



THE FOREST VIEW

THE CITY OF LAKE FOREST

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Overview to FY10 Budget Process

Last October I reported during Manager Meetings that, while times were tough, Lake Forest was positioned to “weather the storm” better than most municipalities. Since then, the storm has grown in its intensity and the collateral damage is being felt everywhere – including Lake Forest.

A convergence of economic, operational and structural factors has created a dynamic for change. A change that is inevitable, far-reaching and long-term. And while the “eye of the storm” may not be on us, we are and will be impacted.

Unfortunately, things are likely to get worse (foreclosures, store closings, job loss) before they get better (1st quarter 2010).

Dow – 2008 down 34%, largest since 1931

Foreclosures in LF – actual title, 7; 18 in process

Store closings – fewer #, greater sq. footage

148,000 – 2008; 73,000 1st half of 2009 (national)

Job Layoffs – predictions are increasing

This recession will have a profound affect on people in ways we cannot even imagine. It will also have an affect on the way we do business – thus requiring a new way of thinking. A keener business sense (financial acumen). Improved understanding of the cost of doing business.

Our approach throughout this experience will be open, inclusive and most importantly **enduring**. I will promote:

1. Long-term prospective/solutions;
2. “Fair and Equitable” & “Best for Community” thinking;
3. Public Awareness - Education, partially through the feedback system of the Employee Benefit Committee

We cannot be paralyzed by our reputation or past success. We must focus on the future challenges and opportunities. You, in your leadership capacity, will play a critical role in helping this organization move forward during these difficult economic

times. You will be required to be **creative**, open-minded and to occasionally make some tough and unpopular decisions. **This will test our capacity to be a team.**

Doing nothing or waiting for the Federal or State governments to come to our rescue is not an option. Delay will only exacerbate the situation in the coming years. The time to act in a thoughtful, comprehensive and astute way is now.

Our organizational character and professionalism will be tested during these trying and uncertain times, but I truly believe that we are up to the challenge.

The following are some specific numbers to help you understand our long-term financial situation.

FY2009	
Revenue Shortfall	(\$500,000)
Expense Overage	(\$500,000)
Total Shortfall	(\$1,000,000)
Reasons for Shortfall:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Cannot Transfer Revenue from Water Fund · Building Permits Down · Interest Earnings Down · IRMA Expense Up · Snow Expense Up · Legal Expense Up 	

FY2010	
Revenue Shortfall	(\$350,000)
Total Shortfall	(\$350,000)
Reasons for Shortfall:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Income Tax Down (State Budget) · Building Permits Down · Interest Earnings Down · IRMA Expense Up · Fleet Expense Up · Salary and Benefits Up · Pensions Up 	

	FY2011	FY2012
Total Shortfall (if permanent cuts not made):	(\$685,000)	(\$1,077,000)
Reasons for Shortfall:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Pensions Up · Salary and Benefits Up · CPI decreasing · Tax Levy smaller increases 		

Happy Birthday

Tom Kristan	CommDev	1/24
Cathy Czerniak	CommDev	1/31
Bryan DeBaets	PW - Forestry	1/31
George Carpenter	PW - Water & Sewer	2/2
Jim Athanas	Police	2/3
Tom Naatz	PW - Admin	2/7
Mike Thomas	PW - Admin	2/7
Iain Walsh	Police	2/8
Michelle Kousins	Police	2/9
Julie Carpenter	CommDev	2/10
Bill Hooper	PW - Sanitation	2/12
Brian Joyce	PW - Engineering	2/13
Anthony Hall	Library	2/13
Wendy Dumont	Police	2/14
Garrett Malcolm	IT	2/25
Dan Deuel	P&R - Rec	2/26
Kevin Zelk	Police	2/27
Mark Wiegold	PW - Water Plant	2/28
Gil Barajas	P&R - Golf	2/28
Becky Pocasangre	PW - Admin	3/1
Valerie Wolfgram	Library	3/1
Mike Evert	Fire	3/2
Ken Magnus	PW - Engineering	3/3
Ray Spetz	PW - Sanitation	3/3
Rob Goepfner	Police	3/8
Kevin Cronin	Fire	3/10
Conrad Christensen	Police	3/10
Ed Yep	Police	3/11
Peter Gordon	PW - Forestry	3/11
Chris Torrance	CROYA	3/13
Nathan Byrnes	Fire	3/15
Tony Olifer	Fire	3/15
Shelley Walker	OCM	3/17

Growing Families

David and **Lisa Straza** (Police) – Morgan Alexandra, January 10.



Employee News



Denise Erhardt is the new Police Communications Operator. She previously worked for Lake County Animal Control. She is an animal shelter volunteer and enjoys reading and her friends.

John Baldwin has recently joined the Parks Section. John worked for Veolia Environmental Services as a mechanic prior to coming to the City. He enjoys boating and restoring old cars and motorcycles.



Andy Barnes is a new Fire-fighter. His previous job was with Fedex Express. Andy is recently married, and he has a pug named Willie.



Andy has a BS from the University of Illinois. He enjoys 16" softball, hiking, going to White Sox games, traveling. He also plays the alto sax.

Matt Signa is a new Police Officer with the City. Prior to his employment with Lake Forest, Matt was a New York City Police Officer.



Josh Hucker, CommDev, recently obtained his certification as a Fire Plans Examiner after successfully completing the International Codes Commission examination required for this certification. Congratulations, Josh!

News You Can Use

The Effect of Stress on Families

by Frank Wagner, LCSW, Family Service

When people think of stress, they often think about adverse or difficult life events like illness, loss and crisis. Researchers have found, however, that some of the most stressful events in a person's life are generally positive experiences such as moving, getting a new job, getting married or having a child. Since stress is a fundamental part of life, therapists find it more useful to think about how a person manages stress rather than how one avoids stress.

We are all familiar with some of the maladaptive ways people deal with stress: over-eating; drinking too much; sleeping too much; avoiding thinking about difficult things. One of the hallmarks of a healthy, mature person may be the ability to manage and adapt to stress in a healthy way. There are times in our lives that are especially stressful, and an economic downturn is a time that stresses everyone.

People get married or enter into long-term relationships in part as a buffer against the stress of the world. During tough times, most people want someone to share the burden, to have on their side as they try to resolve the part of their lives that is causing stress. When one member of a couple is having conflict with their parents or siblings, it is a great feeling to go home to the one they love, talk about what is going on and think of what to do in an environment that feels safe.

Difficult economic times can cause people to not feel safe in their relationships. Too often we see relationships that are marked by feelings of blame and guilt. This seems especially true when one partner loses their job. It is times like this that it is more important than ever for a couple to feel that they are in it together, but this feeling is often impeded by poor communication.

Poor communication in couples usually comes down to feelings that an issue is too big or too

emotionally charged to be talked about. This is the experience of blame and guilt. The inability to discuss something clearly, honestly and somewhat rationally is the single biggest barrier to the feeling of mutual support. The opposite of mutual support is a feeling of falling apart.

With any difficult issue, there will be real areas of disagreement. In any relationship crisis each partner will need to address or face some maladaptive thing they are doing and/or be challenged to do more. It is in the challenge or confrontation that healthy and enduring couples distinguish themselves. Is the confrontation direct or indirect? Is the challenge presented in the context of respect or contempt? Is there recognition that both parties have a role in the problem and the solution or is there one person who is "all wrong" and another who is "all right"?

If partners come together to protect and support each other in the stress of life, then it is the task of parents to protect their children from unnecessary exposure to these same stresses. In difficult economic times, children will worry about the family's future. They will lack the judgment and experience of adults and are apt to over-react, to worry about that which they can't control. It is the parents' role to protect children from these fears as much as possible; to allow children to focus on school, friends and play.

In difficult times there are real issues that threaten the well-being of families. Families are losing their homes or are worrying about the ability to pay for tuition and even food. It is always best if parents can contain this anxiety while they do their best to face the challenges. Parents can best do this if they themselves have a supportive relationship such as a well-functioning marriage or partnership.

Difficult times also mean that children may go without: without the latest game system; without the newest clothes; sometimes without the school or neighborhood they have grown use to. At these times, it is important for parents to

remember that love and attention are by far the most important things children get from parents.

Lastly, it is important to note that all of these things are difficult to accomplish. Every family and every relationship can be made stronger through counseling. Family Service is the City's Employee Assistance Program partner. Information on how to use this benefit can be found on the HR website at www.citylf.org or by contacting Human Resources. The service is completely confidential and the first 12 visits are free.

Benefit Briefing

Coordination of Benefit Letters

Within the next few days, those who carry dependent coverage on the City's medical insurance will receive a letter from PBA, our insurance claims administrator, asking for information about any other insurance their spouse or dependents may have. This information is necessary in order to correctly coordinate benefits. If you receive one of these letters, even if your dependents do not have other coverage, be sure to complete and return the information to PBA immediately, keeping a copy for your records. **Claims may be held or denied until the PBA records are updated.** Having this information on file annually is a requirement of our excess liability carrier.

E-Newsletter Now Available

If you received a printed copy of this newsletter, but would rather receive it via email, contact Carla Ward at wardc@cityoflakeforest.com with your email address. You will receive an electronic version. Not only will you get it in full-color, but you can help save a tree.

For those who enjoy getting a hard copy of the newsletter, we are still very happy to mail it to you.

News You Can Use

The Lake Forest Fitness Center is happy to celebrate its 10 Year Anniversary. They look forward to continuing to provide a friendly fitness environment with affordable pricing. Make your commitment to your mind, body and wellness in 2009 and make this your year to shine! Contact the Lake Forest Fitness Center at 847-615-3187, where good health is convenient, affordable and state-of-the-art. City employees receive a membership discount to the Fitness Center.

Recreation Department employee, **Linda Broderick** is stage managing the next Citadel show. Linda is the friendly face at front counter of the Recreation Center. This is the second show she is stage managing after the highly successful production of "*Till the Fat Lady Sings*".

Rec is unleashing the excitement with their Summer Camp information out and signups beginning! City employees get resident rates, and this is a great way for your children to spend their summer full of fun activities. There are a few new camps this year, and one is an extended day so their camp day can go to 6:00pm! Check out Keep On Camp'n on page 11 of the Summer Camp Guide.

Membership to Deerpath Golf Course is a great value and City employees also receive resident rates at the course. Membership signups have started. If you have any questions, contact Chris Marszalek at 847-615-4290.



The Library's View

LEAD Program Partnership

The Library will co-sponsor a Parent University program on Saturday, February 21, featuring guest speaker Dr. Michael Thompson, author of several books on children, including *Raising Cain: Protecting the Emotional Life of Boys*, and *The Pressured Child: Helping Your Child Find Success in School and Life*. Details on time and place of the program will be posted at www.lead-web.org.

Middle School Art Work Exhibit

The annual display of multimedia artwork will run from February 23- March 20 in the Fine Arts Room. Be sure to enjoy the creative efforts of our talented youth!

Staff News

Best wishes to **Ruth Sommers**, who is retiring after eight years as Head of Circulation, to the Lake Tahoe area of Nevada.

In 2008, **Jan Trkla**, **Mary Webber**, and **Kathy Wellington** celebrated 10 years of service at the Library. **Felicia Song**, **Valerie Wolfram** and **Kaye Grabbe** celebrated 20 years of service at the Library. Congratulations and many thanks!

Library Hours

The Library will be open with regular hours on President's Day, Monday, February 16.

Safety Corner

Avoid Being Distracted When Driving

Stay Focused and Pay Attention

Limit Interaction with Passengers

- Avoid talking while driving
- Avoid taking your eyes off the road
- Keep both hands on the wheel

Avoid Driver Fatigue

- Stay focused on the road
- Don't daydream
- Don't drive if you are tired
- Share driving responsibilities on long trips

Don't Drive When Angry or Upset

- Emotions can interfere with safe driving
- Wait until you have cooled down or resolved problems to drive

Avoid "Gawking"

- Avoid slowing down to look at a crash or other activity

If You Need to Use Your Cell Phone

- Pull off the road and stop in a safe place before using your phone
- Use a "hands free" device if you choose to talk and drive

