR's Ranch," the property used as a backdrop of the "Dallas" TV show.

She said that Dallas was quickly dubbed "the city of hate," following the assassination, which residents felt was unfair.

As a result, Bury said, the city reworked its image, becoming "The City of Art."

"I was amazed by the amount of art and sculptures on display in the city," said the mayor.

A highlight of the trip for the mayor and her brother was meeting Clint Hill, a Secret Service agent for Kennedy, at a book signing. Hill, known for climbing on the back of the vehicle that the Kennedys were riding in following the assassination to help Jacqueline Kennedy, recently released a book, *Five Days in November* about that time.

"We got a signed copy," she said.

The mayor said that watching all the old footage of the assassination and its aftermath renewed her admiration for Jacqueline Kennedy and how she bravely conducted herself, and noted that more recent government transitions do not always work as well as it did with Vice President Lyndon Johnson, who made a smooth transition despite horrible circumstances.

Southwest Suburban News-Herald
11/29/2013, p.1

Oak Lawn Water Contract angers Oak Forest Alderman

by Jan Glaz

After six years of talks and over three years of negotiations a consortium of municipalities including Oak Forest, Tinley Park, Mokena and New Lenox have completed mediations with the Village of Oak Lawn to construct a new looped water system and to provide water for the next 40 years. The Oak Forest City Council voted to approve the contract at the Council Meeting held on November 26th. Prior to voting on the agreement Alderman Richard Simon stated: "I have a very big problem with this contract and the fact that we are being forced to pay $700,000.00 toward a pumping station that was put in that does not benefit Oak Forest. I'm going to vote for it because there is no other alternative, we either do this or I can't imagine what our water bills will be in the future. We thoroughly discussed and investigated the possibility of going to court about this and two different sets of lawyers told us we would lose the case in court. I don't un-

Village View
12/3/2013, p.2

VFW Auxiliary Ladies Christmas Party

Johnson-Phelps VFW Ladies Auxiliary #5220 will be hosting their annual Ladies Christmas Party on Tuesday, Dec. 17th at the post home, 9514 S. 52nd Ave. in Oak Lawn, from 6 till 10 p.m.

There will be cocktails (cash bar) from 6 to 7 p.m. with dinner at 7 p.m. There will be entertainment, bingo and raffles. The cost is $16 per person.

Enjoy a 'ladies night' out, while you support the Auxiliary's veteran and community programs.

For additional information and tickets, call (708) 423-5220.

Oak Lawn Independent
12/5/2013, p.12

Oak Lawn Senior Center Announces New Free Programs

Memory Lane

Memory Lane is a group where members will share experiences from their life. Members have the option to record their memories through writing or to just talk about their memories. Group facilitators will help members create written memoirs if requested. This is not an intensive writing group. This is a group to explore experiences from the past and present. Sharing is meant to be reflective and enjoyable. The group meets on Mondays from 9:30 to 11 a.m. (Group does not meet the 3rd Monday of the month.)

* * *

Healthy Lifestyles Group

Healthy Lifestyles Group will meet monthly. Members will gain an understanding of the importance of achieving and maintaining good health. The group will provide an opportunity for members to learn and practice new skills. Each group will include a healthy recipe exchange and a healthy snack! Monthly topics can include and are not limited to: stress management, sleep hygiene, weight management, and women's and men's health concerns. Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of every month from 9:30 to 11 a.m.

* * *

Computer Tutoring

Individual sessions to learn basic computer skills are now available at the Oak Lawn Senior Center. Examples of skills include and are not limited to: word processing, email set-up, facebook/twitter and other social media, browsing the internet, etc. If you have a specific, basic, computer-related task you would like to learn, call us to see if it is something we can help you with. All tutoring sessions are by appointment. Call to set up an appointment with Cara or Jennifer.

* * *

For more information, call the Oak Lawn Senior Center (708-499-0240) and ask for Cara or Jennifer. If you have any questions about these new programs, call or come to the Senior Center at 5220 W. 105th St. All groups are free.

Oak Lawn Independent
12/5/2013, p.12

Sleigh ride

Adults and children (above) board the horse-drawn sleigh ride Saturday at the annual "Santa on the Green" event on the Village Green. Declan Fitizgerald, 4, tries his skills at ringing the bell Saturday at the Santa on the Green event. Declan said he is asking Santa for a Ben 10 toy and a big car for Christmas. (News-Herald photos by Steve Neuhaus)

Southwest Suburban News-Herald
12/6/2013, p.1

Oak Lawn home is engulfed in flames but no injuries

The Oak Lawn Fire Department responded to a house explosion at approximately 5:30 a.m. in 10000 block of South Merrimac Avenue on Monday morning.

Upon their arrival, firefighters found the front porch of the home fully engulfed, said Oak Lawn Fire Department officials.

According to Oak Lawn Fire Chief George Sheets, the homeowner had just left for work and heard the loud explosion as he drove off, which he then returned to see his home in flames.

The fire was under control within minutes but the home appears to be a total loss.

No injuries were reported and the cause of the fire is under investigation.

Southwest Suburban News-Herald
12/6/2013, p.4

Trustees Pass

Budget And Term Limits

The regular Tuesday night Oak Lawn Village Board Meeting again saw verbal fireworks between Mayor Sandra Bury and Trustee Bob Streit. The subject in question was the question of term limits. The board voted to include a binding referendum on the next ballot concerning Term Limits for elected officials.

It was stated that, if passed, any elected official would be limited to three consecutive terms in office.

This referendum would be placed on the March 18, 2014 ballot. It would only affect the offices of village president, clerk and trustee in the 2015 election. Also specified was the fact that if an official was at the end of his terms, he could run for another position and serve three more terms.

When discussion was called, Trustee Streit said that he believed there were term limits in place, so to speak, when people voted every four years and decided on whether or not to retain an elected official.

He also suggested that the referendum is a forgone conclusion since voters seemed to want term limits because of their 'lack of confidence' in officials especially in Washington and Springfield."

As he went on stating that he believes that referendum questions presented to the voters should pertain to significant issues of public policy.

Mayor Bury then took Streit to task for not staying on the issue. She ended up censuring Streit and calling for the vote.

It passed 4 to 2 with Streit and Trustee Carol Quinlan voting no. Quinlan said she would have supported the vote, but she had asked that two paragraphs be eliminated died for the lack of a second.

The Term Limits referendum will be placed on the March 2014 ballot.

Rumors of outsourcing crossing guards were laid to rest after two resident crossing guards addressed the board. According to Village Manager Larry Deetjen, it was something that was brought to the table to help balance the budget, however, it was an issue that was not in the budget at this point.

When asked if it ever would be a budgetary issue, the question remained unanswered.

The board passed a balanced budget for the coming fiscal year in a 4 to 2 vote with Trustees Streit and Quinlan voting no.

It was stated that the tax levy for the village has been slightly reduced, several police and fire positions will be eliminated by arbitration and no employees will be laid off; and the village will begin making significant pension payments.

There have been no utility tax or service fee hikes and the water rate hike was passed on from what Chicago was now charging the village.

Although Trustee Streit claimed that he was not 'proud' of the budget, most of the trustees were in the opinion that the budget was the 'best they could do under the circumstances.'

Oak Lawn Independent
12/12/2013, p.1

Board debates budget woes

Oak Lawn Board members confront financial concerns

By Joe Boyle

Despite tidings of good cheer given by trustees to mark the holiday season at the beginning of the Oak Lawn Village Board meeting, budget concerns provided less than a jolly mood Tuesday night.

During the question-and-answer session before the regular meeting, two representatives who serve as Oak Lawn crossing guards both expressed alarm that the village is considering eliminating some of those jobs in a cost-cutting measure.

Larry Deetjen, the village manager, pointed out to the crossing guards who attended the meeting that while a proposal was brought up, there was no consensus.

While Deetjen did not deny that they are looking at all options of budget cuts, nothing has been decided regarding the crossing guards. Deetjen agreed to meet with the crossing guards at a later date to hear their concerns.

Patrick O'Donnell, the village treasurer, said budget problems still have to be addressed, along with making sure pension contributions are being made.

"It's certainly not an easy job to balance a budget these days," said Deetjen. "Our job is to solve it and not kick the can down the road. We need to work together."

Deetjen added that the board is accountable to the taxpayers and that Springfield could provide a better example by being more disciplined.

He also took offense to frequent usage of the word outsourcing of village departments.

"Oak Lawn has outsourced long before I got here," said Deetjen, referring to landscaping and social services provided by Genesis.

See BUDGET page 23

Board

continued from page 1

Genesis Therapy Center has provided services for Oak Lawn seniors at their interim home at the old McGugan School site, 5220 W. 105th St.

"In the interim, we have a senior center at the old McGugan School," added Deetjen. "It's not ideal but we are looking at a long-term solution. The Oak Lawn Park District is probably one of the top five park districts in Illinois."

In regards to budget concerns that has resulted in outsourced services such as the decision to go with Norcomm Public Safety Communications despite objections of 911 dispatchers at the Nov. 26 meeting, Deetjen said that he will listen.

"We will talk to unions who will talk to us, negotiate with us," said Deetjen. "This is not an easy budget, tough decisions. But we will continue to get quality services. We are going to get through this."

Trustee Bob Streit (3rd) had said that two firefighters have been laid off. O'Connell and Deetjen denied that, stating the positions have become vacant over time and the firefighters were not replaced.

Deetjen said that the current Oak Lawn Fire Department exceeds the level currently required.

"Police are our number one priority," said Deetjen. "The current board and former board agreed that the firefighters need adjusting."

Deetjen added while no firefighters have been laid off, it may occur in the future.

Terry Vorderer (4th) said that he is "not happy with the budget but I'm still proud of it." Vorderer said that board members worked hard to make this work.

Vorderer did mention that he would like to see two police officers added if the budget allows in the future.

One trustee who objected for the immediate calls for budget cuts was Streit.

"It's like going home and telling the family that we are not going to eat next year because we have to pay the mortgage," said Streit. "We don't have to do that.

"The last five years have been brutal for everyone, but reducing the workforce will create more families who have less jobs. And that means less spending. This is not a budget I can be proud of."

Trustee Alex Olejniczak (2nd) countered by saying that a value of a house is less than it was five years ago.

"We are making a commitment to pay our pensions," added Olejniczak. "I'm happy with this budget. It is the best we could do."

Some heated moments arose at the meeting when Streit stated that O'Donnell got his job as village treasurer only because his wife donated money to Mayor Sandra Bury's mayoral campaign last year. This brought a rebuke from Bury who said that Streit was out of order.

Trustee Carol Quinlan (5th) objected to Bury's blog that she said is purely political in nature.

"It's political garbage," said Quinlan. "There are personal attacks."

Bury defended the blog by stating that "everything is factual on there." The mayor added that she will continue to speak about the issues.

Quinlan said that the village's phone numbers should not appear on the blog.

A vote took place on a resolution calling for term limits for village officials to extend no longer than three terms.

"I'm a big fan of term limits," said Vorderer. "A lot of stonewalling in Springfield is caused by politicians whose priorities are not always in the best interest of the people. I think we can send a message to Springfield."

Vorderer's comments were echoed by Trustee Mike Carberrry (6th), who added that he thinks "we are sending the right message."

Streit, who has served as a trustee since 1992, opposed the measure. He talked about outsourcing jobs, which brought complaints from Bury about limiting his comments to term limits.

"We have an election every four years," added Streit. "Let the voters decide."

The measure was approved by a 4-2 margin, with Streit and Quinlan objecting.

Village Clerk Jane Quinlan has also served three terms and would be affected if the resolution is enacted.

"I'm here for whatever the voters want," she said.

The village clerk also thanked colleagues and residents for their cards and well wishes following her recent illness.

"Oak Lawn is a very special place," she added.

In other news, Trustee Tim Desmond (1st) presented a check for $19,163.97 to Park Lawn, which was gathered from proceeds from the Fall on the Green festival in September.

Desmond, the special events liaison, thanked the staff of Park Lawn for "providing services for those in need."

Park Lawn provides services for youngsters and adults who have special needs or are disabled.

Desmond also called for board members to consider a measure that would assure that Oak Lawn companies are given priority for future village work. The proposal will be given consideration after looking at the legalities.

A resolution approving a contract with the village and Genesis Therapy Center was approved by a 5-1 margin. Streit did not vote for the measure.

A resolution calling for a lease agreement with Advance Orthopedic and Spinal Care at the old Edgar Funeral Home site at 10900 S. Cicero Ave. was tabled at the request of Deetjen.

Deetjen said it would be brought up again in January.

This was the last Oak Lawn Village Board meeting of the year. The next meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 7.

Generous Gift

Oak Lawn Trustee Tim Desmond (1st), who is a special events liaison, thanks the efforts of Park Lawn, which cares for youngsters and adults with special needs, during the village board meeting Tuesday night. Desmond presented a check for $19,163.97 to Park Lawn. The money raised was through proceeds from the Fall on the Green festival in September. (News-Herald Photo by Joe Boyle)

Southest Suburban News-Herald
12/13/2013, p.1

Memory Lane offered at Oak Lawn Senior Center

A new program called Memory Lane has been established at the Oak Lawn Senior Center, 5220 W. 105th St.

The group will meet from 9:30 to 11 a.m. on Mondays. However, the club does not meet the third Monday of the month.

Memory Lane is a group in which members will share experiences from their life. Members have the option to record their memories through writing or to just talk about their memories.

This is a group to explore experiences from the past and present. Sharing is meant to be reflective and enjoyable.

More information may be obtained by contacting Cara or Jennifer at (708) 499-0240

Southwest Suburban News-Herald
12/13/2013, p.9

OL approves term limit referendum for elected officials on March ballot

by Matt Mayer

Several hot button issues dominated the Dec. 10 Oak lawn Board of Trustees meeting one of which was a resolution to place a referendum on the March election ballot regarding term limits. The referendum, if passed, would limit newly elected or reelected officials who seek office in 2015 including the mayor village clerk and trustees to three consecutive terms or 12 years. The resolution passed 4-2, Trustees Streit and Quinlan dissented. Quinlan said she would have voted yes if Mayor Sandra Bury had concurred with her motion to remove two paragraphs referring to "promoting diversity in office holders" and "urgency in forming and implementing policies".

Prior to the vote Trustee Bob Streit said, "This is a question everyone knows before you put it on the ballot, everyone knows the answer to it", said Streit. When voters are asked if they want term limits, they do. It's the lack of confidence they have in elected officials especially in Washington and Springfield", said Streit.

Bury reprimanded Streit for not staying on the topic of term limits. Streit became angry and said, "Please stop interrupting me. My points

Village View
12/17/2013, p.1

Oak Lawn restaurateur Sandi Giangi stands beside a mountain of donated toys in her Big Pappa's restaurant, 10806 S. Cicero Ave., where she and her family will for the fourth year be preparing traditional Christmas meals for needy seniors and families, expected to be about 2,000 this year. Giangi is holding the notebook in which she keeps track of meal requests, so any children will receive a toy also. (News-Herald Photo by Dermot Connolly)

A huge heart at Big Pappa's

Oak Lawn restaurant owner provides cheer for seniors and many others in need

By Dermot Connolly

Oak Lawn restaurateur Sandi Giangi is continuing a tradition she began four years ago of providing homemade turkey dinners to seniors and others in need, and toys too, on Christmas Day.

For much longer than that, rather than opening presents under their own tree, Giangi and her three children — ages 12 to 18 — have been spending every Christmas helping others.

At first, they helped out at homeless shelters, with everyone lending a hand. Since she bought Big Pappa's Gyros, 10806 S. Cicero Ave., five years ago, the small restaurant has been holiday headquarters.

Giangi said the family began spending Christmas giving to others, rather than receiving, in honor of her eldest son, Gary, who died in a house fire at age 5 in 1995.

"Gary loved Christmas. Not the gifts so much, but all the holiday lights and the music," she said, recalling that one year, Gary gave half his presents to a neighbor who did not have any.

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Continued from page 1

did not have any.

She said her son, Anthony, 18, and daughters, Michaline, 15, and Nicolette, 12, enjoy helping too.

"All these years, my children have never complained. On Christmas morning, they will literally be making 2,000 salads."

"I've asked them if I should stop, and they said, 'Ma, that wouldn't be you. Help the others first.'"

The number of meals prepared and given away grows each year, and the family with a team of volunteers will begin peeling potatoes and making other preparations this weekend to have the meals ready on Christmas.

Since the first year, when 740 people received meals, the number has grown steadily. Last year, 1,889 meals were made, including everything from soup and salad, to turkey, potatoes, sweet potatoes and dressing, and pie for dessert.

Already by Monday, about 1,600 people have signed up for the meals, so Giangi figures the numbers will end up over 2,000.

"Believe me, it's early yet," she said.

In past years, Giangi has asked that people who would like the meals to call the restaurant ahead of time at (708) 741-4014, but walk-ins will be accepted for the first time this year. Most of the meals are picked up at the restaurant — with some people coming from as far away as the West Side of Chicago — but some deliveries are made to mobile home parks and elsewhere in the Oak Lawn area, where recipients have no transportation.

She said that as the program has grown in size, other local restaurants and grocery stores have chipped in with donations of salad ingredients, rolls, potatoes and pies. Last year, more than 700 turkeys were cooked. Right now, donations cover about half the cost. She said local churches with food pantries provide her with lists of people in need, and help with supplies and volunteers.

"Everything is homemade," she said, explaining turkeys are cooked three at a time. "Every three hours, three go into the ovens and three come out," she said, describing the assembly line of volunteers.

"People will be lined up outside the door on Christmas," she said.

Customers have also dropped off hundreds of toys, which are piled up on tables around the Christmas tree in the store now. Giangi keeps meticulous notes of all the people receiving meals, including the ages and genders of the children. "Each one of the children will receive one of these toys in addition to the meals," she said.

The day after Christmas, Giangi will be home making dinner for her family.

"They don't let me get out of it. They still like the homemade cooking too," she said.

Southwest Suburban News-herald
12/20/2013, p.1

Woman accused of killing grandchild to be examined

By Dermot Connolly

Oak Lawn resident Alfreda Giedrojc, charged with the Oct. 6 killing of her five-month granddaughter, made a brief appearance for a status hearing that was held Wednesday in the Bridgeview Courthouse.

Giedrojc 62, appeared at the hearing in front of Circuit Court Judge Colleen A. Hyland in blue jailhouse scrubs. She has been in custody since the murder. Assistant State's Attorney Susan Fleming requested access to Giedrojc's medical records, which Hyland granted.

Assistant Public Defender Michael Wilson, who is representing Giedrojc, asked for a psychiatric evaluation, which was also granted. Wilson said he wanted to determine whether she is fit to stand trial.

Alfreda Giedrojc

A native of Poland, Giedrojc is assisted by an interpreter at all her court appearances. She has been held without bail in Cook County Jail since allegedly using a sledgehammer and carving knife to kill her granddaughter, Vivian Summers, in her home.

According to prosecutors, her son-in-law, the baby's father, Joe Summers, had left the child in her care while he and Giedrojc's husband went across the street to her son's home to work on a repair project.

Prosecutors said Giedrojc made a videotaped confession in which she admitted hitting the child with a sledgehammer she had placed in a closet the night before, and then cutting her throat with a carving knife.

Two relatives of Giedrojc, a man and woman, were in the courtroom initially, but when the hearing was delayed, they left before she made her appearance. They declined to speak to reporters about the case.

Giedrojc's attorney also left without speaking to reporters.

Southwest Suburban News-Herald
12/20/2013, p.23

Planning for growth in 2014

Oak Lawn expects 'amazing year,' but some major issues will test Chicago and Illinois

By Dermot Connolly

As one year ends, we look back on what happened over the last 12 months, while also looking forward to the new year on the horizon.

Last January, few people — including the politicians involved — would hardly have predicted that state legislators would come together before year's end to pass a comprehensive bill dealing with pension reform.

But, of course, that did happen on Dec. 3. Both parties said the agreement wasn't perfect, with many Democrats asserting that while it may be painful for unions, it is the only way to save the pension system as a whole.

But lawsuits are planned. So the issue is not settled yet.

Chicago is facing its own financial constraints, due in part to pension debt, but Mayor Rahm Emanuel announced officially in this fall that the prospect of leasing Midway Airport to raise funds has been taken off the table.

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12/27/2013, p.1

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There were only two groups bidding on the project, and Emanuel pulled the project when one of the prospective bidders dropped out.

Looking ahead elsewhere:

Oak Lawn Mayor Sandra Mayor said in her holiday message posted online that the 2014 "looks to be an amazing year for Oak Lawn."

In addition to a new village website and revamped cable TV station planned, she said commercial development is on the upswing in the village. The expansion under way at Christ Hospital, as well as development of the TIF district at 111th and Cicero Avenue.

It was announced in February that an upscale Mariano's Fresh Market would be moving onto the site, which is being redeveloped, and Bury said in her message that by this time in 2014, Mariano's will be open and selling holiday treats.

There was some new development in Burbank as well, with a new, expanded Walgreens store opening at 5555 W. 79th St.

The new store replaced smaller one that had been located in an older building less than a block away.

Still on the agenda in Burbank is finding a developer to take over the the site where The Old Barn restaurant stood for 87 years. The historic restaurant opened in 1921 and has been shuttered since 2008. City officials have said they are looking for buyers.

Stickney Township Supervisor Lou Viverito has said that the site would be ideal for senior housing, since the Stickney Township Medical Center is across the street. Others say it is suitable for retailers or restaurants too.

On the Southwest Side of Chicago, a new development is also being built on 63rd Street, near St. Louis Avenue, where a 40-bed women's shelter is being built in the 23rd Ward.

Vice President Joe Biden came to the site on Nov. 25 to make the official announcement. It is the first time in more than a decade that a shelter of this type is being built in Chicago.

To be called WINGS Metro, the development, which will include retail space on the first floor, and three apartments, involves renovating an existing building, a former police station, and adding a new wing.

It will be operated through a partnership between Women In Need Growing Stronger (WINGS), an agency based in the northern suburbs, in conjunction with Metropolitan Family Services and Greater Southwest Development Corp.