



For Immediate Release: 08.30.02

From: David Powers
Communications Director
708.358.5781

Contact: Rogene Hill
Community Services Director
708.358.5400

Village Selects Resident to be New Planner

An Oak Park resident with more than 10 years experience in municipal planning has been named Village Planner. Craig M. Failor, who will assume the post on September 3, comes to Oak Park from Barrington where he was assistant director of planning.

“We are pleased to name a new Villager Planner who not only has the skills and experience so critical to the position, but who also is an Oak Park resident,” said Village Manager Carl Swenson. “Our community poses unique development challenges. Having a planner who is a resident may offer an added, equally unique perspective.”

Prior to becoming Barrington’s assistant planning director, Failor was the community’s senior planner, helping rewrite both its Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance. He also has been a planner in Lombard and Belvidere, Illinois, where his wide range of experiences included key roles in zoning and special use permit application processes.

Failor was among 23 candidates considered for the Village’s high-visibility planning post, which has been vacant since the spring when Dudley Onderdonk resigned to accept a senior position with an established professional planning and development company. Failor, who has a degree in Community and Regional Planning from Iowa State University, was selected from five finalists.

“I am very excited about assuming such an important role for my community,” Failor said. “Working for the community in which you live gives you a little more of a personal interest in protecting its assets as well as developing its attributes. I am looking forward to what I expect will be a challenging personal and professional experience.”

Among his many duties for the Village, Failor will be responsible for shepherding development proposals through the Planned Development process, a comprehensive formal public review of proposed major projects. Failor also will play key roles in shaping and articulating long-range plans for the Village’s business districts and revising zoning regulations.

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