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MARYVILLE CONTINUES BUILDING BOOM

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By **NORMA MENDOZA**
njmendoza@aol.com

Development is still booming in the village of Maryville despite turndowns in construction across the nation. Mayor Larry Gullede said he thinks Maryville is No. 1 in Madison County for rate of growth.

"I think it looks good," Gullede said. "We're off to a good start - we've had 12 building permits so far this month and we issued more in 2007 than we did in 2006."

Several economic development opportunities are under development. A new Walgreens store is slated to stand on the corner of Routes 159 and 162, replacing Red'z Rib Shack.

The drug store and a retail center are being developed by Koman Properties of St. Louis.

Gullede said there has been new interest in the site next to the Collinsville-Maryville-Troy YMCA near the intersection of Route 159 and Interstate 55/70 and more interest has been shown in several

areas in the village.

The Cambridge House assisted living complex is only about three years old and a three-story medical building will be built on Vadalabene Drive near Route 159. Anderson Hospital has expanded the Women's Pavilion and added the Warren Billhartz Cancer Center.

Many physicians and other medical businesses have chosen Maryville for the location of their offices, attracted no doubt by the expanded hospital complex.

Several new subdivisions are under development and Lombardi's furniture store has just relocated to Route 157 in Maryville.

All of the new development has put a strain on roads only meant for rural traffic.

"We'll start soon on Lakeview Acres Road," Gullede said.

The village received a Governor's Initiative grant of \$1.8 million for the reconstruction of the road, which will be similar to the improvements to West Main Street.

"We've already got about \$400,000 upfront for the engineering work and I think we're about ready to ask for bids," he said.

Maryville also received several grants from the Illinois Department of Economic Opportunity for other projects in the village. A grant of \$25,000 will allow the construction of a fire-training facility on the 2 acres surrounding the village water tower at the end of East Main Street.

The metal structure will be built from large metal containers so it won't be consumed by fires set there for the purpose of allowing fire fighters to learn how to put them out and practice other firefighting methods.

"It'll be nice," Gullede said. "It will look just like someone's home."

A \$60,000 DCEO grant for parking will be used to add approximately 40 spaces to the lots in front of Village Hall and the Police Department and a \$25,000 DCEO grant is for the construction of a "super" pavilion on the west side of Drost Park.

The village has applied for a \$1 million low-interest loan from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency for the construction of a water-storage tank capable of holding a million to a million and a-half gallons. The village water system has so far been more than adequate for the needs of the village, but Gullede said with all of the new development

going on, more water is going to be needed in the future.

The Water Department is upgrading a water main from the water plant to the new addition to Stonebridge subdivision by increasing the diameter of the water main pipe.

The village plans to conduct a Special Census to account for the newcomers who have increased the official population of the village. The state reimburses municipalities an amount per capita calculated by a formula based on Motor Fuel Tax, income tax, and state use tax.

"I think it's \$130.75 for 2008," Gullede said. He estimates that the added population could mean as much as \$150,000 more in tax money reimbursed to the village in the first year.

The village has access to Interstates 55/70 and 270 and Routes 157 and 159.

A lot of traffic passes through the village every day. The mayor said the village seeks more commercial development such as a grocery store and more restaurants.

Maryville has no grocery store. It does have some restaurants, but Gullede said it could use more.

"I'd like to see a fast-food restaurant," he said.