



President's Corner

– Bernard Wysocki
VILLAGE PRESIDENT

Here is a quick look at the Village accomplishments for 2014 and our expectations for the Village in 2015. I will conclude with our selection as “Community of the Year” by the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission.

The Village’s top accomplishment in 2014 was the formation of the Roundout Redevelopment Project Area Tax Increment Financing District “TIF.” The TIF District was formed to provide economic incentive potential for redevelopment of a 300 acre area consisting mainly of industrial and commercial properties. The area was annexed to the Village of Green Oaks more than 20 years ago to bring the area under its local jurisdiction for planning, building, and public infrastructure upgrading purposes. Through the just completed TIF formation process, each of the taxing bodies related to the TIF were advised of the redevelopment plans. Through formal meetings with these taxing districts, a unanimous consensus was reached to move forward with the Village plans.

Trustee Denny Dorsey spearheaded the working group which was formed to study, plan, and cause the implementation of the project. This was truly a major group effort in 2014.

In 2015, there is a senior housing development proposal to be located at the Jamacian Gardens location. This will be a \$30 million dollar unified senior housing facility which will consist of independent living units, assisted and skilled care living quarters, and memory care living quarters. The

project will begin this spring with completion by the end of the year or early 2016.

There will be another senior housing development at the northeast end of the Village at Waukegan and Atkinson Roads. The development located at the site of the old Hilltop Sanatorium will be a combination senior living accommodations with a commercial component. This senior based mixed use development is estimated to be over \$125 million and will be completed over the next few years. These projects will bring additional development in the Roundout/Knollwood area for the coming years.

Finally, a couple of weeks ago at a formal meeting of the Lake County Stormwater Commission, the Village of Green Oaks received a plaque and recognition as “*Community of the Year.*” The Village was being commended for a long track record of systematically planning and implementing stormwater management improvements using substantial financial resources and the leveraging of local funds, grants, and partnerships. Projects like the Atkinson Road flood control basin, Middlefork stream bank improvements, the Doe Lake wetland enhancement, and bioswale project have significantly reduced flooding, and improved water quality to the benefit of Village residents and the North Branch of the Chicago River watershed.

In addition, the Village was being recognized for its partnership with Oak Grove School to educate students on non-point source pollution and the benefits of a variety of best management practices.

It was through the foresight of Trustee John Wagener and Village Engineer William Richert that allowed the Village to perform yearly projects to alleviate flooding and pollution from our natural waterways. They have assured us that they will continue to systematically plan additional storm water management improvements. We thank them for their years of dedication to the Village.

