



TREVOR J. CLATFELTER

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

SHERMAN BENEFITS WHEN AREA COMMUNITIES WORK TOGETHER

I have heard from countless residents and even visitors about how much they enjoyed the stunning lighted trees up and down Sherman Blvd. over the holidays. Our Public

Works Department crew is amazing, as always, but what you might not know is that the displays would have never happened without the help of generous and reliable friends in Riverton and in Clear Lake Township.

Riverton Mayor

Tom Rader sent over a crew with the town's new boring machine and Clear Lake Township sent a crew to help us run electricity under Sherman Blvd. to the medians so we could light the trees.

We had the needed state approval to bore under the road but a bid from a third party contractor to do the work came in at \$78,435 – out of the question! We got it done for next to nothing - \$5,580 – and, once again, were reminded that sharing resources with other communities is the only way we all survive and thrive.

About three years ago, it was Riverton that needed our help. Severe flooding was threatening the sewage treatment plant, which sits at the edge of the river. Rochester sent a pump and Sherman sent crews to move sandbags into place. Together, we averted a disaster.



TOM RADER

Read more on how we've helped each other over the years and how the Sangamon County Regional Leadership Council makes it happen,

on page four of this newsletter. In the meantime, sincere thanks again to Riverton Mayor Tom Rader and everyone at Clear Lake Township for the generous assistance. Thanks to Ameren for assistance in getting us metered at no cost to the Village. To paraphrase the Beatles, we get by with a little help from our friends.

NEW YEAR. NEW PLANS!

Before we completely bid farewell to 2018, let me just say again, what a great year it was for Sherman. We launched more initiatives and completed more projects in a single year than I can remember. We also established a few new traditions that will continue to bring us together as a community. Thanks to everyone who helped in 2018. Now, let's make 2019 even better!

2018 key projects

- Opened Village Park
- Launched Village Park Summer Event Program
- Repair of Sebring Road
- Continuation of Road repair and improvement initiative
- Tree Planting and Development on Sherman Blvd.
- Coordination with Sherman M.O.V.E. on Village Park tree and bench donations, median plantings, and more.
- Festive lighting in Village Park and on Sherman Blvd.

Coming in 2019!

- 10,000 square foot Play System at Village Park
- Safety route access path along Old Tipton School Road from Red Bud Run to Village Park
- Address problem intersections with higher visibility stop signs (i.e. First and Partridge Pass)
- Bike Trail – continue to push for 2019 construction
- Road Improvements on:
 - Windemere Drive in Crown Point
 - Village Center Road near Waterford Subdivision
 - Fix the dips in Old Tipton, Brookside Glen, and along First Street
- Crack filling and pothole repair work program continues
- Storm and drainage program review, assessment and planning
- Railroad Quiet Zone development (details to come)

Happy New Year, everyone! Let's make it a great one.

THE VILLAS CEO JIM WILLIAMSON “SEMI-RETIRES” AFTER DISTINGUISHED CAREER



He has been President and CEO of Villa Health Care, Inc. since 2003, but Jim Williamson’s connection to the local senior care community goes back more than four decades.

Jim was among the first altar boys for Father Peter Mascari, the Catholic priest who led the fundraising efforts in the mid-1950s to establish St. John Vianney parish in Sherman (opened 1963). Father Mascari was also the early visionary who saw a need for local senior care and led a group of residents who founded The Villas in the 1970s.



*Father Peter Mascari,
Founder, 1920 – 2002*

“He had a special fondness for the elderly and wanted to help seniors in the area maintain a high quality of life,” said Jim. “I learned a lot watching Father.”

Jim joined The Villas’ Board of Directors in 1978. In the forty years since, he has been a part of the non-profit’s expansion from independent living apartments to a continuum of residential and health care, including assisted lifestyle units and skilled nursing care. In 2016, a major building expansion added a facility for short-term total rehabilitation. A partnership with Springfield Clinic brought comprehensive physical therapy services to the site.

Jim became President and CEO in 2003. Today, The Villas is a 24-7, 365-day operation with 263 units between the apartments, Villa West, and Villa East. The property sprawls across Sherman Blvd. There are more than 200 employees, making it Sherman’s largest employer.

While the concept of a continuum of care is still relevant in the industry, Jim said he and the Board have grappled over the years with the rapid changes in senior care, including the

growth of the concept of “aging in place” with home health care assistance. Continually adding technology and new services has helped The Villas keep pace, as well as, what Jim believes, is a commitment to going above and beyond.

“While we have a management company, Bloomington-based Heritage, involved, we think we are unique because of the continuous presence of a board whose members live close by and really care about the residents,” said Jim. “We create a friendly, home-like atmosphere, with lots of staff with tenure.”

Being part of the neighborhood is part of that approach, according to Jim, and has led to activities such as hosting a Breakfast with Santa event for area children, and donating trees for the medians in Sherman Blvd. that span the property owned by The Villas.

While stepping down from the leadership position, Jim said he will stay visible, overseeing the buildings and grounds and remaining on the Board of Directors.

“The plan is to take it easier,” said Jim, who admits to not really having any hobbies, but is looking forward to spending more time with wife, Peg, a retired teacher, and his three grown children, including one that lives in Michigan. There is one 7 year-old grandchild.

What he won’t give up, he said, is the connection to the residents of The Villas. He said he takes great pleasure in regularly grabbing coffee with them and just listening. “When I was a child, I was actually terrified of older people,” said Jim with a laugh. “Now, I find them fascinating, with great histories and great stories to tell.”

A commitment and compassion nurtured over forty years that sounds a lot like a beloved priest he used to know.



LONG-TIME BANKER RICK EDWARDS TAKES THE REINS

On January 1, Rick Edwards became President and CEO of Villa Health Care, Inc. and will oversee the day-to-day operations.

Rick has lived in Sherman for more than 24 years and joined The Villas Board of Directors in 2008, at the invitation of Jim Williamson.

“I saw it as a way to help and support the community, as The Villas serve a very important role in the Sherman area as a major employer and provider of senior care,” said Rick, who was previously in community banking for 25 years, including the last 17 years at Williamsville State Bank & Trust. “I want what Jim and the Board have accomplished to continue.”

Other current board members are **Connie Cardinell**, **Frank Moscardelli, Sr.**, and **Ken Tassett**.

WILLIE THE FROG CONTEST WINNERS 2018



Grand Prize winner Conner Ausmus with Mayor Clatfelter and Willie.



THANK YOU TO OUR PRIZE SPONSORS AND VOLUNTEERS!

Grand Prize Winner – Conner Ausmus
Sky Zone Super Jump Birthday Party

1st Runner Up - Tad Fisher
Knights Action Park Birthday Party

2nd Runner Up – Taylor Bonner
Nelson Center Ice Arena Birthday Party

3rd Runner Up – Adeline Clatfelter
Henson Robinson Zoo Birthday Party

AMC Movie Theaters
King Pin Bowling
Casey's General Store
Fire & Ale
Subway
Sam's Too
Fairlane Diner

...and anyone we missed, and all our volunteers!



Mayor Trevor Clatfelter takes a selfie with 2018's qualifying participants.



VILLAGE HOSTS CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

THANK YOU TO SHERMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Sean Bull, Joseph Inendino, and to all of our Volunteers who made this party happen!





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MUTUAL AID AGREEMENTS REAP SAVINGS AND BUILD TRUST

You may have never heard of the Sangamon County Regional Leadership Council but the mayors and township officials who comprise its membership swear by it, in good times and in bad.

“This is a forum to get together and get things done,” said Riverton Mayor Tom Rader. “It includes all of the smaller communities as well as Springfield, and it’s behind some of the best mutually beneficial relationships in local government.”

Rader said the idea behind the group is to explore opportunities to share resources where it makes sense. Riverton owns an expensive boring machine because the town manages its own utilities. Sherman doesn’t need one, but it comes in handy for occasional work, such as running electricity under major roads.

There are formal intergovernmental agreements between small communities in which services are provided for a fee, but the Leadership Council is about informal, proactive mutual aid, the kind that happens with a phone call.

“Sometimes that means just sending crews to help out on a big project,” said Sherman Mayor Trevor Clatfelter. “We brought in the recent Sebring Road project thousands of dollars under budget because we asked Williams Township to help us with culvert replacement and oil and chipping work, which the Township does for a fraction of the cost of a private contractor.”

Clatfelter said Williams Township has the specific equipment needed and Sherman doesn’t. The Township has helped with many Sherman roads, working in conjunction with the Sherman Public Works Department crews for pothole and crack filling around the Village. He said, in return, Sherman’s crews help them with their projects in the rural areas.



“The 50/50 split on the Williamsville/Sherman Bike Trail is another example,” said Clatfelter. “We are working together to provide added recreational and non-motorized routes between the communities at half the cost.”

Maybe most importantly, Clatfelter and Rader agree, the communities can count on each other in an emergency. Through police and fire partnerships, and just sending crews and equipment to help out, they said everyone can rest easier when the worst happens.

DATES TO REMEMBER

January 2 – 31 • Christmas tree pick-up

Tuesday, January 22 • Village Board Meeting • 6 pm • Village Hall

Friday, January 25 • 7th Annual Chili Cook-Off • 6-7:30 pm • Sherman United Methodist Church

Feb. 5 and Feb. 19 • Cyber Bullying/Social Network Presentation • UCB Community Center • 7 pm