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## A new contract for village administrator



BY ANN GILL  
EDITOR

Matt Fritz will serve another four years as Coal City's Village Administrator.

Last week, Fritz signed a new contract with the Village Board which includes a one time salary increase of 7%—that's an average of 1.75% for each contract year.

"Matt has done a great job for us, he's the type of administrator we want to keep around," Mayor Dave Spesia said.

In working out the terms of the contract, Spesia

requested information regarding comparable compensation for town administrators/managers.

According to Fritz, the average of other managers throughout the state of Illinois—sample size of 143 units of local government—was much higher. But when taking smaller size municipalities the sample size drops as well as compensation for the executive position.

"There was still a smaller sample size of 64 communities with less equalized assessed valuation [EAV] who utilized administrators who possessed

10-plus years of tenure within local government experience; within these comparable contracts, the amount provided over the next four years is less than this average," Fritz said.

The annual salary the village and administrator agreed on is \$145,810 and it's retroactive to May 1—the start of the fiscal year and term of the mayor. This means, Fritz will receive a one-time lump sum payment of \$2,815.36, less withholdings, for the period between May 1 and July 26.

The contract between Fritz and the village contains a benefit package that includes

insurance, vacation and leave days, retirement contributions, a monthly vehicle allowance, village paid memberships in professional organizations approved by the Board and membership to the Coal City Area Club.

The contract runs with the term of the sitting mayor, through April 30, 2027.

Fritz came to the village in 2008 and at the end of the current contract he will be in his 20th year of employment with the village.

During that time, he has led a number of initiatives and worked on numerous large and

small scale projects for the village including the reconstruction of South Broadway, modernization of the town's sewage treatment plant, land acquisition and annexation, economic development, and tornado recovery.

"I am looking forward to the next four years of tenure. The Board has already approved a major water treatment plant expansion and we continue to work hard on necessary transportation improvements and many intergovernmental cooperative efforts to

SEE CONTRACT, PAGE 2

## Not everyone gets a paycheck

BY ANN GILL  
EDITOR

Residents who serve on the village of Coal City's Park Board don't get a paycheck, but members of the Planning and Zoning Board do.

The question of who gets paid and how much was a topic of discussion at a recent meeting of the town's Finance Committee.

"On the appointments they are starting to look at a per meeting pay rate for the appointees on the other boards," Village Administrator Matt Fritz said.

There are four appointed boards—Planning and Zoning, Park, Fire and Police and Police Pension—that serve the village. Nine of the 17 citizens currently sitting on those boards receive no compensation, completely volunteering their time to the community.

For their service, the seven members of the Planning and Zoning Board receive \$30 per meeting attended, the board meets twice a month.

It would be up to the Village Board to approve compensating the appointed board members, a decision likely to be determined on a recommendation from the Finance Committee.

The only other compensation currently paid out to an appointed board member is for the secretary of the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners.

The annual stipend for that position was set at \$600 in 2016, but last week the Village Board amended that to \$590.

The reason for the change, "the allotted amount triggers the requirement to issue earnings to the Internal Revenue Service [IRS] for the position, which was a nuisance filing for which the past secretaries simply requested the amount being recommended," Fritz said.

The compensation for this position is made due to the member's duty to keep meeting minutes and other documentation.

As for appointed positions the rate of pay and who gets paid varies by community.

Channahon and Monee pay the members of their police commissions and members of the Manteno Park Board get a per meeting stipend for their service.

And, based on a survey conducted on salaries the amount

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## Barbie goes to the beach



Photo by Ann Gill

YOU WANT TO GO FOR A RIDE? Barbie, Ken and all of their friends were at the Coal City Area Club on Saturday, July 29 for Venetian Night. The pink pontoon, decorated by the Provance and Campo families, featured a full size Barbie doll box and took first prize in the boat decoration contest. The winners secured a gift certificate to Rose's Concessions located at the beach. Additional photos of Venetian Night and the club's sand castle contest on page 14.

## Coal City issuing credit on Prairie Oak Estates water bills

BY ANN GILL  
EDITOR

Water is flowing through the taps in Prairie Oak Estates, but for more than three weeks residents were under a boil order.

"Boil orders happen as there are things beyond the village's control like when water mains break," Village Administrator Matt Fritz said. In this case the boil order was issued in response to necessary well repairs.

"Public works was responding as quickly as they could, but we also understand this is below our customer

service level to have something that prolonged occur," the administrator said. The result is residents in that development will be seeing a credit on their bi-monthly water bill.

"The end of June going into a majority of July proved to be a very difficult time concerning the provision of drinkable water for residents within the Prairie Oak Subdivision," Fritz said, noting the development located along Dresden Road receives its water through one available raw water source installed when the subdivision was constructed in the early 1990s.

Village officials discovered

"THE END OF JUNE GOING INTO A MAJORITY OF JULY PROVED TO BE A VERY DIFFICULT TIME CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF DRINKABLE WATER FOR RESIDENTS WITHIN THE PRAIRIE OAK SUBDIVISION."

MATT FRITZ  
COAL CITY VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR

in June that the output of raw water from the well was decreasing and not keeping up with demand.

A contractor was brought in to complete repairs to ensure the well was producing the volume of water needed to serve the residents.

According to Fritz, the volume had a dramatic shift and it was determined the cone of influence had fallen. So the well pump to be dropped an additional 60 feet to have the proper pressure.

The initial problem resulted in a chain reaction of issues

with the well.

"We discovered a lot of things and we are finally at a point where we think we are through the worst of it," Fritz said.

The water system is original to the development that was annexed into the village about a decade ago.

"This is a legacy system where we took it over and maintained it as part of the annexation. We patched things as we went along and now I think we are at a nearly full rehab," Fritz said.

Improvements to the system began a few years ago with a tank refurbishment and

now everything underground has been refurbished or replaced.

The last thing to be addressed is the filtration system and that is something that the Village Board is discussing.

The water being pulled from the well and filtered meets the state's qualifications for potable water and the performance of the system is con-

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