

# Village of Fontana on Geneva Lake Newsletter

Winter 2007



## 2006 - Year of Community Accomplishments



*"It takes great men and women to run a great Village while everyone else is having a great time."  
- TW*

### By Village President Tom Whowell

A tremendous effort was put forth by the Village staff, elected officials, volunteer committees and professional advisors in 2006 to bring three major projects to completion. These projects were all necessary and no one wanted to stretch them over three or four years or longer. One year has been difficult enough.



### HIGHWAY 67 HOME RUN

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation scheduled Highway 67 for repairs in 2006. The Village had no choice on this schedule. What we did have a choice about was the opportunity to add TIF dollars to get a remarkable product (traffic dampening contours, center islands, safety crosswalks, curb and gutter, bike path, buried power lines, fabulous street lights day and night). Extensive landscaping

will follow in the Spring of 2007.

### LIFT STATION LOG

The original lift station was 20 years beyond its original life expectancy. It required constant maintenance, parts that were unavailable and a new location. It is now rebuilt beneath the restrooms in the Village Park with state of the art variable pumps, an emergency generator and the newest technology in odor control. All this below ground. The lift station is scheduled to go on line in January 2007. The restrooms are new with expanded facilities and ready for Spring activation. Landscaping will be completed before the Summer season. The architectural design matches the beach house.

### BEACH HOUSE BACKGROUND

The Village needed a new beach house. The former building was outdated and obsolete. It was very

See ACCOMPLISHMENTS - Page 5

January 2007



Fontana Village Hall  
175 Valley View Drive  
P.O. Box 200  
Fontana, WI 53125  
262-275-6136  
262-275-8088 (fax)  
www.villageoffontana.com



# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

## TID #1 | Public Improvement Projects

**By Joseph A. McHugh**  
CDA Executive Director

-----  
"If you don't know where you are going, you will wind up somewhere else."

**Yogi Berra**

On September 26th, 2001 the Village of Fontana approved a "Project Plan" for Tax Increment Finance

District No. 1 that organized the proposed public improvements into three key phases. As 2006 comes to a close, the first phase is nearly complete. The Highway is open and the lights are on!

As we pause to reflect on where we started and where we are now, we have an opportunity to look forward to where we aspire to go.

The second phase of construction, scheduled to start next year, includes

the final landscaping on STH 67, the new Porter Court Public Plaza, the burial of all overhead utilities east of the Highway, a reconfigured Boat Trailer Parking Lot, and the improvement of Third Avenue from the Highway to the Lakefront, including the Little Foot playground.

To see where we are going, a summary of the key projects planned for 2007 is presented below:

### STH 67 - LANDSCAPING

**Estimated Cost:**  
\$160,000  
**Anticipated Start:**  
Spring 2007

Next year the final touches will be added to the STH 67 project. The extensive landscaping planned for the highway includes over 80 street trees (Elms, Maples and Oaks) which will reach mature heights from 40 to 50 feet. In addition, the seven planting beds in the median will be landscaped to complement the existing plantings down Fontana Boulevard.



### BURY UTILITIES - EAST OF STH 67 (Village Center)

**Estimated Cost:**  
\$650,000  
**Anticipated Start:**  
Summer 2007

The burial of utilities east of Highway 67 (Village Center) is the next stage of an underground conversion project that has already been

completed along Main Street, Mill Street, and the Highway itself. The chief benefits of "undergrounding" include enhanced visual appearance, tree preservation, improved safety and reliability of utility services, and increased property values.

**Existing**



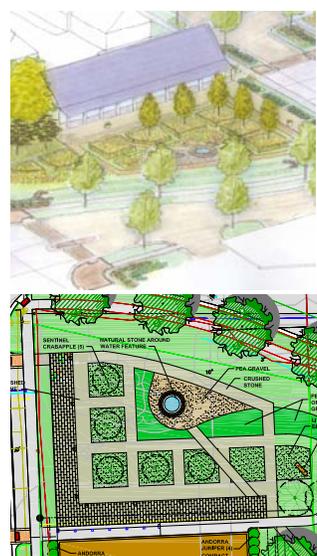
**Proposed**



### PORTER COURT PLAZA

**Estimated Cost:**  
\$240,000  
**Anticipated Start:**  
Spring 2007

The new Porter Court Plaza creates an opportunity for outdoor seating with views down Fontana Boulevard to the Lake. It includes a stone pedestrian bridge and a natural stone fountain. Trees, shrubs and ornamental grasses will provide stunning visual displays in spring, summer and fall.



## BOAT TRAILER PARKING LOT

**Estimated Cost:**  
\$550,000  
**Anticipated Start:**  
Fall 2007

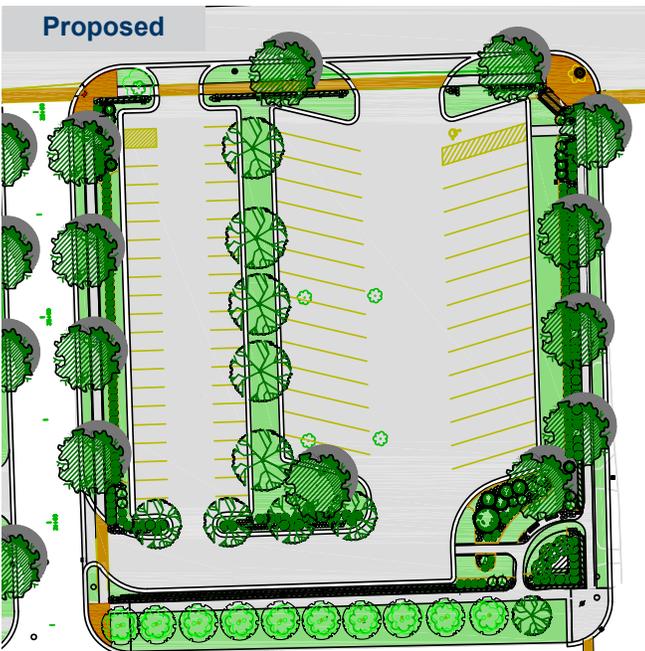
The Boat Trailer Parking Lot will be rebuilt to create clear travel and parking

areas. Fencing and landscaping will be incorporated to screen the parking area from the surrounding streets. The number of trailer parking stalls is being reduced to ease congestion on the lake-front.

Existing



Proposed



Your comments are appreciated.

Citizens & Residents who wish to make general comments on CDA projects may submit them via email to "[cdadirector@villageoffontana.com](mailto:cdadirector@villageoffontana.com)" or via the "Comments" section of the Village website: [www.villageoffontana.com](http://www.villageoffontana.com)

## THIRD AVENUE CORRIDOR: (Including Little Foot Playground)

**Estimated Cost:**  
\$1,150,000  
**Anticipated Start:**  
Fall 2007

The substantial improvements to the Third Avenue corridor include the total reconstruction of the Third Avenue roadway from High Street to the Park House, as well as the reconstruction of both High Street and Reid Street on either side of the

Boat Trailer parking lot. In addition to new surface, the project includes the complete replacement of the aging water mains and sewer lines below ground. Similar to STH 67, the project includes new landscaping, sidewalks and street lighting. Finishing touches include new pedestrian pathways, concrete pavers, a drinking fountain and a new swing-set in Reid Park.



## MORE 2007 PROJECTS:

The following projects, still currently in the planning and design stage, are also anticipated for 2007:

Fontana Boulevard Landscaping, including street trees, lighting and fencing along the Municipal Beach.

Reconstruction of Wild Duck Road.

Pedestrian Path to the Duck Pond Recreation Area from State Highway 67.

Wayfinding Signage in the Village Center.

New monument style Village Entry Signs on State Highway 67.

# Park Commission Issues Tree Ordinance Notice, Gerdes Nursery Donates Trees to Village

As a designated "Tree City, USA," the Village of Fontana deemed it advisable to regulate the removal of trees whether on private or public property. As a result, the Natural Resources Conservation Ordinance was put into effect June 6, 2005. The ordinance, in its entirety, is available on the Village Website or at the Village Hall.

Some of the provisions are as follows:

A permit is required by any person or entity desiring to remove a tree within the Village with a diameter greater than eight inches at breast height (DBH), or approximately four and one half feet above grade. Prior to such anticipated removal, an application for a permit must be filed to include a site plan indicating all trees eight inches in diameter and designating those which are to be removed. A permit fee of \$50 will be assessed for a total of up to five trees. The fee is waived under certain circumstances, such as for removal of a documented dead or diseased tree or a nuisance tree as defined by the ordinance; however, the requirement for the permit is not waived. It should be noted that it is difficult to assess whether a tree was dead or diseased after it has been removed. Upon issuance of an approved permit, it should be prominently dis-



played on the property

Within a prescribed period of time after removal, the tree or trees to be removed are either: (1) to be replaced with the same number of trees having a two inch caliper or greater; or (2) in the alternative, if the property owner demonstrates that replacement is not feasible, a payment must be made to the Village Tree Fund for reforestation within the Village.

This ordinance is not intended to penalize property owners, but to ensure the continued beautification of the Village and maintain the canopy that our trees now provide.

This short synopsis in no way covers all aspects of the ordinance. Property owners are encouraged to review the ordinance in its entirety prior to any anticipated tree removal, for

whatever purpose, and direct any questions to the Building and Zoning Department.

## Gerdes Nursery Donates Trees

Speaking of trees, the Park Commission received more than 100 trees donated to the Village through the auspices of CDA Executive Director Joseph McHugh. The trees were given to us from Gerdes Nursery in Harvard, IL, and included Redbud, Whitebid, Whitespire Birch, Sweet Gum, Sycamore, Kousa Dogwood, October Glory Maple, Kwanzan Cherry, Weeping Crab and Cherry, Jane Magnolia, Vernal Witchhazel, Seven Son Flower, Locust Skyline and Amur Maple.

To ensure Village-wide planting of these trees, the Park Commission, offered each association some of our unexpected gifts to plant in common areas of their properties. We truly appreciate this donation and want to publicly thank a good "Friend of the Parks," Gerdes Wholesale Nursery.

Happy Holidays to all, and may you have a safe and healthy New Year! Perhaps consider a tree as a gift this holiday season and plant it in 2007. Arbor Day is the last Friday in April and is the right time to plant trees, big or small!



## From the Cop Shop... Winter Parking Rules in Effect

By Chief Steven Olson

With winter here for awhile we want to remind everyone not to park on any public road or parking lot from 2:00 am to 6:00 am.

During this time the Public Works Department is out clearing and salting the roads. We would like to remind all drivers to use extra caution in these snowy/icy road conditions. Because of the large number of trees in Fontana, patches of ice/snow do not melt as quickly where the trees shade the roadway.

After reviewing a staffing study prepared by a staff member of Northwestern University, which showed

we are understaffed, the Village Board voted on December 4, 2006 to fill the full-time officer vacancy. One of our current part-time officers will assume these duties in January. This position had been budgeted for in 2007 and will return us to our 2004 staffing level.

The DARE program ends in 2006, however, the Fontana Elementary School staff and our Department have begun looking at other drug awareness programs to begin in 2007.

Again this year, large amounts of food and household product donations were dropped off and/or picked up by the Police Department during our annual "Feed the Need" program. These donations were then delivered by the

Police Department to two area food pantries. Thank you all for your generous support!

Looking at our calls for service this year, we find we have handled 2,351 as of December 7, 2006 compared with 1,886 during the same time in 2005.

For all the latest law enforcement related information concerning Fontana, visit our Website at [www.fontanawipolice.com](http://www.fontanawipolice.com).

## Fontana Police Department

Telephone: (262) 275-2275

Non-Emergency Dispatch:

(262) 275-2135

E-mail:

[Police.Dept@Villageoffontana.com](mailto:Police.Dept@Villageoffontana.com)

## Accomplishments

(continued from page 1)

difficult to keep clean and full of asbestos. It was unhealthy and unsafe.

A word about "The Look." When you really think about it, there aren't a lot of one-story primary structures in Fontana ... a smattering of ranch style homes, many garages and accessory buildings, storage warehouses on the corner of Dewey Avenue and Main Street. Two-story and two-story-plus structures make up the general skyline, particularly along the lake. The designs of the park restrooms and beach house are meant to blend into this traditional existing look.

Let me describe this to you: Coming east on Fontana Boulevard you see a panorama of the apartments on Third Avenue, the park restrooms, the gazebo, the beach house followed by the Glenwood Springs ridge as you pro-

ceed toward south shore. The reciprocal flows in the opposite direction with the north shore as the backdrop. All of the architecture that you are viewing is



similar in nature with vertical components, similar roof lines, elevated windows in a white or off-white color. It is compatible, functional and elegant, and with the exception of some additional

landscaping, it's finished.

### PERSONAL OVERVIEW

From a 65-year-resident perspective and six years as Village president, it is my opinion that the property owners of our Village want to keep it in good repair, safe and attractive while at the same time keep increased taxes to a minimum.

The continued high quality of schools, parks, churches and public services is a given. With that in mind, consider:

#### 2007 - BACK TO THE FUTURE

- The Mill House on Main Street renovation, supported by grant funding
- New Library and Civic Center on the lake discussions
- Restorations of and additions to the Duck Pond Recreation Area
- Highway 67 landscaping
- PAR development project in the old quarry
- New fire truck and police squad car
- Continuing road repairs

All this with minimal tax increases. In the last five years, your property has doubled in value while your taxes have only gone up a few percentage points ... probably the best investment in your portfolio.

Happy New Year!



Reid Park Restrooms/Pavilion

## Library Notes from Nancy: Changes In Store for 2007

Where did 2006 go? It seems hard to believe that 2007 is here! This past year was somewhat unusual as the library's exterior wall and landscaping were drastically altered in conjunction with the Village Hall parking lot reconfiguration and the Highway 67 project. Due to that construction, getting into the library was sometimes an adventure! On behalf of the library staff, I want to thank everyone who used and supported the library in 2006.

The library has more changes in store for 2007 ... the exterior will have a somewhat different look, with dynamic landscaping, a new sign and a sidewalk, and outside steps will provide access to the Village Hall parking lot.

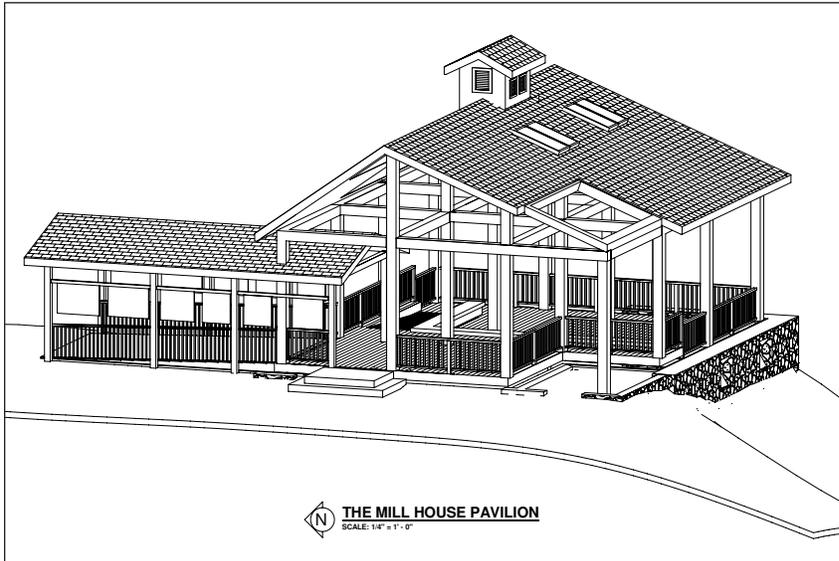
The library will also have some technology changes in 2007. Currently, we belong to an automation consortium called WAVE that provides access to the collections of 23 libraries in Walworth, Racine and Dodge counties. In January, the consortium will increase to 43 members and the program will be called SHARE. Your Fontana Library card will allow you to borrow materials from these libraries through interlibrary loan. If you happen to be traveling to any of those communities, you can return Fontana materials to the libraries, and use your Fontana Library card to check out

new materials. Contact the library after January 10 for details about the new consortium.

The library will continue to offer wireless Internet access in 2007. If you don't have a laptop computer, the library has public computers available with Internet access, and Microsoft Office programs. Our library also will be increasing the number of computers available to the public in 2007.

The Library Board and staff would like to thank Betty Moore for her 26-plus years of dedicated service to the Fontana Public Library. Betty actually "retired" as full-time employee several years ago, but we were able to convince her to "un-retire" and come back to the library on a part-time basis. Now Betty has decided the time is right to pursue her other interests and have more free time to spend with her family. She will be greatly missed. The many Fontana residents who used the library as children remember Betty as the "face of the library." We hope that Betty will continue to visit the library often!

Although there will be some changes for the library in 2007, many things stay the same and new materials are always being added; so, stop in and "check us out."



**THE VILLAGE** of Fontana Park Commission is seeking donations to help fund the development of the Mill House Pavilion, to be located at the west entrance of the Hildebrand Nature Conservancy. The pavilion will be used as a “classroom” to educate students and the public on wildlife and the natural habitat located in the conservancy. An architect’s rendering of the pavilion is pictured here. The pavilion will include conservation exhibits and educational curricula developed by the Fontana Elementary School Outdoor Education instructors. Tax-deductible donations may be sent to the VOF Park Commission at Post Office Box 200, Fontana, WI 53125.

## VILLAGE OF FONTANA ON GENEVA LAKE Fall 2006 Newsletter Questionnaire Results

1. The Village Newsletter is informative and addresses its stated purpose?  
**AGREE- 70                      DISAGREE- 19                      NO OPINION- 13**
  
2. Did you receive adequate information to make an informed decision on the September 12, 2006 referendum?  
**AGREE- 54                      DISAGREE- 30                      NO OPINION- 21**
  
3. With respect to the projects proposed in the September 12 referendum, do you agree or disagree with:
  - 3A. Burying the Power Lines  
**AGREE-70                      DISAGREE-23                      Not Enough Information-18**
  - 3B. Overhaul, re-landscaping & lighting for the Boat Trailer Parking Lot  
**AGREE-38                      DISAGREE-52                      Not Enough Information-16**
  - 3C. Replace beach and lakefront fences  
**AGREE-59                      DISAGREE-28                      Not Enough Information-17**
  - 3D. My personal preference for a COLOR for the new fencing on the lakefront  
**BLACK-32                      GREEN-20                      WHITE-8                      BROWN-9                      OTHER-14**
  
4. On a scale of 1 to 10 (10 being highest), how do you like Highway 67 so far?  

<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	
<b>(12)</b>	<b>(8)</b>	<b>(7)</b>	<b>(8)</b>	<b>(18)</b>	<b>(7)</b>	<b>(6)</b>	<b>(7)</b>	<b>(16)</b>	<b>(13)</b>	<b>-- Average Response = 5.73</b>
  
5. On a scale of 1 to 10 (10 being highest), how do you like the new Beach House?  

<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	
<b>(48)</b>	<b>(10)</b>	<b>(5)</b>	<b>(5)</b>	<b>(9)</b>	<b>(3)</b>	<b>(3)</b>	<b>(8)</b>	<b>(7)</b>	<b>(11)</b>	<b>-- Average Response = 3.88</b>

Written comments are posted on the Village website and are available at the Village Hall.  
***(111 Questionnaires Turned In and Talled as of 12-11-06)***

## Highway 67 Lighting Earns Praise from Beloit Official

The Village of Fontana received the following note the week after the reconstructed Highway 67 was opened for through traffic:

“Just a quick note to let you know how impressed I was with the lighting you had installed along the new stretch of Highway 67. We passed through after the recent snow and to say the lighting effect is dramatic would be an understatement.

I passed a note on to our City Manager and City Engineer to take a look. Congrats on a job well done.

P.S. I live in Walworth and pass through/stop in Fontana frequently. Highway 67 looks great!

Harry Mathos,  
City of Beloit WRD Operations Supervisor