

Carpentersville State of the Village Address 2007

Welcome,

As your Village President I come before you this evening to report that the State of the Village of Carpentersville is strong and moving forward.

I want to begin by commending our Village Staff and in particular pay tribute to our Village Manager, Craig Anderson, who has made significant advances in helping to stabilize our personnel and guide the day-to-day operations of our Village. He and our department head's continue to improve our community.

Our success and future success can only happen with dedicated hard work and with a concerted team effort...

No one person, acting alone, can get this Village where it ought to be.

We have done things in the past two years that have not been done in over 30 years and we have accomplished some things that have never been done before in the history of Carpentersville.

Tonight I would like to talk about some things we have done and some things that we still have left to do.

Carpentersville is a unique community with a vast wealth of promise and opportunities for all of our residents.

We are conveniently located near a major Interstate (I-90) and just 37 miles from Downtown Chicago. We are the third largest municipality in Kane County. We are by far the largest community in Dundee Township. We must be the regional leader that our size would indicate that we should be; we haven't achieved that leadership role yet.

Our future is in our hands. It's up to us to shape that future while bringing our community into the new era of the rapidly growing age of new technology that was previously not available to communities our size.

Carpentersville was expanded first in the 1950s with the promise of hope to working class families and returning Veterans from World War II and the Korean Conflict. We must continue to build on that American family pride and tradition of hard work grounded in strong patriotic values.

We must reinvest in our past with our eyes focused clearly on a bright new future.

We have begun that rebuilding by creating and carrying out a formidable yet flexible, aggressive plan to rebuild our capital assets and our aging infrastructure.

We have set a new course of action for our Village. We have updated our comprehensive plan to carry us into the next decade. We have accomplished many things that in many communities it takes several years to do. We've achieved these in two short years.

We've streamlined our development procedures. We've established a brand new planned unit development (PUD) ordinance that will help expedite new development.

A new Village wide geographic information system (GIS) was implemented in-house. This gives us the ability to produce color zoning maps and color aerial maps of the entire Village. This is a useful tool to be used by elected officials, residents, business owners, developers and Village staff.

We have updated our existing sign ordinance and a new landscape ordinance was recently drafted and approved by the Village Board to make our Village more aesthetically pleasing.

We have created and adopted new Development Standards & Design Guidelines that will become the template for new development in Carpentersville.

We have purchased new top of the line equipment for our Public Works Department. We have embarked on the most aggressive plan of infrastructure improvements and repairs ever witnessed in the history of Carpentersville.

We have seen our Main Street Bridge rebuilt and many of the streets in Old Town and other neighborhood streets and sidewalks primarily on the eastside of our Village being resurfaced and sidewalks being replaced. Even though these are important improvements much more must be done. We need to follow through on plans to build a new bridge at Bolz Road connecting to the Longmeadow Parkway corridor. We have not had a new river crossing in Northern Kane County in 100 years. It's time we make this long talked about bridge a reality for our region.

Working together with Kane County and our surrounding neighboring communities this dream will come true. For the first time there is a workable plan in place. We need to focus on this project and make sure that it happens.

This new bridge will be a major factor in the development of the Brunner Farm along Rt. 31 and the Fox River. This new bridge corridor will help us connect to the remaining properties to our west. We have over 700 acres of prime real estate on the Brunner Farm that the new bridge will provide added access to, from both the east and the west. This vital piece of property must be developed wisely for additional open space and to generate some wonderful realities for our future. This property is key to Carpentersville's future. It must be seen as the "economic engine" to promote redevelopment on the eastside of our Village and provide for the overall strength of Carpentersville for years to come. If this property is properly developed it will help

generate good jobs for our local economy and spur more high-end economic development around the entire village.

We must not miss this opportunity. We stand at the crossroads of the future of Carpentersville, and we must have the vision to see beyond those open fields of corn and see the true potential that awaits us... We must look at this not just as open space but we must see that this is something special for all of us. The opportunities are there we must seize them.

We have listened to the people and we as the government have heard that we must do better. We are poised to do just that. This is an exciting time for our Village.

Public Safety

Since my taking office in 2005, David Neumann was promoted from Deputy Police Chief to our new Police Chief. Chief Neumann along with our veteran, Fire Chief, John Schuldt, allows our Police and Fire departments to continue their fine over-all service record to our community. David Neumann knows our Village very well. Chief Neumann is also a veteran of Carpentersville's Police Department. Our police department has worked very well with outside law enforcement agencies. In this past year we have had major success working with Federal Agencies such as the FBI, ICE, DEA and State and County law enforcement to crack down on gang activity and drug trafficking in our area. Our police department working along side these other agencies has played a very large part in this recent success. Our police in the past year have solved a number of serious crimes, such as the arrest of Henry Black in connection with a recent homicide, the arrest of James Henry who has been charged with a series of arsons, the arrest of eight gang members in conjunction with a family kidnapping and the arrests in conjunction with the drive-by shooting of the Kissane residence just to mention a few. More recently our department working with the FBI, the DEA, the IRS, the Illinois State Police, and the DuPage County Sheriff's Office were involved in the arrest of eight Chicago and northwest suburban men charged with operating an extensive drug distribution network in the western suburbs of Chicago. The alleged head of the illicit drug operation is a resident of Carpentersville. In the past year the Police have changed the focus of the Community Response Team to address gang violence and deter drug sales and related crimes. As a result, our gang and drug arrests have significantly increased, and officers are more visible in neighborhoods troubled by gang violence. As a result of our good working relationship with Federal, State and County law enforcement, the Latin Kings street gang leadership has been decimated. Members of other local gangs have also been incarcerated. The number of shootings in the Village has significantly decreased. Numerous drug arrests were made in the Fox View Apartments and throughout the village and surrounding jurisdictions. Not only have we benefited from working with other agencies, but we have contributed to regional law enforcement efforts as well. For example, our department played a pivotal role in solving a Gilbert's homicide earlier this year. We helped West Dundee capture a bank robber and a murderer. We also sent two of our officers to assist with the post Katrina emergency response.

In an effort to work with property owners to prevent crime and enhance the quality of life, we've initiated the Crime Free Housing program. This program helps property owners understand their rights and the options they have to address quality of life issues. Additionally, our police social worker continues to work hard to provide youth and their families with the services they need to prevent delinquent behavior. We also hired a part-time social worker to assist us in gang prevention and intervention services. We are constantly upgrading and modernizing our technology to enhance efficiency and reduce injuries. We have installed video cameras in the squad cars and recently upgraded the microphone transmitters. The department has issued Tasers to our officers, allowing them to effectively arrest combative subjects while reducing injuries to our officers and those being subdued. I'm proud to report that our Police Department was recognized earlier this year for providing quality training to our officers. The department received the North East Multi Regional Training Unit's Outstanding Host Site Award for our collaborative efforts in hosting superior training for local law enforcement agencies.

Our Fire Department is second to none in the surrounding area. Under the direction and outstanding leadership of our veteran Fire Chief, John Schuldt, we have been able to take full advantage of the new cutting edge advancements in Emergency Medical Treatment. We have added the 12 lead EKG monitoring that provides the hospital ER with vital life saving information while a patient is being transported. We have added a new front line fire engine to our fleet and a new ambulance that allows us to maintain an efficient fleet of Emergency Medical Vehicles. As much as I'm very proud of these accomplishments we must continue to keep pace with the technology that is out there today in both Law Enforcement and in Emergency Medical Services. I would like to see us take a very close look at the new technology in wireless camera surveillance that is now available to help police "hot spots" in communities. There is also new legislation that provides communities with the opportunity to place cameras at intersections that will take the picture of the license plate of any motorist that runs a red light. That license plate will then be run and a ticket will be issued to the owner of the vehicle. These are ways to do more efficient police work with the same amount of staff. We must continue to take advantage of this new technology. I would like to encourage our Fire Department Paramedics to go into the schools and give training to the students in life saving techniques, such as training in CPR and the Heimlich maneuver and the proper use of an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED). These new advances will help make our homes, workplaces, roadways and neighborhoods safer for all of our residents and those who visit our Village.

Economic Development/Planning/Community Development

We have hired a new position of Economic Development/Special Projects Coordinator. Along with the addition of our Economic Development/Special Project Coordinator, Janice Murphy, we have also added the very important position of Village Planner. Ed Cage, our new Senior Village Planner has been a real asset for our Village. Prior to Mr. Cage coming on board, we were operating without a planner for our village. We also had no one responsible for economic development until we hired Janice Murphy. Ed Cage has worked well with Janice Murphy to add some real stability to our community.

Janice and Ed have been in their positions for a relatively short time but they both have brought some much-needed vision and common sense perspective to the area of economic development and good planning that was previously sorely missing in Carpentersville. Ms. Murphy has worked very hard with the property owner and the business owner of the nearly ready to open, new, Village Fresh Market Grocery Store at Lake Marian Road and Rt. 25. Janice has established a good working relationship with many of our businesses and property owners in Carpentersville and is currently a member of the board of directors of the Northern Kane County Chamber of Commerce and serves on the Government Sub-committee for the Chamber. She is working to strategically establish TIF districts in our community to assist us in new development and redevelopment of the Rt. 25 corridor and Rt. 31 business district. She has worked with Business Districts Inc. consultants who helped us create a Market Positioning Study for our village. These are valuable tools to assist us in reaching the place where Carpentersville needs to be in the future to remain strong and continue to improve and increase our economic vibrancy. We have seen significant reductions in the time when a development project begins until its completion. Here is a very good example of this happening. One of the first phone calls I received after taking office was from an attorney representing a developer who had been trying for nearly five years to bring a Walgreen's to the Westside of our Village. That project had languished with no site work being done. Planning resolved the issues by moving this project on to the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Village Board in late 2005. That store has now opened for business. What once took years now is done in a matter of months in most cases. This is a direct result of the fine working relationship between Ed Cage and Janice Murphy and the over-all cooperation of the other departments.

In Ms. Murphy's role as the Special projects coordinator she was able to secure grant money for new entryway signs for our village. She has been our point person with "Artistic Bits" to help improve our community through the addition of art. In 2006 she helped bring to our village a sculpture located at the main entrance of Village Hall and in 2007 a Garden at Triangle Park. Ms. Murphy also was the point person for the Great American Festival—This was the first festival put on by the Village in the past 9 years. She is currently working with the Parks Committee to give assistance to put on a long over due parade and Autumn Fest to celebrate the Village's 120th Anniversary. These are the type of things that make a place, a true community. Our Village Planner, Ed Cage, is truly a great find for our continued planned growth. Ed has been very instrumental in doing much of the work associated with the updates of the codes and making sure that project developers meet with a friendly yet professional face upon first contact with the village. Our Community Development Director, Cindy McCammack and our Senior Planner, Ed Cage have worked very well with our Planning and Zoning Commission. They provide the members of this very important Commission with vital information to assist them in making good decisions for our community. Cindy McCammack, Ed Cage and Janice Murphy have already made a significant difference in how developers view Carpentersville. As important as these advances are, we can't afford to be complacent; we must keep working hard to make sure we continue to improve and streamline our development projects and continue to create more activities for our community.

Public Works

To help implement our Capital Improvement Plan the village has acquired several pieces of necessary equipment in conjunction with an in house street resurfacing program. Under the dedicated leadership of Bob Cole, our public works director, we have made significant progress in a very aggressive plan to play catch up for 3 decades of neglect of our infrastructure.

Several key pieces of equipment were purchased in 2006. These purchases included a cold milling machine, asphalt roller, front-end loader and (3) 5-ton dump trucks. This year a commercial grade asphalt paver was added. As a result of these purchases 2.50 lane miles of roadways were milled and resurfaced in 2006 and 7.54 lane miles will be milled and resurfaced this year. This has been accomplished while regular pothole filling and patching has also been going on throughout the entire village.

Public Works has also implemented a preventative maintenance program allowing for the systematic maintenance and troubleshooting of all vehicles within Public Works, Engineering, Code Enforcement and Administration. In addition with an eye on the future and concern for the life of our new equipment the village has purchased the necessary land to build a new Public Works Facility so that our valuable assets are able to be stored indoors out of the harsh weather we experience here in the Midwest. This will lengthen the life of these taxpayer assets. Building this facility is of utmost importance. Our current Public Works Facility is woefully inadequate and is a disgrace to our Village and an insult to our Public Work's employees. These men and women need a facility fitting to the commitment they have demonstrated to our residents. This facility is needed now. It must be put on the fast track. This facility must be built by the end of next year.

We have replaced over 100 valves within the water distribution system. This enables crews to isolate smaller areas when performing repair work. This makes it possible to repair problems without causing undue hardship to our residents during the repair time. In addition approximately 10 fire hydrants are replaced annually. Within the past 2 years approximately 3,000 lineal feet of sewer main has been lined. This is technology that is less costly than open trench replacement. When you flush your toilet at home you can be assured that the Village's wastewater system is going to take care of this for you. It's not something most of us think about until we have a problem. Our Public Works staff is on the job doing the necessary things to make sure this system continues to operate, as it should without major problems.

Fresh Drinking water is vital to all of our lives. I can tell you that we have an excellent water system in Carpentersville that received our 19th consecutive commendation from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Public Health for monitoring and maintaining the proper fluoride levels in the drinking water. There are only 6 communities in the state that have a longer consecutive streak than Carpentersville. Our current success has been built on experience and the highest level of knowledge. In 2004 we won the best tasting water award for the entire state of Illinois. In 1992, our current Public Works Director, Bob Cole won the state award for best ground water operator and our current water superintendent Dean Gorter won the

same coveted award in 2002. In an effort to meet additional demand approximately 2 million gallons per day have been added to our water supply following two separate construction projects that increased treatment capacity. The first being the addition of iron removal filters. The second was the softener rehabilitation project, which also added two additional softeners. A fourth well was drilled and is currently pumping 2,000 gallons per minute. To further insure that good tasting clean water comes out of your faucet at home, the village has installed an emergency generator that will protect our fresh water service during power outages.

We have made great strides in our parks as well. New playground equipment has been installed and two walk bridges have been replaced at Carpenter Park. Picnic site markers have been installed and all of our picnic tables, benches and trash containers have been refurbished. We added new flower boxes and retaining walls in both Carpenter and Jack Hill parks. A new gazebo was constructed at McNamee Park and bricks that were collected from the Main Street Bridge replacement project will soon be used to form a walking path between McNamee Park and Triangle Park. This pathway literally ties our past to our future. This project has been done with the leadership of the Park Committee and cooperation from Public Works. Last year we had a holiday tree lit at Carpenter Park. To my knowledge this was a first for our Village. We hope to do it again this year and make it a holiday tradition for our community to enjoy for years to come. We need to continue to improve our parks and recreational opportunities for the Village. We need to have more planned events and fun things for people of all ages to take part in. That is what brings people together and that is what builds community spirit.

Engineering Department

We have also added a new Village Engineer within the past two years. Scott Marquardt was hired on and has brought with him some real professionalism that has immediately shown in the projects he has been involved with. He has worked closely with Public Works and Community Development to implement our Capital Improvement Plan.

The village has awarded (4) projects so far this year with a total construction cost of \$4.8 million dollars. These have included the completion of work on Sleepy Hollow Road at a price of \$800,000. The 2007 sidewalk program that has now begun priced at \$200,000 and the Resurfacing Program with a price tag of \$200,000. In addition to these are the 2007 Street, Sidewalk, Sewer and Water main Projects with a combined cost of \$3.6 million dollars. Construction is now underway. Some additional street lighting has also been built into this project.

There has been progress made on the acceptance of Private Subdivisions. This has been an ongoing problem in Carpentersville for many years. We are finally wrapping up the loose ends to some of these long overdue projects. Those that have been accepted are Kimball Farms, and Silverstone Lakes. Both of these subdivisions have been troublesome for the village. It is due to our new Engineer and added staff that we have been able to finally hammer out workable agreements with the developers. During the past two years vital engineering work was done on the Main Street Bridge. We have accomplished a Comprehensive rewrite of the Subdivision Code and Engineering

Standards. We have also been able to obtain \$85,000 in funding through an intergovernmental agreement with the Village of Algonquin and Dundee Township Road District for the comprehensive improvements to Sleepy Hollow Road. We have received \$1,659,000 from a federal grant for Hazard Road, Monroe Avenue and Golfview Lane Street Improvements. In addition we have secured another \$235,000 from Kane County from the Capital Development Business Grant program for street improvements to the Golfview Highlands Unit 8 neighborhood. We have received \$123,600 from the state of Illinois for the IDOT Truck Access Route Program. This grant is for the improvement of Maple Avenue to bring it to a Class II Truck Route level. During the last couple of years we have also added staff to the Engineering Department. We filled the staff position of Resident Engineer and we have for the past two summers added two part-time interns who have taken care of some of the more routine tasks allowing our more seasoned staff members to concentrate their efforts on major capital improvement and development projects.

Finance Department

Not very long ago doing the routine things financially seemed to be a very big deal for our village. We went through a period of turmoil and distrust over our Village finances. I'm pleased to report that we have ended that situation. We have had our third consecutive unqualified opinion audit. You may say, what's so special about that? Well, for some years that was not the case. We went through a period where frankly the finances were a mess. There was a time a few years ago when we could not get an opinion audit. This situation has vastly improved due in large part to the steady leadership of our Village Manager, Craig Anderson and to the hiring of qualified people to handle the finances of the Village.

We have implemented a new Utility Billing system that allows us to serve the residents more efficiently and communicate more effectively.

In the past couple of years we have joined the Intergovernmental Personnel Benefits Cooperative, a group of municipalities that pool together to offer personnel benefits and share the associated risks. This provides the Village with more predictable health insurance costs, while offering premium healthcare benefits to our Village employees.

The Village recently introduced a wellness program for its employees. The purpose of the program is to encourage a healthy and active lifestyle for all employees. The benefits are obvious. The employees benefit from better lifestyle choices and the Village benefits by having a healthier workforce, who are on the job. This of course will also save taxpayer dollars with reduced healthcare costs.

The new equipment we've added and the infrastructure program costs money. The Village sold 10 million dollars in bonds to fund the first phase of a very aggressive Capital Improvement Plan. The plan includes street reconstruction and overlay projects, improvements to the Village's water and sewer infrastructure, and equipment purchases some of which I have previously mentioned.

The Finance Department under the direction of our finance Director Lisa Happ, who was promoted less than two years ago, from her previous position as the assistant Finance Director has provided solid leadership to this vital Village Department. The Finance Department has taken on certain employee benefits and personnel functions to its responsibilities, thereby centralizing these responsibilities in one department. This change made the coordination of personnel and employee benefits much more efficient and cost effective.

There is also a trust fund that has been established for Carpenter Park that is over 100 years old it's administered by the Finance Department. Due to the watchful eye of our Village this fund will now be providing more return on the investments for our park projects. Director Happ along with Village Manager Craig Anderson also assist in preparing the agenda for the meetings of the Audit and Finance Commission. They have helped the members of this important commission to more fully understand the day-to-day workings of our Village finances.

Director Happ has been a stabilizing force in the finance Department. Her steady leadership has helped to bring some much needed accountability and transparency to the finances of Carpentersville. Ms. Happ recommended that the Village adopt a "zero based" budgeting system. This has been helpful in being able to more accurately determine the true financial picture of the Village finances during the budget process. Ms. Happ also serves as the Village Treasurer and sits on the Police and Firefighters pension boards.

Information and Technology Department

Our I.T. Department has been improving over the past couple of years. Kathy Stoves who heads this department has moved the Village website in-house and it is updated weekly to provide timely information to all who visit the site.

The Village network has grown tremendously over the last two years. There have been some significant improvements. All remote locations now have connectivity to the Village Hall through wireless routers, which are also maintained in-house. All connections are at no cost to the Village. Our website is an important tool to use to quickly and effectively communicate with our residents. We must constantly be looking for new ways to improve this technology. I would like to see us in the near future provide services online that would be available to our community to pay bills, purchase vehicle stickers, receive updates on important local information and do much more. These should be goals to reach for in the near future.

Volunteers/Committees/Commissions

The Village is greatly appreciative of the volunteers who have stepped up to help on our commissions and committees. The **Planning and Zoning Commission** is comprised of 7 members they are Carl Sebastian the Chairman, Joe Haimann the vice-Chairman and Sherry Dobson, Donald Doran, Jim Frost, Paul Lanspa and Jerry Malenke. They all have played a key role in reviewing plans and new standards for our community. They make recommendations to the Village Board on new development and on issues

concerning zoning changes. Our Village Staff Liaisons to the PZC are Cindy McCammack, our Community Development Director and Ed Cage who is our Senior Planner. Both Director McCammack and Mr. Cage work closely with the Planning and Zoning Commission to keep them apprized of new development proposals and changes in the Village codes. All of the new updates of our codes and standards and Zoning changes and Comprehensive plan went before the PZC for recommendations before going to the Village Board for final consideration and passage.

The **Audit & Finance Commission** is comprised of 7 voting members: They are the Village President and 3 Trustees and 3 resident members. The Audit & Finance Commission Chairman is Trustee Paul Humpfer. This Commission was established on July 3, 2005. It plays a key role in considering all financial matters that come before the Village. It is an advisory commission to the Village Board. The commission reviews budget requests by Department heads and assists the Village Board in budgetary planning. This commission also reviews the audit findings with the external auditors and helps to resolve any material findings that may have occurred during the course of the annual audit of the Village's finances. Some new members have been added this year. They are Trustee's Keith Hinz and Ed Ritter and three new resident members have been added. The new resident volunteers are Sherry Dobson, Michael Sievertson and Nate Spain. This commission also has two non-voting members. They are the Village Manager and Finance Director.

We also have a **Park Committee** that is currently comprised of the Chairman Village Trustee Linda Ramirez Sliwinski and seven members. The members are Kent Baldwin, Billita Jacobsen, Hollie Kissane, Karen Martinez, Maria Torres, Bill Vincent and Billy Vincent, Jr. The Park Committee is responsible for planning park events, projects and activities and also hearing requests from the public to use our Village Parks for events.

We should all be in the business of doing the people's business. Good government fosters a thriving well-run community. This must be our goal today, tomorrow and forever...

Whether it be improving our roads or preventing crime, or taking care of emergency medical situations, or making sure the right things go in the right places or putting on a parade or festival. It's all about the same thing. Making life better for those who live, work and visit here.

We are very fortunate that we have highly qualified individuals who are willing to give freely of their time, talent, experience and knowledge to our community by serving on these volunteer committees. These civic-minded men and women are truly a priceless asset to all of us.

Let's never forget that a community is only as good as those who care enough to get involved. I'm very optimistic about our future... I know we will succeed because we have many who are willing to serve. Public service can be as simple as being a good neighbor. We can contribute by properly disposing of items instead of littering. We are performing a public service when we make sure that our house and lawn is well maintained or helping our neighbor with a chore. Whatever contribution you choose to

make will help us all become better neighbors, citizens and residents and in the long run our community will thrive.

Our future is up to you and me. It's up to us. We can make a difference. My hope for Carpentersville is the same as yours. We must never stop dreaming, with the enduring confidence of the ages, knowing that through hard work and perseverance that dreams do come true.

Thank you and Good Night.

President Sarto