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City of Fulton
415 11th Avenue
Fulton, IL 61252

Quarterly Newsletter

Winter 2011

Issue 18

www.cityoffulton.us

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Mayor's Report

In the upcoming months, the Fulton City Council will discuss a number of issues including: 1.) Refinancing TIF and Water Bonds, 2.) Prioritizing infrastructure needs and funding, 3.) Consider cost-effective ways to increase tourism income, 4.) Consider best way to manage our Community/Senior Center, and 5.) Consider the best way to manage our Fulton Marina. These tasks won't be easy and it's almost certain we won't have consensus on every one, but it's right that we take these issues on now, argue our points and then move on with our support of the majority decision.

The City is successfully paying off past loans for the water tower and improvements along Highway 84. Thanks to our three area banks, we are able to refinance these old bond issues at much lower rates.

The promise of low construction bids and low interest rates will also allow the City to move ahead with long deferred infrastructure improvements beginning this summer. As a result, you will likely see barricades and heavy equipment at various sites around town. The City Council will set priorities determining which projects require immediate attention.

Shorter vacation trips to local destinations are likely again this next year given the local economy. This bodes well for our local tourist attractions, shops and hotel. A Tourism Plan is needed to assure that we get an even better return on the existing investments in our attractions. We welcome your ideas on how to attract more visitors and sales.

Whether we call it Robert Fulton Commons, the River Bend Senior Center, or even "The Old Fire Station," it is a place for great community events. The Nicolaysen Benefit was packed from beginning to end with laughs and hugs for all. Another successful community auction was held at the same time. The following day hosted a large family gathering of the Norman family. Our Fulton Area Food Pantry opened its doors as it does each week to many deserving households. Red Cross blood collections occur every Tuesday. Seniors are treated to weekly meals and other activities throughout the week. The Whiteside Transit Bus continues to be stored during cold weather for convenient rides around the area. The building is also utilized for Dutch Days, Fall Festival and the Christmas Walk. The place is bustling with activity most every day.

The commercial kitchen at the River Bend Senior Center is under remodeling performed by local volunteers. Be sure to thank Larry Huizenga, Clink Kettler, and Allen Jackson for their countless hours of skilled work. Volunteer hours and donations are quietly rolling in from anonymous sources.

Management of the Senior Center is done by Karen Abbott and staff with financial support from the Whiteside County Senior Center located in Sterling. It has been one year since the City turned over management of the Center to the Whiteside team. They have made marvelous progress. The best part is that we don't have to be a senior to use the facility or the transit rides. It is a community center for the benefit of the entire community.

— Mayor Larry Russell

Fulton Police Department

The Fulton Police Department requests your assistance in preventing crimes. We continue to receive calls for thefts from unlocked vehicles. Please remove items from plain sight and lock your vehicles. Don't make yourself a victim. If you see a crime being committed or something that appears to be suspicious, please call immediately. Emergency - Dial 911. The non-emergency numbers are 815-589-3617 or 815-772-2660.

During this winter season, as a courtesy and for the safety of others, please shovel your sidewalks. Do it for the numerous children walking to school, mail delivery persons and your neighbors. Remember not to throw snow in the street. Thank you.

- Chief James Rhoades

Did You Know?

- The police department patrols approximately 55,000 miles/year.
- The police department receives approximately 4,000 calls/year.
- The city pumps and treats about 300,00 gallons of water/day.
- City Hall processes 1,705 water/sewer bills every month.
- Morning Disposal on average each month picks up 225 cubic yards of waste, 40,542 pounds of recyclables, and makes 1,490 stops.

Public Works Department

- Water softener setting - if setting in mg/l it should be 180, if in grains it is 11.
- With the snow season upon us, please be careful while driving and whenever possible please use off street parking to allow for better snow removal.
- By ordinance you are required to clean up after your pets in City parks.
- A new ball field has been completed at Drives Athletic Park and will be available for the upcoming season.
- A new restroom facility has been constructed at 10th Avenue School Park and will open in the spring.
- Boring and infrastructure for dike lighting has been completed. New lights will be purchased in the 2012-2013 city fiscal year.

Scenic Byways

Fulton is fortunate to have two National Scenic Byways, the Great River Road and the Lincoln Highway. Each byway is managed and promoted by state tourism development offices. Each tourism development office works with the local communities on researching the byways connection to local history and marketing the byway. Both byways have their own visitor guide and website that highlights attractions, places of interest, history, shopping and dining opportunities along the highway. In addition to advertising, each byway has received federal grant money to help tell the story of the byway's history. In Fulton, there are three informational pieces that were funded with federal grants: the Lincoln Highway Mural displayed on the old fire station, the Lincoln Highway Gazebo at the corner of 10th Avenue and 3rd Street, and the Great River Road Kiosk located at Den Besten Park near the windmill. For more information about the National Scenic Byways, visit www.drivelincolnhighway.com and www.greatriverroad-illinois.org.

Fulton Events (January, February & March 2012)

Jan. 4

"Cruisin' Down Under" Program @ Windmill Cultural Center, 9am-11am

Jan. 7

Bald Eagle Watch @ Lock & Dam 13 and Clinton Community College, 8:30am-2:30pm

Jan. 9

River Bend Senior Center Fundraiser @ Pizza Ranch, 5pm-8pm

Jan. 11

"Dutch Pastries" Program @ Windmill Cultural Center, 9am-11am

Jan. 15

"Showboats" Program @ Fulton (Martin House) Museum, 2pm

Jan. 18

"I Was A G I Bride" Program @ Windmill Cultural Center, 9am-11am

Jan. 24

"White Teeth" Book Discussion @ Schmaling Memorial Library, 6pm

Jan. 25

"Tombstone Adventures" Program @ Windmill Cultural Center, 9am-11am

Jan. 31

"Bald Eagles on the Mississippi River" Program @ Windmill Cultural Center, 6pm

Feb. 1

"A Lifetime of Travel from My Kitchen Office" Program @ Windmill Cultural Center, 9am-11am

Feb. 8

"Just Be Gluten Free" Program @ Windmill Cultural Center, 9am-11am

Feb. 15

"Immigrant Story: India" @ Windmill Cultural Center, 9am-11am

CONTINUED 

Feb. 19

"Sawmills in Fulton's History" Program @ Fulton (Martin House) Museum, 2pm

Feb. 22

"Washington to Maine on Bike" Program @ Windmill Cultural Center, 9am-11am

Feb. 26

"Abraham Lincoln's River Connections" Program @ Windmill Cultural Center, 2pm

Feb. 28

"Hunger Games" Book Discussion @ Schmaling Memorial Library, 6pm

Feb. 29

"Leaping Into Collections" Program @ Windmill Cultural Center, 10am-6pm

Mar. 7

"Recent Retirees Travel Through Europe" Program @ Windmill Cultural Center, 9am-11am

Mar. 14

"Cooking with and Growing Herbs" Program @ Windmill Cultural Center, 9am-11am

Mar. 18

"Fulton Riverfront - Commercial Activities" Program @ Fulton (Martin House) Museum, 2pm

Mar. 21

"Recent Immigrant Story: Philippines" Program @ Windmill Cultural Center, 9am-11am

Mar. 28

"Adventures with Kids" Program @ Windmill Cultural Center, 9am-11am

Mar. 29

"Almost Flowing: Rivers of Ice in Antarctica, South America & Alaska" Program @ Windmill Cultural Center, 6pm

For more details, visit www.cityoffulton.us