

Events

February 15 - May 15, 2014

- Feb. 15** Lady's Tea Fundraiser @ Robert Fulton Community Center, 1pm
Feb. 16 Program @ Martin House Museum, 2pm
"Immigrant Story: Egypt & China"
Feb. 19 Program @ Windmill Cultural Center, 9am
"Mamie Eisenhower"
Feb. 20 Unity Christian School Kindergarten Roundup, 5:30pm
Feb. 25 Blood Drive @ Robert Fulton Community Center, 8am-1pm
Feb. 25 Book Discussion @ Fulton Library, 6pm
Tenth of December: Stories
Feb. 26 Program @ Windmill Cultural Center, 9am "Paula Sands - Live TV"
Feb. 26 Weather Spotter Training @ Fulton Fire Dept., 6:30pm
Mar. 1 Affordable Care Act Enrollment @ Robert Fulton Community Center, 9am-11am
Mar. 5 Program @ Windmill Cultural Center, 9am
"Linda Cook - Movies"
Mar. 12 Program @ Windmill Cultural Center, 9am
"Amish Quilts & Underground Railroad"
Mar. 16 Program @ Martin House Museum, 2pm
"Immigrant Story: Africa & Austria"
Mar. 19 Program @ Windmill Cultural Center, 9am
"Orphan Trains"
Mar. 26 Program @ Windmill Cultural Center, 9am
"Four Seasons of Gardening at Argo Acres"
Mar. 30 Program @ Windmill Cultural Center, 2pm
"Beckman Mill: Beloit's Restored Watermill"
Apr. 6 Program @ Martin House Museum, 2pm
"History of the Fulton Journal: 160th Anniversary"
Apr. 12 Spring Fling Craft & Vendor Show @ Robert Fulton Community Center, 9am-4pm
Apr. 29 Program @ Windmill Cultural Center, 6pm
"Goin' Down to Cairo: Folksongs in the Land of Lincoln"
May 2-3 Dutch Days Festival
May 2-3 Dutch Days @ Heritage Canyon, 10am-4pm
- For more details: visit www.cityoffulton.us**



City of Fulton
415 11th Avenue
Fulton, IL 61252

Quarterly Newsletter

Winter 2014

Issue 26

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 BUDGET UPDATE

Budget Calendar

Staff are already holding sessions to prepare a new budget for the year beginning May 1. Our City Council met on Monday, February 10, for a planning session. All are invited to submit suggestions in writing and speak with your Council representatives to get their support.

City Finances

Operating Reserves are slowly being restored. A balanced budget is on target again this year with a small surplus going into reserves.

Sales Tax Revenue

Sales tax receipts are still down by nearly 20% from last year. Redevelopment activity downtown will improve this situation. Eagle River Liquor and Dollar General continue to shoulder a bulk of the receipts. Video poker revenues have surprisingly offset the reduction in sales tax revenue. Thank you all for supporting our local businesses.

Budget Process

We will again consider ways to hold down costs and rebuild reserves as the budget process begins. We can again keep City property taxes under \$1 per day for a typical residence. And the aim is to keep water, sewer, garbage collection and other fees less than the average of those in neighboring communities.

Continued



Please show support for your local City Council representatives for the good work that they have done in recent years. City Administrator Cannon has a good grasp of the issues and is introducing meaningful changes in reporting and comprehensive planning.

New Initiatives

Hope has not been a good strategy for redevelopment of the former Drives Building and the former Cullen site on Highway 84. Rather than hope, active promotion of these sites is in the works. A development plan for our new Highway 30 Business Park should take shape over the next month.

Added Marina improvements are planned based on good results from the first year of City operation. Plans and budgets for improvements at the Martin House and the new Andresen Nature Center have already begun.

Please call for more details on any of these City government activities.

Mayor Russell

Fulton Police Department

With the winter months in full swing, the Fulton Police Department would like to remind everyone of the following:

Please move your vehicles off the street as soon as possible after a snow storm so the city crews can clear the streets (per City Ordinance Chapter 72, Schedule XI.(E) vehicles have to be moved every 72 hours upon any street or roadway.

Per City Ordinance 70.06 : No person shall deposit or cause to be deposited any snow and/or ice on or against any fire hydrant or on any sidewalk, roadway, or any other city owned property, except that part of a street not defined as a roadway herein.

To ensure the safety of children walking to school, due to the elimination of in town bussing, please clear your sidewalks as soon as possible after a snow storm.

As a reminder when driving in snow and ice slow down and use caution. Every year there are increased accidents due to bad weather.

Citizens are also urged to keep their vehicles, residences, and garages locked when not being used. Do not leave valuables inside your vehicle in plain view. Parents, please know where your kids are, and what they are doing at all times.

The Fulton Police Department has a "Zero Tolerance" policy in regards to curfew violations in an attempt to limit reports of vandalism, theft and burglary. Anyone with information about illegal activity is urged to call the Fulton Police Department at 815-589-3617 to leave a tip.

Fulton Fire Department

Due to extremely low temperatures and winter storms in the Midwest, the Fulton Fire Department is stepping up its efforts to raise awareness about dangers of carbon monoxide. We are urging homeowners to be aware of the dangers that carbon monoxide poses.

We are urging residents to be proactive and check the batteries not only in your smoke detectors, but regularly test and change the batteries in your carbon monoxide detectors. Residents should also be able to distinguish the difference between low batteries or a faulty detector and an actual activation of your detectors. If your detector is sounding with a very low sound and short chirps about every 1 to 2 minutes, it is likely that your detector has low batteries or is faulty. If this occurs, you should start by changing the batteries or replacing the detector, if needed. If there is any doubt, be sure to call 911.

If the detector sounds very loudly for about 5 seconds at a time and continuous, the detector is working and picking up dangerous levels of carbon monoxide. If this happens, residents should evacuate the building immediately to fresh air and call 911.

Some symptoms of CO poisoning are headaches, nausea, difficulty breathing, loss of balance, vision problems and dizziness. Symptoms of high levels of CO can include disorientation, memory problems, loss of consciousness, and death.

The State Fire Marshall notes that the Carbon Monoxide Act of 2007, requires the installation of carbon monoxide detectors in every dwelling unit, with at least 1 carbon monoxide detector with in 15' of every room used for sleeping purposes.

Please help us protect lives by being proactive about carbon monoxide detector and smoke detector operation.

Robert Fulton Community Center

Did You Know?

- The Community Center is open Monday through Friday from 10am to 2pm. Everyone is welcome!
- Lunches are held every Wednesday and Friday at 11:30am. Cost is \$4/person. All ages are welcome!
- Free blood pressure checks are performed the first Wednesday of every month from 11am to Noon and every Friday from 11am to 11:30am.
- Euchre is played every Tuesday at 1pm. Bingo is played the first and third Wednesday of each month at 12:15pm. Anyone can play!
- The first Monday of every month morning coffee is provided from 8:30am to 10am.
- Outreach Services for Seniors is available the third Thursday of the month by appointment, call 888-622-9230.
- Daily services include free computer/Internet access, games, puzzles, TV, and fellowship!
- The community room can seat up to 60 people and is available for private rental. Call for details.
- Many times throughout the year special events are held at the Community Center. The next event will be the Spring Fling Craft & Vendor Show on April 12 from 9am to 4pm.

Please stop by and say "HELLO!" For more information call 815-589-3925.

Fire Hydrants

Please keep fire hydrants shoveled for easy access if it is needed by the fire department. If your hydrant needs to be cleared and you are unable to shovel it out, please call the fire department at 815-589-3030 and leave a message.

Volunteer Opportunities

There are numerous volunteer opportunities within our community. Several of the attractions owned by the City of Fulton are managed, operated, and/or supported by volunteer organizations. Those under the umbrella of the city include:

The Dutch Windmill operated and maintained by the Volunteer Millers.

The Windmill Cultural Center operated by the Friends of the Windmill.

Heritage Canyon supported by the Early American Crafters who hold special events at the Canyon throughout the year.

The Fulton (Martin House) Museum managed by the Fulton Historical Society.

The Robert Fulton Community Center managed by a Steering Committee.

In addition to the attractions, there are many community events supported and organized by volunteers including the Dutch Days Festival, Fulton Summer Nights, Fall Festival, and the Christmas Walk. None of these events can occur without the support of volunteers.

Our volunteer base is aging and more volunteers are needed to assist with some of the attractions and events listed above. If you have a couple hours to give each month, your time will be well spent improving your community.

For more information on volunteering in Fulton, contact Heather Bennett at 815-589-4545 or email chamber@cityoffulton.us.