

President Cites Village Accomplishments

By Ron Pollitt
Village President

As we enter the New Year, I believe it is appropriate and fitting to review what we have accomplished as a Village this past year. During 2007, the Village completed the lighting and landscaping on Highway 67, which has given us a beautiful thoroughfare through Fontana of which we can all be proud. I have received many compliments from residents and visitors on the improved look of our Village. We also are pleased with the completion of the new underground sewage lift station, located in Reid Park, that will accommodate the village's needs for years to come. The new restroom building in Reid Park (built on top of the new lift station) was open to the public for the summer season and is a beautiful addition to our lakefront area. All these projects were completed with little impact on traffic flow during the busy summer months.

Par Development Inc. received approval and began the Cliffs of Fontana subdivision across from the Village Hall. This project will beautify the old

quarry area and bring new tax revenue into the village. The developers are doing a first-class job and the project will be a great asset to the community.

Also in 2007, the village accomplished the reconstruction of the deteriorating road, sewer and water lines on Arrowhead Drive and Castle Terrace in Country Club Estates. The final paving will be completed in the spring.

We all can be proud of the recent CDA project that completed a pedestrian and bike path leading to the Duck Pond Recreational Area. Along with the Wild Duck Road and Dade Road reconstruction, this creates a safer, smoother access road for our public. And finally in December, the Wisconsin DNR awarded the Villages of Walworth and Fontana a matching grant of up to \$152,000 to connect our respective bike and pedestrian paths. We will be working closely together during 2008 to accomplish this project for the benefit of everyone.

I would like to report that we have completed the plans and are close to finalizing the budget for the completion of the historic Mill House Pavilion across from the Fontana Elementary School. Many of you have contributed to this project with your

Please See **Accomplishments - Page 3**



Founded 1836

Fontana Village Hall
175 Valley View Drive
PO Box 200
Fontana, WI 53125
262 275-6136 voice
262 275-8088 fax



Village President Ron Pollitt (left) presents a special recognition plate to former Park Commission Chairman Rick Treptow at the annual Village of Fontana Holiday Party.

“The CDA was formed in 2001, and after a number of years of planning, we began to actually do things in 2005.”

“Don’t be fooled into cashing a ‘winnings’ check you may receive in the mail or into responding to an email ‘winner’s notification.’”

Revised Master Plan Paved Way for CDA Accomplishments

By Trustee Bill Turner
CDA Chairman

The beginning of a new year tends to make us reflective, and my mind turns back to 1997 - 10 years ago - when we had a community workshop at the Abbey on the future of Fontana. Out of that session eventually came a revised Master Plan and the decision in 2000 to use Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) to implement the plan.

The CDA was formed in 2001, and after a number of years of planning, we began to actually do things in 2005. It hasn’t been a perfectly smooth ride - many things were changing, and that is never easy. Reid Park was torn up for a year as we constructed the new main sewer pump station; there were some frustrating engineering problems and delays, but we now have a magnificent three-story structure in the ground under the park. The new beach house and washroom pavilion in the park have been controversial, but we seem to be getting more comfortable with them as time goes on. The Highway 67 project has been generally well-received as have the new pedestrian paths, the Hildebrand conservation area and the Duck Pond development.

Actually, with the amount of “stuff” going on, it is surprising that we have held together as well as we have.

The next years should be equally exciting. This coming year, we will finish the plaza at the intersection of Fontana Boulevard and Highway 67, continue the Duck Pond development, and hopefully (pending referendum approval) re-build Third Avenue and bury utilities in the center of town. We will also start work on environmental issues on the east side of Highway 67, including stormwater problems and restoration of Pottawatomi Creek.

Finally, we will embark on the daunting task of determining what we want to do on the lakefront. This will probably result in the construction of some form of lakefront activity center. If we get everyone pointing in the same direction on that issue, it will be a major accomplishment.

A great deal of work has gone into this process, and I want to thank the CDA Board members, Bob Chanson, Skip Bliss, Cindy Wilson, Pete Petersen, Gail Hibbard and Jeff Fisk, for their hard work. It is a somewhat maverick and stubborn group that seldom agrees completely on issues, but they have shown the ability to avoid deadlock and to move for-



THE NEW pedestrian path to the Duck Pond Recreation Area features an underpass at the Dade Road intersection.

ward. (Maybe we should send them to Congress!). Finally, I want to thank Joseph McHugh, our intensely organized Executive Director, who has shown great project management skills and generally keeps all of us in line.

The Cop Shop ...



By Chief Steve Olson

Fontana Police Department

With winter here we want to remind everyone not to park on any public road or parking lot from 2:00 to 6:00 AM. During this time Public Works is out clearing snow and salting the roads. We would like to remind all drivers to use extra caution in these snowy/icy road conditions. Also, the large number of trees in Fontana leave patches of ice/snow that do not melt quickly where they shade the road.

Identity theft crimes and money scams are increasing in Fontana. Don’t be fooled into cashing a “winnings” check you may receive in the mail or into responding to an email “winner’s notification.” If you have a question about such an offer, ask us to check it out first. In every case they have been found to be frauds. If you find unauthorized use on your credit or debit card immediately notify your bank, card company and the police to protect your credit.

As promised, the Police Department will begin teaching the CounterAct program at the grade school in January 2008, with Officers Mark Chalchoff and Derrick Goetsch as instructors. This program is designed to bring together schools, families and the police to serve as a source of support to encourage students to make healthy behavioral choices.

Do you know a college student from Fontana studying toward a degree in Criminal Justice or Police Science? They may qualify for a scholarship that we have information on. Call our office for more

Please See **Cop Shop - Page 3**

Administrator's Report

By Kelly E. Hayden-Staggs
Village Administrator

I know it seems like every other article I write focuses on financing options, assessments, budgets, taxes, referendums or a revaluation, and it may put most of you to sleep; however, I think that it is crucial that our property owners understand how their property values affect their tax bill and in turn how we invest/spend the tax revenue to manage the Village.

Recently I wrote on our upcoming revaluation, which was last completed in 2005. Revaluations are essential to communities and are required by law to ensure that the assessments are equalized based on sale trends. The Village has again fallen below the State's benchmark, so the Village assessor will conduct what is called a **market revaluation** in 2008. This type of revaluation is a little different than the one conducted in 2005. The assessors will not be doing an on-site inspection of each home. They will simply conduct the revaluation by using past real estate transactions and reviewing property record history they gathered back in 2005.

Once the revaluation is complete, each property owner with a changed assessment will receive a notice indicating the property's new value. Included with this notice will be necessary information about **Open Book** and **Board of Review**. **Open Book** is where the assessment roll is available for inspection and individuals can find where their property value falls in relationship to similar properties. **Board of Review** is a quasi judicial process where property owners can protest their assessed value, but please keep in mind that the assessment is the only thing that can be protested, not the tax dollar amount. Property owners must submit credible evidence as to why their assessed value is inaccurate and then the **Board of Review** members make their determination based on the evidence submitted.

Following Board of Review, the assessor finalizes the municipality's **tax base**. The municipality's **tax base** is calculated by adding all the individual real estate and personal property assessed values, and it is the denominator for determining the village's **Mill Rate**. The **Mill Rate** is the actual dollar amount charged against each \$1,000 of property assessment and generates the tax bill dollar amount, but it cannot be derived without a **levy**. (Ok, I realize this is really getting technical and some of you may be on your second cup of coffee, but I am almost done.)

Every fall, municipal departments start compiling their budgets, which account for capital and O&M (operating and maintenance) expenditures for the fiscal year along with any non-tax generating revenue. Each department must present their budget request to the

Finance Committee, and this committee and Village Board carefully review and make the appropriate changes. Once the review is complete, the budget is compiled accounting for all expenses and non-tax generating revenues. The shortfall between the two (revenue and expenses) is what generates the dollar amount necessary for the **levy** (the numerator used to calculate the mill rate). This process is used by all taxing jurisdictions, which includes the State of Wisconsin, Walworth County, Gateway Technical College, local grade/high schools, Tax Increment District and the Village. All calculations are then processed by the County and the tax bills are complete and ready for distribution.

In the State of Wisconsin, every property owner has the choice to pay their tax bill in full or in two installments. At the minimum, the entire first installment must be paid no later than January 31 or penalties will be assessed. The Village collects taxes for all districts through the month of January and settles, or distributes the other districts' shares, in January and February. The County then collects taxes for any delinquent payments after January and the second installment, and then they settle with the districts in August. The two collection districts normally invest the receipts in a money market and retain all investment revenue earned prior to distribution.

Accomplishments

Continued from page 1

donations and the committee has worked with the CDA and Par Development to obtain the additional funding for this project. Construction should start in March with completion estimated by the end of May 2008. We could use additional contributions to finalize this project. They can be sent to the Village Hall to the attention of the Park Commission.

This project will be of benefit to the school and our community to preserve a piece of Fontana history and will serve as an outdoor educational classroom and park pavilion. Have a great winter everyone!

Cop Shop

Continued from page 2

information.

Looking at our calls for service this year, our officers have handled 2,420 calls as of December 14, 2007 compared with 2,390 calls during the same time in 2006.

To learn more about the department, to find helpful links or to keep up on law enforcement topics, visit our website at www.fontanawipolice.com.

"The Village has again fallen below the State's benchmark, so the Village assessor will conduct what is called a market revaluation in 2008."

"This project will be of benefit to the school and our community to preserve a piece of Fontana history and will serve as an outdoor educational classroom and park pavilion."

The

Fontana/Walworth

Water Pollution

Control Commission's

Chloride Reduction

program report is

available at the

Village Hall and on

the Village website at

www.villageof-

fontana.com under

"Alerts and

Announcements."

VOF Calendar

January 1, 2008 - Village Hall Closed for New Year's Day Holiday

January 2, 2008 - Last Day for Candidates to File Nomination Papers for Spring Election

January 7, 2008 - Village Board Meets at 6:00 PM

January 9, 2008 - CDA Board Meets at 6:00 PM

January 12, 2008 - Park Commission Long-Range Planning Meeting at 9:00 AM

January 16, 2008 - Park Commission Meets at 6:00 PM

January 24, 2008 - Finance Committee Meets at 5:00 PM

January 28, 2008 - Plan Commission Meets at 5:30 PM

January 30, 2008 - Lakefront and Harbor Committee Meets at 4:30 PM

January 31, 2008 - First Installment Deadline for 2007 Real Estate Taxes (Last Day to Pay Taxes at Fontana Village Hall)

February 4, 2008 - Village Board Meets at 6:00

PM

February 6, 2008 - CDA Board Meets at 6:00 PM

February 19, 2008 - Presidential Preference Primary Election (Polls Open at Village Hall from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM)

February 20, 2008 - Park Commission Meets at 6:00 PM

February 25, 2008 - Plan Commission Meets at 5:30 PM

March 3, 2008 - Village Board Meets at 6:00 PM

March 5, 2008 - CDA Board Meets at 6:00 PM

March 19, 2008 - Park Commission Meets at 6:00 PM

March 21, 2008 - Village Hall Closed for Good Friday Holiday

March 22, 2008 - Annual Easter Egg Hunt at Duck Pond Recreation Area at 10:00 AM

March 31, 2008 - Plan Commission Meets at 5:30 PM

April 1, 2008 - Spring Election (Polls Open at Village Hall from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM)

www.villageoffontana.com

Fontana Village Hall
175 Valley View Drive
PO Box 200
Fontana, WI 53125

US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #1
MADISON
WISCONSIN