



# AN INSIDE VIEW OF Chicagoland Village's Video Venture

A well-known Chicago suburb, the Village of Schaumburg is also becoming noteworthy for its progressive video security solution. Details are shared on the village's five-year plan to add video security to more than 30 locations. **By Robert D. Grossman**

**CITIES, TOWNS** and other municipalities are continuing to discover the enhanced safety and value afforded to them through the use of today's video security systems. The great news is video platforms and system components have advanced in capabilities to bring more scalability, flexibility, compatibility, usability and affordability. This is allowing manufacturers, consultants, integrators and end users to make rock-solid investment cases that are helping loosen funding constraints and bring to fruition the power of fully realized collaborative security solutions. A prime example of this all coming together can be found just outside Chicago.

The Village of Schaumburg is a well-known northwestern suburb of Chicago

and recognized by many in the security industry as the former home of Motorola. With a population of just less than 75,000 residents, Schaumburg was recently ranked as the best place to live in Illinois (2018) and the ninth best place to live in the United States (2017) by *Money*. In talking to both residents and village employees, the reason behind these high scores becomes apparent; there is an unrelenting focus on cost effectively delivering value to residents in terms of safety, services and community resources.

In 2016 the village began to implement a plan for adding video cameras to various properties as a proactive measure, with a goal of creating an enterprise platform for video security. "This was not

driven by a specific incident or group of events," explains Peter Schaak, the director of IT for the village who led the project. "We felt there was a need to capture certain activity at critical areas, without being intrusive to residents and employees." The system was to look outward, not inward, and was divided into five logical steps, or phases, with a multiyear implementation envisioned.

The initial approach was to design the system internally, as with other IT projects, but the benefits of working with an outside consultant became apparent as the team got further into the project. "We wanted someone to look over our shoulder and catch common oversights based on their experience," Schaak says.

A higher level of detail based on similar experience would minimize ambi-

(l-r) Peter Schaak, Director of IT, Village of Schaumburg; Pentegra Systems' President Greg Augspurger, CEO Ed Karl, Security Engineering Manager Gene Brierton and Sales Manager Jim Lichter; Chris Westgor, Technical Services Manager, Village of Schaumburg.