

The Forest View

VIEWS FROM THE DESK OF...

Dear Employees,

In preparing this year's budget message, I could relate to the main character in the 1993 movie Groundhog Day, played by Bill Murray. I felt like I was trapped in a time loop, listening to Governor Rauner deliver his 2016 Budget message, when eight months after the start of the State's fiscal year, the Illinois Legislature still has not adopted the 2015 Budget. The State of Illinois' financial picture has not improved, and unquestionably has gotten much worse. The uncertainty and impacts of the "rendezvous with reality" discussed in early 2015 still persists today with no clear end in sight.

Legislators refuse to make the tough decisions necessary for the state to live within its means, and fail to appreciate that with each passing day the situation

becomes increasingly dire. Too bad they cannot learn from us. City employees have consistently shown over the years how to be innovative, creative and committed to finding ways to "do more with less" and maintain a high level of service to our residents.

While the news out of Springfield may not be great, I hope that you will attend the upcoming City Manager Informational meetings in May to learn more about what is going on and how this might impact City operations.



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BIRTHDAYS

Billy Loyd	PW - Bldg. Maint.	03/27	Rob January	P&R - Parks	04/23
Joanne Yorro	CROYA	04/01	Mary Good	Library	04/27
Bernard Pondexter	PW - Engineering	04/02	Joe Mobile	P&R - Rec	04/29
Yoni Garcia	PW - Sanitation	04/03	Karl Walldorf	Police	05/01
Pablo Garcia	PW - Sanitation	04/05	Mike Glomski	ComDev	05/01
Dominick Bellino	Police	04/06	Matt Goodman	ComDev	05/05
John Bardi	Fire	04/10	Anthony Anaszewicz	P&R - Rec	05/08
Dave DeMarco	PW - Fleet/Eqpt	04/13	Ken Pierini	P&R - Rec	05/08
Mike Gernenz	PW - Sanitation	04/17	Kate Buckardt	Library	05/11
Marty Blitstein	Police	04/17	Paul Petersen	ComDev	05/12
Rickey Parham	PW - Sanitation	04/18	Charlie Flesch	Police	05/14
Matt Wert	P&R - Parks	04/19	Mike Hughes	Police	05/14
Carla Ward	HR	04/20	Jian Tan	Library	05/17
Liz Poppenhouse	Library	04/20	Kate Parker	Library	05/19
Ismael Ramirez	PW - Sanitation	04/21	Choosri Goebel	Library	05/20
John Baldwin	P&R - Parks	04/22			

City Manager Informational Meetings Schedule

** Note: If employees cannot meet at the appointed time for their workgroup, please have them attend another scheduled meeting.

Wednesday, May 4	½ Fin./IT;Com.Dev/OCM/Seniors/Rec	8:00 a.m.
	½ Fin./IT;Com.Dev/OCM/Seniors/Rec	9:00 a.m.
	(MS Training Room)	
	Cemetery/Parks/Forestry	10:00 a.m.
	(MS Training Room)	
Friday, May 6	Sanitation	7:00 a.m.
	(MS Training Room)	
Tuesday, May 10	Water&Sewer/Water Plant/Bldg. Main/Fleet	10:00 a.m.
	(MS Training Room)	
	PW Admin./Engineering/CROYA	11:00 a.m.
	(MS Training Room)	
	Fire (Main Station)	1:00 p.m.
	(PSB Classroom)	
Wednesday, May 11	Fire (Main Station)	1:30 p.m.
	(PSB Classroom)	
Monday, May 16	Police Roll Call	6:45 a.m.
Tuesday, May 17	Police Roll Call	2:45 p.m.
Wednesday, May 18	Fire (Main Station)	2:30 p.m.
	(PSB Classroom)	

NEW EMPLOYEES



Billy Knesley has joined the City as a Maintenance Worker in the Forestry Department. Billy was previously a Seasonal in Building Maintenance and most recently worked at Canopy Tree Specialists.

He enjoys outdoor activities and is a volunteer firefighter at Knollwood Fire Dept.

EMPLOYEE NEWS



Corey Wierema has been promoted to the Forestry Supervisor/City Forester. Corey has worked in the Forestry section for 17 years. He started as a summer laborer in Forestry.



Brian Pogochnik has been promoted to the Sanitation Supervisor.

Brian started as a seasonal in Sanitation nearly 19 years ago and shortly after became a full time employee.



Matt Brugioni has been promoted to the Streets Supervisor position. Matt has been with the City for 5 years and began as a seasonal in Building Maintenance before becoming a full time employee in Streets.

THE LIBRARY

Library closings:

Friday, April 1 Staff Institute Day
Monday, May 30th Memorial Day

Open House for Retiring Library Director, Kaye Grabbe Saturday, April 30, 1:00pm-3:00pm

The Library will host an open house for the community to say farewell to retiring Library Director, Kaye Grabbe. Please join the Library Board of Trustees and staff to thank Mrs. Grabbe for 28 years of service to the residents of Lake Forest.

New Employee

Michele Jacobsen has joined the circulation staff at the library. A long-time Lake Bluff resident Michele is looking forward to warmer weather so she can take long walks on the beach and enjoy her garden.

Circling the Sun - with Barbara Rinella

On Monday, April 25, Barbara Rinella will dramatize Circling the Sun, a fictionalized story of pioneering aviator Beryl Markham written by Paula McLain.

John & Nancy Hughes Theater, Gorton Community Center

Program begins at 3:30, doors open at 3:00, no registration required.

Sponsored by the Friends of Lake Forest Library

Friends of the Library Spring Mini Books Sale

Friday, April 15, 9am-5pm
Saturday, April 16, 9am-5pm
Sunset Foods, 825 S. Waukegan Rd. Lake Forest

The Friends of the Library's mini book sale will feature cookbooks, garden books, and paperback fiction.

IMPORTANT BENEFIT REMINDERS AND UPDATES

PBA Coordination of Benefits

PBA will be sending out their annual Coordination of Benefits letter to all employees with family coverage next week. DO NOT THROW AWAY.

For those of you who have dependent coverage on your health insurance, keep an eye out for a Coordination of Benefits letter that will be mailed to your home in the next few days by PBA.

-- It is important that you complete this letter and return it to PBA as quickly as possible. This is information needed for our excess liability carrier and failure to complete the form could result in a delay in processing your medical claims. Always be sure to keep a copy for your files. If you have any questions, contact HR.

Chiropractic Claims

We have recently discovered that some chiro claims dating back to November 1, 2015 may have been denied due to a change made by CIGNA without our knowledge. If you have chiropractic visits during this time period, you may want to check with your chiropractor to see if your claims have been processed.

If there are problems, please contact HR with the dates of service and the Chiropractor's name.

IMRF Voluntary Life Insurance

If you are covered by IMRF and have the voluntary life insurance (Amount per month or pay period), there has been a change. The coverage upon termination is no longer portable and may not be maintained while not employed by the City.

If you have any questions regarding your benefits or these updates, please contact HR.

FLEX due Thursday March 31 2016

If you have a balance exceeding \$500 in your Flexible Spending Account, now is the time to submit your claim. All claims incurred prior to December 31, 2015, must be submitted no later than March 31, 2016.

Online filing of claims is available at pbaclaims.com

If you wish to check the balance in your Flexible Spending Account, you can do so at pbaclaims.com under the Flex tab. You can also submit your claims online by scanning your receipts and filling out the online claim form on the same PBA site. It's very easy to do.

If you have any problems logging in or have additional questions, please contact PBA customer service at 630.655.3755.

Due to Federal guidelines, only \$500 is allowed to roll over to 2016. Do not jeopardize your funds!

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING YOUR
BENEFITS OR THESE UPDATES, PLEASE CONTACT HR.
THE GENERAL HR LINE IS 847-810-3533.**