

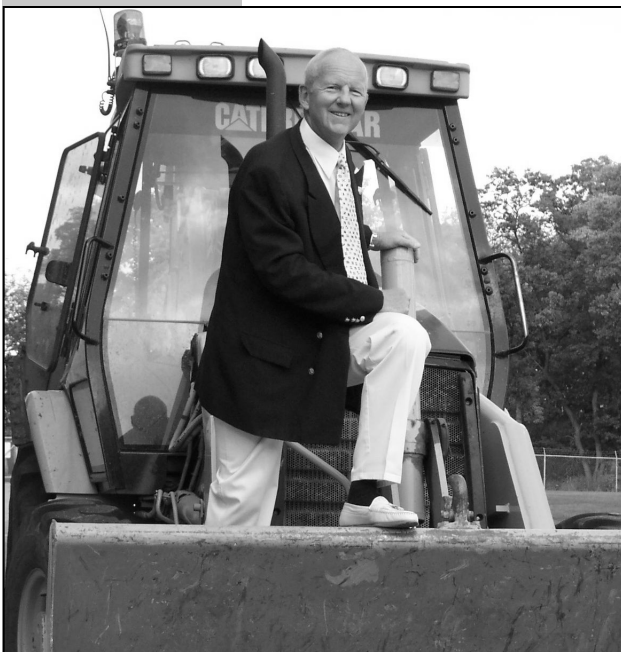


President's Report: You're Going to do What?

"Perseverance and spirit have done wonders in all ages."

~Gen. George Washington

We're going to tear up Highway 67 and completely rebuild it.



VILLAGE President Tom Howell

Yep. Beginning in the spring of 2006. The highway is being totally reconstructed: center dividers, turn lanes, sidewalks, street trees, crosswalks with brick pavers, new landscaping, signage and much more. The work is expected to start in March and be completed by December of next year. The village is also asking the contractor to minimize work in the village center from July 1 to August 15 while the majority of our summer residents are here. Pretty exciting stuff. And the best part is that funding for the project comes from the state, a substantial grant and TIF dollars. Little or no tax dollars will be spent on the project.

We're going to dig up the park.

Yep. Not only the park, but the south side of Fontana Boulevard from Highway 67 to the lake. Because of the Highway 67 project, our antiquated storm water system is being dramatically

upgraded. An 8-foot by 2-foot large diameter pipe is being installed down the full east-west length of Fontana Boulevard. This construction area will also replace any other water, sewer or utility trunks that are aging. The work will begin this fall, proceed through the winter and finish by the spring of 2006. We are anticipating that the north lane of Fontana Boulevard will remain open throughout this construction to minimize the traffic disruption.

We're demolishing the bathrooms in the park.

Yep. The undersized bathrooms in the park will go and be replaced with all new stuff slightly to the west of the existing location. Although about the same physical size structure, there will be three times the number of facilities in the complex. Did he say complex? Yep.

See **PRESIDENT** - Page 6

Administrator's Report: Revaluation Reflects Market Estimates Provide Preview of Possible 2005 Tax Rates

By Kelly E. Hayden-Staggs
Village Administrator

Can we ever have too much information on a revaluation? Absolutely not!

For the past two years the Village staff, trustees, and contractors have disseminated information via newsletters, telephone conversations, and town hall and association meetings, in order to educate the property owners on the necessity of a revaluation. Throughout the process the most

frequently asked question was, "What does the process do to my tax bill?" We are now closer to an answer.

Accurate Appraisal, LLC completed their site visits, conducted a market study utilizing 2004 real estate transactions and adjusted the assessed values to reflect the fair market price. Throughout the process, assessed values within the Village of Fontana increased by approximately 45 percent. Please remember that the whole point behind a

revaluation is to distribute the value in a fair and equitable way. In the event the property value increased more than 45 percent, it was undervalued in relationship to the other properties that increased at rates less than 45 percent.

The Village of Fontana Board of Trustees and Finance Committee members made the taxpayers a commitment to hold the line this year and keep the levy

See **REVALUATION** - Page 2

Village Plans 2006 Construction Projects...

Let's Just Get It Over With

By Craig Workman, P.E.
Director of Public Works

Between 1832 and 1858, Abraham Lincoln was defeated or rejected for eight public offices, had a nervous breakdown, and saw the death of his beloved girlfriend.

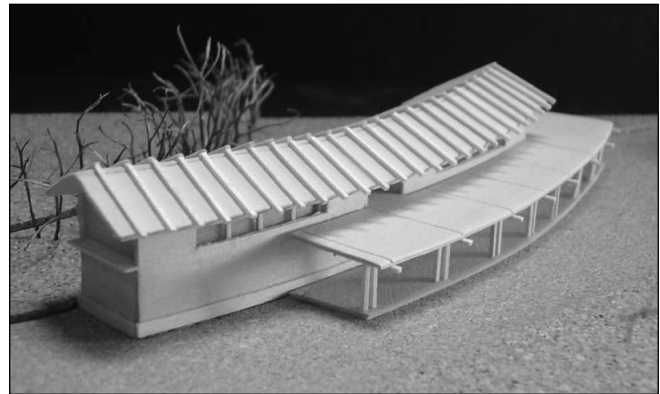
Many of these setbacks could be attributed to really bad luck, but 'ol Abe felt that his public speaking technique was falling short. Once he adjusted this chink in his political armor, he went on to become the great man in the history books.

Regardless of whether it's in politics or construction, one's "technique" can be likened to one's fingerprint -- the method by which we pursue a goal defines who we are and what we achieve.

Where am I going with all this? Before I answer that question, you first need to read the Village President's latest newsletter article. Done? Okay -- now on with mine.

What I'd like to explain is the technique by which we are undertaking all the projects you just previewed. Many will think it's overly disruptive, some may think it is inconsiderate, but I like to think of it as well planned.

There's no question that we are going to create some chaos, but it is only temporary and quite necessary to get the job done. Our philosophy is simple, "More disruption for a shorter duration is better than less disruption for a longer duration." I like to think of it as, "Delayed gratification, less delayed ..."



THE REID PARK restroom design by Jan Van Den Kieboom of Workshop Architects, Milwaukee, is shown in a computer rendering.

So yes, we are digging up the park, and we are reconstructing Highway 67, and we are trenching down Fontana Boulevard, and we are tearing down the beach house, and we are demolishing the existing Reid Park restrooms. But we are also very much looking forward to 2007, when all of these projects will be completed

and the Village will look absolutely AMAZING.

Take a look at the projects we just completed on Mill and Main streets for a preview.

After all, risk is nothing more than uncertainty of outcome, and I'm quite confident we'll all like the outcome -- we just may need an ergonomist to get us there!

Revaluation

(continued from page 1)

comparable to last year. In the event the other taxing districts do the same, the inserted table is a forecast of the 2006 mill rates.

yes you read that correctly...a tax decrease! Let's say that a property located in the Fontana School District was valued at \$200,000 prior to the revaluation and then received a new assessed value of \$260,000. The increased value of \$60,000

School District	2005 Mill Rate	Forecast 2006 Mill Rate Range
Fontana Joint 8	\$19.90	\$13.00 - \$14.00
Walworth Joint 1	\$22.46	\$16.00 - \$17.00
Linn Joint 6	\$19.12	\$13.00 - \$14.00

It is imperative that everyone realizes that the Village is not far enough along in the budget process to provide accurate mill rate figures. The above referenced table is strictly a forecast based on last year's levies. These figures are subject to change, but should give you an idea of how the new assessed value will affect your tax bill. To calculate the estimated tax amount, multiply the mill rate by the new assessed value and then divide by 1,000.

For example, the owner of a property valued at \$350,000 in the Fontana Elementary School District should expect to pay approximately \$4,550 to \$4,900 in real estate taxes for the upcoming tax season.

Some property owners will actually see a tax decrease ...

generated a 30 percent increase. Based on last year's total value of the Village and mill rate, the tax bill was \$3,980. This year the forecasted tax bill will be in the range of \$3,380 to \$3,640.

Now, I wish that this was the case for all properties, but that is not the case. Some property owners will see an increase in their tax bill and perhaps a substantial increase; however, please keep in mind that in the years prior, the property was undervalued in relationship to those who received the tax decrease.

Thank you to everyone for their cooperation and effort in making the 2005 revaluation process a smooth and successful operation.

Notes From Nancy: Fontana Public Library Announces Fall Programs

By Librarian Nancy Krei

Fall is a fantastic time of year -- leaves changing, football games, reasonable weather. Fall is also a great time of year to visit the Fontana Public Library.

An exciting new program called Toddler Time will be held on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. This program is geared to children ages 18 months to 3 years old and their parents/caregivers. Children will learn to socialize and experience the library through listening to stories and rhymes.

The library is once again fortunate to have the volunteer services of Carol Lobdell (better known as "Grandma Carol") to read and tell the stories. The library also is very grateful to the Walworth-Fontana Rotary Club for its \$2,000 donation to our Toddler Time program. With this donation, the library has purchased new board and picture books, puppets, a book cart, display panels, and other materials to make our Toddler Time a dynamic program.

Literacy is one of the areas emphasized by Rotary International. Every child, from infancy on up, enjoys the experience of having someone read to them. Our Toddler Time will help to foster literacy. Please stop in to the library for additional information about the Toddler Time program as well as for stories and activities to share with children.

It is always a challenge to keep up with changing technology. The Fontana Public Library has six public computers available with access to the Internet, Microsoft Office, Word, Excel, Publisher, and Power Point. The library has also the newest Wireless "Hot Spot" in Fontana because the efforts of



TODDLER TIME is being held at the Fontana Public Library on Thursdays, beginning at 10:30 a.m.

THz3, the village computer consultants. Just bring in your laptop and obtain a password from the library staff to access the Wireless network.

Fall is also the best time of the year for publishers to release books by best-selling authors. If you want to know when your favorite author's latest books will be published, ask the library staff.

At the beginning of each month, the library offers free copies of a publication called BookPage. This publication features author interviews, book reviews, and information about when new books will be released. The library's copies of BookPage are very popular and limited, so get your copy early in the month!

Craft projects are popular throughout the year, but it seems that the popularity increases in the fall. The library added many new books on all types of crafts to the collection. Some of the titles include: Bead Accents, Rubber Stamped Jewelry, Complete Illustrated

Stitch Encyclopedia, Cross-Stitcher's Complete Companion, 4 Seasons of Fleece, 101 Bears to Make, The Complete Book of Candles and Candle making, Playful Quilts for Kids, and Encyclopedia of Scrapbooking Tools and Techniques. If you want create any type of craft project, the library would have a book that will help you create it.

Did you know that donations to the library are tax-deductible? In the past, the library has been able to expand its collection of DVDs and other materials through generous donations. Monetary donations allow the library to offer more materials and expand its programs, so please consider the library when thinking about your end-of-the-year donations.

The Fontana Public Library opens at 9:30 a.m. Monday through Friday. On Tuesday and Thursday, the library is open until 8:00 p.m. The library is open on Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Stop in and "Check us out!"

News & Announcements

FontanaWear. Need a great idea for Christmas gifts? FontanaWear clothing items are available for purchase at the Village Hall or order online at www.villageoffontana.com.

Halloween Update! Trick or Treat will be held in the Village from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 31, 2005.

Tax Bills. Tax bills will be mailed out to property owners during the first or second week of December.

2006 Budget. The Village Board and Finance Committee will hold budget-planning workshops on Monday, Oct. 10 and 17, 2005.

Monday Morning Reminder

Keizer and Sons collects garbage and John's Disposal Service collects recyclable items on Monday mornings.

Residents should make arrangements to have their trash and recyclable receptacles moved back from the front curb and put back in their storage areas after collection.

CDA: Planning is the path to vision

By Interim Executive Director Joseph McHugh

It has been said that “planning is the path to vision.” Ask any member of the Community Development Authority, the Plan Commission, or the Village Board and they would be able to attest to the truth in that statement. The vision currently under construction in the Village Center began to take shape more than five years ago.

In March of 2000, community residents and leaders identified several elements of a vision for Fontana during an eight-hour community forum. One of those vision elements was the revitalization of the village center, including the lakefront, Fontana Boulevard and Highway 67. In September 2001, the Village Board adopted the Comprehensive Plan and the preparation for today’s projects has been underway ever since.

Now, while planning may be the path, it only gets us halfway there. It takes bull dozers, dump trucks and



A COMPUTER rendering depicts the plan for the new beach house.

cement mixers to turn visions into reality. Anyone who has been to Lucy’s or the grade school lately has seen first hand the construction work being done and has gotten a little glimpse of what Fontana’s foreseeable future will be like.

The reconstruction of both Mill Street and Main Street, as well as the burying of the overhead utilities along those two streets, is the first phase in a series of construction projects scheduled to be completed over a three year timeframe. This coming fall, the next phase will begin with the construc-

tion of a new lift station and a new restroom facility in Reid Park, as well as the installation of sewer and water pipelines along Fontana Boulevard.

Next year, the efforts of the Village in conjunction with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation will finally culminate in the complete reconstruction of Highway 67. This new road will be built as a divided street, similar to Fontana Boulevard, and was designed to be much more pedestrian friendly. The street intersections and the crosswalks will

be delineated with decorative concrete pavers and new landscaping and lighting will be installed. Samples of the actual concrete pavers and streetlights picked for the project are on display at the Village Hall. Interested residents are welcome to visit the Village Hall to see the selected materials.

Also next year, construction of the new beach house will begin. The new facility was designed by Jan Van Den Kieboom of the Milwaukee based firm of Workshop Architects. Mr. Kieboom also designed the new Reid Park restroom facility, as well as the mixed-use Mill Street Plaza project for Brian Pollard and FairWyn, Ltd. The new building planned to replace the existing beach house, includes restrooms, changing rooms, and an open air covered veranda for the use of beach goers.

Other upcoming projects include the reconstruction of the boat trailer parking lot located just west of Reid Park. The redesigned parking lot was approved by the CDA, the Plan Commission, and the Village



A COMPUTER rendering depicts the street side elevation of the plan for the new beach house.

From the Cop Shop ...

Department provides reminders for fall

By Chief Steve Olson

With the beginning of the school year, we want to remind all drivers to be extra cautious around school bus pick-up and drop-off points.

If the lights are flashing, you must stop well away from the bus until the lights are off. Bus drivers do turn over to police the license plate numbers of vehicles whose drivers violate the safety zone law.

Halloween hours will be on Monday, October 31, 2005, from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. Children should be accompanied by an adult and any suspicious incidents should be reported to police.

The PD has been receiving an increasing number of complaints of contractor fraud and identity theft. Timeliness in reporting these crimes is important; do not delay in calling us if you think you have been the victim of a crime. Visit our website for more information on how to prevent becoming a victim of these criminals.

Leaf burning is prohibited within the village. Residents should place the leaves at the curb for collection by the Public Works Department.

To have your address placed on the collection lists for leaf or brush collection, contact the Village Hall at (262) 275-6136; or you can transport the leaves to the Duck Pond collection site.

Lieutenant Brad Buchholz completed his probationary period and was permanently assigned his rank by the PFC and Village Board in June.

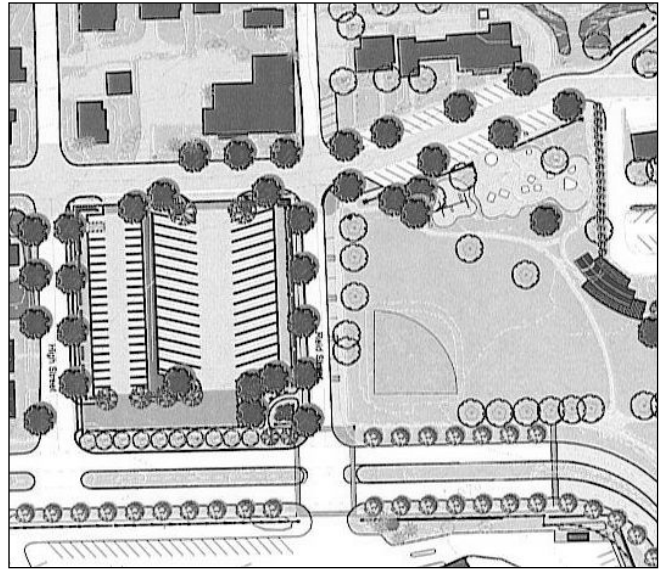
While the summer season was very busy for our officers, we are happy to report there were no serious injury accidents or assaults.

Due to a shortage in our staffing, deputy sheriffs were used periodically this summer to supplement our patrol staff. We hope to have the vacancies filled as soon as practical.

As of September 1, 2005 the Fontana Police Department has handled 1,817 calls for service.

Residents can visit the Fontana Police Department website at www.fontanawipolice.com for up-to-date-information about the department and matters of interest to our citizens.

To call the Fontana Police Department, the telephone numbers are: (262) 275-2275 (Office number), (262) 275-2135 (Dispatch for non-emergencies) or 911 (Emergencies).



THE NEW boat trailer parking lot and the redesign of Third Avenue from Highway 67 to the Park House was approved by the CDA, Plan Commission and Village Board at the September 6, 2005 Public Forum.

Park Commission plantings adding beauty to village

The summer has been extremely dry, but that has not stopped the Park Commission from planting. Fontana Boulevard has five new beds revamped, adding to the six median beds already done last year. The plants that were too tall for viewing traffic across the roadway were removed and replaced with shorter plantings of interplanted perennials and bulbs. These plant communities were laid out by Roy Diblik of Northwind Perennial Farm.

Moving down the beds there are plants that tie the

whole roadway together, especially the grasses like Karl Foerster Feather Reed which looks like wheat right now. As summer fades, the always east facing Tennessee Coneflower will slowly turn brown and the Russian Sage's lavender flowers will fall away leaving silver stems. Once fall arrives, residents and visitors can look for the following plants to capture their attention: the Willow Leaf Amsonia leaves will turn golden yellow, while the

See **PARKS** - Page 6

-- Village of Fontana Fall 2005 Calendar --

Oct. 3 - Village Board meets at 6 p.m.

Oct. 5 - CDA meets at 6 p.m.

Oct. 7 - Accurate Appraisal Village Hall office hours from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Oct. 20 - Finance Committee meets at 5 p.m.

Oct. 24 - Plan Commission meets at 6 p.m.

Oct. 31 - Trick or Treat from 3 to 7 p.m. (**Be sure to stop at the Village Hall!**)

Nov. 1 - Village Board meets at 6 p.m.

Nov. 2 - CDA meets at 6 p.m.

Nov. 17 - Finance meets at 5 p.m.

Nov. 21 - Public Hearing for 2006 budget

Nov. 24 to 26 - Village Hall Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

Nov. 28 - Plan Commission meets at 6 p.m.

Dec. 1 - First day for candidates to circulate nomination papers for Spring 2006 Election

Dec. 3 - Holly Ball Geneva Lake Conservancy fund-raiser

Dec. 5 - Village Board meets at 6 p.m.

Dec. 15 - Finance Committee meets at 5 p.m.

Dec. 16 - Accurate Appraisal Village Hall office hours from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Dec. 19 - Plan Commission meets at 6 p.m.

Dec. 23 to 26 - Village Hall Closed for Christmas Holiday

Dec. 30 to Jan. 2 - Village Hall Closed for New Year Holiday

President

(continued from page 1)

We're digging a big hole and putting the new main lift station in it.

Yep. Right underneath the bathrooms in the park. The old lift station is 50 years old and we cannot afford to have this critical equipment fail. This concept will free up the existing site for additional park features, while consolidating our public services. Brilliant. This construction is also scheduled for the fall and winter to minimize park downtime. I also want you to know that every effort is being made to preserve all mature trees in the park during all of the construction.

We're tearing down the beach house.

Yep. Totally outdated, no hot water, full of asbestos material -- this building goes. In its place will be a wonderful new complex with a Fontana architectural look. Designed after some of our lake houses, this complex will be about the same size as our current beach house, but broken up into three components: registration center, men's changing room and women's changing room.

The look of this building will complement the gazebo and new park bathrooms and give the village park area an architectural continuity. This building will be set back about 50 feet from the lake, so whether you are on the beach or walking down the lakefront sidewalk, you'll have an uninterrupted

view of the entire lakefront. New landscaping, decks and water features are also included. Pretty cool.

Is there anything you haven't told us?

Yep. There is a lot I haven't mentioned, but I want you to come and learn about it. The Village Hall is full of pictures, plans, timetables, cost projections and much, much more. A great deal of this information is up on boards for you to look at. (Tom Hill comes every day.)

Come and review the plans, share your opinions, offer suggestions, after all ...

"We all do better when we work together."

CDA

(continued from page 4)

Board at a September 6, 2005 public forum. The new design incorporates wider and longer parking stalls to better accommodate today's larger boats.

Also approved at the forum was the installation of new landscaping and lighting along Third Avenue from the Highway 67 intersection to Reid Street. The portion of Third Avenue that runs from Reid Street to the Park House will be completely reconstructed to accommodate two-way traffic and will include traffic calming design elements

such as curbed bump-outs with street trees to beautify the roadway.

In addition to the ongoing management of the various redevelopment and improvement projects, the CDA is also developing and adopting programs to encourage investment in local businesses. On August 8, 2005 the CDA adopted the first Facade Improvement Program. The newly adopted grant program provides matching funds for businesses looking to renovate the exterior of their buildings. Eligible projects can receive funds equaling 25 percent of

the cost of the project, up to \$10,000, including the preparation of plans and design work. Interested owners of commercial property should contact the CDA Executive Director at (262) 275-6136 for details of the program.

In closing, the CDA would like to officially welcome its newest members: Gail Hibbard, Jeff Fisk, and the former executive director, Cindy Wilson. Thank you to the new members and the rest of the commissioners for your tireless commitment to the Village of Fontana's future.

Parks

(continued from page 5)

native prairie grasses, Little Bluestem and Prairie Dropseed, which smells like popcorn, will have all the colors of a sunset.

In all, more than 25 species have been planted including a new Sedum put in by Roy, which is not available commercially at this time. He feels our village is a good testing place for this future introduction.

Roy also has provided bulbs only grown in Holland and grasses that can only be seen in Chicago's Millennium Park and New York City's Battery Park. Roy has commented that he thinks of these gardens as his own and we, the Park Commission and Fontana,

are lucky to have Roy tending to our truly world-class gardens.

Moving to our more native planting sites, the Fen, Headwaters Park and the Hildebrand properties, invasive species removal, and brushing for the most part have been completed for this year. Agrecol, our contracted natural resource provider, has been working on our trails throughout these properties and all should be completed this fall. The headwaters banks and eventually Van Slyke Creek are being enhanced and we are eagerly awaiting final approval from the DNR to complete the tasks.

All three of these sites have seen more than 8,500 plants put into the

ground representing more than 50 species. Included are several different types of fern, Christmas, sensitive, cinnamon and royal species. Also, purple coneflower, iris, turtlehead, liatris, helianthus, echinacea, red milkweed, rudbeckia and columbine are a few of the more common plants planted so far.

Demonstration beds have been completed at the Fen and marking sign posts will be ordered for the trails. Yet to come this fall are trees and shrubs throughout Headwaters Park and the Hildebrand property with more bank stabilization and other plantings.

We hope everyone enjoys our parks as much as we do every season of the year!