

VILLAGE OF FONTANA-ON-GENEVA LAKE

Winter Issue 2009

Fertilizer Ordinance Protects Geneva Lake

The Village of Fontana has adopted an ordinance that regulates the use of lawn fertilizer and consequently will help reduce the amount of nutrients and contaminants that enter Geneva Lake and its streams.

The goal of the ordinance, which has been adopted by all of the municipalities that encompass the Geneva Lake area, is to improve and maintain lake and stream water quality. Geneva Lake and its streams are natural assets that enhance the environmental, recreational, cultural and economic resources of the area and contribute to the general health and welfare of the public.

The ordinance regulates the use of all lawn fertilizer distributed for lawns, golf courses, parks and cemeteries. Lawn fertilizer does not include fertilizer products intended primarily for garden and indoor plant applications.

In particular, the ordinance prohibits the application of lawn fertilizer that contains phosphorus or other compounds containing phosphorus, such as phosphate; prohibits the application of lawn fertilizer when the ground is frozen; and prohibits the application of lawn fertilizer on any impervious surface including parking lots, roadways and sidewalks. If such application occurs, the fertilizer must be immediately contained and either legally applied to turf or placed in an appropriate container.

Exemptions

The prohibition against the use of fertilizer does not apply to newly established turf or lawn areas during their first growing season; to turf or lawn areas that soil tests, performed within the past three years by a state-certified soil testing laboratory, confirm are below phosphorus levels established by the University of Wisconsin Extension Service; for agricultural uses, vegetable and flower gardens, or application to trees or shrubs; or to yard waste compost, bio-solids or other similar materials that are primarily organic in nature and are applied to improve the physical condition of the soil.

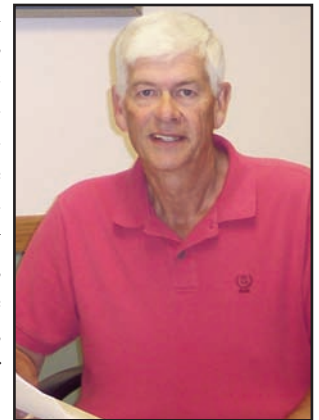
The ordinance also prohibits the sale of fertilizer containing phosphorus.

No store may display lawn fertilizer containing phosphorus; however, signs may be posted advising customers that lawn fertilizer containing phosphorus is available upon request for uses permitted by the exemption section of the ordinance.

Any person who violates the ordinance at a residential property will be subject to a forfeiture of \$25 per violation. Any commercial fertilizer applicator, residential or commercial developer, industrial or commercial owner, or other person who violates the prohibition may be subject to a fine of \$50 to \$300.

President's Report: Projects Address Infrastructure

This past year will be remembered for its uncertain economic times for both individuals and municipalities. As a Village, we finished the year satisfactorily financially and we kept expenses in line considering the demand on services caused by bad weather and high fuel costs.



President Ron Pollitt

Looking back, we continued to improve our infrastructure by replacing portions of our water and sewer lines and roads. Specifically, needed improvements were made this year on sections of Timber Trail and Indian Hills roads, and Harvard and Kinzie avenues. The CDA projects involving Porter Court Plaza, the Duck Pond Triangle (pedestrian path and bridge underpass), the Third Avenue reconstruction, burying utility wires, boat trailer parking lot and Little Foot Park playground improvements were either finished or are well on their way. I hope you'll agree their completion has improved the look of the Village.

Generous donations allowed the Village to complete the historic and educational Mill House Pavilion without using any taxpayer money. Please accept a special "Thank You" to all who donated.

I hope all Village residents enjoyed the holidays and have a better New Year in 2009.

Lastly, I would like to thank Public Works employee Paul Blain for his 12 years of service to our Village. We wish him well in his retirement. I would also like to thank Peg Pollitt for her five and a half years of service as our Village Treasurer. She has moved up to Comptroller with the City of Lake Geneva and we wish her the best in this position.



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Snow Removal FAQs

By DPW Director Craig Workman

In the spirit of David Letterman, I thought I would do a little Holiday Top 10. The topic--snow removal questions and answers, with a little holiday cheer. Here it goes:

1. Q: How much salt does the Village use?

A: The Village uses an average of about 600 tons of salt each year. Some of this salt is applied directly to the roadway for deicing, other times it is mixed with sand as a 10%-30% mélange. In order to conserve salt, we will be using more salt/sand this year than residents may be used to, so don't be alarmed if Fontana roads don't have the same dark hue that you may be used to.

2. Q: How many trucks does the Village have in its plowing fleet?

A: Fontana's snow removal fleet consists of four primary trucks equipped with snow removal and deicing equipment. In addition, we operate three pickup trucks equipped with smaller plows. The smaller trucks allow us to maintain the handful of streets designed and constructed by the Christmas Elves that previously inhabited Fontana.

3. Q: What is the call out procedure for plowing?

A: Like many rural communities, the decision to "call out" Fontana's snow removal forces is a joint decision between the on duty police officer and the Public Works Department. Since each storm has its own set of characteristics, there are a number of factors that are considered, such as visibility, volume of traffic, time of day, accumulation of snow, etc. For the most part, plows are only on the road from 4 AM until 10 PM, giving us an 18 hour window of service.

4. Q: Is there a target on my mailbox?

A: Yes, it turns out that snow is magnetically attracted to mailboxes. However, please realize that very few mailbox incidents actually stem from plow to mailbox contact, which would be a violation in the NFL. More often than not, the force of the snow rolling off the plow blade is the culprit for downed mailboxes. That being said, mailboxes which are stuck to village plows are still considered valid receptacles by the USPS, so if we get anything from Publisher's Clearing House we promise to split it with you.

5. Q: Why won't the Village leave the \$200 boulder on my lawn alone?

A: Better question: can we help by moving the boulder further back from the roadway? Although we appreciate your efforts to delineate the edge of the roadway, we ask that boulders and other large obstructions be kept at least five feet back from the edge of the pavement.

6. Q: Where do the piles of snow on Highway 67 and the lakefront go?

A: When the snow piles accumulate to the point of altering visibility or future snow removal efforts, we haul them off to the North Pole where they are recycled for future snow storms.

7. Q: Why does it take the Village Crew so long to clear sidewalks?

A: In addition to keeping the roads clear, the crew also handles approximately three miles of sidewalk. Most of this sidewalk is cleared with a Kubota tractor equipped with a snow blower, but it takes some time.

8. Q: Why does it take the Village so long to clear parking areas?

A: Parking lots and stalls are considered a secondary priority and are therefore dealt with after all of the roadways have been cleared.

9. Q: Is it going to snow for the Packers/Bears game on Monday night?

A: There will most likely be snow at Soldier Field for the Packers victory on Monday night. Unfortunately, neither team is even close to joining Brett and the Jets in the post season play.

10. Q: Why can't the Village stay off my lawn?

A: The Village owns and maintains an area called the road right-of-way. These areas vary between 33 feet and 66 feet, and we typically consider the right-of-way to extend five feet beyond the edge of pavement. Although we appreciate the pride that homeowners take in their lawns, we must consider future storms as we are plowing, and therefore must move snow beyond the edge of the pavement. Snow removal efforts that take place early in the season may result in some lawn damage, as they are conducted before the ground is frozen. We apologize for the inconvenience this may cause in the spring, but we ask that you respect our need to keep the roadways clear.

"In order to conserve salt, we will be using more salt/sand this year than residents may be used to."

"Although we appreciate the pride that homeowners take in their lawns, we must move snow beyond the edge of the pavement."

Lakefront Survey Results Available On Village Website

The results of the "Lakefront Survey" that was facilitated by the Community Development Authority and the Blue Ribbon Lakefront Building Committee are available on the Village website under the Alerts and Announcement link or by navigating directly to:

<http://www.villageoffontana.com/documents/LakefrontSurveyresults102708.pdf>



Rescue Squad Buys New Ambulance

The Fontana EMS put into service a 2008 Life Line Ambulance on December 13, 2008, to replace the 2000 Life Line Ambulance. During the past year, a committee of department members looked into the possibility of replacing the old unit. After much research it was decided to go with this new style ambulance.

The new ambulance gives Emergency Medical Technicians more room to treat a patient. The old ambulance only allowed an EMT to treat off the one side while the other side was set up for someone to perform CPR. With the new layout, both sides are the same so treatment and CPR can be easily done from either side. The head position is also closer to the cot so that the EMT in this position does not have to sit on the edge of the seat or lean forward when treating from this position. Overall, this new seating style makes a safer work environment for the crew.

Cost of the new ambulance was \$150,741. We were able to get \$30,741 off the unit with trade-in of our old ambulance and that this was a demo unit, so we got money off for that as well. The final cost was \$120,000, all of which came from donated monies, so no tax dollars were spent. Thank you to everyone who has donated over the years and attended our pancake breakfast. This is the result of those donations.



The Cop Shop ...

CounterAct Program at School



Again in January 2009, the Fontana Police Department will be teaching the CounterAct program at the school 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. Due to a change in the law, funding for counter drug programs can not be done through court convictions. If you would like to make a tax deductible donation to defray the costs of this program, please contact the CounterAct officers or the Chief of Police.

With winter here we want to remind everyone not to park on any public road or parking lot, seven days a week from 2:00 to 6:00 AM. This helps Public Works in plowing the snow.

Our annual "Operation Feed the Need" food drive has been a great success and we want to thank all the citizens and businesses that contributed.

Do you know a college student from Fontana studying towards a degree in Criminal Justice or Police Science? They may qualify for several scholarships we have information on. Please call our office for more information.

Looking at our calls for service this year, our officers have handled 2,317 calls as of December 17, 2008 compared with 2,443 calls during the same time in 2007. Decreases were seen in property crimes (burglaries and thefts) and motor vehicle accidents. In 2008, our officers collectively attended 370 hours of training covering such topics as crime scene investigation, internet crimes, legal updates, firearms qualifications and various other specialized or in-service subjects.

As always, we want to remind our citizens to promptly report any suspicious activity they see or suspect.

Want to learn more about your police department? You will find helpful links and keep up on law enforcement related topics for Fontana at our website www.fontanawipolice.com.

Fontana Court Report

By Municipal Judge David C. Jensen

For the first Fontana Municipal Court update in the Village Newsletter, I thought a little background information on municipal courts in Wisconsin might be interesting. As of May 2008, there were 252 municipal courts in Wisconsin. Fontana is very fortunate. Please See **Municipal Court - Page 4**

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“Except for juvenile cases, the court is open to the public and you are welcome to visit.”

VOF Calendar

- Jan. 5, 2009** - Village Board meets at 6:00 pm
- Jan. 7, 2009** - CDA Board meets at 6:00 pm
- Jan. 21, 2009** - Library Board meets at 10:00 am
- Jan. 21, 2009** - Park Commission meets at 6:00 pm
- Jan. 26, 2009** - Plan Commission meets at 5:30 pm
- Feb. 2, 2009** - Village Board meets at 6:00 pm
- Feb. 4, 2009** - CDA Board meets at 6:00 pm
- Feb. 18, 2009** - Library Board meets at 10:00 am
- Feb. 18, 2009** - Park Commission meets at 6:00 pm
- Feb. 23, 2009** - Plan Commission meets at 5:30 pm
- Mar. 2, 2009** - Village Board meets at 6:00 pm
- Mar. 4, 2009** - CDA Board meets at 6:00 pm
- Mar. 18, 2009** - Library Board meets at 10:00 am
- Mar. 18, 2009** - Park Commission meets at 6:00 pm
- Mar. 30, 2009** - Plan Commission meets at 5:30 pm

Municipal Court

Continued from page 3

nate in having its own independent municipal court. Municipal courts in Wisconsin handle more than 240,000 cases annually. This is more than all the

cases of circuit court, appellate court and the Wisconsin Supreme Court combined. This year our court will have heard more than 700 cases with a gross income of nearly \$100,000. The majority of municipal court cases involve traffic and ordinance matters, including first-time OWI cases. Juvenile matters, such as truancy, underage drinking, drug offenses and curfew violations make up the balance of our cases.

Municipal courts handle a significant portion of the statewide court caseload in these areas. There are no jury trials in municipal court. All cases are decided by a judge; however, a person charged with a first drunken driving offense may seek a jury trial in circuit court within 10 days of an initial municipal court appearance on OWI/PAC (operating while intoxicated/prohibited alcohol concentration) charges.

Our court clerk, Jan Armonda, is one of the most knowledgeable court clerks in the county. She can answer any questions that may come up before your court date. Our court meets the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 5:00 PM in the Village Hall. Except for juvenile cases, the court is open to the public and you are welcome to visit.

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