Changing of the Chiefs

Police Chief Mike Damico retired at the end of November after 37 years with the Village of Lisle, the last 15 of which he served as Chief. He has served the Department and the Village faithfully, with integrity and devotion to public safety. Best wishes as he begins a new chapter in his life!

Named as new Police Chief is James E. Kosatka, who served as the Department’s Deputy Chief since 2002, and has been Acting Chief since Damico’s retirement.

Kosatka is a 31–year veteran of the Lisle Police Department. He has progressed through the Department as a police officer, patrol sergeant, and detective sergeant, prior to assuming his role as deputy chief. He received a BA degree in Business Management from Benedictine University in 2007.

Mayor Broda expressed his satisfaction with the appointment. “I had no question that the Department had the talent for this appointment to come from within,” he said. “Lisle has a great Police Department in place, and Jim Kosatka has played a significant role in making it that way. A recurring theme in the recruitment process over the past several weeks has been the important mentoring that he has provided throughout the Department throughout his career.”

Retired Police Chief Mike Damico and new Chief Jim Kosatka

SunCoke Energy chooses Lisle for new headquarters

SunCoke Energy, a subsidiary of Sunoco, Inc. is investing $6.6M to relocate its corporate headquarters from Knoxville, TN to Arboretum Lakes in Lisle. The State is providing a $4.8M business investment package to support the project, bringing 105 professional jobs.

The company first evaluated 8 large metropolitan areas, then narrowed its search to the Chicago region and DuPage County. Lisle was chosen due to its desirable office space, proximity to airports, strong workforce, central location and competitive business climate. SunCoke’s relocation will help support local economic growth in a number of ways, including hotel tax revenues and families who buy homes and generate sales taxes.

For over 45 years, SunCoke has furnished high quality metallurgical coke to steelmakers, supplying 25% of total U.S. production. One of the company’s manufacturing facilities is in Granite City, IL and employs 110 people.

Lisle’s Downtown Ice Rink returns this year bigger and better, at the NE corner of Burlington and Main. Weather permitting, the rink is open every day from 8:00A–10:00P. Recreational ice skating only: please no hockey. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.
From the Mayor...

Happy New Year, Lisle! I hope you and your family enjoyed a safe and happy holiday season. Holiday decorations may be removed, but before winter departs, please enjoy skating on the Village’s enlarged downtown outdoor ice rink.

I am pleased to report that two major corporations have decided to make Lisle their headquarters. Navistar and SunCoke will be relocating to the Village’s corporate corridor in 2011.

On January 20, during my 10th annual State of the Village Address, I had the opportunity to provide a review of the many Village successes in 2010, and the challenges and direction for 2011. The highlight for me each year is presenting the Community Spirit Award to one or more individual(s) whose efforts and actions make Lisle an even better place to live and work. This year it was my privilege to recognize Bob and Barbara Kelly, as well as Mike Gonda and Chris Pecak. Congratulations!

Bob and Barbara Kelly, owners of Robert Kelly Studio Photography, have faithfully captured community special events in photos and/or videos. From the Eyes to the Skies Festival, Lights of Lisle, and Downtown Cruise Nights, the Kellys professionally document these events through photos, at no cost to the Village. Their work can be seen on Comcast Cable Channel 10 and AT&T U-Verse Channel 99.

The Chicago Blackhawks have a Zamboni to clear and maintain their ice, and Lisle has Mike Gonda and Chris Pecak. When it was announced that the Village would again construct a bigger, outdoor ice rink, Mike and Chris contacted the Village to organize the effort to keep the rink clear of snow.

Finally, congratulations are also in order to Lisle’s new Chief of Police James Kosatka and much appreciation to retired Chief Michael Damico.

PrairieWalk Pond opened

PrairieWalk Pond was officially opened on October 30th. The 4.5 acre site features lighted walking trails, preserved wetlands, a gazebo, color-lighted fountains and DragonFly Landing, a children’s play area. When DragonFly Landing opens next spring the Village will do a grand opening to welcome the completion of the entire project. The project, subsidized by a $400,000 OSLAD grant, adds recreational dimensions to a downtown storm water retention pond with capacity for future downtown development.

Green by Choice pluses

Launched in March, the Sustainable Lisle Business Program is translating into economic development. Results are increased economic vitality—

- 70+ retail businesses involved
- Using ‘green’ to attract business
- Hotels booking green meetings
- Business to business sales
- Attracting new businesses
- Strong community partnerships
Excerpts from Mayor’s State of the Village Address

Navistar will come to Lisle

Redevelopment Agreement:
- 2,800 jobs
- Use of local hotels and businesses
- TIF surplus to taxing bodies
- Commitment to site as world headquarters
- $110M in improvements

Building Additions:
- 15,900 SF Design Center
- 4,270 SF Vehicle Review Area
- 6,250 SF Expansion to Atrium
- plus interior renovations within the existing 1.2M SF

Campus Improvements:
- North parking lot improved w/ landscape islands and new lighting
- New campus signage—monument sign, wall sign on atrium and directional signage
- Intersection of Forbes & Ring Road reconfigured to improve traffic flow

Old Village Hall Site
The Village has terminated its agreement with New England Builders. The Mayor noted the economics of the past few years are not the developer’s doing and did not fault them. Considering the economy, the Board is grateful not to have unfinished buildings or foundation holes in the ground.

Any project moving forward will not likely be the same one that was envisioned in the agreement. This action guards the Village’s interests for future project proposals. The Board does not expect a project for the site anytime soon, until the economy improves.

One upcoming challenge: levees
Their maintenance is not just a neighborhood issue!

Finance: adjusting to a new economy

Like other municipalities, Lisle has been tightening its belt. Non-union employees have had no wage increases for two years. All services and expenses are scrutinized. There have been no increases in operating expenses, and capital equipment and projects have been deferred.

The Village’s 2009 Property Tax Levy is $4,127,462 and represents less than 6% of real estate taxes property owners paid. Almost 90% of Village share of Property Tax goes to Police Department or Police Pension Fund. Obviously, other revenue sources play an important role in supporting Village services. (See chart.)

On the positive side, Village debt is low with only two bond issues outstanding—Police Facility and Sports Complex. The General Fund Reserve and bond rating of Aa2 by Moody’s Investors Service has been maintained. For a 7th year, Lisle was awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association.

Compared to our DuPage neighbors, only one community imposes fewer taxes/fees: 24 impose more than the Village of Lisle. Only three have a lower water rate (only one with Lake Michigan water).

Trends of other major revenue sources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year (May 1-Apr 30)</th>
<th>FY2007/08</th>
<th>FY2008/09</th>
<th>FY2009/10</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sales tax</td>
<td>4,662,749</td>
<td>3,741,568</td>
<td>3,314,233</td>
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<tr>
<td>State income tax</td>
<td>2,164,275</td>
<td>2,141,744</td>
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<td>Building permit fees</td>
<td>549,632</td>
<td>362,838</td>
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<td>Motor fuel tax</td>
<td>656,234</td>
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<td>Telecommunications tax</td>
<td>2,439,278</td>
<td>2,560,992</td>
<td>2,552,973</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hotel/Motel tax*</td>
<td>1,564,531</td>
<td>1,303,412</td>
<td>1,034,792</td>
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<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>12,036,699</td>
<td>10,723,949</td>
<td>9,698,147</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*In calendar years (not FY, above), H/M showed a +$89,000 turn-around in 2010.

Popular Recycling Programs
- Sustainable Saturday: April 30, 2011
- Drop-off Monthly Electronics & Battery Recycling
- RxBox: Safe Medicine Disposal in box at Police Dept. entry
- Holiday Lights Recycling
- Recycling containers for cans/ bottles and paper, downtown & at Commuter Station
- Coming in 2012: recycling toters

Ogden Avenue Plan
In July, the Board approved the plan, which provides vision for the Ogden Corridor. Kudos to the many who provided input! Implementation will depend on the economy and on strategic opportunities that arise.

Downtown abloom!
This was the first full year the public could enjoy our beautifully renovated downtown.

Downtown vacancies decreased with new businesses such as Crème de la Crème, Tailored Space Cabinetry, Vini Restaurant, and Verizon coming into town, as well as the return of John Dough Bakery/Cafe.
Pillar Awards recognize citizens’ good deeds

Lisle Community Character Alliance awards presented 11/15/10 to Heather Nitzki, Adam Grego, LCCA’s Julie LaFond, Doug Cunningham, Mayor Broda, Lanie Hedrick (front), Sheryl Fasone & four members of the Green Team, and Amy Narot.

Doug Cunningham & Robert McCune – Citizenship (Adult)
President and Treasurer, respectively, of Friends of Lisle Library, these two men devote countless hours throughout the year preparing for the Semi—annual Used Book Sales. Doug also schedules high quality programming, dealing with the contracts, plans, and promotion for music, lectures and travelogues—all presented at no charge to the public.

Sheryl Fasone and the Green Team – Citizenship (Service Group)
The team of volunteers began a successful program last year to reduce, reuse, rethink and recycle on “No–waste Wednesdays” at Tate Woods and Schiesher Elementary.

Adam Grego– Responsibility (Student)
Adam led the Lisle Junior football team to follow the National Football League’s efforts to support National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. He received permission to have all 33 boys on his team wear pink socks to follow the NFL efforts. He and his mother dyed the socks, bringing recognition of Breast Cancer Month home to Lisle in his unique and unforgettable way.

Lanie Hedrick – Caring (Student)
Lanie, age 9, set up a butterfly nursery in her home, and daily cared for and carefully helped nurture 50 Monarch butterflies from egg to adulthood, setting them free to increase the butterfly population in Lisle.

Amy Narot – Caring (Adult)
Amy organized a purple ribbon campaign to support a 5th grade student who was undergoing chemotherapy. She arranged home–cooked meals for a Lisle mother with breast cancer. She also lined up volunteers to plan and plant this mother’s summer flower garden. For a local teacher who suddenly lost a sister, Narot arranged for a memorial tree planted on school grounds. She organizes these efforts to make a difference because she deeply cares for others.

Heather Nitzki – Citizenship (Student)
Heather organized collection of Jewel–Oscro cookware stamps to earn a set of pots and pans to give to the Sharing Connections, which helps those in need of household basics. It takes 710 reward stickers to earn a complete set of eight pieces. The Lisle Junior High 8th–grader has earned one set and continued to collect stamps for more sets.

Buy dog tags now
All dogs are required to wear a Village of Lisle tag, in addition to the DuPage County rabies tag. Buy 2011 dog tags ($10) now at the Village Hall Business Office. Bring an up–to–date veterinarian’s certificate of rabies vaccination.

Two new recycling opportunities

Electronics & Battery Recycling
Monthly, 3rd Sat, 9:00A–Noon
4930 Lincoln Avenue (Rt. 53)
Residents can drop off unwanted electronics, such as computer monitors, printers, stereos, VCRs, cell phones, and TVs to be recycled. Small household appliances, including blenders, toasters and alarm clocks will also be collected. Also, household batteries (AA, AAA, D, 9–volt batteries, hearing aid batteries, lithium batteries, and camera batteries) as well as printer/toner cartridges, are being accepted. Volunteers and employees from Creative Recycling will unload participants’ recyclables.

Holiday Lights Recycling
light strands & extension cords thru Feb 2011, M–F, 7:00A–5:00P
inside Village Hall Lobby
Lisle has partnered with Elgin Recycling, who will strip the lights and recycle both the copper and plastic materials. No parts will be shipped overseas. Any string of holiday lights—incandescent or LED lights, and extension cords—accepted free of charge. No limit on number of strands.

Newsletter distribution
The Lisle Village Newsletter is posted on the website with a limited number printed for residents to pick up at Village Hall, Lisle Library or Lisle Park District.
To be notified via email when a new newsletter is posted, sign up for e–Notify on the Village’s website. Click on the e–Notify box on the homepage and follow instructions.