

VILLAGE OF FONTANA-ON-GENEVA LAKE

Fall Issue 2016



Founded 1836

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THE DEPARTMENT of Public Works staff made four wrought iron Village of Fontana logos and mounted them on the four corners of the new lakefront bridge.

Lakefront Sewer Line Study Underway

The Village of Fontana Utility Department, engineering firm and contractors have commenced with the initial investigative work on a multi-year study and report of the existing sanitary sewers located along the lakeshore. The first stage of the project is to determine the condition of these sewer lines, some of which were installed in the 1960s or earlier.

As part of the investigation, the Village and its engineering firm Ruekert & Mielke, Inc., Waukesha, are working with Visu-Sewer, Pewaukee, to televise and analyze the lakefront sewer lines. If necessary so the video televising/recording device can make it through, stretches of the current lines may be cleared of roots and obstructions; and stretches may be lined to stop and prevent further clear water infiltration and breaks.

Ruekert & Mielke personnel also are working with the Utility crew members to complete a field survey and condition report of the manhole structures. In order to complete the work, there will be employees in uniforms working in the areas between the lakefront and homes in the Village's utility easement areas; however, there should be minimal if any disturbance of the areas.

The results of this investigation are scheduled to be presented to the Public Works Committee in Spring 2017.

New GLC Director Working With Parks Two Saturday Volunteer Events Set for November



Karen Yancey

The Geneva Lake Conservancy Board of Directors recently appointed Karen Yancey its executive director. Karen has more than 25 years of experience serving on the boards and staff of Wisconsin and Illinois land trusts. Her current and past positions include serving on the board of directors of the Door County Land Trust and Citizens for Conservation in Barrington, IL, as well as serving as executive director of the Barrington Area Conservation Trust from 2010-2014. She earned her bachelor's degree from Duke University and master's degree from Northwestern University.

Yancey attended the October 19th Park Commission meeting to introduce herself and to provide a report on her recent tours of the Fontana Fen and Hildebrand Nature Conservancy. The GLC has oversight duties for both of

the natural areas owned by the Village, and works with the Fontana Park Commission on annual monitoring and maintenance duties.

Yancey walked through the Fontana Fen earlier this fall with Park Commission contractor Josh Skolnick and informed the Park Commissioners that she was pleasantly surprised. Most of the native plants there are thriving; however, the biggest problem is with invasive reed canary grass that is spreading from a disturbed area at the southwest entrance to the Fen. The plan is to abate most of this grass with herbicide this fall and then reseed the area with prairie seeds and perhaps plant more forbs and sedges. Another controlled burn also may be conducted in that area this spring, as well as on the slope near the entrance, which has some invasive plants, including garlic mustard and reed canary grass.

The rest of the Fen reportedly was free of most invasive plants or they had already been treated by Skolnick. The northwest corner still features fen soils and



THE GENEVA LAKE CONSERVANCY has oversight duties for the Village of Fontana Fen and Hildebrand Nature Conservancy.

See **PARK EVENTS** - Page 3

Park Events

Continued from page 2

hydrology and a variety of fen plants, including hard stem bulrush, Ohio goldenrod, and Joy Pye Weed.

There is still a need to remove parsnip and some buckthorn on the eastern acres, and the raised beds at the northwest entrance to the Fen need some work, both in replanting some of the natives there that have died and repairing and replacing the signs identifying the natives. The Park Commission has discussed the need to address the original "planting areas" or demonstration beds, and initial ideas that have been considered include changing the areas to locations for picnic tables with trees.

Yancey reported that she also walked through the Hildebrand Nature Conservancy woods, which is in much greater need of restoration work than the Fontana Fen. The woods are full of buckthorn, Dame's Rocket and other invasive plants and trees.

Volunteers Sought for Work Day November 19th

The GLC and Fontana Park Commission will hold a joint work day Saturday, November 19, 2016, from 9 a.m. until noon at the Hildebrand Nature Conservancy. The work day will primarily focus on cutting buckthorn and perhaps planting some native oaks. Any level of assistance would be greatly appreciated by the Park Commission and GLC. Volunteers should report at the Mill Street entrance to the Hildebrand Nature Conservancy, and bring loppers and gloves to help cut and pile the buckthorn.

The GLC also is assisting the Park Commission in planning a volunteer work day at the Fontana Fen this spring in May 2017.

Annual Seed Sowing Event November 12th

One other annual volunteer day being planned for this month is the Seed Sowing Event at the Native Prairie Restoration Area and Oak Savanna at the Duck Pond Recreation Area. Park Commissioner and Fontana Garden Club member Gail Hibbard again will be leading the volunteer work day on Saturday, November 12, 2016 beginning with a pizza lunch and work instruction presentation in the Village Hall meeting room at 12:30 pm. The volunteers will walk over to the Native Prairie and Oak Savanna from the Village Hall parking lot.



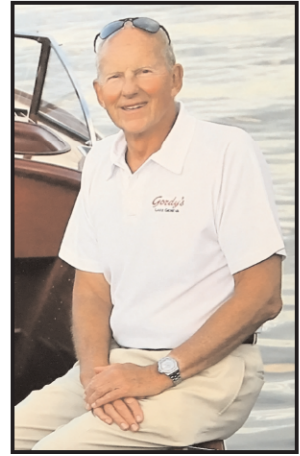
***THE ANNUAL** volunteer seed sowing event at the Oak Savanna and Native Prairie Restoration Area is set for Saturday, November 12, 2016 beginning at 12:30 pm.*

Fontana The Beautiful

By Trustee Tom Whowell

Park Commission Chairman

Everywhere you look, Fontana is beautiful. The entrances, the drive-arounds, the subdivisions, lake fronts, Highway 67, businesses and most residences. With competition like this, it's hard for the Village Park Commission to keep up. But we try...



Trustee Tom Whowell



The beach and lakefront look marvelous. With the great weather, we had high use, and with it, the responsibility to manicure every day. Several new plantings and two new park benches also were added along the shore path. The benches in recognition of family memorials to loved ones that passionately loved the lake. The Memorial Tree

Program is also expanding and soon we will have a map of all the memorial tree donations in the Village Hall.

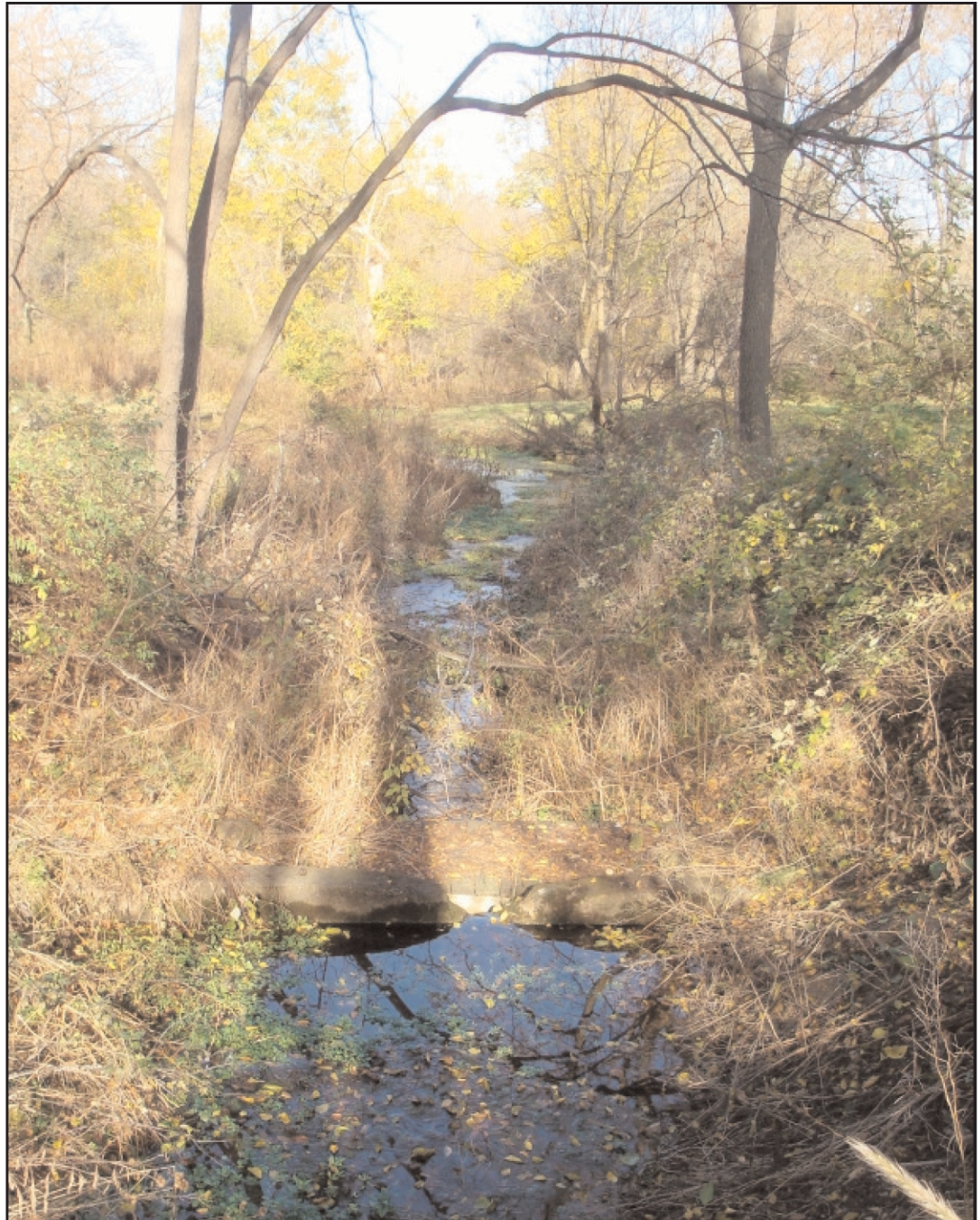


MEMORIAL PARK BENCHES have been installed this past year by the DPW crew in Reid Park along the lakefront sidewalk, and in Pioneer Park to replace old, dilapidated benches. Taking a break from late-season paddle-boarding on the bench donated by the family of Virginia Hadley Newell are Village of Fontana Election Inspector Susan Olson and her son Grayson Butler.



Fontana The Beautiful

With the occasional extra time, we also began reopening Headwaters Park on East Dewey Avenue. Headwaters is the source of Geneva Lake water. It boils out of a hole in the ground about 100 feet north of Dewey Avenue (pictured here), becoming the Van Slyke Creek. The goal here is to link the Fen with a path through the park along the east side of the creek to Fontana Elementary School. From the school, you can walk through the Hildebrand Nature Conservancy, then north to the Native Prairie at the Duck Pond, east to the Lake or south back to the Fen. We are hoping to have a walking map ready by next Spring.



Fontana The Beautiful

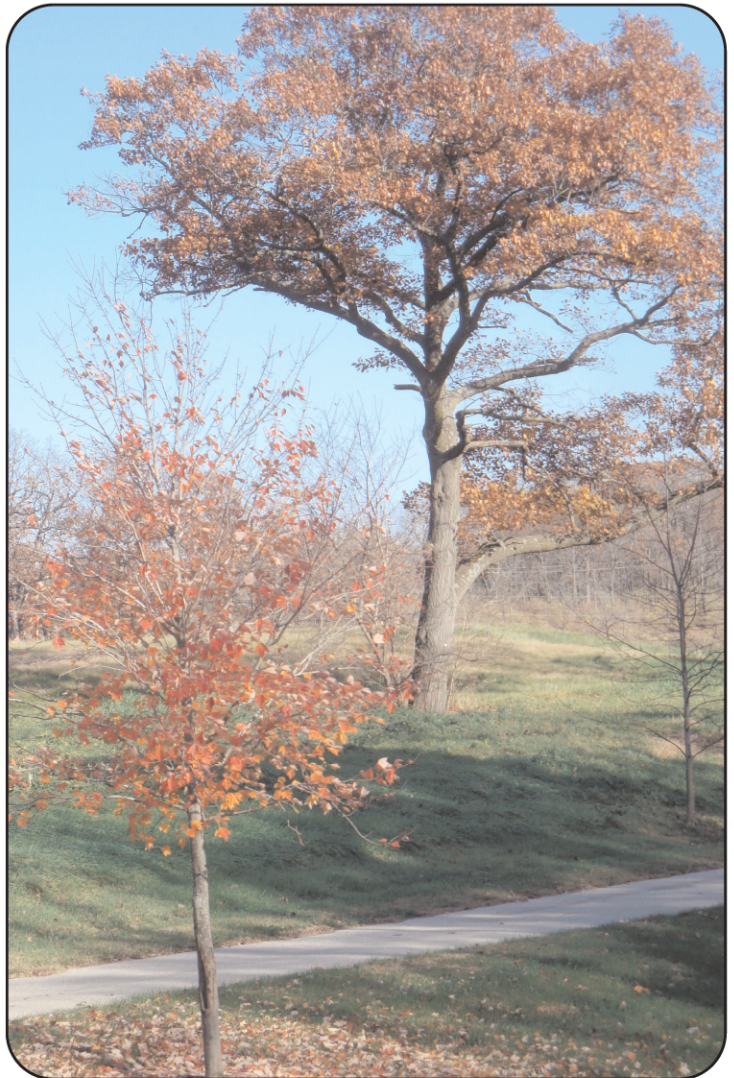
With the summer season behind us, the Village crew is catching up on tree maintenance. We have had an unusual amount of die off this year, particularly on Wild Duck Road.

Probably a dozen large trees have died and have been removed or will be shortly.

As a replacement, we are adding 25 new, young trees as part of our Tree City USA responsibility. Keeping it green...

The Park Commission is also happy to welcome Jill Wegner as its newest member, and thanks Fontana Garden Club member Lynne Frost, who recently stepped down from the Park Commission.

The Park Commission holds its monthly meetings on the third Wednesday of the month at 5:00 pm. Come and say hello.




Police Collecting Items for Food Drive

The Fontana Police Department is collecting items for its annual Feed the Need Food Drive from November 7, 2016 to December 7, 2016.

The demand for food assistance continues to grow in our area of Walworth County and the local food pantry is low on supplies. Last year hundreds of food items and hundreds of dollars were donated by the citizens and businesses of Fontana to our local food pantries.

You can drop off your donations of either food or cash at the Police Department or, if you live/work in Fontana, you can call 275-2275 and an officer will stop by to collect your donation. A receipt will be issued for any cash donations, if requested.

The pantry coordinator has asked for non expired canned fruit and vegetables, canned Sloppy Joes, soup of all kinds, pancake mix, Hamburger Helper, peanut butter, jelly, ravioli, syrup, salt, corn muffin mix, noodles, cooking oil, Jell-o or pudding, laundry soap, dish soap, hand soap and diapers.



The Cop Shop: Chief Olson Retiring in 2017 Snowmobile Ordinance Outlines Village Routes

By Chief Steve Olson

Village of Fontana Police Dept.



Another summer has passed and the Fontana Police Department staff has handled 3,759 calls for service as of the middle of October 16, 2016. Our new records management system that is merged with the dispatch center, tracks our officer's activity far more accurately than the previous system.

After 18 years serving as the Chief of Police, I have decided to retire from law enforcement as of March 31, 2017. My letter to the Village Board is elsewhere in this newsletter. It has been an honor and privilege to serve the citizens of Fontana.

In the past few months our officers have attended classes on the use of Narcan for heroin overdoses, legal updates, firearms refresher, and open records laws; and training sessions and instruction certification courses for topics that included active shooter scenarios and handling dangerous drugs.

Residents should please remember to make sure their intrusion, fire or medical alarm is registered (no cost) with the PD and that your home or business has the correct street address numbers clearly displayed.

With winter coming, we want to remind everyone not to park on any public street, seven days a week from 2:00 am to 6:00 am. This helps the Public Works Department in quickly plowing the snow. Please remove any objects in the Village's right-of-away (about 5-feet from the edge of the blacktop) such as basketball hoops or reflective poles.

Snowmobile Ordinance Outlines Routes in Village

If you want to snowmobile in the Village, you must abide by the following regulations in Ordinance No. 74-87 regarding designated routes:

Sec. 74-87. - Operation on certain premises prohibited and designation of snowmobile routes.

- (a) No person shall operate a snowmobile on or over any public park, place, highway, street, alley or over any other facility owned or operated by the village, or other public entity, including but not limited to the Fontana Grade School or village parking lots, except: Persons may operate a snowmobile on and over the routes established in subsection (b) of this section, and under the conditions set forth in subsection (b); or Persons may operate a snowmobile over the property set forth in subsection (a)(1) only as to travel between a residence and the nearest designated route set forth below for the purpose of driving into or out of the village or to and from a snowmobile dealership in the village for service.
- (b) Except as provided in §§ 350.02 and 350.045, Wis. Stats., or for snowmobile events authorized in accordance with § 350.04, Wis. Stats., the following routes and trails are designated as routes of travel for snowmobiles, but only as access into and out of the village, and are not to be used for practice or amusement purposes: On Shabbona Drive from the "Castle Gate" to the intersection of Shabbona Drive and Sauganash Drive; on Indian Hills Road from South Lakeshore Drive south to the village limits; on Main Street; on Dewey Avenue; and on Stearns Road west to the village limits. The highways designated as snowmobile routes shall be marked in accordance with § 350.13, Wis. Stats., establishing uniform trail signs and standards.

Be sure to visit the Police Dept. website at www.fontanawipolice.com or find us on Facebook for all the latest in police related information.

Chief Olson Submits Retirement Letter

Village of Fontana on Geneva Lake Police Chief Steve Olson submitted the following notice of resignation to the Village Board and Administrator Dennis Martin on October 7, 2016:

As of October 1st I would have served the Village of Fontana for 18 years as its Chief of Police and it is my desire to resign from these duties no later than March 31, 2017.

After serving 27 years as a police chief in Wisconsin I am looking forward to the opportunity to a change in direction and spending more time with family, travel and working with a veteran's disaster recovery organization.

I look back at my time serving the citizens of the Fontana with a mixture of emotions, and while there were challenging times, the tremendous support from the community over the years made it all worthwhile. I leave a department that is professional in its service to the community with officers who have proven they can meet any challenge.

Through training, proper equipment, up to date technology and efficient enforcement programs, I believe few would say they are not well served by the FPD. Our numerous community service efforts over the years has shown that the department sees itself not just as a law enforcement agency but a true partner with our citizens.

I will, of course, cooperate fully with the Board and the PFC as a new police chief is selected and will work towards a smooth transition of command.

If a new chief of police is able to assume the duties after January 5, 2017 and all my retirement coverages are in place and it is mutually agreeable between all parties, I would leave open the option of leaving office prior to March 31st.

It has been my honor and privilege to serve the Village of Fontana on Geneva Lake.



POLICE CHIEF Steve Olson, pictured at the lakefront bridge ribbon cutting ceremony in May, will be retiring in early 2017.



Robin Nuzzo

VILLAGE OF FONTANA
Building and Zoning Department Administrative Assistant Robin Nuzzo has resigned effective Nov. 10, 2016 after almost three years of service as a part-time employee..

Library Lot on 2nd Ave.

It has been about one year since the Fontana Public Library started using its new parking lot behind the Village Hall building on the north side of Second Avenue. Also about one year ago, the open hours at the library were amended to: from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM Monday through Thursday, from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM on Friday, and from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM Saturday.

The Library is closed on Sundays and holidays.

League Holds State Event at Lake Lawn

By Village President Patrick Kenny

As well as attending several monthly Village Board and committee meetings and keeping up with my work commitments, I was able to work into my summer schedule a very informative and beneficial League of Wisconsin Municipalities workshop at the Lake Lawn Resort in August.

Also in attendance at the 2016 Chief Executives Workshop were Lake Geneva Mayor Al Kupsik and Williams Bay Village President John Marra and Administrator Jim Weiss, and we all took advantage of the networking and workshop programs held August 25th and 26th.

Some of the topics included a presentation and discussion on "Innovative Service Delivery in a Time of Constrained Resources," and an update on the Wisconsin Retirement System and the Local Government Investment Trust. Other presentations were "Innovations in Monona: A City Radio Station, Solar Power & More" by Monona Mayor Bob Miller, "Oak Creek's Path to Economic Revitalization" by City Administrator Jerry Peterson, "Just Fix It Wisconsin-the Campaign for Sustainable Transportation Funding" by Transportation Development Assoc. of Wisconsin Executive Director Craig Thompson, and "Small Communities Idea Jam" by Rothschild Village President George Peterson.

One other highlight of the workshop was a presentation by Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance Director Todd Berry of the first annual "State of Wisconsin Cities and Villages Report," which was commissioned by the League of Wisconsin Municipalities Mutual Insurance program.

Fontana officials made a wise decision years ago to join the League and its Mutual Insurance program, not only due to the quality of the programs and insurance policy coverages, but also because of excellent educational and informational workshops, seminars and conferences offered throughout the year. All these programs help local elected officials make informed decisions and save municipal funds. I hope to attend more in the future.

D P W Leaf Collection Services Underway

Curbside leaf vacuum and brush chipper services have begun this fall. Residents should adhere with the longstanding guidelines to ensure the materials will be collected. Guidelines include separating leaf piles from the brush and making sure the piles are not in the road as they can cause labor intensive storm sewer and snow plowing problems.

Leaves must be raked no farther than 10 feet from the street, but not out on the pavement. Do not place any leaf or branch piles in the street or they will not be picked up and a municipal citation could be issued. Do not pile the leaves or branches around or within 4 feet of a mailbox or other post that could be damaged. There must be no metal objects, branches or rocks in, around or under the leaf piles or the leaves. The village is covered on a weekly basis starting at the northern limits, progressing through downtown and Country Club Estates, and finishing along South Lakeshore Drive at the eastern limits.



VILLAGE OF FONTANA President Patrick Kenny (from left), Lake Geneva Mayor Al Kupsik, and Williams Bay Administrator Jim Weiss (also serves as the Town of Linn Chairman) and Village President John Marra.

Big Foot Lions Constructing Pavilion Club Seeks Donations to Help Support Project



THE BIG FOOT Lions Club held a ground-breaking ceremony at the site of the new Reid Park Pavilion earlier this fall with Village officials and the Board of Directors for the Dan Green Memorial Foundation.

Following a ground-breaking ceremony earlier this fall, construction of the new Reid Park Pavilion by Big Foot Loins Club contractors is underway, with the initial site and foundation work and framing almost complete. The Lions Club is constructing the new pavilion and then donating it to the Village.

The Lions are seeking donations to help support the construction costs, which will total about \$100,000 including site and alley/parking paving and landscaping expenses.

DAN GREEN
Memorial Foundation
Board of Directors
President Mary Kriete-
Green presents a
\$2,500 check to Big
Foot Lions Club
Fundraising Committee
Chairman Jim McAvoy
at the recent ground-
breaking event for the
Reid Park Pavilion.



THE BIG FOOT Lions Club is constructing the new Reid Park Pavilion this fall and is seeking project donors. Major contributors will be recognized on large plaques to be on permanent display in the Reid Park Pavilion. An example of the Platinum level plaque and a computer image of the pavilion are on display in the lobby of the Fontana Village Hall. Sponsorship levels are, Bronze: \$500 to \$2,500 donation; Silver: \$2,500 to \$5,000; Gold: \$5,000 to \$10,000; and Platinum: \$10,000 and greater.