



From The Desk of The Mayor

Summer 2015

The Village Focus



As I write this, Winter has ended, and Spring, though it is off to a slow start, has finally arrived. I am finishing my 2nd year as your Mayor. While we have accomplished many goals in the previous two years, there are still many challenges that we must face as a community. With the changes in Springfield, there is uncertainty regarding the funding that we will receive from the State. We passed our 2015-2016 budget on April 28th, not knowing the full impact that the unfunded mandates, cuts and new philosophies in Springfield will have upon us.

When the State cuts to our Village are finalized, we will create a financial plan to meet our needs. We are anticipating small to modest increases in development. While it will be a year before we will realize any monies from this development, it will result in increased property taxes, sewer and water sales and greater permit and impact fees. These revenue increases will help offset the reductions in our funds that I will explain below. Here are some of the financial challenges that we are facing. Right now, in addition to the money collected from the ambulance and corporate fire tax as part of your property tax bill, the Village contributes over \$200,000 a year to the Fire Protection District. As mandated by the State, we must also pay an additional \$200,000 in 2015 and 2016 to fund the Police Pension Fund.

The proposed cut to our funds from Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF) for 2015 is \$520,000. The LGDF is our portion of several State taxes, including the State Income Tax. The State also withheld our March 2015 Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) payment, approximately \$17,500. In addition to the MFT and LGDF cuts, there is legislation that will end our right to have the redlight camera at Routes 12 & 134 in 2017. Since the camera has been in place, accidents at that intersection have declined dramatically. In addition to the safety concerns raised by removing the cameras, the loss of revenue to the Village will be approximately \$168,000 each year.

Another loss of funding is the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) that we have traditionally received from Lake County. Historically, we have received approximately \$100,000.00 each year, which we used for maintenance and rebuilding of our streets. This year, due to a directive from Washington D.C., the CDBG grants are to be used for affordable housing. The funds from the County that we have come to rely on will not be available to us this year.

This is a loss of close to a million and a half dollars that will cause us to either spend our reserves, which will affect our bond rating, cut services to our residents or find alternate sources of revenue. Reducing staff is not a viable option. Staff was reduced in 2008 to skeleton crews. A few examples of staffing are, we currently have 1 ½ people in our Parks and Recreation Department. There are 3 ½ people in our Community Development Department which also handles Code enforcement and building inspections. 10 people (9 outside workers and an office person) work in the Street Department, which is responsible for 66 miles of streets, maintaining over 25 Village buildings, and the entire storm sewer system, just to name a few of their duties. Each Department is operating at minimum manpower staffing.

Village News

From the Desk of the Mayor (continued):

We received notice that our PARC Grant for Lakefront Park has been suspended. As the grant schedule dictated, we had strict deadlines to achieve certain milestones and were proceeding with the project on schedule. We had already spent over \$100,000, as prescribed in the Grant, when we were notified of the suspension of the Grant. Our Legislators are working hard to insure that we receive the funds expended to date and that our project will be given top priority when funding becomes available again.

We are currently enforcing the 2014-2015 vehicle sticker program. The 2014-2015 vehicle stickers that you have purchased will be good until February 2016. At that time, based on the State cuts, we will determine if the program will continue.

The vehicle sticker program has been in place since the 1960's. The program was created to insure that along with the parking meters and the Motor Fuel Tax, the necessary funds would be available to maintain our roads. When Lakeland Plaza was built as a concession to the Grand Avenue business owners, the parking meters on Grand Avenue were removed.

In the 1970's and 1980's and early 90's, vigorous enforcement of the vehicle sticker program took place. Roadblocks were set up in several locations during the year with the sole purpose of enforcing the vehicle sticker program and compliance was nearly 100%. Due to a change in the law, we can no longer set up roadblocks and compliance with the program has dropped.

So far, this year, over 6,000 residents have purchased their vehicle stickers. It is not fair that they bear the burden of financing the street program while others do not.

The entire Administration is working hard to lessen the effect that the State and County reductions in funding will have on our residents. Please plan on attending the Town Hall Meeting in September. This will be your opportunity to ask any questions and make suggestions.

Enjoy the Spring and Summer. As always, e-mail me at schmitd@foxlake.org or call me at 847-587-3943 or 847-875-5136.

Village Administrator - Anne Marrin

Village of Fox Lake Road Projects 2015-16

The Village will be performing its Phase III Road Projects beginning in August. The roads include Meade Court from North Pistakee Lake Road to U.S. Route 12; North Pistakee Lake Road from West Grand Avenue to Route 12; South Pistakee Lake Road from West Grand Avenue to the dead end and West Grand Avenue from Pistakee Lake Road to the dead end. These improvements will include replacement of curb and sidewalks. We are currently in the engineering phase and expect to be out for bid in July with construction to start in late August. The entire project will take approximately 8 weeks weather permitting.

We are also planning the 2015-2016 Road Projects. These include the reconstruction of Sayton Road from Industrial Avenue north and west to U.S. Route 12, including storm sewers, inlets and detention. The Village received Surface Transportation Funding (STP) in the amount of \$1.4 million for this project. Also in 2015-2016, IDOT will be working on the replacement of the U.S. Route 12 bridge over Route 59. The Village is coordinating with them on this project and we look forward to having the bridge work completed in 2016. We will keep you updated on all projects as they are scheduled.

Village News

From the ESDA Desk - Supervisor Annette Wolf



Summer is here and I am sure we are all looking forward to that getaway with the family to enjoy the sun and better weather. When planning for your getaway, keep in mind emergency preparedness measures. If you are traveling outside of the area you reside, research what disasters you may be susceptible to. A relaxing vacation can be interrupted by Mother Nature and it is best to be over prepared than in a situation verses of being unprepared.

Here are some tips to prepare for vacations away and close by:

Before you leave

- Pack a travel size emergency kit to include; water, snacks, first-aid kit, small battery-operated radio, extra batteries, emergency contact card and a map of the local area.
- Always have a communication plan to include a list or programming of everyone's cell phone numbers for whom you are traveling with. Please include a contact that is home or out of the area you are in, in case you are unable to make local calls. This helps if there is a separation, allowing each person to contact that one out of area person for check in's.
- If you are traveling internationally make sure to register with the U.S. Department of State through a free online service at <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/>. The Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP). The benefits include receiving important information from the Embassy about safety conditions in your destination country, helping you make informed decisions about your travel plans, helps the U. S. Embassy contact you in an emergency, whether natural disaster, civil unrest, or family emergency and helps family and friends get in touch with you in an emergency.

During your trip

- When traveling by car, check the forecast for your entire route before and during your trip. Weather conditions change drastically, especially if thunderstorms are expected.
- Bring along a travel radio and/or install a mobile app that will allow you to geographically receive alerts for severe weather changes.
- Familiarize yourself with the emergency plans in your hotel or where you are staying as soon as you arrive.

Village News

Finance Director - Stephanie Hannon

Pay Your Village of Fox Lake
Utilities... Vehicle Stickers... Police Parking/Ordinance Violations...
Commuter Parking Passes... and Animal Tags...



Online

Set up **Auto-Pay** for the amount of your bill or a fixed amount, make an immediate payment or schedule a payment.

Help keep costs down, receive your bill online!

Pay ONLINE

Go to www.foxlake.org

1. Click "Bill Pay"
2. Click on type of bill to pay
3. You will go to our payment processor's website where you should register and make your payment

View Utility Bills Online

Go to www.foxlake.org

1. Click "Bill Pay"
2. Click on Utility Payment
3. You will go to our payment processor's website where you should register
4. You will get an email each time your bill is ready

You don't have to pay online to view your bills online.

GO **GREEN**
opt out of
paper bills

Payment processing by
PSN
Payment Service Network, Inc.

VISA



Village News

Sewer and Water Department - Supervisor Rocky Horvath

2014 Consumer Confidence Reports Now Available

Our 2014 Consumer Confidence Reports are now available for both of our water systems. These reports detail the quality of the water we provide to our residents. We are pleased to report no violations for 2014. A copy of these reports can be obtained at <http://www.foxlake.org/> or a paper copy may be obtained at the Village Office.

Annual system maintenance programs are in progress:

1. Hydrant flushing program. Hydrants are flushed two times per year to flush sediment from the water mains and ensure hydrants work properly.
2. Sewer cleaning program. All sewers are cleaned on a regular schedule. This helps ensure their correct operation and reduces the risk of sewer backups.
3. Sewer televising program. All sewers are inspected with video equipment on a regular schedule. Defects are located and repaired. This ensures our collection system operates correctly.

Roots in Sewer Laterals: The continual flow of water found in sewer pipes attracts tree roots. Roots growing along the pipes can exert significant pressure on pipes and can ultimately enter the pipe through small cracks and at pipe joints that may have opened up over time. This root infiltration can cause a blockage in the sewer line servicing your home, resulting in sewage backing up in your home and causing damage to your property. Residents are responsible for maintaining the lateral that services their property. We would like to remind our residents with spring approaching if you have had issues with roots in your sewer lateral in the past this is a good time of year for preventative root removal.

What to Do If There's a Sewer Blockage or Backup:

1. Immediately stop all water usage, as backups are typically caused by the plumbing within your home or business. Turn off washing machines, dishwashers, showers and anything that uses water. (If the backup is only affecting a single appliance the problem is most likely a clogged drain servicing that appliance.)
2. If the backup is causing water to exit a floor drain, then you should contact the Sewer and Water Department by calling (847)587-3100 (Please indicate that you are experiencing a "Sewer Backup".)
3. Residents should be aware, however, that the Village is responsible for the public sewer main only. The homeowner is responsible for any cleaning or root removal of the sewer service (lateral) from the house or building to the public sewer main.
4. Village staff will be dispatched to inspect the upstream and downstream manhole servicing your property. If it has been determined that no blockage or restrictions exist within the Village's sanitary sewer system, we will advise residents to contact a professional specializing in drain cleaning to have their sewer service cleaned and inspected.

Water Fact: According to the Beverage Marketing Corporation, the average wholesale price per gallon of domestic non-sparkling bottled water was \$1.21 in 2013. For the price of 2.57 gallons of bottled water you could purchase 1,000 gallons of Village water at \$3.10 per thousand gallons.

Holiday Park Tower Update: Construction of the Holiday Park Tower is on schedule and residents should begin to see steel being erected in the spring and summer. The anticipated completion date is still November 2015.

Contact Us: Is there a sewer or water issue that is affecting you or your neighborhood? Do you have questions or concerns about water quality? Please contact the sewer and water department at (847)587-3506 or email horvathr@foxlake.org and we will help.

Village News

Community Development - Donovan Day

Summer Project Time Is Here!

This is an exciting time of year for Building & Community Development staff! The snow has melted from the lawns, the lakes have shed their icy skins, and our phone is ringing constantly from residents and businesses eager to get their permits and start their summer projects. Your Building & Community Development Team was busy over the winter streamlining our permitting process to make your permitting experience more pleasant, more efficient, and all around easier to navigate. As mentioned in the last newsletter, window, siding and, roof, permits can now be issued over the counter. If the applicant brings in all of the necessary paperwork we can send you on your way with a permit in hand. Call us to find out what's required prior to visiting us. We look forward to working with you!

Don't Assume...Take Action!

When there's a code enforcement issue in your neighborhood, have you ever heard someone ask, "When is the Village going to take care of that?" If you hear that or find yourself asking it, please take action and call us to get the answer. Contact us to let us know about the issue so we can act on it. There's no reason to be ashamed about having pride in your property, your neighborhood, and your Village! All complaints and concerns brought to our attention are kept anonymous. Well-kept neighborhoods enhance community pride, so allow us to be your ally and work with you to take care of nuisances within your neighborhood and Village.

Calling All Entrepreneurs!

Business ideas are sometimes born on a napkin, evolve into a business plan, and eventually need a storefront to move the new business into. Fox Lake wants you in the downtown! Your Board of Trustees, Village staff, and local not-for-profits such as Promote Fox Lake, Fox Lake Area Chamber of Commerce and the Lions Club are aggressively pursuing improvements to your downtown area from East and West Grand Ave. and along Nippersink Blvd. to Lakefront Park. The completion of unique beautification projects to a downtown enhances the character and liveliness of the area. Filling vacant storefronts with your business that started out as a dream is our dream. We want you to invest in the downtown area alongside of us. Downtowns are the heart of any municipality, and it takes the entire community to keep that proverbial heart beating strong. Strengthening the public/private bond between our existing businesses and encouraging future local retailers to expand into our downtown is vital to our Village's success.

Please contact your Community Development Director, Donovan Day, if you are interested in expanding your business into a storefront within the Village. If you don't have the resources to move into a storefront on your own we may be able to partner you with someone who needs half the space, and can share costs associated with renting the storefront. Often times we have to get creative and think outside of the box to take that idea from the napkin to reality. We are here to help you.

Building & Community Development staff can be reached at 847-587-3176.

Parks and Recreation News



The Village of Fox Lake participates in Swalco's Reuse a Shoe program year round!

This year we collected over 525 pairs of shoes! Special thanks to the Stanton Middle School life skills class for helping prepare the shoes for the shoe round up! There was counting, and tying and other labor that was done, and we appreciate the support!

We have collection containers for shoes at the following locations:

Village Hall, 66 Thillen Dr.
Lakefront Park, 71 Nippersink Blvd.
Community Center, 23 South Street

The only shoes that CANNOT be turned in are: Roller-skates or Rollerblades, or ice skates and Winter Boots.

Additionally, there is a clothing/textile recycle bin located at Village Hall for items such as clothes, blankets, comforters, sheets, curtains, and most other fabrics.

Please do not deposit anything into this container that is not on the approved list on the front of the container.

Parks and Recreation News



“Concert by the Lake”

A Musical Venue under the Stars
June 20, 2015 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Lakefront Park, 71 Nippersink Blvd.
Fox Lake

Entertainment by: “The Hat Guys!”

Enjoy a night of Live Music & Dancing!
Food and Beverage will be available for purchase.
Bring your lawn chairs and blankets!

(Children under the age of 18 must remain with adult at all times)



Saturday, July 19, 2014 at DUSK
Lakefront Park, 71 Nippersink Blvd.

We will be showing BIG HERO 6, Rated PG.

There will be complimentary popcorn. Beverages will be available to purchase. Bring your blanket or lawn chairs!

There is NO ALCOHOL ALLOWED IN THE PARK.

Parks and Recreation



CELEBRATE FOX LAKE

Saturday, July 4, 2015

Lakefront Park, 71 Nippersink Blvd.

The parade kicks-off at 10:00 a.m. beginning at Grant High School.
The parade is sponsored by the Fox Lake Area Chamber of Commerce.

Festivities begin at Lakefront Park at 11:00 a.m. and continue until 11:00 p.m.

Celebrate Fox Lake is a family friendly event that features:

*Live music by ENOUGH SAID from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.



*70 Foot Obstacle Course *Face Painting & Balloon Artist

*Food & Beer Garden *Games, Euro Buggy & Mechanical Bull Ride

*Craft & Vendor Show plus MORE!

* \$10 wristbands for participants include all day activities!

**FIREWORKS SHOW WILL BE ON NIPPERSINK LAKE AND ARE
BEING HELD COURTESY OF CHAIN-O-LAKES FIREWORKS!**

For information on how to donate, please visit www.keepthesparkalive.com

Village News

Parks and Recreation - Amy Serafin

Senior Friends~ Save the date for upcoming luncheon's and trips!

Grant Township Senior Picnic ~Thursday, June 18, 2015 Join us for our Annual Senior Picnic. A B-B-Q lunch will be served. Entertainment by: Larry Breidenbach. There is limited seating, and registration is required. Cost is \$5.00 PER PERSON
To register, call Grant Township at 847-740-2233.

November 19, 2015 ~ Trip to Rosewood (Formerly Millie's Pancake House) in Delavan, WI. Cost is \$50.00 per person and includes: chartered bus transportation, lunch and Cabaret Show. Registration must be received by November 6, 2015.

Northwest Regional Water Reclamation Facility - Director Ryan Kelly

Inflow and Infiltration

(I/I) Inflow and Infiltration (sometimes called excess flow or E.F.) are terms for the ways that snow melt, stormwater runoff and groundwater make their way into sanitary sewer pipes and eventually get treated, unnecessarily, at wastewater treatment plants.

Inflow is when clear water enters the wastewater system through sump pumps or foundation drains that are illegally connected to sewer lines. Inflow is greatest during major storm events. Infiltration is when groundwater seeps into cracked or broken wastewater pipes.

Infiltration is a steady contributor to the problem, causing water that should be filtering down and recharging the areas aquifers to end up going through the Wastewater Treatment Plant and eventually flowing down the Fox River.

I/I is a problem because it uses up fixed capacity in sewer pipes, pump stations and the wastewater treatment plant. Increased inflow during heavy rains result in unnecessary expenses.

Inflow is the biggest problem because during major rain a sump pump can add over 7,000 gallons of clear water to the wastewater system in 24 hours, the equivalent of the normal daily flow from 40 homes. In more extreme rain events, inflow can cause sewer backups into homes and businesses.

What can homeowners do about I/I?

- Familiarize yourself with your house plumbing system. If you have roof downspouts that are piped underground, a sump pump that has no identifiable discharge point, or foundation drains that don't discharge to the road side ditch or other low point on the lot, you may be contributing to the problem.
- Disconnect unlawful connections to the sewer system.

Taking these steps will help the environment and reduce unnecessary treatment costs associated with treating stormwater that enters the sanitary sewer system.

Village News

Street Department - Supervisor Dan Miller

We have begun cleaning debris from sidewalks and A.D.A. ramps. Soon we will be deploying our street sweeper. We will sweep every Village street, however we initially concentrate on curb and gutter streets. This is done to help minimize infiltration into our storm sewer system. Please be patient if your street is not immediately done. Please do not rake lawn debris into the street. The street sweeper is not made to pick up grass, leaves, or twigs. This only slows down operations. Putting debris into the street is a violation of Village code.

We will resume our weekly branch pick up around mid-April. The procedure to schedule a pick up remains the same. Call (847)587-8570 before 3:00 p.m. Thursday afternoon for a Friday pick up. Visit the Village website for additional information on what qualifies as branch pick up. Remember this service is for homeowners doing their own trimming. We cannot and will not take yard and/or garden waste.

To report street light outages call (847)587-8570. Generally speaking if this light is mounted on a wooden pole, we need to notify Com Ed. To expedite reporting, please notify us with the 12 digit number on the pole. The black digits on a yellow background are usually mounted vertically.

Please feel free to call us with any Street Department issues or concerns.

FoxComm 911 Center - Annette Wolf

Village Code 5-2-1 allows for leaves to be burned on private property between the periods of April 1 to June 1 during spring. Although spring burning season is over, please keep the following in mind during fall burning.

As we clear our properties please be mindful of other residents with medical ailments such as asthma, may not be able to tolerate the smoke created by burning leaf piles. Under the village code burning shall not cause injury, detriment, nuisance or annoyance to the public or to endanger the health, comfort, repose, safety or welfare of the public.

Please consider the following:

- Burning leaves may spark health problems such as coughing, wheezing, chest pain, shortness of breath. This is due to the moisture trapped in the leaves producing airborne particulates (fine bits of dust, soot and other solid materials). If you experience any of these symptoms extinguish your pile and seek medical treatment if necessary or 911 if any breathing difficulty or dizziness occurs.
- Small fires can turn into large fires quickly. Be mindful of the weather conditions particularly gusty winds, which can cause ash to blow into other properties.
- If you or your immediate neighbor has health ailments consider mulching your debris. This process actually feeds all the beneficial microorganisms in the soil.



Presorted Standard

U.S. Postage

PAID

Permit No. 117

Fox Lake, IL 60020

66 Thillen Drive
Fox Lake, Illinois 60020
WWW.FOXLAKE.ORG

Mayor: Donny Schmit
Clerk: Niki Warden

Trustees: Jeff Jensen
Bernie Konwent
Nancy E. Koske
Greg Murrey
Ron Stochl
Brian Marr

Postal Customer

Village Meetings - Agendas and minutes are available on-line at www.foxlake.org

Welcome to our New Businesses!

E.L. Parts LLC - 123 Christopher Way
Bella's Bouncies, Inc. - 720 E Grand Avenue
Weatherwise Insulation Inc. - 145 Christopher
Ozinga Ready Mix - 28955 Route 173
Aitutti Industrial Solutions - 34 E. Grand
Truckmasters Inc. - 119 Christopher
Lake Spa - 31 Town Center
Patriot Towing - 90 US Route 12