

## Downtown Fulton Improvements

Several businesses along 4th Street in Fulton's Downtown Historic District have made or are making improvements this summer.

1. Neese Insurance Agency moved across the street to a historically renovated building owned by Mike Knott. The building's façade was restored to its original glory.
2. Wilson's Floral & Gifts moved into the building formerly occupied by Neese Insurance Agency. The building front was improved with larger windows, a new metal awning, and brickwork. The building is owned by Marge Bielema.
3. Sweet Woodruff is expanding and purchased the adjacent building from Gus & Ruthie Hayenga. The building front is undergoing restoration and will look consistent with the existing gift shop.
4. The Fulton Retail Development Group (FRDG) purchased the former Corner Treasures & Treats building last fall. Since that time, the group has been aggressive in seeking a restaurateur. In May 2013, it was announced that Krumpets would be relocating to the corner building. The FRDG, with the assistance of the Fulton Kiwanis Club and local contractors, has been working diligently to renovate and restore part of the building in anticipation for Krumpets opening later this fall.
5. Michelle's ice cream and coffee shop opened in May, offering treats and a downtown location for coffee.
6. Manny's Too remodeled the bar area earlier this year. New additions included flooring, booth seating, bar, and a video gaming room. In addition, many of Fulton's local taverns have added video gaming areas to their establishments. The City of Fulton will realize 5% revenue from video gaming.

In the last decade, downtown Fulton has transformed into a thriving business community. The City of Fulton hopes to capitalize on private investments with new streetscape developments in the future. Thank you to all our businesses for investing in our community!



City of Fulton  
415 11th Avenue  
Fulton, IL 61252

## Quarterly Newsletter

Summer 2013

Issue 24

[www.cityoffulton.us](http://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.

## From the Mayor's Desk...

Our first quarter of the fiscal year beginning May 1 has been far from routine and extremely busy.

### MARINA

Surely you've seen the changes there and look for more to come. Our Public Works crew launched the large boats for the first time. The crew also created new launch parking and a fee system. City Hall staff took on handling slip fees and insurance guarantees. A fueling station and convenience store contract operator was secured. Ramp improvements, road surfacing and restroom improvements have been delayed by high water. Congratulations to the Ad Hoc Marina Committee and City staff. Itemized accounting is assuring that Marina expenses are recovered from the users of the marina.

### HERITAGE CANYON AND NEIGHBORING ANDRESEN PROPERTY

Completion of restrooms and bank stabilization are nearly complete at the Canyon. A magnificent donation of the neighboring Andresen property and buildings were successfully negotiated. Caretaker interviews are underway. Forestry and wildlife programming will follow in coordination with staff at the Whiteside Soil and Conservation District. Congratulations to our Administrator and Tourism Director.

### HIGHWAY 30 COMMERCE PARK

The City completed a \$1 million purchase of prime development land along Hwy 30. Subsequent sale of a portion to Agri-King gets this development project off to a great start.

### COMMERCIAL/RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

Residential lots have been sold and are in the process of being served with street and utilities. A commercial lot was sold to Starbuck Machinery which expands the City's tax base and workforce along 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue.

These various development projects are being tracked separately to show their merits and return on investment.

Continued →

## CITY ADMINISTRATOR, TREASURER AND CLERK APPOINTMENTS

Screening Committees are narrowing the large list of Administrator applicants for ultimate interview and hiring sometime in September. Searches for both Treasurer and Clerk candidates are underway. Please let the Mayor know of possible candidates. Both positions are important paid, part-time positions with no benefits.

## WATER SUPPLY, SEWER SYSTEMS AND STREETS

Contract administration and cleanup are underway for the new station to the north of Timken-Drives. Dedication ceremonies are being planned. Watch for an announcement.

The City Council has approved an expanded cleaning and televising of sanitary sewers to accommodate further development and plan repairs prior to repaving. Another round of road surfacing has begun.

## ELECTRIC RATES

The City Council and Mayor approved a plan to lower electric rates even further for the next two years. Again, residents are being notified of the opportunity to "opt out" if they do not believe that the City is acting in their best interest. To date, over \$130,000 has been saved by City customers.

I remind everyone that all of the above projects are new and on top of the regular workloads to run the City. Accomplishments with our Police and Tourism Departments and City Council planning will be covered next time.

Enjoy the rest of this summer.

Mayor Russell

**ROBERT FULTON  
COMMUNITY CENTER NEWS**

The Robert Fulton Community Center is located at 912 4<sup>th</sup> Street (former fire station). Due to a change in funding, the community center is no longer associated with Whiteside County Senior Center. All River Bend Senior Center memberships will be transferred to the Robert Fulton Community Center (RFCC) with **NO** change in benefits or services. You do not have to be a "senior" to be a member.

Currently RFCC is used by senior health and wellness services, the Gateway Area Red Cross, the Fulton Food Pantry, the American Legion as well as numerous community groups and local citizens. Whiteside County Transit Services remain available from this location (for rides call 888-622-9230).

Lunch is served every Wednesday and Friday at 11:30am (take out is available) at a suggested donation of \$4.00 per meal. It's a great way to spend time with friends and make new ones! All ages are welcome. Recently, a page was added to the City of Fulton website. You will find Fulton Community Center under the Community/Government heading. There you will find the monthly activity calendars, monthly menus and the form for renting the center for special occasions. We will be adding more to the page so be sure to check back often.

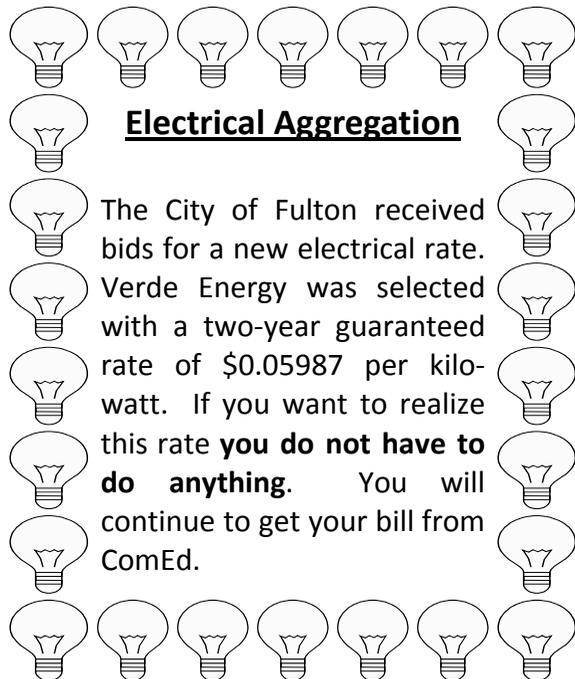
RFCC is now directed by a steering committee which oversees policies and finances. The committee members are Karen Abbott, Howard Van Zuiden, Beth Sterk, Garry Medema, Melissa Wiebenga and Randy Balk (ex officio). Staff includes Linda Hollis, manager; Elsie Foster, cook; and Denny Becker, maintenance.

Continued ↗

Due to a generous donation, we are moving forward to purchase an emergency generator and a new LED sign for the center. Revenue is generated via memberships, endowment funding, gifts, rentals, and meal donations. All RFCC revenue will be used exclusively for RFCC expenses.

We hope to expand upon the great things already happening here at RFCC and welcome any suggestions or ideas. We would like to offer more programs and services in the future. Our volunteers are the heart of the organization. We are often in need of "ambassadors" to answer phones during our current hours of operation; Monday through Friday from 10:00am to 2:00pm. Please call us at 815-589-3925 for more information on memberships, rentals and volunteering.

We look forward to hearing from you or seeing you here at the center!



**Electrical Aggregation**

The City of Fulton received bids for a new electrical rate. Verde Energy was selected with a two-year guaranteed rate of \$0.05987 per kilowatt. If you want to realize this rate **you do not have to do anything**. You will continue to get your bill from ComEd.

**Fulton Police Department**

As a reminder to residents, please keep your vehicles locked at all times, especially at night. The Police Department has been investigating several vehicle burglaries over the last few weeks that have involved unlocked doors where items have been reported stolen.

**Fulton Events: Aug. 16 - Nov. 15, 2013**

- Aug. 17 Back to School Car Show @ First Reformed Church
- Aug. 27 Book Discussion @ Fulton Library
- Aug. 29 Program @ Windmill Cultural Center
- Aug. 30 Tailgate Party @ Central Bank
- Sep. 12 Apple Walk @ Downtown Fulton
- Sep. 21 Mutts on the Mississippi Run/Walk
- Sep. 30 Program @ Windmill Cultural Center
- Oct. 5 Fall Festival @ Downtown Fulton
- Oct.5/6 Fall Festival @ Heritage Canyon
- Oct. 14 Kids Fest @ Windmill Area
- Oct. 19 Beggar's Walk @ Heritage Canyon
- Oct. 29 Program @ Windmill Cultural Center
- Nov. 1, 2, 8, & 9 Holiday Shop Hop Event
- Nov. 12 Program @ Windmill Cultural Center

**For more details: visit [www.cityoffulton.us](http://www.cityoffulton.us)**

**Fulton City Council Meetings**

The Fulton City Council meets the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at 5:30pm in the City Hall Council Chambers. The public is welcome to attend. Minutes from previous meetings can be found online: [www.cityoffulton.us](http://www.cityoffulton.us).

**New Industrial Park**

The city recently purchased 112 acres for an industrial park, which is adjacent to IL Route 84 & U.S. Route 30. This new park is located next to a 450 railcar yard and barge terminal. Agri-King, Inc., has purchased 14 acres in the park for their company's expansion.



**Two New Wells and Pressure Filter Installed and Online**

Well #4, Well #5, and the Pressure Filter are located at 11th Street & 16th Avenue. The project cost \$3.4M and was funded with an IL EPA low interest loan. 25% of loan was forgiven (\$850,000), essentially covering the drilling costs for Well #5.