

Crete Crosstown News Spring/Summer 2008 edition



A Message from Mayor Michael Einhorn

Its spring and things always look better in the spring, and things are looking better in the Village for several reasons. The last year was a very busy one and we are continuing to entertain additional new projects. In late 2007, we annexed several hundred more acres of land on the far south end of the Village, bringing the total for the

CenterPoint rail logistics park to just shy of 1,100 acres. Currently, engineering plans are being completed to provide sewer and water to the site. **CenterPoint** will be paying all the engineering and construction cost to service the site. Once installed the water and sewer system will become the property of the Village, just like all the other subdivisions that have been built in the Village. At some point in the future they will also be providing a new well and water tower on the site. Tying this to our present system will provide a much needed enhancement to our utilities on the south end of town, improvements that will cost us nothing, and provide significant long term benefits.

On the east side of town, along route 394, the **Kohl's** project is moving at a rapid pace and the developers report that there has been significant interest by other potential users. The shopping center convention in Las Vegas in mid May could also produce additional opportunities. The economy, however, has had some effect on the velocity of the project, but that is viewed as a temporary issue. I can't wait to go shopping for clothes in my own town, especially with the price of gas!

On the west we have the newest subdivision about to break ground called "**Grand Prairie Crossing**". It is a beautiful piece of property and, when completed, will be a very unique subdivision because of its natural features. I applaud the developer and the Village for working diligently to make this happen. It took a lot of give and take and a long time to complete, but the product will be wonderful. Also, on the west, the newest commercial structure under construction is the corporate headquarters of **First United Bank**. We are very pleased and proud that they have chosen Crete to call their corporate home.

On the north we have just completed our latest TIF financed project, the final phase of sanitary sewer installation along north Main. We can now provide sewer to all the property on north Main Street. Making use of TIF dollars to enhance property values benefits the entire Village, and that's what TIF's are all about, raising values and creating opportunities for future growth, and not effecting the taxpayer.

Finally, I am proud to announce that our total tax rate has dropped below the magic \$8.00 number. That has been a long term goal of mine. Last years rate was \$8.22 and this year it is \$7.82, a 5% decrease. Remember, the Village only represents \$1.05 of that total rate, or about 13% of your total tax bill. Since 1985, our Village rate has dropped by \$.68, or 40%, while the real value of all property has risen from \$138 million in 1985 to \$595 million in 2007, a 330% increase. During that same period our population has almost doubled. Compared to last year, the real value of all the property in the Village increased by \$50 million. Of that increase, only \$14 million came from new construction or annexations, while \$36 million came from the increased value of present real estate. This increase in existing values seems to defy the national trend of declining home values, which would seem to be a good thing for everyone.

In closing I would ask all residents to be good conscientious neighbors and citizens, take care of your property and your neighborhood, report problems and suspicious activity, and stay informed. If you have any questions on any subject please contact me personally. I am here to serve and help you and do the best job possible managing the Village.

Spring/Summer Highlights

• *Crete Village-Wide Garage Sale June 13th & 14th call 672-4749 for details*

• *Crete Women's Club 18th Annual Garden Walk to be held June 25th & 26th. Call 672-6767 for details or email cretegardenswalk@yahoo.com.*

• *The European Market held at the Northeast Corner of Main Street and Exchange Street runs every Sat. from May 17-Oct. 18 from 8AM to 1PM.*

• *Crete Park District Summer Program begins June 16th for information call 672-6969.*

• *Crete Library Summer Reading Program begins June 16th for information call 672-8017.*



Village President
Michael S. Einhorn

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Thomas J. Durkin, AICP

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Bob Gaines Larry Johnston Holly Milburn Sue Rossi David L. Wallace Mark Wiater



Trustee Robert Gaines— Road and Bridge Trustee

Throughout the spring and summer months, the branch chipper is out daily. This service is provided by the Village of Crete Public Works Department. They pick up branched that are put out in the parkway by the homeowners in the Village. Please put the cut side facing the street and refrain from putting anything out that is larger than 6 inches in diameter because the chipper has trouble with anything larger. Workers spend about 10 minutes at a home before they move on to the next location. The chipper does not pickup branches in the alleys. Also, keep in mind that residents must trim the branches not landscaping companies if they would like Public Works to pick them up. All sidewalk repairs and/or replacements are being done now. All sidewalks are surveyed every year and repaired or replaced on a worse case basis first. Bids for the 2008 Replacement Program for various locations were opened on March 19, 2008. We received bids from 3 contractors. Repairs and replacements are budgeted each year for \$50,000.00 to \$75,000.00 per year.



Trustee Larry Johnston—Public Safety Trustee

This springtime, beware of con-artists and thieves. Con-artists prey on the elderly. They usually present themselves as utility workers or tree trimmers. They attempt to distract the homeowner and lead them to the backyard or another part of the home. This leaves an opportunity for others in their group to enter the house, undetected, looking for items to steal. If a utility worker comes to your home, don't be afraid to ask them for identification. If you are unsure, don't let them inside your house. Call the Crete Police at 672-0911 or 911 for an emergency. Also, be cautious of people going door-to-door, offering to seal coat your driveway. Even though the majority of people provide good service, there are those who will take the opportunity to "make a quick buck", by overcharging unsuspecting homeowners. They over exaggerate the urgency of repairing the driveway and use high pressure tactics to force people into making a quick decision. Ask for a written estimate before any work is done, make sure the estimate has the company name and phone number on it. If they refuse to provide an estimate, then they are probably someone you don't want to do business with anyway. Remember to lock your car doors and remove items of value. Electronics or a purse are inviting to a thief. We would rather check out a suspicious person then take a theft report the following day. If we partner together we can keep our community safe.



Trustee Holly Milburn—Public Health Trustee

As we continue to shake the frosty doldrums away, I would be remiss in not sending a huge THANK YOU to our Public Works Department. While other towns were struggling with deteriorating salt supplies, Crete continued to use their supply wisely and kept our roads clear and clean. Looking ahead to Spring there are those clean-up projects that will beckon us to the outdoors. Racking the yard, pruning the bushes, clearing the flower beds and cleaning out the gutters...in no time our neighborhoods will be fresh, clean and awaiting those first blooms to emerge from the garden. Keep in mind on April 1st Allied Waste will begin their weekly pick up of yard waste. Use your properly labeled "Yard Waste" receptacle (pick up your label at Village Hall) and your clean-up projects will be completed with ease. Continue your Spring cleaning inside the house and utilize the Crete Lions Club Recycling Center. With their convenient daily hours, you can spruce up the house and help eliminate added waste in the landfills. See the Crete Lions Club website for more information: <http://creteil.lionwap.org>.

With the weather breaking, more activity can be seen at Crete Marketplace. Earth is being moved, water and sewer lines have been laid and soon walls will be erected. It won't be long before Kohl's has their doors open and the residents of Crete will have the added benefit of hometown shopping.

As always I look forward to hearing from you; your thoughts, questions and insights are most beneficial in the Village of Crete's future planning.

Memorial Day "Thank You"

On May 26, 2008, the Village of Crete celebrated the Memorial Day Holiday with a Memorial Service and Parade to honor the men and women who have sacrificed for our country. The theme of this years celebration was "*Land of the Free.....Because of the Brave*". Many thanks go out to the volunteers, Village employees and local businesses/individuals whose donations of time, money and supplies helped to make this years celebration great. A special thank you goes out to all the veterans whose sacrifices have guaranteed the freedoms we cherish as citizens of the United States of America. Again, thank you all and.....***God Bless America!!!!!!!!!!!!!!***



Trustee Sue Rossi—Water Trustee

Hydrant flushing has just finished for the spring. Hydrants are flushed twice a year, usually in October and April. It takes about two weeks to flush all hydrants in the Village. The water in the work area may have been rusty while the hydrants were being flushed, this is completely normal and does clear up. Here are a few maintenance steps that we all can perform to help assure safe, clean water in your home. Run water at least once every couple of months from a little outdoor spigot or utility tub faucet to assure old water is purged from the lines and replaced with fresh water. Draining the hot water tank every six months or so removes the sediment from the tank and keeps it out of your water supply. The Village of Crete Water Department monitors the water system 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and strives to give the best quality of water available to all of our village residents. Please also be aware that the summer months may require watering bans in drought conditions. If so, we will notify homeowners in the local press, on our website and on our local cable channel. I hope all enjoy a wonderful and relaxing summer!



Trustee David L. Wallace—Building and Grounds Trustee

The arrival of spring is a busy time for many of us and the village is no exception. Now is the time the Village prepares the new fiscal budget. In preparation of that budget, I am collecting information from all departments to assist in establishing a Buildings and Grounds priority program. Once established, it will serve as a reference for planning and expenditures. May is the month for flowers and thanks to the MainStreet Association the downtown area will again have hanging flower baskets. Public Works coordinates the installation and maintenance of the baskets. As we continue to find ways to improve the Buildings and Grounds of the Village, I welcome any comments from residents. I encourage you to get involved. I may be reached by leaving a message at 672-5431 or via e-mail at dlwallace@villageofcrete.org. Have a safe Spring!



Trustee Mark Wiater—Finance, License and Ordinance Trustee

Daniel Burnham, the famous Chicago architect once said, “Make no little plans; they have no magic to stir men’s blood and probably will themselves not be realized. Make big plans; aim high in hope and work, remembering that a noble, logical diagram once recorded will not die.” These words apply to us here in the Village of Crete today, just as much as they did to Burnham and Chicago over 100 years ago. I’d like to bring you up to date on the planning that is occurring in Crete and what we hope to accomplish. Through the Illinois Department of Transportation and the Illinois Tomorrow Corridor Planning Grant Program, the village received a grant of up to \$180,000. The plan will be multi-faceted. One key component is the redevelopment plan for the downtown area. The goal is to ensure growth and economic development in the historic downtown area while preserving our small town character. We plan to address the attraction and retention of businesses to this area as well as its desirability as a place to live and work. Other components will include transportation/transit and planning along Route 1 throughout the entire village.

A completely separate grant, but encompassing much of the same area is the Regional Transportation Authority grant. The Village of Crete received \$113,850 in new money for Train Station Area Planning. We are finalizing plans for a Metra train station in Crete on the proposed Southeast Service Line. Although this new line has not yet been approved, Crete is being proactive in its development. Two stations are planned for the area: one in the downtown area and the other in the vicinity of Balmoral Park Race-track.

Finally, the Village of Crete received \$175,500 from the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program. This plan will entail the beautification project at the intersection of Main Street and Exchange Street. It will include a plaza area with benches, landscaping, and signage that will welcome visitors to the downtown area.

I hope these very brief descriptions of each of these projects will give you an idea of some of the work that is ongoing within the village. Please watch the newspapers and local cable channel in the coming months for public hearings and public comment sessions. Resident input is vital. If you would like more information, please feel free to contact the village hall.

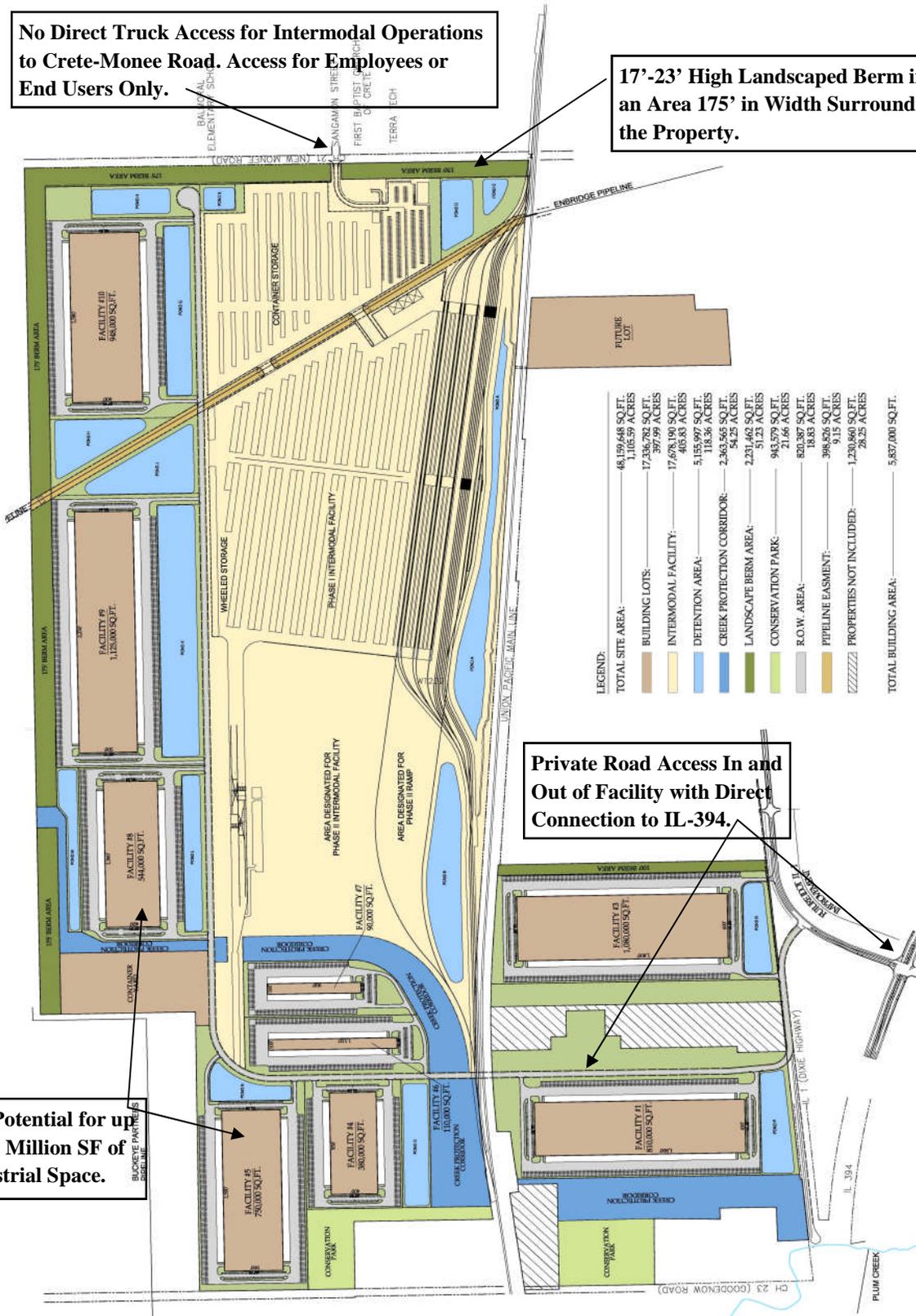
Please don't forget!!!.....Whether you mail in or drop off your water bill payment, please include your payment stub along with your payment. This helps our office staff to more accurately and quickly record receipt of your payment.

It's mosquito season!!!! Please make sure that you have no standing water around your property as this is a breeding ground for mosquitoes. Also, wear light colored clothing and use appropriate repellent when outdoors during dawn and dusk hours, a time when mosquitoes are more likely to be active.

CenterPoint-Crete Intermodal Terminal Facility

No Direct Truck Access for Intermodal Operations to Crete-Monee Road. Access for Employees or End Users Only.

17'-23' High Landscaped Berm in an Area 175' in Width Surrounding the Property.



LEGEND:

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| TOTAL SITE AREA: | 48,199,648 SQ. FT. |
| BUILDING LOTS: | 1,105.59 ACRES |
| INTERMODAL FACILITY: | 17,336,782 SQ. FT. |
| DEFENTION AREA: | 397.99 ACRES |
| CREEK PROTECTION CORRIDOR: | 17,678,190 SQ. FT. |
| LANDSCAPE BERM AREA: | 405.83 ACRES |
| CONSERVATION PARK: | 5,155,997 SQ. FT. |
| R.O.W. AREA: | 118.36 ACRES |
| PIPELINE EASMENT: | 2,363,565 SQ. FT. |
| PROPERTIES NOT INCLUDED: | 54.25 ACRES |
| TOTAL BUILDING AREA: | 2,231,462 SQ. FT. |
| | 943,579 SQ. FT. |
| | 21.66 ACRES |
| | 820,387 SQ. FT. |
| | 18.83 ACRES |
| | 398,526 SQ. FT. |
| | 9.15 ACRES |
| | 1,230,860 SQ. FT. |
| | 28.25 ACRES |
| | 5,837,000 SQ. FT. |

The Potential for up to 6.5 Million SF of Industrial Space.

Private Road Access In and Out of Facility with Direct Connection to IL-394.



FEBRUARY 11, 2008 #06014



CENTERPOINT INTERMODAL CENTER - CRETE
CRETE, ILLINOIS

(Plans are subject to change)

CenterPoint—Crete Intermodal Terminal Facility

Questions and Answers

The following items represent points that have been raised regarding the CenterPoint-Crete Intermodal Terminal Facility. This project, approved by the Village of Crete in March of 2007, represents a significant project in the Village and significant investment in our community by CenterPoint Properties, the largest industrial developer in the Midwest. This question and answer page will provide you the correct information based on the facts. We encourage anyone to please contact the Village of Crete with any additional questions you may have.

Q: What exactly is an intermodal facility?

A: An intermodal facility by definition is a facility designed to provide the efficient movement of goods from one method of transportation to another. In this case, it is the movement of goods from rail to truck, truck to rail and rail to rail. At present, over 60% of the goods consumed in the United States from overseas travel through the City of Chicago, the nations freight hub.

Q. This sounds like the operations that I have seen in Chicago over the years. Why do we want one of these?

A: On the contrary, this is not like the old rail yards. This state-of-the-art facility will provide all paved surfaces, extensive berming and landscaping and detention ponds that meet the Will County Stormwater Management ordinances for control of stormwater runoff. In addition, CenterPoint Properties continually evaluates “green technologies” for their operations to further reduce any environmental impacts. Approval of this important piece of infrastructure will enable the Village of Crete to be a major component in the global supply chain. Developers and end users which include major national and international corporations have recognized the benefits to locating their operations near these types of facilities to save in transportations costs. A similar facility in Elwood, IL has spawned millions of square feet of industrial/warehouse/manufacturing space and created literally thousands of jobs, reducing the tax burden on the local taxpayer.

Q: I've heard that there will be a lot of trucks. How will the traffic be handled so it doesn't come through town?

A: Traffic in and out of the facility will be provided on a private road constructed by CenterPoint Properties. This road will intersect with a re-routed Rt. 1 (a project of the State of Illinois) and will tie into IL-394 at a new signalized intersection. Traffic will utilize IL-394 and the Interstate system to deliver their cargo to warehouse and distribution facilities throughout the Midwest.

Q: Will the Village receive any direct benefits from CenterPoint?

A: Absolutely. Mayor Einhorn and the Village Trustees negotiated very favorable benefits as part of the project approval. They include, to name a few:

- Payment of \$300,000 annually to the Village for the first 5 years of facility operation.
- A volume based payment schedule dependent upon the number of “lifts” performed at the facility. A lift is a movement of a container from train to truck, truck to train or from train to train. Yearly payments will range from \$50,000 to \$500,000.
- Construction of sewer and water mains to and throughout the site. This will be entirely paid for by CenterPoint Properties.
- Transfer of the first \$500,000 of sewer and water recapture fees to the Village of Crete.
- Construction of a new water well and water tower, paid for by CenterPoint.
- Donation of 4 acres of property for municipal use.
- Establishment of point-of-sale district on the property to allow the Village of Crete to collect all of the sales taxes generated on all raw materials used in building the yard, facilities and buildings.

(See page 7 for more Q and A)

Crete's Featured Business

As a regular feature in our newsletter, we will focus on the at least two businesses in the Crete community. This will allow you, the residents of Crete, to get to know a little more about some of the products and services available to you right here in the Village of Crete. We hope you enjoy this feature and look to our Fall/Winter edition for our next set of featured businesses.

McDonald's of Crete

1350 E. Steger Road, Crete, IL

September 1, 1999, the Crete McDonald's went through a major philosophy change in regards to how important it is to embrace the community it does business in. I needed to reach out to the village, and find out what was important to the community. My name is Randy Conn, owner of McDonald's in Crete, and the driving force behind the attitude change at this location. It was my very first McDonalds as an owner/operator. Scared, nervous, and eager to be successful, I reached out to the Village for help. It was the smartest thing I have done in my 38 years with McDonald's. I met the nicest, warmest and most thoughtful people—from Mayor Einhorn to the owner of the pizza place in town. I soon realized that I could help make a difference in this community. First and most importantly, I had to run a sound shop. I needed to deliver the best service in town showcasing my best employees. Crete McDonald's began to partner with local organizations such as the Boy Scouts, Crete Crush Softball Team, Crete Monee High School Show Choir, and many, many more with our McCare Nights donating 20% of sales back to their organizations. We are a huge supporter of Wild West Days, Crete Youth Baseball, and just about anyone from Crete who asks for assistance. I truly believe that giving back to the community builds a lasting, valuable relationship with the Village and its citizens. Thank you , CRETE, for everything you have done for me and my people!

The Finishing Touch Florist

563 W. Exchange Street, Crete, IL

As far back as she could remember, Marguery O'Brien had an indication that her daughters Jill Hansen and Donna Dancik had great hidden talent for design. In fact all three possessed a great sense of style, design and flair when it came to decorating. The 3 girls set out to learn the challenges of opening a business and in the fall of 1978, The Finishing Touch Florist came to be.

A small store front in downtown Crete on Main Street housed the first location. This was Crete's first florist in the downtown area and the girls didn't know what to expect when they opened the doors. With Donna working full time and Jill and Marge working part time, the business began to flourish. When Easter of 1979 found Jill sitting in the window display making corsages they knew it was not only time to expand it was time for Jill to work full time in the shop. Just across the street in the historic Rohe building was their second location. The store more than doubled its display space and soon the girls were known for their personal service and great knowledge of floral and fauna.

In 1982 Holly Milburn, the families third generation came to work at the shop. By now all 4 women were finding their own niche and all types of floral design were being perfected, but again space soon became an issue. 1985 found The Finishing Touch Florist moving into their third and current location on Exchange Street. In the 1800's this was the home of Crete's first blacksmith, Myron Quackenbush. As a home, this building has seen many families but has now been transpired into Crete's only florist. With 5 display rooms filled with daily arrivals of fresh flowers, exotic green and blooming plants, a full gourmet section, botanical silk arrangements and wreaths, and a wedding consultation studio, The Finishing Touch Florist is truly your full service florist.

The 1990's found us in different times. Marguery had passed away and Donna's family moved to South Carolina. That left Jill and Holly, now known as the Mother/Daughter team, to continue the family business, and that's how it remains today. With a talented staff, Jill, Holly and The Finishing Touch team continue to serve their customers with the utmost of care. Whether it's to wish someone special a Happy Birthday, send speedy recovery wishes or to show your support to someone who's lost a loved one, The Finishing Touch is the florist for you. Serving Crete and the entire south suburban Chicago area and the world with fantastic floral creations, unique home decor, and distinctive party rentals, in addition to elegant plants and dish gardens.

This summer, The Finishing Touch Florist will celebrate 30 years of doing business in downtown Crete, offering professional service, select products and artistic floral presentations. Visit the shop and take some time to smell the roses.

CenterPoint Questions and Answers Cont.

Q: Is this project a TIF?

A: According to the Illinois State Law, facilities such as this automatically qualify as TIF (Tax Increment Finance) Districts. Under the annexation agreement, CenterPoint has a right to request a TIF within three years of the date of the annexation agreement. A TIF does not mean that they don't pay property taxes. The property taxes paid by properties within the TIF go into a TIF fund to be used for eligible expenses within the TIF. Under this agreement, there is a cap on the amount of eligible expenses to be reimbursed. Once the cap is met, the taxes paid go directly to the taxing bodies. Remember, the tax increment generated in the TIF District comes from the taxes paid by the developer and not by existing residents

Q: Won't there be an increase in the number of trains and the amount of blocked crossings?

A: Presently, there are 40-50 trains per day going through Crete. Of those trains, 12 to 16 are currently premium service intermodal trains (ones that exclusively carry truck trailers or containers). By their nature, these trains either originate in the Chicago area and go south through Crete, or come from the south passing through Crete, terminating at locations north of Crete. We anticipate that trains coming from the south will terminate at this new facility, never traveling north of Crete-Monee Road. They will then be unloaded, reloaded, and depart going south, reducing the rail traffic through Crete. This type of operation keeps these premium trains out of the congested Chicago rail network and speeds up the entire freight delivery system. Intermodal trains through Crete originate from the southeast and Texas area and run on regular schedules and at speeds much like a passenger train.

New Kohl's Development Brings New Retail, Employment and Sales Tax Boost to Crete

Officials from the Village of Crete along with co-developers Reliance Capital Management and TCB Development broke ground in April for a new Kohl's Department Store to be located on the east side of Illinois 394 at Richton Road.

Kohl's will be the anchor store for a mixed retail and commercial development of just over 100 acres that is projected to include additional "family-friendly" style shopping locations in its total build out space of 500,000 sq. ft. Crete officials pointed out that several acres have been set aside for detention ponds and drainage control.

"I could not be happier than to announce this bright new project for Crete", stated Village Mayor Michael Einhorn. "It shows we can deliver on my vision and promise to grow and develop the business climate in Crete and to provide expanded shopping opportunities for area residents".

"We are building in Crete because Mayor Einhorn and his staff understand the development process and the timelines necessary to make things happen", stated Mike Flickinger, Vice President of Development for Reliance Capital Management. He went on to say, "Crete is a stable and growing market both in terms of business and residential and our retailers will benefit from this growth and the economic advantages of being in Crete and Will County".

Mayor Einhorn further stated, "Kohl's is a leader and a solid company that liked our no nonsense approach and the planning that we had done in anticipation of this type of development". He also thanked and congratulated village staff whose "diligence and zeal" delivered yet another completed project.



Village Administrator Tom Durkin pointed out that Crete has invested significant dollar amounts planning for and providing utilities to attract these types of development situations. He also noted that the Kohl's project did not require tax increment financing (TIF) so all taxing bodies will receive their appropriate share of property taxes paid by the development and as part of the agreement, Crete will receive direct revenues to offset the costs to hire additional police officers and vehicles.

The Kohl's store is scheduled to open in the fall of 2008. The totally developed site will comprise an investment of \$50 million dollars.

(Pictured L to R: Trustee Dave Wallace, Trustee Holly Milburn, Chris Coleman, TCB Development, Mayor Michael Einhorn, Village Administrator, Tom Durkin, Mike Flickinger, Reliance Capital Mgmt.)

Spring cleaning is vital for fire safety

Spring cleaning is an annual ritual for many people. Just as the first crocus of spring ushers in a new beginning for nature, our spring cleaning habits signify a fresh start for us after the long winter months.

Spring cleaning can take on another meaning. It's the ideal time to check your homes and yards for dangerous materials and unsafe conditions. Spend time to protect your family and your property.

Start by taking a few minutes to plan your safety clean up today. You will want to check each room in your house, including the attic and basement. Also, don't forget the garage, yard and storage shed.

Plan to do several things during your safety clean up, including:

- Check and correct frayed or damaged appliance cords, electrical wiring, fuses or breakers.
- Remove stacks of paper or magazines and take them to the Lions Club recycling center.
- Check for water leaks especially near electrical appliances.
- Check for proper clearance around your water heater and furnace.
- Properly store flammable liquids and home chemicals. Make sure that gasoline and cleaning fluids are well marked and are out of the reach of children and pets. Store them in a cool, dry place outside the house. Make sure all chemicals are kept under lock and key and out of the reach of children and pets.
- Clean up work areas. Put dangerous tools, adhesives, and matches or other work items away and out of any child's reach.
- Inventory all home and yard chemicals, paints and poisons. Store them according to their label. Properly dispose of any that are expired or leaking.
- Check and replace the battery in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Check your fire extinguishers. Know where they are located.
- Make sure all doors and windows open easily for fast escapes.
- Make sure your street numbers are posted properly and are visible from the street.
- Check and make sure you have a working flashlight and battery-powered radio for the approaching storm season.
- Check for trip hazards in your house and around your yard.

The next thing you should do is plan your escape in case of a fire.

Sit down with your family and have two ways out of every room. Have a meeting place outside the house for the whole family to gather. Practice the plan. Even the best plan is no good if you don't practice it.

You can do a lot to protect yourself, your family and your property. In fact, you are the key to your safety. A little time spent on simple common sense prevention will do a lot to make your home a safer place.

The Crete Fire Department wishes everyone to have a safe and fun filled summer.

CRETE FIRE DEPARTMENT HISTORY PROJECT

The Crete Fire Department is seeking your help in documenting and preserving the Department's history. The Department has formed a historical committee, responsible for the collection and safe-keeping of all documents, photographs, and other items of historical significance. The Department is especially interested in obtaining any photographs you may have of former department members, old Crete Fire Department apparatus, and fires. The Department will make copies of any historical documents and photographs and return the originals to their owners. Please contact Wayne Hameister at 672-7171 or Jim Boehner at 672-2727, or by e-mailing jboehner@villageofcrete.org.

Code Enforcement–Good Neighbor Relations

Being a good neighbor these days is more than just waving hello to them as they pull out of their driveway and past your house. Today it means that we all need to take a step back and look at our own property and see how it reflects on our own neighborhood and do our part to be a good neighbor. Below are seven things that you can do to help keep your property up to village code and improve property values throughout the neighborhood.

- Do you regularly let your grass grow higher than 8”.
- Is there peeling or flaking paint on your house that requires maintenance and repainting?
- Are your house numbers plainly visible from the street in contrasting color with a minimum of 4” in height so the fire and police department can find your house quickly in an emergency?
- Do you place your garbage out for pickup before 6:00pm the day before your scheduled pickup, or are the empty containers remaining out at the curb past the day of pickup?
- Are there any inoperable or unlicensed vehicles parked in your driveway?
- Is that swimming pool in your backyard maintained in a clean and sanitary manner with the proper fencing around your pool or property to keep small children from accessing?
- Are all your pets properly licensed with the village, and do you keep them from running at large throughout the neighborhood. When walking your pet on a leash, do you clean up after them?

While all of these items are part of the Village’s Municipal and Property Maintenance Codes, we can all do our part by eliminating or preventing these items from occurring in our own neighborhood.

From building good neighbor relations in our own neighborhood, comes building a great community, which benefits us all! Please contact the Code Enforcement Department if you have any questions or problems that we can be of help with!

News From the Clerk’s Office

Our picturesque Village of Crete offers beauty and ambiance in a country setting. It’s a year round recreation area with golfing to cross country skiing and hiking. This is a community that still values tee times and tee ball.

The Village officials are carefully planning for the future and making adjustments when necessary. And, although the Village is actively recruiting industry to an area that has been set aside for development, it continues to carefully plan for new home building, too. They are a cost conscious group who keep the cost of living in Crete not only reasonable but homebuyers will find a wide range of housing available.

Residents can enjoy the excellent parks and programs geared to every age group and the rich forest preserves nearby. Our state of the art schools and library make the town a great place for everyone. The Village services are excellent with our police, fire department and the public works working hard to keep our village in tip top shape.

The Clerk’s office offers a wide variety of services from garage sale permits for a mere \$5 and pet licenses for only \$3. Due to frugal accounting, we no longer pay for village stickers like other municipalities. The Clerk’s office also includes receiving applications for permits and licenses, and collections of various municipal fees.

We live in a changing world and we live in a changing community. Therefore, communication between our officials and the community is imperative. When there is no communication there is misunderstanding, suspicion and fear. When citizens are unaware of what is happening or they gets facts second hand, problems and misunderstanding occur. The only thing most people in the community know is what is published in some of our newspapers. This is only a small part of the real story. The Clerk and the Clerk’s office are the logical ones that handle the biggest share of public relations chores as they are communicating with the community daily. One way to learn about the Village and what is happening is to attend a village board meeting held on the second and fourth Monday of every month at 7 p.m. in the Village Hall. There is also a board agenda posted outside of the Village Hall on the village board or online at www.villageofcrete.org .

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villageofcrete.org

Postal Patron

Crete, IL 60417

Our next newsletter will be our Fall/Winter 2008 edition.

| <u>Important Numbers</u> | | <u>Village Hall Directory</u> | <u>Phone</u> | <u>Email</u> |
|--------------------------------|----------|--|--------------|-------------------------------|
| Police/Fire Emergency | 911 | Mayor Michael S. Einhorn—Village President | 672-5431 | meinhorn@villageofcrete.org |
| Police Non-Emergency | 672-0912 | Kathleen A. Wantuch—Village Clerk | 672-5431 | kwantuch@villageofcrete.org |
| Crete Park District | 672-6969 | Thomas J. Durkin, AICP—Village Administrator | 672-5431 | tdurkin@villageofcrete.org |
| Crete Library | 672-8017 | Michael E. Smith—Director of Building | 672-2731 | mesmith@villageofcrete.org |
| Crete Township Offices | 672-8279 | Barbara Ray, Administrative Assistant | 672-5431 | bray@villageofcrete.org |
| Crete Area Chamber of Commerce | 672-9216 | Phil Hameister—Supt. Of Public Works | 672-5431 | phameister@villageofcrete.org |
| Crete Mainstreet Association | 672-6644 | Paul VanDeraa—Police Chief | 672-0912 | pvanderaa@villageofcrete.org |
| Crete-Monee School Dist. 201-U | 367-8300 | Lyle Bachert—Fire Chief | 672-2727 | lbachert@villageofcrete.org |
| | | Marty Braccio—Code Enforcement Supervisor | 672-5431 | mbraccio@villageofcrete.org |
| | | Debra L. Hameister—Collector | 672-5431 | dhameister@villageofcrete.org |

Have a Safe, Happy and Healthy Spring & Summer!!!!