



# THE FOREST VIEW

THE CITY OF LAKE FOREST

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## *Views from the desk of ...*

### **Exerpts from Bob Kiely's Budget Message:**

*You can't always get what you want  
But if you try sometimes, you might find  
You get what you need*

*Mick Jagger/Keith Richards*

When the Rolling Stones recorded this song back in 1968, they probably were not envisioning the relevancy of the lyrics to today's budgetary challenges.

Lake Forest has historically moved cautiously and conservatively when evaluating requests for new programs or services. Our tradition is to thoughtfully consider all aspects of the request and not get caught up in the emotional or political pressures of the moment. Whether we like it or not, economic conditions are forcing governments to reassess constituent wants vs. needs.

Over 5 years ago, the City projected the relative growth of both revenues and expenses and initiated steps to systematically, and almost invisibly, modify our operational cost structure. Financial forecasting indicated that our major budgetary cost-driver (personnel costs) was growing at a faster rate than available revenues. Consequently, it was necessary to eliminate positions, returning the City's total employee count to FY1992 levels (227 full-time equivalents). The proposed budget includes no new positions for the upcoming fiscal year.

What is noteworthy is that during this period of 12% reduction in employees, 95% of our residents are still very satisfied with living in Lake Forest! Thoughtful and proactive financial planning has made the City successful in focusing residents on needs vs. wants and maintaining Lake Forest as a very desirable, full-service community.

During FY12, City staff focused efforts on making sure that our vehicles and equipment were appropriately apportioned to the reduced personnel levels. City staff will continue to monitor vehicle usage and determine if additional reductions can be made as well as investigate methods for reducing our overall fuel consumption. The City currently consumes approximately 185,000 gallons of fuel each year and the rising cost of gasoline continuously puts tremendous pressure on operating budgets. During FY13 we will evaluate other alternatives such as electric vehicles or one's that operate on compressed natural gas (CNG).

## PROGRAM EFFICIENCY STUDIES

Annually, the City examines various aspects of its operations to determine if there is a more efficient or cost-effective way of providing service to residents. This organization does not subscribe to “Business As Usual”, which can handcuff creativity or blind us from potentially restructuring operations, forming partnerships, or developing other strategies that control costs and maintain desired service levels. This is particularly true as employees take on new or added responsibilities under the reorganization prompted by the ERI Program,

In FY13, the City will examine the following service areas:

- 1) Fire/Paramedic Shared Services Studies – The study will examine alternatives for providing fire and paramedic services to the four communities on a more regional, cost-effective basis. The results of the study are expected by late spring.
- 2) Recycling and Refuse Collection Service – Lake Forest has again applied for a grant to assist in the purchase of larger recycling containers for residents. The final phase of containers distributed to homes will occur this summer, along with the implementation of the mechanical arm collection system, and initiating the community conversation into once-a-week refuse collection.
- 3) Central Dispatching – The City will be participating with the Cities of Highwood, Highland Park and Villages of Deerfield, Lake Bluff and Bannockburn to conduct a study about the creation of a centralized dispatching operation for police and fire calls.
- 4) Cable TV Operations – The City will explore alternative methods for taping and broadcasting City meetings and notable community events.

## FINAL THOUGHTS

The City Council and community must continue to methodically and objectively differentiate between “wants” and “needs” and allocate available resources to achieve the greatest common good. We will continue to promote new thinking, new relationships and structures, and more realistic expectations on our delivery of services. Where this economy will take us is anyone’s guess, but the City’s conservative financial practices have positioned us to thrive, react responsibly and objectively plan for our future.

## Benefit Update



Employees on our medical insurance who fill prescriptions with Serve You DirectRxSM Pharmacy can now take advantage of the enhanced online offerings of EZRefillRx .

When you use EZRefillRx online or by phone, you can:

- Refill orders for yourself and covered family members
- Check drug costs for each refill placed online
- Instantly track an order's status until it arrives
- Plus standard home delivery is free

Just create a login account at [www.serve-you-rx.com](http://www.serve-you-rx.com).



ICMA-RC reminds you that designating beneficiaries helps you maintain control over your assets.

- **Designate primary and contingent beneficiaries.** You can do this online via Account Access or on hard copy enrollment forms.
- **Update beneficiary information.** Whenever you experience a life event such as marriage, death of a family member, divorce or separation, please remember to update your beneficiary information.
- **Provide complete information** including full name, dates of birth and Social Security numbers.

## Employee News

On April 26, **Beth Ball** (Police) will be graduating from Roosevelt University with Honors and will be inducted into Alpha Sigma Lambda, National Honor Society. Congratulations!

## Employee News



**Steve Creighton** is the new Student Union Youth Worker at CROYA. He previously worked at The Leelanau Outdoor Center where he was Assistant Director. In his leisure time Steve enjoys running, soccer, camping, hiking, XC skiing, snowboarding and reading.

**John Eldridge** is the new Athletics Program Supervisor for the Parks and Recreation Department. John has been working for the City in a part-time capacity since 2007. He has a BS degree in Parks, Recreation and Tourism, and an MBA. John enjoys playing softball and basketball and spending time with family and friends.



**Carolynn Callaby** has joined ComDev. She previously worked for the Richmon Fire Department as Treasurer/EMT-B. Carolynn has two teenage daughters: Sarah, 15, and Samantha, 14. Scrapbooking, cooking and NASCAR are some of Carolynn's leisure time interests.



### Meet Golf Course General Manager Rick Walrath

**Rick Walrath** is a Class A Member of The PGA of America and has achieved Certified Professional status in Instruction and Retail Operations. Prior to Deerpath, he served as the General Manager for Riverside Golf Club, the Head Golf Professional of Wynstone Golf Club, and as First Assistant Golf Professional at Crystal Lake Country Club. He is married with two young daughters.



Congratulations to **Anthony Anaszewicz** on his promotion to Program Manager for Athletics. Anthony has worked for the Recreation Department since 2005, when he was hired as a Program Supervisor. Way to go, Anthony!

## Birthdays...

Matt Neer	Library	3/31
Sherry Miller	Senior Resources	4/1
Lou Decker	PW - Streets & San	4/1
Joanne Yorro	CROYA	4/1
Bernard Pondexter	PW - Engineering	4/2
Yoni Garcia	PW - Streets & San	4/3
Wendy Frasier	Finance/IT	4/5
John Bardi	Fire	4/10
Dave DeMarco	PW - Fleet	4/13
Mary Jo Kutyna	Finance/IT	4/16
Marty Blitstein	Police	4/17
Mike Gernenz	PW - Streets & San	4/17
Rickey Parham	PW - Streets & San	4/18
Matt Wert	P&R - Parks/Forestry	4/19
Carla Ward	Human Resources	4/20
Brian Verbeke	Police	4/20
John Baldwin	P&R - Parks/Forestry	4/22
Rob January	P&R - Parks/Forestry	4/23
Mary Good	Library	4/27
Joe Mobile	P&R - Rec	4/29
Mike Glomski	ComDev	5/1
Lou Bischoffer	PW - Water Plant	5/1
Karl Walldorf	Police	5/1
Matt Goodman	ComDev	5/5
Ken Pierini	P&R - Rec	5/8
Anthony Anaszewicz	P&R - Rec	5/8
Sandy Ragsdale	P&R - Rec	5/9
Kevin Issel	Fire	5/12
Paul Petersen	ComDev	5/12
Mary Van Arsdale	P&R - Admin.	5/14
Charles Flesch	Police	5/14
Mike Hughes	Police	5/14
Mary Farwell	Library	5/16
Jian Tan	Library	5/17
Kate Parker	Library	5/19
Thai Jamieson	Police	5/19
Choosri Goebel	Library	5/20
Jamila Foster	Police	5/20
Scott Irish	ComDev	5/21
Sara Hartnett	Finance/IT	5/22
Andrew Thickpenny	PW - Streets & San	5/22
Lee Ling	Library	5/24

## Growing Families

Marne and **Tim Gehring** (Police) - Beckett Drew, March 7.

Aime and **Ron Gramer** (Fleet) - Lena Lynn Joy, February 20.



## The Library's View

The Library website has been completely redesigned. It's even easier than before to search the catalog, databases, downloads and other links. Take a look at <http://www.lakeforestlibrary.org/>

Matt Neer is the new Electronic Services/Reference Librarian in the Adult Services department of the Library. Originally from West Lafayette, IN, Matt has a BA from Ball State University and a MLS from Indiana University-Bloomington. His interests include cycling, travel, and cooking.



Congratulations to Judy Nickels who is retiring at the end of March from the library's Adult Services department after 13 years of service. In addition to her Reference Desk and purchasing responsibilities, Judy was the Library's liaison for the City's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.



The 12th Annual Police Baseball Clinic was once again extremely successful. It was held at the Bear's indoor practice facility. Over 200 kids and 80 volun-

## News You Can Use

### Golf Course Employee Rates



The Parks & Recreation Department is excited to announce the new play policy at Deerpath Golf Course for all full-time employees.

Any full-time employee may utilize the golf course or the driving range during non-working hours, on a space available basis, during unrestricted times at a special employee rate. Play a 18 hole / 9 hole round for a flat fee of \$25 / \$12.50 on the weekdays and \$30 / \$15 on the weekends & holidays, with or without a cart. Full-time employees also receive a 50% discount on any size bucket of balls to use on the driving range. Full-time employees may also purchase a membership to the course for the Senior Resident Rate.

Please contact Rick Walrath to make a reservation or for any questions.

### It's more important than ever to come up with intricate passwords.

A hacker with a fast computer can crack a four-number code in a tenth of a second. An eight-number code takes a bit longer to break, but still under two minutes. However, change that eight-number code to letters, number and punctuation marks, and a hacker will need 210 years. For a 12-character code like that, 17 million years.



Of course, making a code harder to break makes it tougher to remember, and you don't have 210 years to spare when you're trying to check your balance or log on to an Internet account. One trick is to come up with a phrase you won't forget and use just the first letter of each word with punctuation and numbers sprinkled in.