

The Forest View

Dear Employees:

It feels like a lifetime ago that I wrote my last newsletter article back in January. Who knew then what simpler times those were! Needless to say, the past several months have been unprecedented for the City and for our country. First, there was the COVID-19 pandemic which necessitated the closing of most City facilities for the first time ever. More recently, the civil unrest resulting from the tragic death of George Floyd culminated in the largest demonstration in modern Lake Forest history, in the heart of Market Square.

As I've said over the past few months, I am incredibly proud of the way all of you have responded during the pandemic. From emergency staff who continued to operate in the field throughout the spring under difficult conditions, to those of you who worked long hours remotely while discovering new and creative ways to deliver services to the community, our staff rose to the occasion and exceeded any reasonable expectations. In the months ahead I look forward to all of us giving thought to how the creativity and flexibility exhibited during the pandemic can be incorporated into our routine operations, making us a more efficient, responsive, and nimble organization.

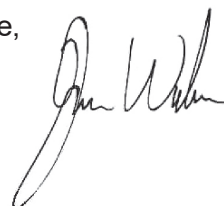
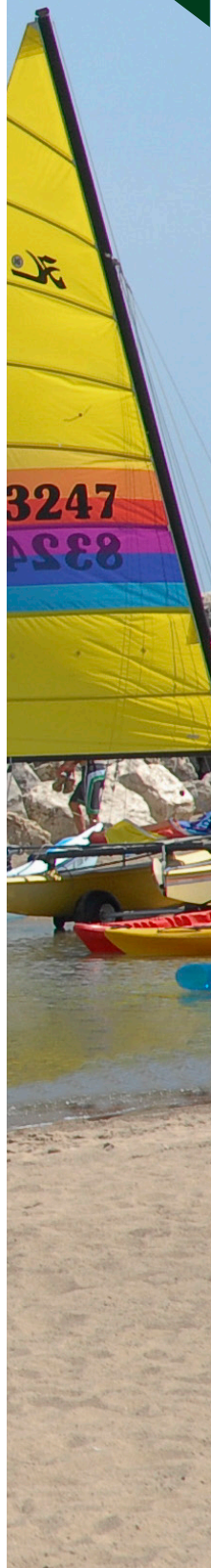
Like many, I was also saddened by the horrible circumstances surrounding the death of George Floyd. It is important for all of us to be sensitive to the times we're living in and to be aware of the reasons for widespread anger and frustration, and then find ways to listen.

My hope is that having open and honest dialogue can lead to real change. It is also a good time to recognize that we benefit as an organization by having a workforce that possesses a diversity of backgrounds and perspectives.

To all our staff who worked behind the scenes to ensure the peaceful demonstration in Market Square occurred without incident, job well done! Police officers throughout the country have been coming under fire recently, but our Police Department has been well ahead of the curve in implementing officer training programs in those areas now garnering significant public attention. Our history of having few complaints about officer conduct has not occurred by accident. In these times more than ever, we are fortunate to have the incredible quality of employees that we have.

Given how crazy the last four months have been, I hope all of you find some time to get away from the job and relax this summer. While travel certainly won't look the same as in years past, it's more important than ever for employees to take care of themselves and recharge the batteries. Never have your vacations been more deserved!

Take care,

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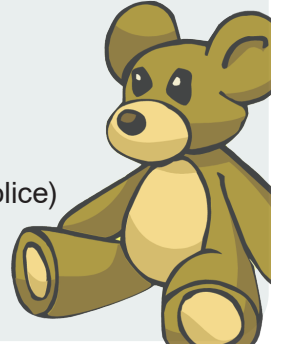
- 2.... Birthdays, Growing Families
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- 4-7.... Employee Recognition
- 8.... New Employees
- 9.... Chili Cook Off
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GROWING FAMILIES

Adrian and **Misa Maj** (Police)
Kimiko Violet & Emiko River
April 8

Carissa and **Erik Blomberg** (Police)
Lucas Alen
June 3



BIRTHDAYS

| | | | | | |
|----------------------|----------------|-------|-----------------|----------------|-------|
| Tom Minarik | PW Fleet/Eqpt | 07/01 | Austin Yarc | Fire | 08/19 |
| Matt Penar | Fire | 07/02 | Felicia Song | Library | 08/21 |
| Kathryn Wellington | Library | 07/03 | Mike Whalen | ComDev | 08/22 |
| Pete Siebert | Fire | 07/05 | Rich Paulsen | PR Parks | 08/22 |
| Juan Castrejon | PW Sanitation | 07/05 | Keith Maslon | PW Water Sewer | 08/22 |
| Carolynn Gaylord | ComDev | 07/06 | Andy Allan | Fire | 08/25 |
| Chris Roberts | Fire | 07/07 | Brian Miklovic | PW Water Sewer | 08/26 |
| Tyler Saieg | Police | 07/07 | Victoria Sergel | Library | 08/28 |
| Leslie Walton | CROYA | 07/14 | Sam Sineni | Police | 08/30 |
| Joe Tomasello | PW Streets | 07/15 | Regina Kennedy | Library | 09/01 |
| Ross Shanley-Roberts | Library | 07/18 | Erik Huston | PW Bldg Maint | 09/03 |
| Jeff Wierema | PW Water Plant | 07/18 | Steve Huck | Police | 09/04 |
| Stuart Cox | PW Bldg Maint | 07/20 | Matt Kluchka | Fire | 09/06 |
| Mike Tiegs | PW Water Plant | 07/21 | Corey Wierema | PR Forestry | 09/14 |
| Crystal Edwards | Finance | 07/24 | Mark Rockwell | ComDev | 09/16 |
| Matt Rausch | Fire | 07/24 | James Scott | Finance | 09/17 |
| Steve Hill | PW Water Plant | 07/24 | Eric Globerger | Fire | 09/17 |
| Kyle Roeder | PW Water Sewer | 07/25 | Erik Kositzki | Fire | 09/17 |
| Jamie Nixon | Fire | 07/26 | Aaron Kruchko | Police | 09/17 |
| Pete Abel | PW Water Sewer | 07/26 | Larry Kenar | PW Fleet/Eqpt | 09/18 |
| Nick Savel | Fire | 07/29 | Patrick Issel | Fire | 09/19 |
| Anthony Caraballo | PW Water Sewer | 07/29 | Joseph Faust | Library | 09/22 |
| Phil Alderks | PR Cemetery | 07/30 | Rob Carmichael | PR Rec Admin | 09/24 |
| Todd Nahigian | CROYA | 08/04 | John Gullledge | PW Water Plant | 09/24 |
| Paul Pugliese | Fire | 08/05 | Sean O'Neill | PW Water Sewer | 09/24 |
| Biddy Boyer | OCM | 08/05 | Troy Reeves | IT | 09/25 |
| Jessica Linders | ComDev | 08/09 | Josh Hucker | ComDev | 09/30 |
| Dave Miniscalco | Police | 08/15 | Jim Fahey | Police | 09/30 |
| Misa Maj | Police | 08/16 | | | |

BELATED BIRTHDAYS

| | | |
|--------------------|----------------|-------|
| Luke Miller | PW Streets | 04/01 |
| Bernard Pondexter | PW Engineering | 04/02 |
| Yoni Garcia | PW Sanitation | 04/03 |
| Pablo Garcia | PW Sanitation | 04/05 |
| Amanda Russell | Library | 04/14 |
| Marty Blitstein | Police | 04/17 |
| Mike Gernenz | PW Streets | 04/17 |
| Rickey Parham | PW Sanitation | 04/18 |
| Matt Wert | PR Parks | 04/19 |
| Matthew Bachler | Finance | 04/20 |
| Liz Poppenhouse | Library | 04/20 |
| Ismael Ramirez | PW Sanitation | 04/21 |
| John Baldwin | PR Parks | 04/22 |
| Rob January | PR Parks | 04/23 |
| Lauren French | HR | 04/25 |
| Mary Good | Library | 04/27 |
| Joe Mobile | PR Rec Admin | 04/29 |
| Karl Walldorf | Police | 05/01 |
| Aaron Bishop | PW Water Plant | 05/02 |
| Matt Goodman | ComDev | 05/05 |
| Jen Baehr | ComDev | 05/06 |
| Daniel Blaul | Police | 05/06 |
| Anthony Anaszewicz | PR Rec Admin | 05/08 |
| Ken Pierini | PR Rec Admin | 05/08 |
| Kate Buckardt | Library | 05/11 |
| Paul Petersen | ComDev | 05/12 |
| Jason Wicha | OCM | 05/14 |
| Charlie Flesch | Police | 05/14 |
| Mike Hughes | Police | 05/14 |
| Choosri Goebel | Library | 05/20 |
| Sara Hartnett | Finance | 05/22 |
| Phil Gualdoni | Police | 05/26 |

| | | |
|----------------------|----------------|-------|
| Mark Zalke | PW Bldg Maint | 05/26 |
| Chuck Myers | PR Parks | 05/29 |
| Ron Gramer | PW Fleet/Eqpt | 05/31 |
| Mark Senger | Police | 06/02 |
| Catherine Lemmer | Library | 06/03 |
| Zachary Amrein | Fire | 06/04 |
| Jason Busdeker | PR Rec Admin | 06/04 |
| Jim Koblas | PW Engineering | 06/04 |
| Steve Werchek | Fire | 06/05 |
| Joe Gabanski | IT | 06/05 |
| Travis Pedersen | Fire | 06/06 |
| Andy Barnes | Fire | 06/08 |
| Ben Grum | Police | 06/08 |
| Bob Ells | PW Engineering | 06/08 |
| Susan Banks | OCM | 06/09 |
| Eric Farr | Fire | 06/13 |
| Matt Allen | Police | 06/14 |
| Elizabeth Holleb | Finance | 06/16 |
| Salomon Martinez Jr. | PW Streets | 06/16 |
| Tim Gehring | Police | 06/17 |
| Bill Borzick | PW Bldg Maint | 06/17 |
| Justin Green | PW Bldg Maint | 06/17 |
| Diane Hall | Finance | 06/18 |
| Adam Milczarek | Police | 06/18 |
| Kristin Elliott | PR Rec Admin | 06/22 |
| Mike Lange | Police | 06/24 |
| Andy Shiu | Police | 06/27 |
| Mark Long | Police | 06/28 |
| Fred Hoeft | PW Water Sewer | 06/28 |
| Rich Volpe | PW Water Sewer | 06/29 |
| Amy Begoun | Library | 06/30 |
| Dennis Smith | Police | 06/30 |

In these times more than ever, we are fortunate to have the incredible quality of employees that we have. - Jason Wicha

ComDev

Community Development used the new ERP system to the fullest, working with residents and contractors to complete things digitally. Similarly, they transitioned their inspections to virtual where possible. ComDev and the City have been working with restaurant owners to find ways to expand outdoor dining.

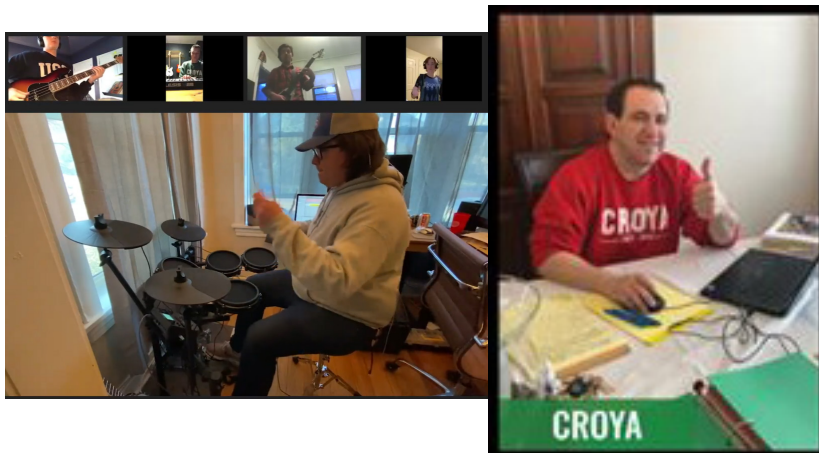


COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

CROYA

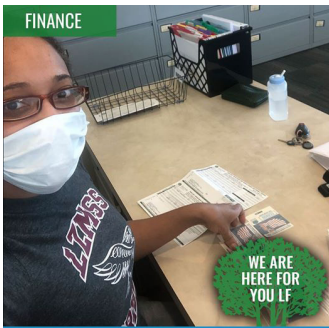
CROYA worked diligently to stay connected. Their retreats, service projects and after school hours were cancelled.

While social distancing kept them physically apart, they are focused on using their shared experience to help everyone become stronger, more empathetic and being better friends than before. They also made some fun videos to celebrate graduating seniors.



CROYA

FINANCE



Finance

The Finance Department used the new ERP system to its fullest, processing transactions electronically rather than "pushing paper". Finance worked to maintain payments to vendors and ensured no disruption in services to residents.



FINANCE

HR

HR worked to keep up with the ever changing State and Federal guidelines, working to put policies and guidelines in place. They modified the internal website to be a COVID-19 communication portal. They also hosted virtual work group meetings and lunch and learns to help deal with stressors.

HUMAN RESOURCES



WE ARE
HERE FOR
YOU LF



Fire

The Fire Department continued to respond to emergency calls, including ambulance calls. As the department with the most exposure to those infected with COVID-19, they took great care to insure proper safety precautions and to maintain back-up plans ... just in case!

IT



IT championed the initiatives needed to allow employees to work remotely. Their implementation of Zoom to allow departments to stay connected, and the implementation of virtual City Council meetings is applauded. Behind the scenes, they kept us all working.



OCM

OCM made quick adjustments to offer services remotely, including birth and death certificates. Public communications was a top priority for this group. Coordinating virtual City Council meetings allowed the City to continue doing business at a higher level.



Police

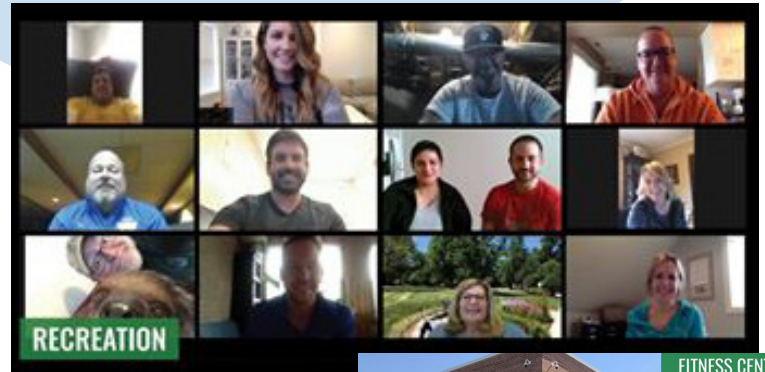
The Police Department continued to work the front lines during the pandemic. Not only did they patrol the community, but they staffed the only City building that remained open to the public. Amidst all of this, they oversaw the coordination of a very "uneventful" public protest. Kudos!



Parks & Rec

Parks and Rec banded together to open the beach this summer to allow residents to social distance safely. The Recreation department moved their hiring process online, including Zoom training partnering with Police and Fire. The cleanup at the beach was a monumental effort between many departments!

Recreation staff and the **Wildlife Discovery Center** created online content, classes and videos to keep people engaged and active. **Administrative** staff worked to get beach hiring done for opening day. **Cemetery** employees continued to work with those who lost family members. **Forestry** and **Parks** employees worked tirelessly to prepare the beach for reopening. Damage was extensive following winter storms.



Dickinson Hall

Dickinson Hall checked in on and delivered groceries to seniors, even teaching them to use Facetime remotely!



Public Works

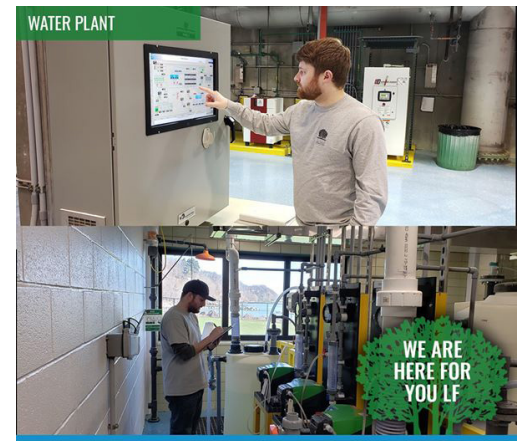
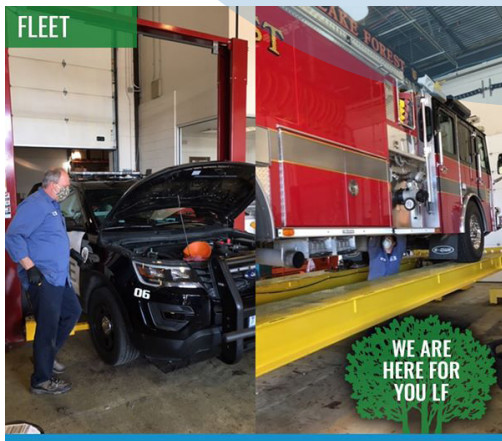
Public Works helped keep LF residents' family "operations" moving while the stay-at-home order was in place.

Sanitation worked daily to continue collecting garbage and recycling. They added curb side pickup which was enthusiastically received by the public and figured out how to safely open the Compost Center. The **Water Plant** never stopped operations, 24/7. Good, clean water was always available.

Fleet worked in shifts to maintain vehicles for all departments and emergency personnel. **Engineering** operated digitally to conduct inspections as projects continued to move forward. **Building Maintenance** worked to keep facilities running and sanitized, as well as gathering PPE and converting spaces with shields to get ready for our return to the office.

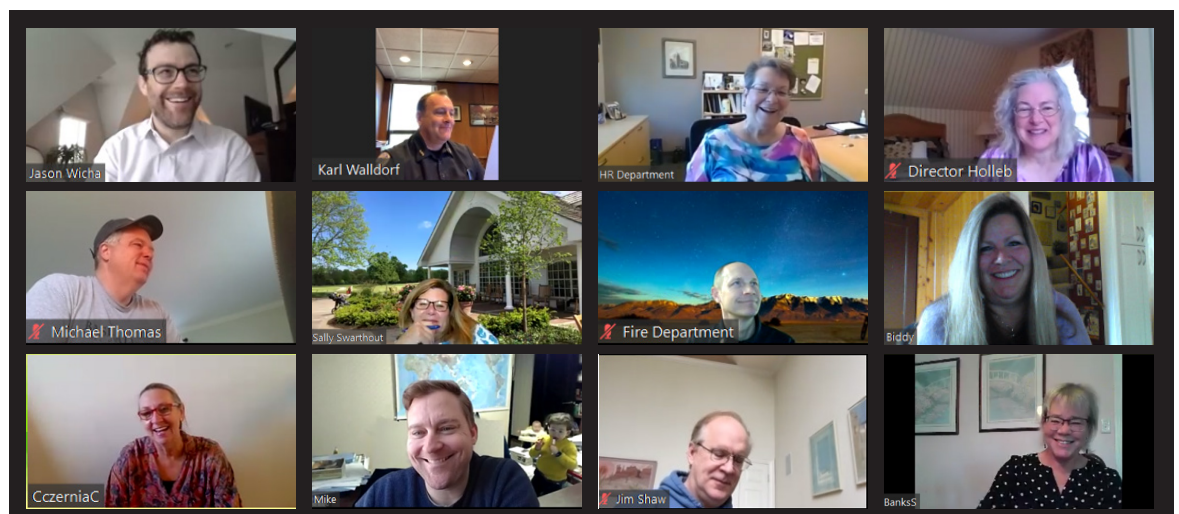
Administrative staff continued to process paperwork. **Water and Sewer** responded to water main breaks and emergencies. **Streets** employees played a key role in helping Parks and Forestry crews get the beach ready to reopen.

Exemplifying Teamwork!



Your executive staff team says:

We are so proud of how our departments worked together. You really shine!





Katie Dolan is the new Program Supervisor at Dickinson Hall. She has worked part-time at Dickinson Hall since 2016.

Katie not only is a programmer at work, but is usually organizing outings for friends. When not planning and organizing, she's usually getting crafty.



Samantha Hiller is the newest member of the Fire Department, joining as a Firefighter/Paramedic. Samantha has been a paid on premises firefighter with Lake Forest since 2019. Prior, she worked with Paramedic Services of IL.

She officiates ice hockey, enjoys playing guitar, singing and travelling.



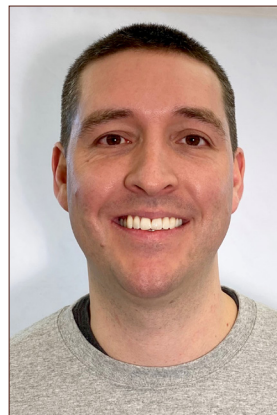
David Biddle joins the Water Plant as a Water Plant Operator. He previously worked at Imperial Surveillance installing access control and security systems.

David likes spending time with family and friends, playing sand volleyball and watching sports.



Jim Shaw is the City's new Director of Innovation and Technology. He previously worked for the Village of Skokie as the Director of IT Services.

Jim enjoys spending time with family, doing yard work and landscaping. He has a wife and son. His wife is a professional violinist.



Chanze Davis is also joining the Water Plant as a Water Plant Operator. For the past 14 years he has been a chemical operator.

He has been married for 2 years and last October they welcomed twin girls. He enjoys spending time with family, working on his mustang and watching sports.



Sean O'Neill joins the Water and Sewer section as a Maintenance Worker. Sean previously worked for Kenosha Water Utility.

Sean likes playing soccer, snowboarding and hanging with friends.



Lisa Moulton is the Recreation Department's Program Supervisor for Kinderhaven. She has worked as a Kinderhaven teacher since 2014.

She likes reading non-fiction, walking her 2 big dogs, spending time with extended family and riding bikes.



2020 Chili Cook-Off



1st Place
HR!



2nd Place
City Hall!



3rd Place
Parks!

 **Chili pots were stirred,
ante's were upped,
this year's participants made
amazing Chili! Fun was had by all!**



THE LIBRARY

From Under the Dome to Safe at Home, Your Library is Here for You

Throughout the pandemic and stay-at-home order, your Library has remained open online and by phone. As of the publication date of this newsletter, Library staff are preparing to reopen the building with limited capacity procedures in place starting in mid-July. For up-to-date info, please visit lakeforestlibrary.org. The Library website is also a source of updated and curated info on COVID-19, including resources to help you address and recover from health challenges and financial hardships resulting from the pandemic.

Virtual Events, Digital Resources, & Library Cards

Library events are online! Upcoming events and details are at lakeforestlibrary.org/events. Digital resources including eBooks and streaming movies are available 24/7 at lakeforestlibrary.org/digital. City of Lake Forest employees can request a library card at lakeforestlibrary.org/temp.

Contact Your Librarians

Lake Forest librarians are available to answer your questions, recommend books and movies, help you access digital resources and online learning tools, and more:

Email reference@lakeforestlibrary.org

Live Chat Monday–Saturday, 9:00 am–5:00 pm. Visit lakeforestlibrary.org and click the envelope or “We are here!” in the lower right corner of your screen

Call 847.234.0636 and leave a voicemail

Library Closings

Saturday, July 4

Sunday and Monday, September 6 and 7

New Employees



Ed Finn has extensive experience participating in collaborative initiatives, leading technological innovations, and engaging with lifelong learners. He looks forward to using these skills as the Library's new Head of Operations. In his free time he enjoys traveling with his family and reading biographies and historical fiction.



Annalisa Soukup most recently worked as an elementary school librarian in Winnetka before joining the Adult Services Department at Lake Forest Library. She enjoys skiing, traveling, crafting, and spending time with her family.



Yesi Astudillo is the most recent addition to the Circulation Department. Her past experience includes working in retail, at Ravinia Festival, and for the Human Rights Campaign. Yesi has two brothers and enjoys cooking vegetarian meals, reading, and walking in forest preserves with her dog.



Laurie Neir joined the Library as a Youth Services Assistant. She enjoys helping children and is a Paraeducator at Highland Middle School. Laurie lives in Libertyville with her family and yellow lab. Her interests include gardening, Broadway musicals, and the Chicago Blackhawks.