

# THE ANCHOR

Village of Fox Lake Newsletter

## From the desk of the Mayor...



I hope everyone is enjoying summer and even though it's on a limited basis, we continue to enjoy our beautiful town, the lakes, our neighbors and the many treasures that make this one of the best places on earth to live and raise a family.

With that being said, we are in the midst of a country-wide pandemic. Normally, when there is a natural disaster, like a tornado or flood, there usually is not any debate about whether it is or isn't real. That is not the case with COVID-19. I haven't seen our country this divided since the Vietnam war era. When it comes to the COVID issue, it seems like it has gone from a scientific, medical issue to a political one.

In order to keep our employees safe, and still provide all the essential services our residents rely on, the Village Hall is closed to the public and meetings are held virtually. Village Board meetings are the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at 6:30 P.M. You can find the link to the Village Board meeting agenda on the Village website on the Friday afternoon prior to each meeting. Public comment is always allowed and encouraged. All permits are still required and the Community Development Department is fully operational. Call or contact us online and we will assist you.

I receive many calls about the recovery phases. For every call I get saying that this is a "spamdemic" and to defy the Governor and open all the businesses, as businesses cannot survive and people are going to lose their houses, I get an equal number of calls asking me "What is the hurry to open businesses? Don't you realize that people are going to die? What does a month or two matter at this point?" The calls always end with the caller asking me to take leadership and support their position.

My position has not and will not change. I took an oath to uphold the constitution of the State of Illinois when I took my oath of office. I have a duty to uphold the laws of the State, not a duty to decide which ones I like or agree with and uphold those laws, but to not enforce the laws I disagree with.

*Continued on page 2...*

## Special Event & Program Updates

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](http://www.foxlake.org) for information on cancellations.

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

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offices closed**

September 7

November  
26 & 27

# FROM THE DESK OF THE MAYOR

CONTINUED...

I consulted with the Illinois Municipal League, which has an extensive legal team and represents over 1,200 communities in the state of Illinois and received the following guidance:

*It is recommended that all communities comply with the Governor's executive orders for the protection of their residents throughout this public health crisis. If a municipality wishes to deviate from the executive orders, municipal officials should consult with their legal counsel or retained attorney prior to taking any formal or informal action that would conflict with the executive orders, as that could create liability exposure to the municipal government or those municipal officials.*

I had our administrator check if we would be covered by our insurance if someone caught corona at an event or at a business that we allowed to operate in violation of the Shelter in Place Order and there was a class action suit in which we were named. The insurance company said we would not be covered and they would not defend us. Our reserves could be wiped out quickly in a law suit. I never want to put Fox Lake in a precarious position. Our reserves could be depleted quickly if we were in a suit where we had no insurance.

On a personnel level, I wear a mask. I wear it in public when I shop or walk to a table in a restaurant or anytime, I cannot maintain a safe social distance. I do it, not for myself, but to protect others. My wife is battling cancer, after his two tours of duty in Iraq, my disabled veteran son is in poor health and my granddaughter and daughter who both live with me both have immune deficiencies. While I do not like wearing a mask, I could not live with it if I were the reason that one of my loved ones or anyone else became ill or worse because I did not do something as simple as wear a mask in public.

Reluctantly, we had to cancel many of the activities and events that are summertime staples that I have volunteered for, participated in, and look forward to each year. Our youth programs, fireworks, cardboard boat races, triathlon, Bloody Mary Fest, summer concert series, fishing derby and fish fry and many other programs had to be canceled. There were two deciding factors. First and foremost was the safety of our residents. There will be opportunities to have these events in the future and we will restore these events when it is safe to do so. The other factor in the decision is that the Village would be at risk legally and financially if we defied the "Shelter in Place Order" and "Recovery Phases" mandated by the state.

It seems as if we are bombarded with medical and financial information about the "virus" and it is difficult discerning what is real and what is not. There are many business and municipal funding opportunities from the Federal, State and County. We share this information with our businesses and encourage them to take advantage of these opportunities. Some of the applications are intimidating and if you need help navigating through the forms, contact us, if we cannot help, we will direct you to help.

Our staff is working to acquire the municipal assistance from the Federal, State and County governments. We have applied for over \$12 million in grants. While we will not be able to repair roads in our neighborhoods, we were able to receive funding for Nippersink Boulevard and will complete that project this year.

As we always do, we come together as a community during trying times. This is what I am most proud of when I talk about Fox Lake. We help each other during times of need. Many donations of funds, food and volunteer hours have been made by our residents and businesses. If you wish to volunteer or make a donation, contact me or the Village Hall and we will direct you to those in need.

Have a great summer and stay safe.

As always, you can reach me at 847-587-3943 or email me at [schmitd@foxlake.org](mailto:schmitd@foxlake.org)



Donny



# ANCHOR AWARD

*HONORING THOSE THAT SERVE THE COMMUNITY OF FOX LAKE*

## Ray Scarpelli and the Ray Group

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](mailto:schmitd@foxlake.org) if you know of an organization within Fox Lake that should receive this award. This quarter's Anchor Award goes to Ray Scarpelli and the Ray Group for their generosity to the Fox Lake Community.

Ray Chevrolet was established in 1991 by Ray Scarpelli Jr and his father Ray Sr. beginning with a two-car showroom and about 20 employees. The Ray Auto Group now consists of two stores Ray Chevrolet and Ray Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram, employing more than 130 people.

Ray and his family's work in the community by supporting numerous organizations including the Big Play Program donating over \$300,000 thus far to local high schools. In addition, Ray hosts the annual "Kids Christmas Party" in which the kids receive gifts and a shopping spree with the Fox Lake Police and Fire Department.

Ray supports local food drives and has helped Catholic Charities raise more than \$80,000. Every year Ray Auto Group holds a "BBQ for the troops" event supporting families of fallen soldiers as well as soldiers that are in need of any assistance. Thus far the dealership has raised over \$90,000 for military families. Ray Chevrolet is a four-time Dealer of the Year recipient thanks in large part to their loyal customers and dedicated staff. This is General Motors most prestigious dealership award.

Ray and his wife Lisa have two children, Ray and Samantha. Their son Ray, a third generation Scarpelli is working alongside his father in the automobile business.



## VILLAGE OF FOX LAKE MOBILE APP

The Village of Fox Lake launched the Village's new Mobile App that is now available on the App Store - Apple and Google Play.

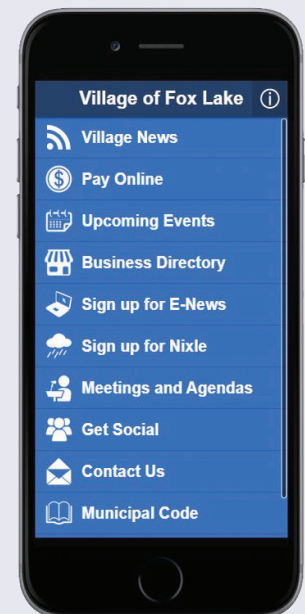
The Village of Fox Lake Mobile App was developed in-house and provides one-stop access to Village news, payment portals, upcoming event information, social media, business directory and more.

The Village of Fox Lake Mobile App serves as a linking tool, linking users to secure payment portals for easy payment, providing easy access to the Village's online municipal code, and access to all Village Social Media pages.

Through this tool, users are able to sign up for emergency alerts (Nixle) as well as the Village's weekly e-newsletter.

Download the Village's mobile app please visit Google Play (Android) and the App Store (iPhone).

For questions please call (847) 587-2151.



# MILLENNIUM PARK CONSTRUCTION



The Village was awarded a grant by Lake County Storm Water Management for improvements at Millennium Park near Grand Avenue and Rollins Road. The grant allows us to make enhancements to the park and remove invasive species from the existing wetland area. Other improvements include the installation of a permeable walking path that connects the existing Chain O Lakes bike path to the park's green area, two new bridges that span the waterway, and permeable brick pavers.

Recently the invasive species was mitigated and we expect it to be removed in the coming weeks, it is the Village's goal to eradicate the invasive species during this project. In addition to cleaning up the wetland area, Public Works staff has been working on installing decking on the bridges for aesthetic and safety purposes. The overall goal of this project was to improve the park, and the wetlands, while promoting sustainable infrastructure throughout town.

We expect the project to be completed in the coming weeks, bringing another area in town to enjoy for years to come.

## BUILDING PERMIT APPLICATIONS

Community Development has seen an increase in building permit applications from January through July of this year compared to the same months in 2019. We attribute this to the amount of residents who are at home during the COVID-19 pandemic and working on their honey-do lists. We've also found an increase in work being done without the necessary permits. Several residents have stated they heard Village Hall was closed and permits were unable to be obtained. Fortunately, each department has not stopped serving you, and Community Development is still here to assist you with your projects.

The process has changed while our office is closed to the public, but we are here to answer your questions and guide you through the electronic permit process. If you don't have access to a computer or printer we can deliver permit applications to you while our inspectors are in the field. Village Hall has a drop box located near the front door where residents and contractors can drop off their paperwork. Our building inspector is taking every precaution necessary while inspecting work on the interior of homes. Facemasks, shoe coverings, and gloves are worn during the inspection and hand sanitizer is used before and after the inspection. Permit applications and information on the types of work requiring a permit can be found on the Village's website by clicking the "Applications and Forms" tab on the front page or by visiting the department's webpage. We look forward to serving you!

## INTERESTED IN OPENING A BUSINESS IN FOX LAKE?

**CONTACT THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

**(847) 587-3176**

# IDENTITY THEFT SCAM ALERT

Did you receive a debit card from the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) in the mail, but you did not file for IDES benefits? It's very likely a scam! The Fox Lake Police Department and the surrounding communities have recently taken several reports of Identity Theft regarding individuals who did not apply for unemployment through the state, but received benefit claim information.

If you receive a letter and/or debit card from IDES without filing, residents are encouraged to:

- DO NOT use the card or call the number and provide personal information
- Monitor your credit
- Report to IDES under Reporting Unemployment Insurance
- File a police report if your identity has been stolen

Due to COVID-19 Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion are now offering free weekly online reports through [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com) until April 30, 2021.

Make sure you review your credit report carefully for anything unusual or credit cards you did not apply for. If you find you are a victim of identity theft, make sure you file a police report with your local police.

## SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING

The Department of Homeland Security and the Village of Fox Lake Police Department are reminding residents to "see something, say something."

If you see illegal or suspicious activity, please report to the Village of Fox Lake Police Department directly. As a reminder, do not report suspicious activity through websites, or email as they are not as frequently monitored as emergency phone lines.

To report suspicious activity, contact the Village of Fox Lake Police Department by calling 9-1-1. To assist local officers, describe specifically what you observed including:

- **Who** or **what** you saw;
- **When** you saw it;
- **Where** it occurred; and
- **Why** it's suspicious.

## LEAF BURNING

Leaves may be burned on private property between the period of April 1st to June 1st and September 1st to December 1st, each year. Burning of leaves must be at least 30' from any structure. Please have a garden hose or other means to extinguish the fire within close proximity.

As a courtesy to your neighbors, only burn leaves on days when the wind won't affect neighboring properties. A better solution for fall leaves is to shred them and use them as mulch around your garden beds and trees. They decompose into rich and natural fertilizer for your gardens and trees and worms love shredded leaves.

For questions, please call Village Hall at (847) 587-2151.



# 2020 VILLAGE NEWS

## SUMMER WATER SAVING TIPS

Summer can increase a typical family's freshwater use by almost 100%.

Here are several tips to reduce your summer water use for lawn and garden maintenance:

- **Irrigate at Night:** Watering your lawn at night or during the early morning hours can reduce evaporation up to 30% or more, depending on your location.
- **Avoid High Wind Watering:** High winds can evaporate water or blow it away from the target zone; this lowers your sprinkler's efficiency and wastes water.
- **Don't Over Water Your Lawn:** Your yard only needs about an inch of water per week to stay healthy, established gardens require a little less. Watering infrequently but deeply will inhibit a deep root growth, keeping your lawn viable for years to come. Over watering has been linked to pesticide and fertilizers being introduced into streams and rivers so avoidance is the best practice all around.
- **Use Rain Barrels:** Capture the naturally occurring rain and store it for use in your garden or yard. Many systems can be hooked right up to your sprinklers using solar or traditional powered pumps.
- **Don't Water the Street:** Thousands of gallons of water are wasted each day in neighborhoods and homes that have improperly positioned sprinkler heads. Take special care to make sure your sprinkler heads and hoses put the water where it is really needed.



## SIGN-UP FOR THE E-NEWSLETTER

Sign-up for the Village of Fox Lake weekly E-Newsletter - The E-Anchor.

Every Friday at 1:00 p.m., receive updates in your email with Village events, news, programs and more!

To sign-up visit the Village of Fox Lake website, or Village of Fox Lake Facebook page.



Welcome to The E-Anchor

Welcome to the Village of Fox Lake E-Newsletter!  
Published every Friday, stay up-to-date with Village news.

[Visit our website](#)

## VIRTUAL PROGRAMMING

The Village of Fox Lake Parks and Recreation Department is offering virtual programming for the community. The programs can be found on the Village of Fox Lake Parks and Recreation Facebook Page. Program information can also be found at [www.foxlake.org](http://www.foxlake.org).



Programs include Senior Coffee Talks, Craft of the Week, Trivia Tuesdays, Workout Wednesdays, Theme day Thursdays, and Physical Fridays.

For questions please call the Parks & Recreation Department at (224) 225-1404

# 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.

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 and rely on a variety of the programs above. Each counted person provides approximately \$1,500 for their local communities through these programs each year.

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

If you are ready to complete the U.S. Census, visit: <https://my2020census.gov/login> or call 844-330-2020.



## Respond to the 2020 Census online.

The 2020 Census is here, and it's your chance to shape your community's future. You can respond online using a mobile phone, tablet, or computer — even if you haven't received your census invitation.

### Responding is as easy as 1-2-3:

1. Visit 2020CENSUS.GOV and click "Respond."
2. Complete the online form. Be sure to include everyone who lives in your household.
3. You're done!

Shape  
your future  
START HERE >

United States<sup>®</sup>  
Census  
2020

D-HP-RU-EN-480

# COVID-19



State of Illinois  
Illinois Department of Public Health

## COVID-19 General Prevention

Protect yourself from all infectious diseases by using these precautions.



Stay home when  
you are sick



Avoid contact with  
people who are sick



Get adequate sleep and  
eat well-balanced meals



Wash hands often with soap  
and water for 20 seconds or  
longer and dry hands with  
a clean towel or air dry



Wear a cloth face  
cover when going  
out in public



Avoid touching your eyes,  
nose, or mouth with  
unwashed hands or after  
touching surfaces



Cover your mouth with  
a tissue or sleeve when  
coughing or sneezing



Clean and disinfect "high  
touch" surfaces often



Call before visiting  
your doctor

Clean all "high-touch" surfaces every day.

High touch surfaces include counters, tabletops, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, toilets, phones, keyboards, tables and bedside tables. Use a household cleaning spray or wipe, according to the label instructions. Labels contain instructions for safe and effective use of the cleaning product, including precautions you should take when applying the product, such as wearing gloves and making sure you have good ventilation during use of the product.



**Questions about COVID-19?**  
Call 1-800-889-3931 or email [dph.sick@illinois.gov](mailto:dph.sick@illinois.gov)  
Illinois Department of Public Health - [www.dph.illinois.gov](http://www.dph.illinois.gov)

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IOC120-673

# BILL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



**Bill  
Payment  
Assistance**

## ComEd is here to help.

### **BILL PAYMENT ASSISTANCE FOR INCOME ELIGIBLE CUSTOMERS**

As the economy reopens, ComEd recognizes you may be experiencing financial hardship, so we are offering additional bill assistance to help you pay your energy bill.

### **PROGRAM DETAILS**

The ComEd Bill Payment Assistance Program helps income eligible customers who are past-due on their energy bills.

- Eligible customers can receive a one-time bill assistance credit of up to \$500 for past-due balances, up to the amount of the balance.
- Available only for a limited time! The Bill Payment Assistance Program expires on 12/31/2020 or until funds are exhausted, whichever comes first.
- Funds are available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

Residential customers who are eligible to receive Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) benefits:

- must have received a LIHEAP grant after October 1, 2019; **and**
- must currently have a past-due balance on their ComEd account.

OR

Residential customers who are income eligible but not LIHEAP approved:

- must complete an application form, which includes verification that they are income qualified (household income of 200% or less of Federal Poverty Level (FPL)); **and**
- must currently have a past-due balance on their ComEd account.

### **APPLY NOW!**

To learn more about eligibility requirements and apply for a Bill Payment Assistance Program credit:

Call 1-800-EDISON-1 (1-800-334-7661)  
or visit [ComEd.com/BillAssistance](https://www.comed.com/BillAssistance)



**ComEd**<sup>®</sup>  
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**powering lives**

# 2020 FOX LAKE FARMERS MARKET



The Fox Lake Farmers Market is committed to supporting locally grown and produced foods. Located at 17 E. School Ct. every Tuesday from 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. June through September, the Fox Lake Farmers Market brings the Fox Lake and surrounding communities the very best and freshest produce of the season.

The continuation of the Fox Lake Farmers Market relies on our vendors and shoppers to follow a critical new set of health and safety guidelines due to COVID-19. This season we will be operating under the In-and-Out Market Guidelines recommended by the Illinois Farmers Market Association. These guidelines are being put in place to create a safe shopping experience for our customers and vendors.

In previous years there has been entertainment, theme days, and activities. In order to promote social distancing and a quick shopping experience, we have eliminated our entertainment as well as our scheduled theme days.

Please keep in mind that the situation is evolving rapidly, and we will continue to provide necessary updates. For additional information please visit our website at [www.foxlakefarmersmarket.com](http://www.foxlakefarmersmarket.com) or call (224) 225-1404.

## 2020 SUMMER ART SERIES

For the past two years, the Fox Lake Summer Art Series has celebrated local art and music on our Community Garden Green. This year, the Village of Fox Lake has partnered with the Fox Lake - Grant Township Area Historical Society and the Grant Community High School Art Department on our photography exhibit. The exhibit is located at 17 E School Ct. and will be on display all summer long.

There are 22 different collages that each feature a historic Fox Lake photo, a recent photo of the same location, and a historic narrative. The collages were designed and put together by GCHS Teachers, Chris Carlson and Peggy Zegler. Along with the photos, each collage has a historic narrative written by Village Historian, Paul Jakstas from the Fox Lake - Grant Township Area Historical Society.



Due to COVID-19 the Friday Night Concert Series which is a part of the Fox Lake Summer Art Series, has been canceled this year. The Village of Fox Lake encourages our community to view the photography exhibit this summer while practicing social distancing. This project exceptionally showcases the rich history within the Village of Fox Lake. The Village is grateful for the assistance provided by the partnering organizations in putting together this photography exhibit for the community to enjoy this summer.

For more information please visit [www.foxlakesummerartseries.com](http://www.foxlakesummerartseries.com) or call (224) 225-1404.

# 2020 YOUTH SPORTS

## 2020 Outdoor Youth Sports



### Lil Pint Soccer

Friday

9/11 - 10/9

5:00 to 5:50 p.m - 3-5 yrs. old

Cost \$57.00

Lakefront Park



### Soccer Training

Friday

9/11 - 10/9

6:00 to 7:00 p.m. - 6-8 yrs.old

Cost \$57.00

Lakefront Park

## Youth Sports Safety Guidelines

- No more than 20 people including the instructors.
- Drills only, no contact sports or games and no contact between individuals.
- Maintain social distancing.
- No shared equipment. Participants who do not have their own equipment will be provided sanitized equipment.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided before and during classes.
- Spectators and participants not engaging in activity must wear a mask.
- The program must be 30 feet from any other groups. Parents spectating must remain at least 30 feet away from the group.



**SPORTS R US**  
*We put the "U" in Fun!*

## How to Register

Registration and payments (cash or check) should be turned into the drop box outside of Village Hall located at 66 Thillen Dr. Fox Lake, IL 60020. Registration forms can be found at [www.foxlake.org/105/Applications-Forms](http://www.foxlake.org/105/Applications-Forms) under the Parks & Recreation tab.

For questions regarding the program, please call (224) 225-1404  
For questions regarding payment, please call (847) 587-2151

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Visit Us

**foxlake.org**

## Contact Information

### Village of Fox Lake

66 Thillen Drive  
Fox Lake, Illinois 60020  
[www.foxlake.org](http://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
<i>(Includes Administration &amp; Finance)</i>	
Community Development .....	587-3176
Police Dept <i>(non-emergency)</i> .....	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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\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSS\*\*\*\*\*

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FOX LAKE, IL 60020**

## FOX LAKE WINS DISTINGUISHED BUDGET AWARD

The Village of Fox Lake is pleased to have received the distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year Budget from the Government Finance Officers Association.

**This is the seventh year in a row Fox Lake has  
received this award.**

In order to receive the budget award, the Village of Fox Lake had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation

