

Events

May 15 - September 15, 2014

- May 24** Program @ Fulton (Martin House) Museum, "Fulton Fallen Hero: Stewart Wiersema," 10am
- May 27** Book Discussion @ Fulton Library, *The Beautiful Mystery*, 6pm
- May 29** Program @ Windmill Cultural Center, "Adventures with John James Audubon," 6pm
- Jun.** Temporary Exhibit @ Windmill Cultural Center, "New Zealand: What Its Souvenirs Reveal"
- Jun. 1** 25th Annual Blessing of the Bikes @ Downtown, 1pm
- Jun. 11** Program @ Andresen Nature Center, "Birds of Northwest Illinois & Their Habitat," 1pm
- Jun. 12** Fulton Summer Night @ Windmill Area, 6pm-8pm
- Jun. 21** Program @ Andresen Nature Center, "Nature's Local Predators," 1pm
- Jun. 21** Bluegrass Festival @ Heritage Canyon, 1pm
- Jun. 24** Book Discussion @ Fulton Library, *Birdseye: The Adventures of a Curious Man*, 6pm
- Jun. 26** Fulton Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner
- Jun. 30** Program @ Windmill Cultural Center, "Mother Jones: A Force of Nature," 6pm
- Jul. 9** Program @ Windmill Cultural Center, "Life's a Breeze: Presidential Rest & Relaxation," 6pm
- Jul. 10** Fulton Summer Night @ Windmill Area, 6pm-8pm
- Jul. 30** Program @ Andresen Nature Center, "General Habitat," 1pm
- Aug. 1** Program @ Windmill Cultural Center, "Gaelic Songs: Beauty & Nature," 6pm
- Aug. 8 & 9** Lincoln Buy-Way Sales Event, 8am-2pm
- Aug. 14** Fulton Summer Night Event @ Windmill Area, 6pm-8pm
- Sep. 11** Culinary Walk: Pumpkin @ Downtown Fulton, 4pm-7pm



City of Fulton
415 11th Avenue
Fulton, IL 61252

Quarterly Newsletter

Spring 2014

Issue 27

www.cityoffulton.us

815-589-2616 phone

815-589-4421 fax

Hours:

Monday - Friday

8am to 4pm

City Hall closes at 3pm
on the 20th of the month.

Payments can be made at anytime by using the small drop box on the west side of the building. Automatic withdrawal from your checking or savings account is also available. Stop by City Hall for details.

MAYOR'S UPDATE

Electric Bill Savings Claims – Please Be Leery

Costs

Many of us in the City of Fulton continue to receive mailings and calls trying to convince us to sign up for cheaper electric rates. Please know that you already have a very low electric rate on a City plan with Verde Energy. The Verde electric supply rate has been 5.99¢ per kWh since September 2013. By our City contract, this rate will remain in effect until August 2015.

Other municipalities without a contract similar to our Fulton contract can expect rates to go well above 7¢ per kWh. The cost of electricity is going up in the months ahead as EPA regulations close down more power plants in favor of more expensive wind and solar generation. As an example, the City of Milledgeville just signed a 3-year contract at 7¢ to head off the expected spike in electricity costs.

Options

We suggest that you ignore any sales pitches for you to switch to another electric supplier. We'll continue to monitor the situation on your behalf.

Savings To Date

The 1633 customers on the City Plan have saved over \$370,000 from June 2011 to the present. That is over \$6 per month for the past 33 months. Expect Fulton monthly savings to increase as the standard Illinois Power Authority rate continues to rise compared to Fulton's contract rate.

ComEd is happy to serve us as our distribution and billing agent, regardless of who supplies the actual kWhs. If you still have questions, do not hesitate to contact Ed Cannon or me at City Hall.

Continued



Retirements Are Changing the Faces of City Hall

First, Randy Balk left us last October with many accomplishments in his long career in Fulton. He is replaced by Ed Cannon who brings us management experience from the Air Force and private sector. About that same time, Melissa Powers came on as your front office Clerk which allowed for Tammy Garibay's promotion to City Collector. Linda Hollis delayed her retirement by covering at the Community Center for the past 5 months.

Also, we now have interim City Clerk and City Treasurer appointments in training to replace Linda Hollis and Garry Medema. The new City Clerk is Kyle Kopf and the new City Treasurer is Amanda Fosdick. Both Linda Hollis and Garry Medema have served the City well. We will strive to keep their high standards as we move forward. Both have been extremely helpful in the transitions.

Thank you for your patience this past winter and enjoy the spring weather!

Mayor Russell

City Council Meetings

The Fulton City Council meets the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at 5:30pm. The council meetings are held in the City Hall Council Chambers at 415 11th Avenue and are open to the public. Minutes from city council meetings can be found online at www.cityoffulton.us.

Fulton Police Department

Severe Weather Siren

Storm season is once again upon us. Remember, when you hear the siren, immediately seek shelter and begin to monitor commercial radio and television stations for further weather information. The siren will only be activated if the National Weather Service issues a Severe Thunderstorm Warning or a Tornado Warning.

The Severe Weather Siren will be tested on the first Tuesday of every month at 10:00AM. The test shall be for the duration of thirty (30) seconds, unless a special request is made for maintenance or sound testing purposes.

Firearm Registration

The Fulton Police Department encourages gun owners to register online for their Firearm Owner Identification card (FOID) at:
<https://www.isp.state.il.us/foid/foidapp.cfm>

Building permits are required for all new construction and for remodeling work which changes the size, area, outline, location on lot, height of a structure, yard requirements or use/occupancy of any building. No building permit is required for usual maintenance or repairs, including roofing and siding (Chapter 155.058 through 155.207, Fulton Zoning Ordinance No. 855).

BUILDING PERMIT FEES BASED ON PROJECT COST

\$25	for \$0- \$1,000 project
\$40	for \$1,000 - \$5,000 project
\$55	for \$5,000 - \$25,000 project
\$100	for \$25,000 - \$50,000 project
\$250	for \$50,000 - \$100,000 project
\$500	for \$100,000 - \$250,000 project
\$750	for \$250,000 - \$500,000
\$1,000	for OVER \$500,000 project

Public Works Department

The City is now required to assess the degree of hazard to the water system for cross connection control for residential customers. This is to ensure the appropriate backflow devices are installed where required. Specifically, in ground pools, or anything that has a stationary fill point outside the home is subject to requiring these devices. If you have an in ground pool or a stationary fill point hooked directly to the City water system you must contact the City for an inspection. The City will also be looking for the same and sending letters to residents to set up an inspection. Thank you in advance for your help. 815-589-2616.

Daniel Clark,
Public Works Director

City Infrastructure Projects

- The downtown alley behind the 1000 and 1100 blocks of 4th Street, between 10th Avenue and 12th Avenue, will be replaced with concrete this summer.
- Water and sewer lines will be installed this summer to the new restroom at Heritage Canyon.
- All new water lines have been completed at the Fulton Marina. The sewer pump out has also been installed. The gas dock at the marina is operational.
- Overlayment of 10th Street from 5th Avenue to 9th Avenue near the Heritage Addition will occur this summer. Two lots remain for sale at the Heritage Addition.

Fulton Recycling Day Results

The City of Fulton, Fulton Township, Fulton Chamber of Commerce, and the Fulton Kiwanis Club sponsored a recycling event on Saturday, April 26, from 8am to 11am at the Robert Fulton Community Center. The following items were collected:

- 22 lbs. of medication by the Whiteside County Sheriff's Department
- 1 truck bed full of newspapers by the Fulton Boy Scouts
- 8 city dump truck loads of electronic waste (televisions and computers)
- 4,000 lbs. of appliances, generating \$650 in scrap metal sales for the Fulton Kiwanis Club
- 314 lbs. of oil based paints, stains, and varnishes by the Clinton County Landfill
- 2,500 lbs. of paper shredded by Cintas
- 1,000 lbs. of vehicular batteries

Fulton City Council Members

Mayor Larry Russell

1st Ward:

Eugene Field and Barbara Mask

2nd Ward:

Dan Nederhoff and Margaret Crosthwaite

3rd Ward:

Sue Van Kampen and Wes Letcher

4th Ward:

Howard Van Zuiden and Randy Boonstra

Yard Waste Guidelines

- Residents using containers for yard waste must **ONLY** use bio-degradable Kraft yard waste bags or refuse containers not exceeding 35 gallons in capacity and 35 lbs. in weight. These containers must be clearly marked with a large "X". **The use of plastic bags is prohibited.**
- Brush items not over 2 inches in diameter or 4 feet in length may be bundled with string or rope in bundles not exceeding 1 foot in diameter.
- Place yard waste at the curb by 6:00 a.m. Any yard waste placed at the curb after the truck has gone by will not be picked up until the following yard waste collection day.
- Yard waste bags should be kept as dry as possible prior to pick up day to prevent bag bottoms from breaking open.

Yard Waste Schedule: Weekly Tuesday pick up from the first week in April through the end of November, weather permitting. During the month of November, Fridays will be added to the weekly schedule.

For more information about Recycling, Bulky Waste Pick-Up, and Weekly Garbage Pick-up, please visit the city website and download the refuse guidelines link. Go to www.cityofulton.us - hover over "community" tab at the top of the page - click "residential information" from the pull down menu.