



January 9, 2014

TO: Village President and Board of Trustees  
THROUGH: Timothy Sexton, Acting Village Manager  
FROM: Carl Goldsmith, Director of Public Works  
SUBJECT: Garfield Maintenance Facility

This memorandum is being written to formally request that the Public Works Department's Garfield Maintenance Facility be renamed "The Keith J. Surges Center". As many of you are aware, Keith Surges was employed by the Village of Lombard for over 37 years. During his employment, Keith served in almost every capacity within the Lombard Public Works Department. A summary of his employment has been provided below:

- 6/18/73 Hire date – Maintenance Man I
- 7/1/74 Sewage Treatment Plant Operator I
- 6/1/80 Foreman II – Sewer Collections Division
- 6/2/88 Assistant Superintendent of Operations
- 6/91 Operations Superintendent

In his professional career, Keith was known for his honesty, integrity, innovation and planning. Many of the operational plans and practices in use today were started under Keith's watch. He was instrumental in ensuring adequate resources, staffing and support for other operating departments and neighboring communities. For those that know Keith personally he is a compassionate, caring, thoughtful individual who puts others first. He is a man of the highest integrity and embodied the meaning of public service.

In fall of 2010, Keith was diagnosed with cancer. While the treatment for his cancer took him away from his duties in Lombard, Keith continued to work and provide outstanding services through his treatment. Upon his retirement on March 31, 2011, the Village Board and staff recognized Keith for his outstanding contribution to the Village of Lombard. Through his employment with the Village, Keith contributed to the betterment of the residents, businesses and the employees in the Village. His indelible mark was left on Lombard and the legacy of leadership shall forever be remembered and honored.

Since his retirement, Keith has endured many procedures and surgeries to rid his body of the disease, but through it all, Keith has been strong and determined to fight. He and his wife Therese have bonded and shared many wonderful memories since Keith's initial diagnosis. In June 2012, he and Therese celebrated their 18th wedding anniversary and renewed their vows in a ceremony attended by family and friends. He continued to join his friends in the Public Works Department for rounds of golf and fellowship. He and his wife Therese have travelled to Hawaii, Jamaica and around the United States since his diagnosis.

Those who know Keith understand what the Village of Lombard has meant to him and many more know what he has meant to Lombard. He sought to find cost effective approaches to providing the highest level of service. One of his visions was the construction of a salt dome. For close to 20 years, he fought for the construction of the facility in order to improve snow operations and reduce costs. The salt dome was constructed during the summer of 2013. It was officially opened during a luncheon for the Public Works employees out at the site on November 1, 2013. Keith and Therese were in attendance at the lunch and saw his dream become reality. Along with the salt dome, Keith had a vision of a maintenance facility to support the public works operations. The Village Board awarded a contract for the construction of the Garfield Maintenance Facility at the December 5, 2013 meeting. The Garfield Maintenance Facility will provide storage and training space for the Public Works Department and continue to enhance the level of service that is provided to the residents and businesses in Lombard. Keith's dream will again be realized in late summer 2014 when the Garfield Maintenance Facility is opened.

On behalf of the entire Public Works Department, I respectfully request that the Village Board of Trustees formally rename the Public Works Garfield Facility "The Keith J. Surges Center" in honor of Keith's legacy of outstanding public service and commitment to the Village of Lombard. The official signage to dedicate the site will be placed upon completion of the construction of the Garfield Maintenance Facility in the fall of 2014.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. I thank you each for your time and consideration of this request.