



THE ANCHOR

Village of Fox Lake Newsletter

From the desk of the Mayor...



During my tenure as mayor for the past seven years, we have faced many challenges. We have had two, one hundred year floods in addition to several lesser, but damaging floods, a polar vortex and record snowfalls, water hammers with damage to hundreds of homes; we were a national news story and have recovered from a recession.

Together, as a community, we have met all these challenges and we are stronger for it. We come together as a community like no other when we face difficulty. We now face another challenge, the COVID-19 pandemic. We are under a national and state Shelter in Place order. We are being bombarded with information that seems to be changing on a daily basis. One of the issues that I have to deal with is that many do not agree with the national and state directives and ask me to allow them to circumvent the order. I do not have the authority to grant the concessions that I am asked to do.

My duty and the duty of the Village Board is to provide essential services to our residents. Among these essential services are emergency services, which include Police protection, 911 service and Fire protection. When you call 911, you want someone to answer the phone. When you have an emergency, you want the police and fire departments to respond.

Another essential service which cannot be interrupted for any reason is sewer and water. When you turn on the faucet, you expect water to come out. When you pull the plug in the bath tub, you expect the water to go somewhere. In addition to our local sewer and water, we treat on average nine million gallons of effluent water per day from nine communities at the treatment plant on Rollins Road. On days when it rains, we treat up to 30 million gallons per day.

As part of being fiscally responsible, we maintain a minimal work force. For example, the street department consists of nine employees and the Local Sewer and Water Department has seven employees. We are able to perform as much as we do with the small number of people we have because we have the finest, most dedicated and highly trained employees anywhere.

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**Village Hall
offices closed**

May 25

July 3

FROM THE DESK OF THE MAYOR

CONTINUED...

But it also makes us vulnerable in times where a pandemic exists.

We have to plan for every eventuality. Our Village Administrator and her staff have been working extremely hard to make sure there is no interruption in service to you. The Village Hall is closed to the public, but we are still working to serve you. In order to protect Village employees and our residents, yet still provide all the essential services, we have split shifts working at Village Hall. Half of the employees work at the Village Hall and the remainder of the staff is working from home. Splitting shifts is how we are able to ensure we will meet the needs of the Village.

When it comes to the Coronavirus, we are heading into uncharted territory. No one knows how long the Shelter in Place order will last. Yet, by law, our budget for the year has to be passed by May 1, 2020. We have to make financial decisions that are the best for our residents, who are facing financial difficulties of their own, and yet not harm the Village in the short or long term.

We have been asked to waive water bills and late fees, rebate sales tax, rebate property tax, waive liquor license and business fees and provide other assistance. The popular thing to do would be to waive all the fees and taxes and to borrow more money. But that would set the Village back for years to come, increasing debt, endangering future projects and limiting the ability of future administrations to provide services. Our Community Development Department is working to find ways to assist our businesses who are adversely affected by the Shelter in Place Order.

The best accounting practices require the Village to maintain 3-6 months of reserves. We have reserves of slightly over four months. If we drop below three months of reserves, our bond rating and our ability to borrow money at reasonable rates are affected. As a Village, with the anticipated reduction in revenues, we are facing a financial crisis, both in the short term and long term futures.

It would not be prudent to make decisions without the real facts of the financial effect of the pandemic. Normally, we pass our budget before May 1, and a budget amendment is made once a year in December. Budgets are projections based on the best information at the time. Budget amendments are made to reflect what has actually occurred during the year.

In order to meet our obligations, we will be reviewing the budget and making adjustments every three months, based on the facts. We know we are going to incur a loss of income. The best projections now are a 20% loss of revenue. Every department is being asked to reduce their already frugal budgets in anticipation of the decline in revenues, just as our residents who are furloughed or working reduced hours or not working at all have to make adjustments to their own personal budgets.

I have lived in Fox Lake my entire life. In my mind, there is not a better place in the country to live. My parents raised their family here, I raised my family here, and my children have also raised their families here. I'm proud to say that I am from Fox Lake and always have been proud to say so.

Over the years, I have donated over \$100,000 in construction services to the Village and Fire Department. I have coached youth football and wrestling, been on the volunteer fire department over 20 years, volunteered for my church and the Lions Club and many other organizations. I took a six figure reduction in pay per year when I became Mayor. I am not a wealthy person, pay the same water bills, property taxes and face many of the same money issues as all of you do.

To me, there is not a better job in the world than being Mayor or a better place to raise a family than Fox Lake. My reward is watching new generations raising their families in Fox Lake and experiencing the same things I did growing up.

I have never made a decision based on getting elected and won't start now. My decisions are always based on what I think is best for Fox Lake. Our Village Board is also just as dedicated and makes their decisions the same way. I know that whatever decisions I make, I will be criticized. If we have an event or a parade, I will be questioned why we are spending money on an event and not lowering the water bills, or fixing a road.

FROM THE DESK OF THE MAYOR

CONTINUED...

Part of the resurgence in Fox Lake is due to the events we have. Businesses benefit from our events. People come to our town and see we are a great town and return.

We received many complaints from residents about leaf burning. COVID-19 is an airborne respiratory disease. Not all people who are afflicted with the virus are hospitalized and most are able to recover at home. I spoke to our Fire Chief and we felt it was best to ban leaf burning for this Spring. Our Village Board and the Fox Lake Fire Protection District felt it was in the best interest to protect those that might be stricken with this respiratory virus to pass legislation to ban burning this Spring. Personally, I am going to mow my leaves into the grass for this Spring. For those who want to remove the leaves, there are bags and stickers at Val's for Waste Management pickup.

Back to getting criticized, in less than three days after banning burning for the spring, I have been told that I am stupid, a wimp, it's not enforceable, sworn at on social media and also been praised for making the decision. You can't please everyone, so you just do what you think is right.

Finally, please help us help you. Fill out the census. It takes less than five minutes and our children, seniors and all of us will suffer if you don't.

Stay strong, we will get through this latest challenge together.

As always, you can reach me at (847) 587-3943 or at schmidt@foxlake.org.



Donny

BUSINESS UPDATES

Several businesses have opened their doors or expanded in Fox Lake. Thank you and welcome!

- Aelite Chimney Specialties LLC - 127 Christopher Way
- Premier Comfort Heating & Cooling - 143 S. Route 12
- Balanced Phone Repair LLC - 2 W. Grand Avenue #112

Interested in opening or expanding your business in Fox Lake?

Contact Community Development Director, Donovan Day at (847) 587-3176 or by email at dayd@foxlake.org.

SPECIAL EVENT AND PROGRAM NOTICE

The Village of Fox Lake is currently monitoring the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) and will be making decisions regarding event cancellations as information is available.

To keep up-to-date with program cancellations please "Like" the Village of Fox Lake Facebook Page, as well as the Village of Fox Lake Parks and Recreation Facebook Page. Additionally, you can visit the Village's website at www.foxlake.org for information on cancellations.

Thank you in advance for your patience during this time. For questions please call (224) 225 - 1404.

ANCHOR AWARD

HONORING THOSE THAT SERVE THE COMMUNITY OF FOX LAKE

Chain O Lakes Sports

The Anchor Award is a quarterly award presented to a local group, business, or organization within the Fox Lake community. Organizations that receive the award will be presented with a plaque at a Village of Fox Lake Board Meeting and an article published in the Village Newsletter about the organization. Please contact Mayor Schmit at schmitd@foxlake.org if you know of an organization within Fox Lake that should receive this award. This quarter's Anchor Award goes to Chain O Lakes Sports for their generosity to the Annual Youth Fishing Derby, and other area organizations.

Chain O Lakes Sports is located on 62 N, US Route 12 in Fox Lake. This year, Chain O Lakes Sports will be celebrating twenty-five years in business.

Rich and Mary Popowczak moved from Chicago to the Chain O Lakes area in 1989. As avid fishermen and hunters, they opened Chain O Lakes (Bait and Tackle) Sports in 1995. Both Rich and Mary have over forty-five years of experience in retail.

Chain O Lakes Sports proudly sponsors many different fishing events and organizations. Chain O Lakes Sports has sponsored the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4H, and many others. They also have sponsored the Village's Youth Fishing Derby since the inception of the event.

The Youth Fishing Derby is part of the Fox Lake Fish Fest which also includes the Mayor's Fish Fry. Chain O Lakes Sports donates not only their time for the Youth Fishing Derby by helping young attendees weigh and measure their fish, but also ensures that every participant goes home with something to remember the event. For the winners of the Youth Fishing Derby, Chain O Lakes Sports donates a fisherman's dream with prize packages consisting of fishing poles, bait, tackle boxes, lures, and more. Chain O Lakes Sports has also been an asset to the Parks and Recreation Department in planning the event, marketing the event, and helping increase attendance year over year.

The 2020 Fox Lake Fish Fest will be held on September 18, 2020 and September 19, 2020. The Mayor's Fish Fry will be held on Friday, September 18, 2020 from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. The following morning - Saturday, September 19, 2020 the Youth Fishing Derby will be held starting at 8:00 a.m. until noon.

Chain O Lakes Sports would like to thank Mayor Schmit for being the 1st Mayor to involve the youth in fishing through the Youth Fishing Derby and by hosting his famous Mayor's Fish Fry.

Chain O Lakes Sports would also like to thank all of their customers, family, and friends who have supported them over the last twenty-five years.



ILLEGAL DUMPING

It is illegal to dump trash in dumpsters placed on private property unless given permission by the owner of the dumpster to do so. This includes dumpsters that are placed on construction sites, commercial dumpsters at businesses, and other trash receptacles placed on private property.

In addition, under the Illinois criminal state law 720 ILCS 5/47-15, a person who violates this section is guilty of a Class B misdemeanor for which the court must impose a minimum fine of \$500 for the first offense and subsequent offenses up to a Class 4 felony. Any violators are liable to the owners for any costs incurred by the owner or person for cleaning up and properly disposing of the garbage.

The Police Department is required to investigate illegal dumping and when appropriate, file charges and make arrests. FLPD encourage citizens to exercise vigilance in identifying and reporting illegal dumping as soon as it is observed.

For questions or to report any illegal dumping activity, please contact the Police Department at (847) 587-3100.

LEAF BURNING BAN

On April 14, 2020 the Village of Fox Lake Board passed Ordinance 2020-12 which bans leaf burning from April 14, 2020 through June 1, 2020.

This decision was made based on recommendation from the Centers for Disease Control which outlines those at high-risk for severe illness from COVID-19 include people of all ages with underlying medical conditions such as chronic lung disease, or asthma.

As such, people with respiratory illness/diseases need to be as healthy as possible during the COVID-19 pandemic as smoke and contaminants could exacerbate some residents' respiratory issues and compromise their ability to fend off COVID-19.

The Fox Lake Fire Protection District has also banned open burning for the entire FLFPD. Their resources are limited during this challenging time, and responding to open burning complaints or uncontrolled open burns would use resources that would be better served assisting ill residents.

Contact Village Hall at (847) 587-2151 or visit the FLFPD website at <https://flfpd.org/> for questions.

2020 CENSUS INFORMATION

The Village of Fox Lake is reminding everyone to complete the 2020 Census via online, phone, or by mail! If you do not complete the US Census, a Census worker will be coming to your home to assist you in completing. When completing, you should complete the Census using April 1, 2020 as the date for those living under your roof.

The Census is crucial for local communities like Fox Lake. Some examples of programs that are determined by Census results include:

- Roadway and Infrastructure funding for local communities
- National School Lunch Program, which helps feed many Fox Lake school children
- Senior Programs and aid for local seniors
- Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant Programs
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
- Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program

Many Fox Lake residents currently utilize a variety of the programs above and rely on them. It has been estimated that around each counted person provides \$1,500 for their local communities through these programs per year.

If you have already completed the 2020 Census please encourage your friends, family, and neighbors to complete the Census. To complete takes no more than five minutes.

If you are ready to complete the U.S. Census, visit: <https://my2020census.gov/login>

2020 CENSUS INFORMATION

2020 Census FAQ

What is the census?

The census is a count of every person who lives in the United States and its territories. It happens every 10 years. In early 2020, you will be asked to count everyone who lives in your home as of April 1. Responding to the 2020 Census is a chance to shape your future.

What's in it for me?



Your responses inform where over \$675 billion is distributed each year to communities nationwide for clinics, schools, roads, and more.



Census data gives community leaders vital information to make decisions about building community centers, opening businesses, and planning for the future.



Responding also fulfills your civic duty because it's mandated by the U.S. Constitution. The United States has counted its population every 10 years since 1790.



Your responses are used to redraw legislative districts and determine the number of seats your state has in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Is my information safe?

Your responses to the 2020 Census are safe, secure, and protected by federal law. Your answers can only be used to produce statistics. They cannot be used against you by any government agency or court in any way—not by the FBI, not by the CIA, not by the DHS, and not by ICE.

When can I respond to the census?

In early 2020, every household in America will receive a notice to complete the census online, by phone, or by mail. In May, the U.S. Census Bureau will begin following up in person with households that have yet to respond.

What will I be asked?

You will be asked a few simple questions, like age, sex, and the number of people who live in your home, including children.

What won't be asked?

The census will never ask for Social Security numbers, bank or credit card numbers, money or donations, or anything related to political parties.

For more information, visit:

2020CENSUS.GOV

D-FA-GP-EN-034

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Census
2020

COVID 19 INFORMATION

What you need to know about coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

What is coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)?

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. The virus that causes COVID-19 is a novel coronavirus that was first identified during an investigation into an outbreak in Wuhan, China.

Can people in the U.S. get COVID-19?

Yes. COVID-19 is spreading from person to person in parts of the United States. Risk of infection with COVID-19 is higher for people who are close contacts of someone known to have COVID-19, for example healthcare workers, or household members. Other people at higher risk for infection are those who live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19. Learn more about places with ongoing spread at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/transmission.html#geographic>.

Have there been cases of COVID-19 in the U.S.?

Yes. The first case of COVID-19 in the United States was reported on January 21, 2020. The current count of cases of COVID-19 in the United States is available on CDC's webpage at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-in-us.html>.

How does COVID-19 spread?

The virus that causes COVID-19 probably emerged from an animal source, but is now spreading from person to person. The virus is thought to spread mainly between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet) through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. It also may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads. Learn what is known about the spread of newly emerged coronaviruses at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/transmission.html>.

What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

Patients with COVID-19 have had mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms of

- fever
- cough
- shortness of breath

What are severe complications from this virus?

Some patients have pneumonia in both lungs, multi-organ failure and in some cases death.

How can I help protect myself?

People can help protect themselves from respiratory illness with everyday preventive actions.

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.

If you are sick, to keep from spreading respiratory illness to others, you should

- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

What should I do if I recently traveled from an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19?

If you have traveled from an affected area, there may be restrictions on your movements for up to 2 weeks. If you develop symptoms during that period (fever, cough, trouble breathing), seek medical advice. Call the office of your health care provider before you go, and tell them about your travel and your symptoms. They will give you instructions on how to get care without exposing other people to your illness. While sick, avoid contact with people, don't go out and delay any travel to reduce the possibility of spreading illness to others.

Is there a vaccine?

There is currently no vaccine to protect against COVID-19. The best way to prevent infection is to take everyday preventive actions, like avoiding close contact with people who are sick and washing your hands often.

Is there a treatment?

There is no specific antiviral treatment for COVID-19. People with COVID-19 can seek medical care to help relieve symptoms.

[cdc.gov/COVID19](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov)



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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	Danice Moore
Ron Stochl	Nancy Koske

Village Clerk

Amy Driscoll

Village Administrator

Anne Marrin

Emergency	911
Village Hall	587-2151
(Includes Administration & Finance)	
Community Development	587-3176
Police Dept (non-emergency)	587-3100
Public Works	587-8570
Parks and Recreation	(224) 225-1404
Northwest Regional	587-3694

All phone numbers are (847) area code, except for
Parks and Recreation which is (224).

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

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PARKS PARTNER GOLD SPONSOR 2019-2020

Thank you to Thelen Sand and Gravel for once again being a Parks Partner Gold Sponsor for the year 2019-2020. Parks Partners make it possible for the Village to fund various Parks and Recreation Programs.

