

VILLAGE OF FONTANA-ON-GENEVA LAKE

Winter Issue 2015



President Petersen Stepping Down

Village President Arvid "Pete" Petersen has decided to step down from the president position following his third two-year term in April 2015. Petersen stated that six years is a long period during which the Village has completed a lot of important projects, and he decided it was a good time for someone new to take over leadership of the Village Board.



Arvid "Pete" Petersen

"I thought it was an appropriate time for someone new to step up, so I decided to not seek another term. I am proud of the many accomplishments that we have been completed during my tenure as Village President and I am confident the Village Board members will continue to work together for the benefit of the Fontana property owners and residents when the new village president takes office in April," Petersen stated.

Although he is stepping down from the president's position, Petersen stated that he decided to run again for a Trustee position in the spring election because he would still like to remain active in the Village government. Prior to serving as the Village president, Petersen was a Trustee from 2001 until 2009.

Petersen stated that he is proud of the many accomplishments and projects that have been completed by the Village during his tenure in office. Some of the TIF District projects administered by the CDA Board include the Highway 67 corridor reconstruction and landscaping improvements, the burial of utility lines and street improvements in the Third Avenue project, the

Mill Street commercial and residential development project, the construction of a new beach house and lakefront fence, and the construction of a new main lift station/restrooms pavilion building in Reid Park. Other stewardship initiatives undertaken during Petersen's tenure include environmental planning for the TIF District at the Hildebrand Nature Conservancy and Duck Pond Recreation Area.

Petersen stated that although development in the TIF District is starting to increase again following the economic downturn of the past decade, the village also took steps during his tenure to insure its future financial position by having the Fontana TID declared distressed in 2014. The distressed declaration also provides the Village additional time to recoup some of the lost TIF increment that was created by the Wisconsin Department of Revenue when it changed its calculating methodology after the Fontana TIF District had been operating under the initial methodology for more than six years.

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Village Incumbents

Seek Reelection

Three incumbent Village Board Trustees and the current Village President are running for the three trustee positions on the ballot for the Spring 2015 Election scheduled for Tuesday, April 7, 2015.

The three trustees seeking reelection to two-year terms are Thomas McGreevy, George Spadoni and Tom Whowell. Village President Arvid Petersen, who filed a Notice of Noncandidacy for the president position, also has filed Nomination Papers for the at-large trustee positions. The top three vote getters will be elected for two-year terms.

Trustee Patrick Kenny is the only candidate to file papers for the Village President position. If elected, Kenny will have to resign from his current

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The Cop Shop . . .

Winter Parking in Effect



By Chief Steve Olson

With winter here we want to remind everyone not to park on any public road from 2:00 am to 6:00 am, seven days a week.

This helps the Public Works Department in plowing the snow. Please move any objects out of the Village's right-of-way (about 5 feet from the edge of the blacktop) such as basketball hoops and reflective poles.

Our annual Operation Feed the Need food drive was a success with hundreds of food items and cash donated this year. We want to thank all the citizens, students and businesses that contributed so generously. A donation of toys at Christmas time was made and those were distributed to needy families in the area.

In 2014, Fontana police officers handled 2,653 calls for service. Additionally, officers have collectively attended hundreds of hours of training covering such topics as crime scene investigation, critical incident response, legal updates, firearms qualifications and various other specialized or in-service subjects.

Officers Mark Chalchoff and Derrick Goetsch will be teaching CounterAct to the fifth-grade class again this year to provide the students with tools to resist the use of alcohol, drugs and violence, and encourage healthy behavioral choices.

As always, we want to remind citizens to report any suspicious activity they see or suspect. Want to learn more about the Fontana Police Department? You will find helpful links and keep current on law enforcement related topics for Fontana at our website at www.fontanawipolice.com or become a friend of our Facebook page.

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Village Trustee position, and the Village Board will have to appoint someone to complete the last year of this current two-year term.

Trustee Kenny is the current chairman of the Finance and Environmental Committees, is a member of the Board Review and Human Resource Committee, and is the board's liaison to the Geneva Lake Environmental Agency. Kenny was appointed to the Village Board in October 2007 to complete the term of former Trustee

Joseph Bidwill, who resigned in September 2007 after being elected in April 2006. Kenny was elected to a full term as Trustee in April 2008, and was reelected in 2010, 2012 and 2014.

President Petersen is the current chairman of the Protection and Human Resource Committees, and is a member of the Emergency Management Committee, Board of Review, Plan Commission, Community Development Authority, Geneva Lake Law Enforcement Agency Board of Directors, Geneva Lake Use Committee, and the Fontana-Walworth Water Pollution Control Commission Board of Directors.

Outgoing President Petersen previously served as a Trustee for one month short of eight years, from April 17, 2001 until March 2, 2009, when he was appointed to the President position to complete the term of the late Ronald Pollitt, who passed away February 17, 2009. Petersen was elected to a full term as President in April 2009 and was reelected in 2011 and 2013. He will have served about six years and one month as president when his current term expires.

Former Village President Tom Whowell, who served as president for six years from April 2001 until he stepped down in April 2007, was appointed Trustee on December 1, 2014 to complete the term of William Gage, who resigned November 24, 2014. Whowell previously served

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Petersen

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Other situations and problems that have been addressed during Petersen's tenure include a major sewer line break at the intersection of Highway 67 and Fontana Boulevard; the resolution of a conflict with the Wisconsin DNR regarding the lake level and the control of the Geneva Lake dam; a shortage of volunteer fire and rescue responders and the eventual hiring of a paid on premises rescue service provider; dozens of storm water management, street and road improvement projects as well as Geneva Lake environmental protection initiatives; and the ongoing South Lakeshore Drive bridge replacement project.

Petersen stated that as a longtime representative on the Fontana-Walworth Water Pollution Control Commission Board, he is proud of the major improvement project that was planned and completed in 2011 at the treatment facility. The project upgraded the 23-year-old facility into a state of the art wastewater treatment plant that serves the residents of Fontana and Walworth as well as Kikkoman Foods Company.

"Please move any objects out of the Village's right-of-way such as basketball hoops and reflective poles."

"Petersen stated ... he is proud of the major improvement project that was planned and completed at the wastewater treatment facility."

Election

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as a Trustee from April 1973 until April 1977, when he did not seek reelection. Whowell currently is the Village Board liaison member of the Board of Directors for the Fontana Public Library and the Geneva Lake Level Corporation, and is a member of the Board of Review.

Trustee McGreevy, who was elected to office in April 2009 and reelected in 2011 and 2013, is the current chairman of the Public Works Committee. McGreevy is also a member of the Human Resource Committee and the Fontana-Walworth Water Pollution Control Commission Board of Directors.

Trustee Spadoni, who previously served as a trustee for six years from April 1997 through April 2003, will be completing his 14th year in office when his current term expires in April 2015. Spadoni was elected to his current Village Trustee position in April 2007, and reelected in 2009, 2011 and 2013. Spadoni is the current chairman of the Plan Commission and the Local Business Committee.

Village Planning Bridge Replacement

Permitting issues and preliminary planning delays have been resolved and the schedule for the South Lakeshore Drive bridge replacement project is on track for the construction and opening of a new lakefront bridge by July. The final construction plans still have to be approved and the project put out for bids before the construction schedule can be finalized; however, the engineering firm is optimistic that the goal of having the new bridge open by mid-summer can still be achieved, depending on the weather. The preliminary construction schedule is now set to commence in late February or early March.

The DOT has awarded the village a low-interest \$1.5 million loan from its State Infrastructure Bank program to help fund the \$1.9 million project, and the other funds will be borrowed from Walworth State Bank. If planning approvals remain on schedule, the repaired bridge deck will be removed in February and all traffic will have to follow the posted detour until after the new bridge is opened.

“The preliminary construction schedule is now set to commence in late February or early March.”



VILLAGE PRESIDENT Arvid Petersen and Fire and Rescue Department Chief Wolfgang Nitsch were two of the officials on hand for an initial inspection of the 2013 Pierce Quint Ladder truck that is being purchased by the Village for \$710,000. The truck still needs some modifications and equipment installed and the graphics painted on the exterior before final delivery in March 2015. The truck features a 2,000-gallons-per-minute pump and a remote controlled nozzle at the end of the 75-foot ladder (right), which can be operated with or without a firefighter at the top of the ladder.



“The truck features a 2,000-gallons-per-minute pump and a remote controlled nozzle at the end of the 75-foot ladder.”