



President's Report: Political Diversity

"Don't whine, don't complain, don't make excuses -- just do the best you can."

John Wooden, 10-time NCAA National Championship coach, UCLA

If you're reading this, you've probably also read "The Times" or the "Regional News" and are aware that there are no challengers to the incumbents in Fontana's upcoming spring election.

The office of the President and three trustees are uncontested. Two more years of the, of the, of the what, exactly? Now, the situation can be viewed in several ways. Incumbents tend to interpret this as an endorsement of excellence. *"We're doing a great job, everybody's happy. I wonder what pose to strike for the statue that the community will erect in my honor?"*

Citizens, on the other hand, are less egocentric and far more practical. *"We've had no major tax hikes or massive screw-ups, so why get involved? Besides, all that work, all those meetings, all that nonsense for little or no pay - who needs it? We can let the patients run the asylum for two more years."*

The fact is, however, with or without officially running for office, we still need you involved in your government. Today, the Village of Fontana has approximately 23 full-time employees and over 60 appointed volunteers for a myriad of village commissions, boards and committees. All of these bodies function to assure quality from Parks, Lakefront and Harbor, Protection, Board of Review, Library and on and on. The fact is that we can't do it without you. Good government is not six or seven people meeting once a month to hold a public hearing, pass a resolution or approve a committee recommendation. It is the day in and day out, week in and week out work of everybody with a common purpose. *"Let's have the very best for Fontana."*

This volunteer role is also not a life sentence. I know many of you think, *"If I agree to help, I'll never get out. They'll probably have a committee meeting at my wake just to make a quorum."* Not so. Wonderful people have come, served and have moved on: Susan Geye, Scott Ripkey, John Cole, Joe Kowalski,

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Administrator Kelly Hayden-Staggs & Village President Tom Whowell

Administrator's Report: Village Approves Changes Board Hires Full-Time Building Inspection Team, Plans Beach House

By Kelly E. Hayden-Staggs
Village Administrator

Henry Ford once said, "Coming together is a beginning, keeping together is progress, and working together is success." The Village of Fontana prides itself on the motto "We all do better when we work together," and we are making great strides to maintain a successful government. However, maintaining success sometimes means that we must incorporate change.

The Village of Fontana Board of Trustees recently voted to initiate the following changes:

- **Hired a full-time building inspection staff.**

The VOF recently hired Ron Nyman, Bridget McCarthy and Barney Brugger to provide the community with full-time building inspection services. Nyman, hired as the building inspector and zoning administrator, will be available to issue building permits, conduct inspections, and offer zoning advice on a full-time basis from

the Village Hall. McCarthy will also be available full time to assist with zoning administration, building and zoning compliance patrolling, and municipal code consultations and inquiries. Brugger will assist them on a part-time basis providing commercial, plumbing and electrical inspections. The Village Board opted to hire the full-time staff following the termination of the BZA, LLC

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Fontana, WI 53125
262-275-6136
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Department of Public Works: Fontana's Winds of Change

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

A wise woman once said, "A great wind is blowing -- a wind that will give you either imagination or a headache."

That woman was Catherine the Great, and the wind she was referring to was the westernization of Russia that she was probably most noted for.

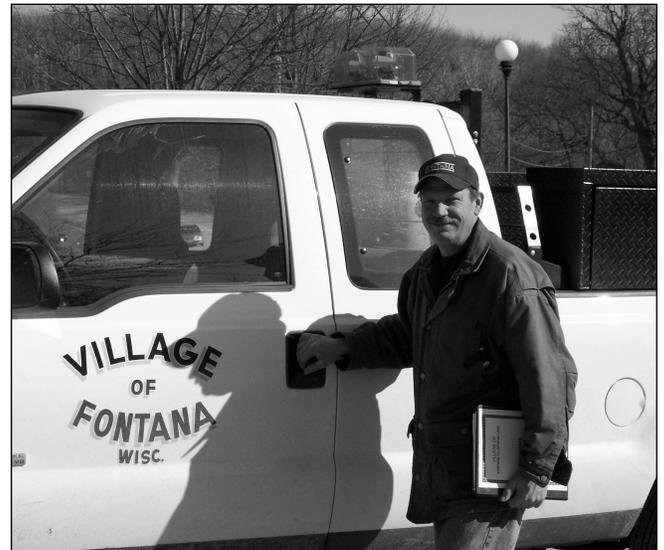
When it comes to public works, we are accustomed to assimilating new ideas and technologies into our jobs on a daily basis. In fact, one might say that "westernization" is around us everyday. However, the "westernization" of downtown Fontana that will take place over the course of the next three years will be a shock to even myself.

I am referring, of course, to the Community Development Authority's Project Plan, construction of which will begin as soon as next month. Allow me to briefly describe some of highlights we will see take place as this plan unfolds. I'll make every effort to go heavy on the imagination,

and light on the headache. ...
Mill, West Main Projects

With the projects currently advertised, by the time you are reading this article the Village will have already opened bids for these, the first two projects in the CDA's portfolio. These projects will greatly improve pedestrian traffic on the west side of Highway 67, as we will be adding a sidewalk all the way from the highway to Fontana Elementary School. Traffic safety will be improved as we redesign the parking near the intersection of Mill and West Main streets and improve the alignment of Porter Court and Fontana Boulevard.

Environmentally, we will be making some improvements as we add curb and gutter throughout the project area and install a stormwater treatment device that will treat stormwater before its discharged to Van Slyke Creek. Unfortunately, due to the magnitude of these two projects, the Village will need to construct the project throughout the summer months, which is sure to cause some dusty



THE NEWEST employee of the Public Works Department, Mark Radtke, joined the Village staff on Monday, February 28, 2005. Mark comes to the Village with a diverse background having worked in numerous trades such as public works, construction, forestry, and even taxidermy. Mark's most recent position was with SM&P Utility Resources. Mark is a motivated, positive and enthusiastic guy who is sure to make a positive difference on our Public Works team.

conditions.

Highway 67

Boasting such improvements as landscaped medians, turning lanes, improved lighting, and a pedestrian path, this project is sure to please. Don't think, however, that these improvements will come without some growing pains. In order to complete the project, the highway will be closed to through-traffic during two separate stages. From mid-May to late-June 2006, Highway 67 will be closed from Fontana Boulevard to Dade Road. Then, from late-August through October the highway will be closed to through-traffic from Fontana Boulevard to South Main Street. This schedule will allow us to complete the project in one construction season, and still keep the highway open for the busiest

portion of the summer season. Although it is sure to be a dusty summer, the final product will be a greatly enhanced drive, bike, or walk through the Village of Fontana.

Main Lift Pump Station

Although Fontana's annual Thanksgiving Turkey Bowl will need to be relocated this year, I think this project will impress even the most avid users of Reid Park. The plan is quite simple: dig a rather large hole, construct the new Main Lift Pump Station (MLPS) in said hole, and rebuild the park restroom facility on the ground level. The MLPS project, scheduled to begin this fall, will render a portion of Reid Park useless for a couple of months; however, the end result will be a cleaner, less visible, more reliable lift station.

Inaugural Chris Schwenn Foundation Golf Outing May 20

The friends and family of Chris Schwenn wanted to honor his life by creating a foundation in his memory.

The primary mission of the Chris Schwenn Cancer Foundation is to provide financial assistance to members of the community faced with large medical expenses related to cancer treatments. Another goal of the foundation is to provide funding for continued research through the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of Wisconsin.

So mark your calendars and join the fund-raising efforts on Friday, May 20, 2005 for an afternoon of golf at Abbey Springs followed by dinner and a silent auction at Gordy's Boat House.

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New FontanaWear, Monitors Available

The new 2005 line of FontanaWear has been delivered and is available for purchase at the Village Hall, 175 Valley View Drive.

The FontanaWear display case is located just inside the main entrance at Village Hall.

Embroidered fleece vests and jackets, sweatshirts, T-shirts and caps are available in maroon, black, grey and pink.

People can also check out the new line on the Village website at www.villageoffontana.com.

The Village of Fontana also is selling used PC monitors. The monitors are 15-inch and 17-inch models, and are available for \$10-\$15.

For more information, stop by the Village Hall or call 275-6136.

Walworth County Plans 'Clean Sweep'

Village of Fontana residents may participate in the Clean Sweep Program being offered for all Walworth County households, farms and businesses on Friday and Saturday, June 3 and 4, 2005. Clean Sweep is a one-day event designed to assist residents with the proper disposal of unwanted, unused, damaged, or banned hazardous waste chemicals.

Products labeled caustic, acid, flammable, danger, warning, or poison are considered hazardous. Some examples of products with these labels are pesticides, herbicides, solvents, thinners, preservatives, mercury, brake fluid,

old fuels, waste oil, antifreeze and oil-based paint.

Clean Sweep Program services are free to all county households and farmers who have grown or are growing agricultural commodities. Farmers are required to pre-register for the program by Friday, May 20, and will be scheduled to drop off hazardous wastes at the Elkhorn collection location June 3.

Households may drop off waste materials without an appointment June 3, from 3 to 6 p.m. at the City of Delavan Street Department, or June 4, from 8 a.m. to noon, at the Walworth County Public Works Department

Complex located on County Highway NN, east of Elkhorn.

Clean Sweep is sponsored by the Solid Waste Division of the Walworth County Facilities Public Works Department. The program is made possible by grant funding provided by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection and financial assistance provided by the Town of Darien Mallard Ridge Landfill Fund. You are invited to call Solid Waste Division Staff at (262) 741-3367 for further information, or to pre-register for the agricultural or business program.

CDA Targets Environmental Revitalization, Preservation

Environmental revitalization and preservation is a very, if not the most, important component of the economic revitalization and enhancement planned for the State Highway 67 corridor.

As reported in previous newsletters, the Village and the Community Development Authority (CDA) purchased a 14-acre parcel of land in the Village Center known as the Hildebrand Property.

The 2003 purchase created an opportunity for the CDA to enhance the value of the west side of State Highway 67 by controlling the character and density of those commercially zoned parcels. An additional intention of the purchase was to protect and improve the natural areas that surround Van Slyke Creek.

Almost immediately after closing on the property, an informal path adjacent to the creek was created by the Park Commission with the help of Public Works. The correct location of that path was marked with the help of environmentalists from Cedarburg Science and the Geneva Lake Conservancy staff.

Cedarburg Science was then asked to create an "Interim Management Plan" for the Van Slyke Creek (Hildebrand Path) area. The plan outlines the annual and quarterly work that needs to be done in order to identify, control and eliminate the invasive plants that threaten the ecology of the property.

Many other environmentally sensitive sites existing within the Highway 67 corridor have been identified by the Department of Natural Resources as areas where efforts should be directed to restore their natural beauty and ecological function. Consequently, the CDA and Planning and Design Institute (PDI) have worked with Cedarburg Science to create a Habitat Assessment and Interim Management Plan for the following areas:

1. The stream/ditch within the Highway 67 right-of-way.
2. Pottawatomie Creek - east of Highway 67 (Abbey Ridge Condominiums).
3. The Conservancy land adjacent to Pottawatomie Creek (behind Abbey Ridge).
4. The Village-owned land along

South Main Street between Fontana Elementary School and the Van Slyke Creek headwaters property at Main Street and Dewey Avenue.

5. The Fontana Fen.

PDI will integrate the Cedarburg recommendations with their landscaping design for the 2006 Highway 67 reconstruction project. The scope of their work will include creating a Landscape Plan and Design Development details for the following areas:

1. Highway medians and planters.
2. Paving design at intersections and pedestrian crossings.
3. Highway 67 right-of-way street trees and plantings.
4. Special areas including intersection transition areas, entry drives, accent plantings.
5. Mill Street development area.

The Park Commission is working to gather cost estimates as well as funding sources for the necessary annual and quarterly maintenance work outlined in the Cedarburg Science report. Copies of the report will be available for purchase at cost and can be ordered at Village Hall.

From the Cop Shop

Did you know ...

41,262 is the number of miles patrolled by the Village of Fontana Police Department in 2004.

1,981 is the number of calls for service handled by the FPD in 2004.

18 is the average number of miles over the speed limit drivers are found to be doing when stopped by FPD officers.

2 is the minimum number of years of college a FPD officer must have in Criminal Justice or Police Science. One-third of our officers hold bachelor of science degrees.

.17 is the average blood-alcohol concentration level in drunken drivers arrested in 2004 by the FPD. The maximum legal limit is .079.

43 is the number of reportable motor vehicle accidents in the Village in 2004, which does not include deer accidents.

Officers carry Taser

Fontana officers now carry a Taser, a device that delivers a 50,000-volt shock to dangerous/combatative individuals. This device gives officers an excellent, less-than-lethal tool to use in dangerous situations, and to reduce the risk of injury to suspects and/or police officers. FPD officers were injured twice in 2004 while arresting suspects prior to having the Taser. Recently a Taser was used in Fontana on an armed suicidal adult who had deliberately and severely cut themselves, and was still armed with the knife and refusing aid. The person was Tasered, subdued and is alive today; and there were no injuries to the responding officers. We would like to purchase another Taser and if you would like help, you can make a tax deductible donation; call Village Treasurer Peg Pollitt for more information.

The FPD has updated its website. Visit it today to learn more about the department, the staff and other interesting information. The website is located at fontanawipolice.com.

Fontana Police Department
 Telephone: (262) 275-2275
 Non-Emergency Dispatch: (262) 275-2135
 E-mail: Police.Dept@Villageoffontana.com



THE VILLAGE OF FONTANA full-time building inspection staff consists of Assistant Zoning Administrator/Code Specialist Bridget McCarthy and Building Inspector/Zoning Administrator Ron Nyman.

Changes

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contract. This change will allow the Village to offer additional office and inspection hours, enhance compliance enforcement, and create an opportunity for the Villages of Fontana and Walworth to cost share building inspection services.

• **Entered into negotiations with the Village of Walworth on an Intergovernmental Agreement to cost share building inspection services.**

So often neighboring municipalities duplicate services and both communities end up taxing their residents to subsidize the services. Walworth and Fontana are in the process of negotiating an intergovernmental agreement, which would entitle Fontana to a percentage of Walworth's building permit revenue in exchange for Fontana's building inspection team providing service to Walworth.

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-- Village of Fontana Spring 2005 Calendar --

April 3 - Daylight Savings Time begins

April 4 - Village Board meets at 6 p.m.

April 5 - Spring Election, polls open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

April 6 - CDA meets at 6 p.m.

April 15 - Accurate Appraisal Assessor Office Hours at Village Hall from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

April 26 - Plan Commission meets at 6 p.m.

May 2 - Village Board meets at 6 p.m.

May 4 - CDA meets at 6 p.m.

May 6 - Accurate Appraisal Assessor Office Hours at Village Hall from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

May 7 - Lake Geneva Marathon

May 13 - Wisconsin Lions Club Convention Parade

May 20 - Chris Schwenn Cancer Foundation Golf Outing at Abbey Springs and Gordy's Boat House

May 27 - Accurate Appraisal Assessor Office Hours from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

May 28 - Garden Club Plant Sale at the

Park House

May 30 - Memorial Day, Village Hall closed

June 6 - Village Board meets at 6 p.m.
June 13 - VOF Revaluation starting date

June 17 - Accurate Appraisal Assessor Office Hours from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

June 24 - Accurate Appraisal Assessor Office Hours from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

June 27 - Plan Commission meets at 6 p.m.

Parks Seeks Volunteers

Exciting activities are planned this spring and summer for Fontana Parklands.

Last fall, the CDA asked the Village's environmental consultant, Cedarburg Science, LLC, to create an Environmental Master Plan for the undeveloped natural areas in Fontana. The goal of the plan was to provide stewardship

and recommendations for improving native diversity, wildlife habitat and stream bank stabilization within five natural areas.

The CDA, Park Commission and Public Works Department are making plans to begin implementing the plan this spring. Initial activi-

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DPW Director Craig Workman shot this photograph of an eagle landing at the Duck Pond recreation area in early January. The VOF Park Commission has planned many exciting activities this spring.

Diversity

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Margaret Canfield, Fran Hill, to name a few. These people have given much to the community and have gone on to other pursuits. In their place, Laurie Larson, Ron Pollitt, Shari Rauland-Mohr, Lee Eakright, Drew Gilchrist, Sue Koepsel, Arlene Patek, Jim Feeny and many others have stepped up to fill the vacancies.

Citizens can participate and citizens can stop. The length of service is not as important as the quality of service. We really need you. And it's my personal opinion that the more diversity we have, the better. In the

past and often by necessity, one person has served on two, three or four major bodies. Not healthy. (Again, my opinion.) That kind of environment has fewer fresh ideas, less points of view, limited perspective and less democracy. Not good. The more, the better. And a variety. A wide variety. My personal goal would be to have no overlap on major government committees (except where statutes require). I like to have men and women represented as well as a cross section of age and neighborhood diversity.

I'm always disappointed that it is so hard to get young people involved in

politics. To this day, grandparents are planning the future of the village for their grandchildren, with very little input from these future generations. Not that grandparents are irresponsible, they just offer different dynamics. Shuffleboard, anyone?

In closing, I want to thank everyone who is participating today. You're doing a great job and it is appreciated, despite the fact that it is not articulated enough. (And Bob Allen, thank you for the two hours a month.) Several of our current volunteers are also planning to stop their community service later this spring. I

personally want to thank you for all the work you've done over the past four or five years.

To everybody else, I would like to extend an invitation to participate in your government. If you have an interest in one of the committees, one of the boards or would just like to help us in some capacity, please get in touch with me.

Mark Twain was probably right, "twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the things you did do." Come on and join the party political, after all, *we all do better when we work together.*

Changes

(continued from page 4)

• Approved Lakefront Changes for the 2005 Summer Season.

The biggest change that will take place on the Lakefront this fall is the construction of a new beach house. The majority of the cost will be funded through the Tax Increment District; however, to assist in the funding and maintenance of the new building, the Village Board decided to charge all taxpayers \$3 for the first six season beach passes and \$5 for each additional pass. In addition they increased the daily beach entrance fee from \$5 to \$6 for

adults and from \$2 to \$3 for children. One-hundred percent of the revenue from the increased fees will go toward financing for the beach house.

In addition, the Village Board also modified the Gage Marine lease to allow for additional boat parking for both visitors and residents. Previously Gage leased exclusively 200 feet of municipal pier No. 1, which included footage on both the North and South sides. The change now allows Gage exclusive rights to 125 feet on the South side of the pier; however, on the North side, Gage will only have exclu-

sive use of 75 feet from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. The remaining time will be available for visitors and residents to park their boats for a maximum of two hours.

It is very important to our community's success that we continue to work together. In addition to the items listed above, we will also see substantial road construction on West Main and Mill streets in 2005 along with the construction of the new Main Lift Station in Reid Park. We will do our best to keep the residents informed and ask for your patience and understanding during construction.

Fontana Public Library: Notes From Nancy

By Nancy Krei, Librarian

It seems to have been an extremely long winter. I really can't wait for spring to arrive! Whatever the weather, the library is the place to go.

On Mondays at 10:30 a.m., the library offers "Toddler Time" for children ages 3 and younger. Children are introduced to the library through socialization, listening to stories, and coloring or doing a simple craft. The library is fortunate to have volunteer Carol Lobdell (known to the children as "Grandma Carol") to read and tell the stories.

Recently, two additions were added to the children's area: a Hobnob activity center, and 16 plastic building blocks. The Hobnob center is wall-mounted. Very young

children can practice their hand/eye coordination, and learn dexterity. The primary-colored building blocks, which are 14-inches square and interlock, were purchased through a donation from Larry and Betty McDermott in honor of their 50th wedding anniversary.

Reading is a vital part of every child's world. The Fontana Elementary School has been participating in the "Reading Counts!" program. Our library is assisting with this program. We have a list of the books used for the quizzes in the program, and have specially-marked the books from the list that the library owns. If there is a title we don't have, we can order it from another library.

National Library Week will be held from April 11 to 16. Stop in the library that

week for coffee and treats, a book give-away, and a paperback book sale.

April is also National Poetry Month. The library will be having a poetry writing contest for children and adults.

Even though it's early spring, the library is already planning for the Summer Reading Program. The theme for this summer is "Dragons, Dreams and Daring Deeds!" The Fontana Library, along with the Lakeshores Library System will be sponsoring four storywagon programs in June and July.

The library also has ongoing programs for adults. The "Happy to Be Here" Book Club meets at 1 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month. The Evening Book Club meets at 6:30 p.m. on

the third Thursday of every month. If you have any interest in writing, the library would love to have you become a member of the newly organized writer's group, which meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 6 p.m.

It's very likely that your favorite author will be coming out with a new book in April, May or June. The library has sources that will tell you the author, and the book title. The library also distributes a free copy of the publication Book Page, which alerts readers to new books.

We are always adding new materials -- books, books on tape, books on compact disc, and DVDs.

The Fontana Public Library is here for you -- come in and "check us out!"

Park Commission

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ties will include enhancing the aesthetics and diversity in the Fontana Fen by controlling invasive species and seeding areas with plant species native to Wisconsin.

Other activities will include cutting invasive shrubs such as common

buckthorn, and treating garlic mustard in Headwaters Park and the Hildebrand Conservancy Area.

Initial work activities will be done by a local contractor under the guidance of the Park Commission and Cedarburg Science.

Volunteer assistance also will be

welcomed, especially during seeding and garlic mustard-control events. Residents who are interested in helping with these efforts should contact Rick Treptow at 275-8558 (leave a message and include your telephone number if there is no answer). We would be happy having you join us!

Schwenn Golf Outing

(continued from page 2)

The first annual Chris Schwenn Cancer Foundation Golf Outing will begin with a golf clinic at 11:30 a.m. and a shotgun start at noon. Following golf, there will be an "all-you-can-eat" fish fry and chicken dinner buffet and a silent auction at Gordy's Boat House from 6 to 9:30 p.m.

Individuals or teams of four golfers must register for the outing by May 6, 2005. The entry fee will be \$85 for the golf clinic, 18 holes of golf with a cart, a box lunch, and dinner at Gordy's. The fee without dinner will be \$70 for the golf clinic, 18 holes of golf

with a cart and a box lunch.

Tickets will be \$20 for people who only want to attend the dinner and silent auction at Gordy's Boat House.

The Foundation is seeking the assistance of local residents and business owners to donate items for the silent auction. Donation forms are available at the Village Hall, 175 Valley View Drive.

Donations can be sent to the Chris Schwenn Cancer Foundation at N1073 Bonner Drive, Walworth, WI 53184, or arrangements can be made for a donation to be picked up.

For more information, contact a

Chris Schwenn Cancer Foundation Committee member: Craig Workman, 749-0339; David Schwenn, (414) 372-2478; Joanne Schwenn, (414) 526-2600; Jeff Patek, 275-6581; Brian Ptacek, 275-3026; or Joe Special, 903-4292. The committee has established May 6, 2005, as the deadline for accepting donations.

The Foundation also is seeking sponsors for individual holes and to donate golf prizes. Suggested sponsorship levels are \$100, \$200 or \$300. Golf Hole Sponsorship registration forms also are available at the Village Hall.