

# THE ANCHOR

## Village of Fox Lake Newsletter



### *From the desk of the Mayor...*

I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays and I wish you a happy New Year. While Fox Lake faced several challenges in 2015, we also had many achievements and accomplishments. From our 911 center, Kalee Bowman received the State of Illinois 2015 Telecommunicator of the Year Award. The Village's Police Department is working toward accreditation with the Illinois Police Chiefs. Among the many sewer and water projects completed in 2015, we corrected a deficiency in our water system by constructing a water tower, which received the 2016 American Public Works Association (APWA) Lake Branch Project of the Year Disaster and Emergency Construction Award. This project not only remedied a water hammer problem, but also provided increased fire protection and, combined with the Fox Lake Fire Protection District improvements, resulted in an upgrade in our insurance rating. A second project increased fire protection capacity for our schools and residents.

The Regional Water Treatment Facility continues to serve several communities without issues. Our Street Department repaired more streets, sidewalks, and corrected more drainage problems throughout the Village in 2015 than it has in many years. Our Parks and Recreation Department continued to organize events for our residents throughout the year, with a staff of only one full-time and one part-time employee. However, the accomplishment I am most proud of is changing the culture in our Community Development Department. We have become business, *(continued on page 2)*

**FoxComm 911**  
Awarded the Accredited  
Center of Excellence Award



The Village is proud to announce that its FoxComm 911 Emergency Dispatch Center has been recognized as an Accredited Center of Excellence through the International Academies of Emergency Dispatch.

FoxComm is 1 of only 2 emergency 911 consolidated centers in Illinois to receive this distinguished Accreditation.

## In This Issue

Village Board Highlights p.02	Passport Parking p.04	Polar Plunge p.06
Business Spotlight p.03	Winter Preparation p.06	Senior Information p.07

## Register to Vote



The 2016 General Primary Election will be held on March 15 and the General Election will be held on November 8.

Your Vote Counts! Visit the Lake County

Clerk's Office at [www.lakecountyil.gov](http://www.lakecountyil.gov) for

information on voter registration and deadlines!

# Mayor's Message, continued

resident and development-friendly. Despite these successes, we still face many challenges. Residents will be asked two questions on the March ballot to decide the direction the Village will take. The first will be whether the Village of Fox Lake should annex into the Fox Lake Fire Protection District (FLFPD). Currently, the Village hires the FLFPD to provide ambulance and fire safety services. The Village collects property taxes for public safety and passes them along to the Fox Lake Fire Protection District. In addition to those taxes, the Village contributes \$210,000 annually to the FLFPD. If the referendum to annex into the FLFPD passes, Village residents will pay the same rate as FLFPD residents and the Village's \$210,000 contribution can be used for Village projects. Currently, the FLFPD has approximately 22,000 residents and the Village of Fox Lake has nearly 10,500 residents. About 58 percent of fire safety calls occur in Fox Lake. Combining the two entities will improve efficiency, remove politics from Public Safety and the FLFPD will have stability, no matter who is in office.

The second question will be whether to create a non-home-rule sales tax of 1%. The Police Department review of policies and practices revealed that we are three full-time officers and two clerical people short of optimal staffing. In addition, an internal review of our capital improvement needs (which included streets, vehicles, building maintenance and upgrades, Pace Bus service, façade improvement program, land acquisition and business incentive programs) revealed that we are about \$2,000,000 annually short of our goals. A non-home-rule sales tax would provide approximately \$800,000 in annual revenue. This tax would not affect restaurants and bars that already pay taxes for serving food; nor would it affect the purchase of prescription drugs, titled vehicles (cars, boats, etc.), or unprepared foods. If this referendum passes, much of the revenue generated will be paid by visitors to our Village, instead of completely by our residents. The Board and I can only provide information; we cannot recommend that you vote either for or against the referendum questions. I will be happy to speak to any group and provide information. As always, you can reach me at (847) 587-3943 or at [schmitd@foxlake.org](mailto:schmitd@foxlake.org).

## Village Board Highlights

### Amended

Intergovernmental Agreement with Lake County for Use of Lake County Plumbing Inspection Services.

Zoning Ordinance of the Village of Fox Lake to Provide for Short Term Housing Rentals.

Zoning Ordinance for Special Use to R-4 Planned Unit Development for Bella Terra Townhomes.

### Approved

Property Tax Levy, for the Fiscal year Beginning May 1, 2016 and ending April 30, 2017.

FEMA Floodplain Map Revisions to the Lake and McHenry County Watershed Development Ordinance.

Planned Unit Development for the Country Club Hills Subdivision.

### Authorized

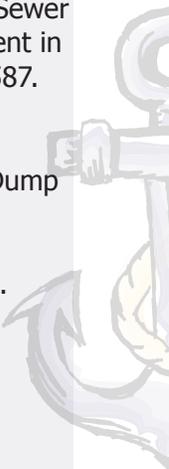
Bid for North Ave. and Glen Ave. Water Main Replacement Project to H. Linden & Sons Construction, in the amount of \$325,461.

Bid for North Water System Wells 1/2 Piping Improvements Project to Copenhaver Construction Inc., in the amount of \$97,900.

### Authorized

Purchase of a 2016 Ford F59 Chassis for the Sewer and Water Department in the amount of \$46,587.

Purchase of a 2016 International 7400 Dump Truck for the Street Department in the amount of \$154,800.



# Business Spotlight

## Welcome New Business

**WILD HAIR** | 29 E. Grand Avenue  
Hair Salon

**SUPERIOR EXTERIORS** | 34 E. Grand Avenue  
Contractor and Remodeling

**LAJOY PRECISION** | 123 Christopher Way  
Gunsmith

**LENTI INC.** | 131 E. Grand Avenue  
Trucking Dispatch

**KK Pretty Paws** | 130 Washington Street  
Pet Grooming

**Best Buy Auto Ltd.** | 35720 N. Route 12  
Automotive Sales



## Before You Hire A Contractor

Safeguard your rights as a consumer and make informed decisions!



The Illinois Home Repair and Remodeling Act requires contractors that are hired to perform home repairs provide a Consumer Rights Brochure to customers for any work exceeding 1,000. Included in this brochure is a Consumer Rights Acknowledgement Form. This brochure provides useful tips and guidance when entering into a contract for home repair or remodel.

To verify a business or contractor is registered with the state, visit the Secretary of State's website at [www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com). A handout from the Illinois Attorney General's Office on Consumer Rights regarding home repair is available on their website at [www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov](http://www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov). Other fairly simple and precautionary measures homeowners and business owners can take to help make informed decisions include checking with the Better Business Bureau at [www.bbb.org](http://www.bbb.org). Residents can also verify if a business or contractor is registered with the State of Illinois by utilizing the Secretary of State's website. These and other informational items are all available at the Community Development Department and on the Village's website at [www.foxlake.org](http://www.foxlake.org).

## New Staff, New Focus

The Community Development Department recently welcomed two new additions to its staff. Building Inspector Dave Watkins is here to answer any building-related questions that you might have. Several residents have requested better enforcement of Village codes and ordinances, and we are happy to report that a full-time Code Enforcement Official has joined the Village's team. Mark Kasperski is available to answer questions and respond to any nuisance violations in your neighborhood. Both individuals bring a wealth of knowledge and experience. Working together, we can improve the overall appearance and pride in our Village!

## Energy Efficient Lighting



Did you know the average household dedicates 5-10% of its energy budget to lighting? Typically, 50% or more energy is wasted by obsolete, inefficient or inadequately maintained lighting. Your monthly electric bill can be reduced by replacing incandescent lights with more efficient fluorescent or LED lighting, cleaning the existing lights and fixtures, or installing lower wattage bulbs, lamps or fixtures. Fluorescent and LED lighting lasts up to 20 times longer than typical incandescent lighting and uses far less energy.

# Passport Parking

The Village of Fox Lake now offers a mobile payment option for commuter parking at both the Fox Lake and Ingleside Metra Station Commuter Parking Lots. This new payment option allows commuters to pay for their daily parking via smartphones. You can also download the free Passport Parking app from the iPhone App Store or Android Google Play, or sign up and register at [www.ppprk.com](http://www.ppprk.com). With Passport Parking, you can enjoy the convenience of making payments on the go!

## Time to Bundle Up!

Winter weather is here and so are the cold temperatures and snow that accompanies it. The onset of cold weather can be dangerous for people, as cold weather causes arteries to constrict, thereby leaving some susceptible to heart attacks. When you add snow shoveling to that mix, you have the potential for a dangerous situation. Here are some tips to consider before shoveling snow.

- **START SLOW:** Let yourself get acclimated to the weather conditions and before assuming physical activity. You may be in a rush to get shoveling completed, but cold weather puts stress on your body. Try shoveling in stages, switching with a family member or taking a break from the harsh weather conditions.
- **WEAR CLOTHING ON YOUR FACE:** Wear a scarf or face mask over your mouth. The cold can constrict bronchial vessels in your lungs, making it difficult to breathe. Covering your mouth with a scarf or face mask can help retain warm air.
- **STAY HYDRATED:** Even in the winter months it is important to maintain adequate hydration. Your body needs the same amount of water in the winter as it does during the summer.
- **CHECK IN:** During the winter season, make an extra effort to check up on senior citizens or neighbors who have been shoveling.



## Wastewater Do's and Dont's

Just use it and flush it...what could be easier, right? Companies are now marketing dozens of products that offer the convenience of flushing personal wipes, diapers, facial tissues, doggie bags and kitty litter, just to name a few. These products might be good for business but they are bad for sewer systems. These so-called "flushable" products can cause costly damage to the community sewer system. A good rule of thumb is to never flush anything that requires a label that claims it is flushable. Sewer systems are designed to receive wastewater from kitchen utensil cleaning, bathing and human wastes. Bacteria and natural chemical processes break down these products so the remaining effluent is safe to release to the Fox River. Here are other items that shouldn't be put in the sewerage system:

- Don't pour cooking oil or fat down the sink. Cool the waste off and dispose as garbage.
- Don't wash food scraps, tea leaves or coffee grounds down the sink. These could be placed in a compost heap, to eventually go back to the garden.
- Use Phosphorus-free detergents whenever possible and only use manufacturer recommended amount.

# Winter is Here... And Our Crews are Ready!

Snow and ice control is one of the core responsibilities of the Street Department. During a winter weather advisory, equipment is readied and loaded with road salt. Typically, the Police Department notifies the Street Department when road conditions warrant snow and ice control. Snowplows are generally dispatched within 30 minutes after a winter weather emergency has been declared.

## **If Your Street Does Not Appear To Be Plowed**

The Village of Fox Lake will do everything it can to ensure your street is plowed and free of hazardous winter driving conditions. If your street appears to be unattended to, it may be because your street was among the first ones plowed when the snow emergency began. Please be patient as crews will continue to plow arterial streets and intersections until the snow emergency has stopped. Until then, you can do your part to speed along the plow process by keeping cars parked off Village streets until they are cleared of snow and ice.

## **Driveway Snow Shoveling**

The Village understands how frustrating it can be when a snowplow pushes snow from the street to the base of your driveway. Unfortunately, there is no way to avoid this nuisance if the streets are to be safe to drive on. When shoveling the end of the driveway near the street, shovel snow in the direction of traffic, and place the snow to the right of the driveway (as you face the street). By doing so, more snow that is plowed by our trucks will be dumped into that pocket and less snow on your driveway. If it is piled on the other side, it is more likely to be pushed into the driveway apron when the streets are being plowed.



### **Parking Restrictions**

After a snowfall of two or more inches, it is illegal to park on the streets until they have been completely cleared. Vehicles in violation are subject to ticketing and towing. If your vehicle has become disabled during a snowfall, contact the Police Department for assistance.



### **Avoid Frozen Pipe**

To avoid frozen pipes, make sure your basement is heated where the water meter and water pipes are located. Insulate water pipes that are against outside walls. Ensure all windows and cracks in are sealed. Also, consider letting your water run on a trickle during extreme cold periods.



### **Clear the Snow Around Your Nearest Fire Hydrant**

During an emergency, every second counts! The Village has 691 fire hydrants in public right-of-ways. You can do your part and help keep fire hydrants clear of snow around them in case emergency personnel need access to hydrants quickly!



### **Sidewalk Clearing**

It is the responsibility of residents and property owners to clear the sidewalks adjacent to their property whenever there is a snowfall. Residents and property owners are also responsible for laying salt, sawdust or sand to melt snow or ice and prevent slip hazards.

# Mark Your Calendar

## Leap Day!

FEB  
29

February 29th is Leap Day, which occurs every 4 years. A Leap Day is needed to keep our calendar in alignment with the Earth's revolutions around the Sun. If we didn't add a day on February 29 nearly every 4 years, we would lose almost six hours every year!

## Business & Family Expo

MAR  
5

The annual Fox Lake Area Chamber Business and Family Expo will be held on Saturday, March 5, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Grant Community High School. Entertainment and food vendors will be available. Don't miss this opportunity to showcase your business or home projects!

## All-You-Can-Eat Fish Fry

MAR  
11

Grant Township's 9th Annual Fish Fry will be held on Friday, March 11 at the American Legion Hall in Fox Lake. Dinner will be served from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. A donation of \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children 6 to 12 is appreciated. Children under 5 are free. Proceeds benefit "Field of Dreams." For more information, contact Grant Township at (847) 740-2233.

## FLVFD St. Patty's Day Dinner

MAR  
12

On Saturday, March 12, the Fox Lake Volunteer Fire Department will be hosting its annual St. Patty's Day Dinner and Dance/Vegas Night at Lakefront Park. Corned beef and cabbage will be served from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., with music by Empty Pockets to follow. Cost is \$10.00 for dinner, per person at the door. Admission after 7:00 p.m. is \$5.00.

## Egg Hunt & Bunny Luncheon

MAR  
19

Bring the whole family for a fun morning with the Easter Bunny! On Saturday, March 19, the Egg-Citing Egg Hunt and Bunny Luncheon will be held at Lakefront Park from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The Egg Hunt is for children up to age 10 and is free!

## Blood Drive

APR  
1

On Friday, April 1st, the Village will be hosting a blood drive in the Village Hall Board room from 12:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Appointments can be made by calling LifeSource at (877) 543-3768 or via online at [www.lifesource.org](http://www.lifesource.org). Please bring a photo ID with you.

## Polar Plunge

On Sunday, February 28, the Village, in partnership with Special Olympics Illinois, will host the annual Polar Plunge to benefit Special Olympics at Lakefront Park. Gather your friends and family to create a team to jump into the chilly waters and raise money for Special Olympics! All plungers must raise a minimum of \$100 and will receive a free Polar Plunge sweatshirt. To register, visit [www.plungeillinois.com](http://www.plungeillinois.com). The Polar Plunge will begin at 1:00 p.m. at Lakefront Park, 71 Nippersink Blvd. Gather your family and friends to create a team and raise money to earn incentive prizes. Join the coolest event of the winter and plunge for Special Olympics!



LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN  
**POLAR PLUNGE**



FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS ILLINOIS

# 2016 Village Meeting Schedule

2016  
Calendar

Meetings are typically held monthly at the Village Hall, 66 Thillen Drive.

Unless otherwise posted, all meetings are open to the public.

**911 Committee** - First Monday of March, June, September and December • 3:00 p.m.

**Board of Fire and Police Commissioners** – First Tuesday of January through the month of May, and then again on the First Tuesday of August through December • 6:00 p.m.

**Plan Commission** – First Wednesday and Third Tuesday of each month • 6:30 p.m.

**Village Board of Trustees Regular Meetings** – Second and Fourth Tuesday of each month • 6:30 p.m.

**Zoning Board of Appeals** – Second Wednesday and Fourth Thursday of each month • 6:30 p.m.

In addition to the above, various Boards meet from time-to-time on an unscheduled basis. Notices for these meetings, as well as any Special Meetings of the above listed Boards, will be posted on the Village website and the front door of the Village Hall, in addition to being sent to all registered news media in accordance with provisions of the Open Meetings Act. Board of Trustee Meeting Agendas and Approved Minutes are posted on the Village's website at [www.foxlake.org](http://www.foxlake.org). Meeting notices will also appear on the Village website. Please note, on occasion, meetings may be canceled. You may check with the Village Clerk to confirm dates and agendas at (847) 587-2151.

## Recycle Your Electronics



Did you receive a new computer, television, phone or printer over the holidays? Are you looking for a safe, environmentally friendly place to dispose of your old electronic item? The Solid Waste Agency of Lake County (SWALCO) has numerous drop-off locations that accept old electronic items. Visit their website at [www.swalco.org](http://www.swalco.org) for a complete list of acceptable items and drop-off locations.

## Safety Cameras in Nursing Homes

Families concerned about the care of their loved ones in a long-term care facility can now rest a bit easy, thanks to a new law that allows monitoring cameras to be installed in rooms occupied by their loved ones. Families must bear the cost for purchase and installation, but the new law can provide peace of mind to residents and their loved ones. The law requires signed consent from the resident, their roommate and stipulates that a notification be posted outside of the resident's room. Visit [www.aarp.org](http://www.aarp.org) for more information.

## Senior Friends... Save the Date!

**February 18:** Senior Lunch - Lakefront Park - 11:30 am. Entertainment by Dennis Koppo. Cost is \$8.00.

**March 4:** Rules of the Road - Grant Township - 10:00 am. Contact Grant Township at (847) 740-2233 for more info.

**March 17:** Senior Lunch - Lakefront Park - 11:30 a.m. Entertainment by Ernie Garner. Cost is \$8.00.

**April 21:** Senior Lunch - Lakefront Park - 11:30 am. Entertainment by Brian Fowler. Cost is \$8.00.

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## Contact Information

### Village of Fox Lake

66 Thillen Drive  
Fox Lake, Illinois 60020  
www.foxlake.org

### Village Hall Hours

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday – Friday

### Village Officials

Mayor Donny Schmit

### Trustees

Jeff Jensen	Brian Marr
Bernice Konwent	Greg Murrey
Nancy Koske	Ron Stochl

### Village Clerk

Niki Warden

### Village Administrator

Anne Marrin

Emergency.....	911
Village Hall.....	587-2151
(includes Administration & Finance)	
Community Development.....	587-3176
Police Dept (non-emergency).....	587-3100
Street Dept.....	587-8570
Parks and Recreation.....	587-3944
Water and Sewer.....	587-3506
Northwest Regional.....	587-3694

All phone numbers are (847) area code.

The Anchor is the official newsletter for the Village of Fox Lake. Comments regarding the newsletter should be directed to the Village Administrator.

## Budget Award

The Village of Fox Lake's Fiscal Year 2014/15 budget has received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) of the United States and Canada. This marks the third consecutive year the Village has received this award recognizing the Village's commitment to meet the highest principles and standards of governmental budgeting. Congratulations to Finance Director/Treasurer Stephanie Hannon and the Finance Department on a job well done!

