

SEPTEMBER 14, 2006

Comedian brings humor to Frankfort

By Joe Coughlin
Staff Writer

Comedian Ken Sevara used to hob-knob with the likes of Jay Leno and Jerry Seinfeld when he lived in California, now the Frankfort resident keeps his own neighbors laughing.

Frankfort resident Janet Bullaro is no exception. When Bullaro saw her new neighbor walking down the street with a White Sox cap and a cigar, she knew she had to meet him. "I just had to talk to him," Bullaro said. "He is the most interesting person when you meet him."

Sevara has been making people notice him for more than 30 years. Sevara is a professional comedian and humorist in the public speaking business.

"We lived in Glenwood," he said. "It was beautiful and all the sudden gangs and stuff started popping up. And it was time to go. This was a great place to have landed. The people here are really nice; it is unbelievable. Neighbors brought over a cake when we moved in as a welcome present."

Sevara broke into the business at age 18. He used to do impersonations of teachers and coaches in front of students at Marion Catholic High School. Sevara

quickly gained a following, and his buddy Jim O'Brien suggested they go into the business as a comedy team. And just like that, O'Brien and Sevara hopped on the Playboy Circuit in the late 1970's.

"All it took was two kids having some confidence," Sevara said. "And here is two 18-year-olds hanging out with the (Playboy) bunnies wearing tuxedos. It was a phenomenal way to break into the entertainment business."

Since then, Sevara has lived in California, been a regular at the famous Comedy Store in Los Angeles and has worked with comedians like Jerry Seinfeld, Jay Leno, Robin Williams and George Carlin, among others. He has hosted his own talk show called *Testing 1, 2, 3* and then *Headliners* in Skokie, Ill., where he had Mike Ditka, Leno and Michael Rooker as guests. In addition to his talk show, he also traveled around the country making millions laugh.

Sevara is a south side Chicago fan with a dedication to sports especially the Sox and Bears. Now Sevara works in the public speaking business as a humorist. Sevara said when the crowd needs a break from a corporate outing or meeting, they bring him in to lighten things up.

"I think you have to grow with your crowd," he said. "Twenty years ago, my crowd was at night



Photo submitted

Ken Sevara

clubs and now the same guys are head of corporations. I pride myself in being able to work different places."

Sevara said he is really starting to like this little town. He is impressed with the quality and energy of his neighbors and new friends. And he wants to do anything he can to help.

"I'll do anything they need," he said. "When I got here, the place was standing with open arms. Whatever I can do for the community, I will; charity events, whatever. I'm really happy to do it." Sevara has already started. On Oct. 27, he will headline a comedy night at Capone's in Mokena. This is Capone's first inaugural comedy night and Sevara said you won't want to miss it.