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**December 2022**

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**✦ Stay Golden in 2023 with  
IAMMA'S 50th Anniversary  
Golden Gala! ✦**



Take a walk down the red carpet, reminisce on IAMMA's rich history, and make memories to last with friends and colleagues. More information to come!

The IAMMA Golden Gala is an evening event at the [Illinois City/County Management Association](#) Winter Conference to be held February 8th through 10th in Bloomington-Normal. [Register here.](#)



Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's holiday sock exchange! All socks should have been mailed to your gift recipient by Monday, December 19. **Don't forget to share a photo of your socks on social media with us by tagging #IAMMA.**

## **IAMMA Kick-Off Event Recap**



Thanks to everyone that attended the IAMMA Kick-off Event at Beerhead & Eatery in Elmhurst. IAMMA members enjoyed catching up with fellow colleagues over drinks and appetizers.





IAMMA  
SPOTLIGHT



SHARON TANNER

ASSISTANT VILLAGE MANAGER  
GLENCOE, IL.

### **Journey into the Profession**

It's a winding one! Steve Jobs once said that you can't connect the dots looking forward, you can only connect them looking backward. And that's definitely true for my journey into the profession.

In hindsight, I can clearly see that my dots started connecting a long time ago – when I was in high school, my grandfather taught me to believe that government can do good things, especially at the local level. I went to Saint Louis University for undergraduate, where teaching students to be people for others was part of the University's mission. I never imagined a career in anything but government and thought that law school would be my path into a government career, but by the time I actually sat for the LSAT my senior year, I was pretty sure that a career in law wasn't for me. I took some time after undergrad and worked in the private sector where I learned a lot but didn't feel fulfilled – that compelled me to think more seriously about graduate programs. When I enrolled in NIU's MPA program, I still didn't think I'd end up in local government. It was during my internship at the Village of Hoffman Estates where my mentors – Village Manager Jim Norris and Deputy Village Manager Dan O'Malley – truly opened

my eyes to the impact that local government has in a community and why it's a great profession. My internship in Hoffman Estates was my springboard into local government, and from there, I worked in the Village of Glenview, where I had incredible growth opportunities and learned a tremendous amount by holding positions in three different departments (Village Manager's Office, Human Resources, Public Works). Now, I serve as Assistant Village Manager in Glencoe, where we have an amazing team that's constantly raising the bar – it's very exciting and rewarding.

I think it's important to share that there's no one single path in local government – when I started in local government, a very traditional path was analyst, to assistant to, to manager. That's a great path, and there are other great paths, too – I'm energized by seeing more local government professionals move into different roles in the manager's office and operating departments.

[Click here to continue reading.](#)

## In Case You Missed the Previous Spotlight...



### Journey into the Profession

Ever since I was very young, I was always interested in public service. It was not until college that I learned about city management, in a State and Local Politics course. In that course, we met with a city manager who described what her job was like, and I quickly became interested in a career in local government.

### Why did you Join IAMMA?

I joined IAMMA to meet and network with other people in the profession. The Organization and the conferences are great places to socialize and discuss work with others in the field.

### **What are you currently working on?**

There are certainly challenges associated with working at a small municipality, but one of the advantages is that I get to gain experience on a wide variety of projects. I supervise Community Development, Utility Billing, Communications, and Front Office Administration daily. I also get to work on special projects with other departments like LED street lighting grants with Public Works, or body cameras and union negotiations with the Police Department.

### **Career Goals?**

One day I would like to be the CAO of a local government. I love the idea of working for and promoting the public interest in a community and making a positive difference in other people's lives.

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## **Save the Date**

- January 20, Illinois Financial Forecast Forum
- February 8-10, ILCMA Winter Conference
- February 9, IAMMA Golden Gala at ILCMA Conference
- March 9, IPELRA Public Sector Employment Law Seminar



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