

## Important Infrastructure Projects Highlight First Year In Office for Village President

**By Village President Patrick Kenny**

There are dozens of cliches and we are constantly reminded from the time we are young children, but time truly does fly by at an amazingly fast pace. Now almost half-way through my second year serving as the Village of Fontana President, it's hard to believe it has been almost a year and a half already since I took office in April 2014.

Although the weeks and months have come and gone in a blink of the eye, I am very pleased that the Village Board has been able to make some big decisions and complete some major infrastructure projects that will be benefitting the community for many decades to come.

Working together we made some tough financial decisions, which included borrowing several million dollars; however, the funds are being well spent on necessary utility and road improvement projects, and the municipal tax base continues to grow.

The multi-million dollar lakefront bridge reconstruction and utility burial projects were the biggest challenge, and there is still ongoing restoration work. But the new bridge was opened a week before schedule and the Village has received nothing but rave reviews since it was opened for traffic the week before Memorial Day weekend. And with the overhead utility lines now buried from the municipal beach to the Shabbona Drive intersection, the initial CDA project is completed all along the lakefront and through the Highway 67 corridor. As well as opening up the beautiful views of Geneva Lake, the utility line burials will eliminate future maintenance and repair expenses caused from weath-



**FONTANA VILLAGE PRESIDENT Pat Kenny and Municipal Beach Manager Corinne Kenny were two of the first people to walk across the lakefront bridge at the May 20, 2016 ribbon cutting ceremony. The bridge was one of several major infrastructure projects completed during President Kenny's first year in office.**

er events and motor vehicle accidents.

Two other major infrastructure projects that have been completed this summer after being in the planning stages for decades, are the painting and rehab project of the Brookwood Water Tower and the relocation of the water mains that used to run under the Abbey Springs golf course. Both projects have been successfully completed, but there is some restoration work remaining. The Utility Dept. crew also replaced the three pumps and control boards, and completed several other maintenance projects at the Main Lift Station in Reid Park; and completed several upgrades to the satellite lift stations and sewer and water mains,

Please See **BUSY YEAR** - Page 2



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“So far this year the department has handled 2,719 calls for service .”

“With the completion of these projects, the Village staff is starting to plan the construction schedule for the next few years.”

## The Cop Shop . . .

### Free Parking With F Stickers

By Chief Steve Olson



Parking in all municipal lots and on parts of Reid Street and Third Avenue are all "Pay to Park" from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm seven days a week. It is free parking if you have a current village resident sticker clearly displayed on the driver's side lower windshield area.

The Fontana Police Department recently received a \$925 grant from Enbridge Inc. to upgrade our safety equipment.

So far this year the department has handled 2,719 calls for service. A call for service can range from something as routine as monitoring the school during drop-off and pick-up times or traffic enforcement to an ordinance/criminal investigation.

The average speeding violation for citations issued by Fontana police officers to motorists driving in areas with a posted limit of 35 miles per hour is 20.3 miles per hour over the limit (not including a driver who recently received a citation for driving 73 miles per hour). In areas with a 25 mph limit, the average speeding violation citation is 16.6 miles per hour over the limit.

Recently several underage drinking parties were reported and investigated. Those individuals who "hosted" the parties received stiff fines. Luckily none of the juveniles were allowed to drive away adding to the potential danger on the roadway and liability to the party giver.

If you have unneeded, leftover prescriptions you can drop them off at our office or at the drop box located in the Village Hall lobby, no questions asked.

We want to encourage our citizens to promptly report any suspicious activity they see or suspect. For all the latest in law enforcement related information concerning Fontana visit our website at [www.fontanawipolice.com](http://www.fontanawipolice.com) or find us on Facebook.

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## Busy Year

Continued from page 2

and replaced several fire hydrants throughout the Village during the last year and a half

With the completion of these projects, the Village staff is starting to plan the construction schedule for the next few years, with storm water management, sanitary sewer and water, and road



*THE NEW LAKEFRONT bridge was constructed in time to be opened the week prior to Memorial Day weekend. The facade is constructed with stamped concrete that has been stained and the hillsides have been landscaped since this photograph was shot in May 2016.*

reconstruction projects. Some of the projects moving forward will be the reconstruction of Mohr Road and the Mohr Road Lift Station; further water main system improvements from Indian Hills Road along County Highway B to the west; storm sewer and retention pond construction in the Indian Hills subdivision; and road reconstruction of South Main Street and in the Country Club Estates subdivision.

The Village Board is also facing a big decision moving forward into next year regarding Fire and Rescue Department coverage, and if the contract for 24-hour emergency medical services should be extended with Paratech, or if the Village should create and hire new fulltime employees to provide the coverage in the future.

Although we have had to borrow funds for the recent construction and infrastructure repair projects, the Village auditor reported last month that the Village's property valuation, current debt ratio, and healthy undesignated fund balance are signs of the Village's solid economic position. And this past year there were six to 10 new homes constructed in the Cliffs of Fontana subdivision, as well as the Shodeen Construction Row Homes and Tracy Group Lakeview Terrace Condominiums developments in the distressed Tax Incremental Financing District. The Village Board also sold one of the properties purchased by the CDA this past year for \$375,000 to Munson Marine and Ski, and several property owners have made improvements to their TIF District properties. All this activity will result in

Please See **BUSY YEAR** - Page 3

# Busy Year

Continued from page 2

an increase in the total valuation of the TIF District. And it will eventually generate more tax increment to go toward the initial TIF borrowing debt service payments, which have been supplemented since 2011 by the General Fund.

The administrative, DPW and Police Department staffs have also been transitioning to the next generation over the past few years, with many of the longtime employees having worked for 20 to 30 years (or more) with the Village, and our "new" employees having worked with us for two or three years already.

Of special note are longtime employees Utility Department Supervisor Dennis Barr, who has worked for the village for more than 35 years following his hiring in December 1981; DPW Street Dept. Lead Man Ron Adams, who has worked for more than 26 years following his hiring in May 1990; Police Officer Mark Chalchoff, who has worked for about 21 years following his fulltime hiring in August 1995; and Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Julie Olson, who has worked for more than 20 years following her hiring in June 1996. Also approaching the 20-year milestone working for the Village are Police Chief Steve Olson (hired in October 1997) and Street Dept. crew member Joe Special (hired in December 1997).

Although it has been a very hectic year, it also has been very exciting and rewarding as the Village officials keep planning for the future while working to address the concerns of our property owners and residents.



***THE BROOKWOOD** water tower rehabilitation and painting project has been completed and the tower has been put on line in conjunction with the new water main that was installed in the Abbey Springs subdivision.. There is still some landscaping and site work to be completed this fall; however, the new equipment sheds, fencing, driveway and gate have all been installed.*



***THE BIG FOOT** Lions Club again sold out of dinners at its annual Lobster Boil & Steak Fry fund-raising event in Reid Park Saturday, July 30, 2016. Joining Big Foot Lions Club member/Village President Pat Kenny (second from left) to help serve customers in the beer tent are (from left) Fontana Fire and Rescue Dept. Chief Wolfgang Nitsch, Williams Bay Village President John Marra, Linn Town Board Chairman Jim Weiss, Linn Fire and Rescue Squad Assistant Chief Peter Jones, and Fontana Fire and Rescue Department EMT Larry Decker.*

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# Village of Fontana Parks Perspective

**By Trustee Tom Howell**

Take an appreciative look as you drive around Fontana. The park system is just fabulous. The beach, the median from the bridge all the way to Highway 67, the highway itself, Reid Park, Pioneer Park, Porter Court Plaza and the fountain--all are looking wonderful. Smaller areas also have been flourishing--Sam's Garden (relocated to a new open space area behind the Village Hall/Public Library in 2015), the lakefront path with several new memorial benches, the flag pole and entrance signs courtesy of the Fontana Garden Club, the barricades compliments of Gordy's, and the Duck Pond Native Prairie and Oak Savanna under Gail Hibbard's supervision.

The village has a very special appearance and there are many contributors that have made this possible. The Public Works Department is working every day to polish this apple. Roy Diblik, from Northwind Perennials oversees the medians and naturalized areas, Tom Vanderpoel contributes



***PARK COMMISSION** Chairman Tom Howell looks over one of the flower beds at the lakefront.*

knowledge and time to the native prairie and oak savanna areas, Josh Skolnick is a new addition to the Fontana Fen restoration, and Blackstone Landscaping does the weekly mowing and trimming.

The Park Commission plays a special role in the comprehensive oversight, and again, I must credit Gail Hibbard with an effort above and beyond to specifically oversee the prairie and savanna projects. Gail has also solicited a number of volunteers who harvest and sow seeds and their time is appreciated. A big

**THANK YOU** to all.

By coincidence, there is a seat vacant on the Park Commission. Wouldn't you like to join us?

Please contact Tom Howell, Dennis Martin or a member of the Park Commission if you are interested, or stop in at Village Hall to fill out and submit a volunteer interest form.



**THE DPW** crew recently repaired the fountain in Porter Court Plaza and installed an improved granite stone pedestrian path through the park located between Highway 67 and Mill Street at Porter Court. The park is the site of farmer's markets held Saturday mornings during summer.

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# Miss Fontana Celebrates 20th Anniversary



**VILLAGE OF FONTANA ON GENEVA LAKE** Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Julie Olson (lower right photo) celebrated her 20th anniversary working for the Village on June 3rd, 2016 with a luncheon in the Village meet-

ing room (upper photo). Village staff informed motorists on Highway 67 of the special day on the Village marker board out front of Village Hall (lower left photo).



**ADMINISTRATOR** Dennis Martin explains how much assistance he has received from Julie Olson over the years (upper photo), and President Pat Kenny presents a special plaque (middle photo) at the luncheon.



**VILLAGE CLERK** Theresa Loomer (left) and Building & Zoning Dept. Admin. Assistant Robin Nuzzo (middle) dine with Julie Olson at the anniversary luncheon.