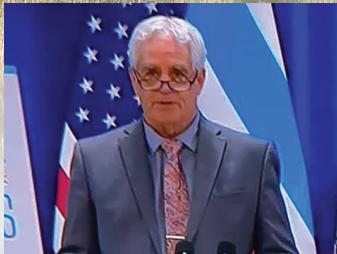


THE ANCHOR

Village of Fox Lake Newsletter

From the desk of the Mayor...



It appears that the life-threatening course of the pandemic is nearing an end. More and more people are receiving the vaccine every day. Unfortunately, it was not in time for many of our friends, family and loved ones. We all know someone who contracted the virus and either did not survive, or had debilitating symptoms. We also know others who contracted the virus and had no symptoms. I received my first vaccination on March 5. Hopefully, everyone who wants a vaccination will have one soon.

I would like to say how proud of our community I am. Our community has come together, as we always do, to help our neighbors in need. Every month, the Northern Illinois Food Bank hosts a popup food pantry. It is so heartwarming to see the dozens of volunteers working in the cold and rain to help their neighbors in need. What is especially encouraging is the number of students who are there helping. The new food pantry site is at the old Dominic's grocery store off Route 12.

Judy Martini, Grant Township, Jewel/Osco and your village arranged for a vaccination to take place for 1,000 residents at Big Hollow School. Again, our community responded to the call to help. Over 40 volunteers signed up to help their neighbors and 1,000 people received the vaccination.

Every Friday, the Village posts upcoming events and news. Sign up to receive these updates.

The next step for the Village will be to get back to normal as quickly and safely as we can. We will follow the guidelines from the Health Department and err on the side of safety. After a year of restrictions, everyone is anxious to get back to normal, as am I, but the end of restrictions is in sight, so we must be patient and safe.

In the very near future, we will be re-opening the Village Hall to the public. We are in the process of scheduling events again, but also creating contingency plans in the event that changes have to be made.

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**Village Hall
offices
closed**

May 31
July 5

FROM THE DESK OF THE MAYOR

CONTINUED...

Public safety, the police and fire departments, schedule vacations and off days around these events. Financial commitments have to be made months in advance of events and many of these commitments are nonrefundable.

Two of the events that I missed the most are the Fourth of July activities and Friday night football at the high school. As of this writing, both of these activities are restricted to 50 people or less. I hope that the parades, fireworks, fishing derby, fish fry, Bloody Mary Fest, farmers market, summer concerts and all the other events that we enjoy are able to happen this summer.

We are pleased to announce that Donovan Day will be returning to the Village in a new and improved role. Our business community is the heart and soul of Fox Lake, and we are pleased to announce a new position dedicated to supporting current businesses and recruiting new into town. Donovan is a perfect fit for this position and we welcome him back to Fox Lake.

Last year, due to the financial uncertainty of the pandemic, we implemented a hiring freeze on employees. When people retired or moved on to other opportunities, we did not fill those positions. We will now begin filling the vacancies. In addition to filling the Village Administrator vacancy, almost every department has been working shorthanded and we will fill those positions also. Our employees deserve a lot of credit for their dedication and keeping the Village moving forward. It was through their efforts that we were able to provide all the essential services without interruption.

Despite all the progress we have made, there are things that need to be improved, and we will work on them. I'm sure there will be some haters out there that will want to focus on negatives. No matter what we do, there is the same small group of people who throw stones at us, and criticize everything we do, but have never been to a board meeting or volunteered for anything. Sometimes I have to laugh at their take on things, sometimes I am angered with the misinformation they pose as facts, but either way, I choose to focus on all the positive things we have accomplished in the past years and look to the future.

My focus for the upcoming year will be on repairing the local streets. Work on Nippersink Road has already begun. On the list of projects for this spring are repairing Holly Avenue and Hickory Street. We also have applied for and hope to receive a grant that will address the flooding and street repair in Knollwood Subdivision. We will also be repairing the streets in the neighborhoods as much as our funds will allow. We have worked hard to get grants to pay for projects in the past and will continue to do so in the future. The other major focus will be further expansion of our Lakefront. We will ask for input, as we always do, and a plan will be implemented.

I look forward to seeing you all at our events this Spring and Summer.

As always, you can email me at schmitd@foxlake.org or call me at 847-587-3943.



Donny

ANCHOR AWARD

HONORING THOSE THAT SERVE THE COMMUNITY OF FOX LAKE

GCHS National Honor Society

The Anchor Award is a quarterly Award presented to a local group or organization within our 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 the Grant Community High School National Honor Society.

The National Honor Society (NHS) is an organization established to recognize outstanding high school students. The purpose of the Grant Chapter of the National Honor Society is to create enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote leadership, and to develop character in the students of GCHS.

Students in NHS assisted at 51 school and community related events in 2020/2021 including multiple pop-up food pantries held by the Northern Illinois Food Bank. As many Grant NHS students have dedicated themselves to leadership and service, they have been represented at many more than the 51 service events organized by the school. These are students who successfully maintain a focus on academics while being very giving of their time at the school and in the community. Many also maintain part-time employment while finding time for academics and service. They demonstrate high standards of character and are excellent role models for their peers at Grant Community High School.

National Honor Society recognizes students for their accomplishments, and also challenges them to develop further through active involvement in school activities and community service.

There are several qualifications for membership:

Scholarship

- To be eligible for membership candidates in grades 10-12 must have earned a cumulative scholastic average of 87.5% or a grade point average of 3.5.

Service

- This involves voluntary contributions made by a student to the school or community, done without compensation.

Leadership

- Student leaders are those who are resourceful, good problem solvers, and idea contributors. Leadership experiences can be drawn from school or community activities while working with or for others.

Character

- The student of good character is cooperative; demonstrates high standards of honesty and reliability; shows courtesy, concern, and respect for others; and generally maintains a clean disciplinary record.

NHS members complete many service projects throughout the year that benefit the Fox Lake community including the Fox Lake Pumpkin Jubilee, Rotary / NHS Spaghetti Dinner, Fox Lake Clean-up, Rotary Christmas Party at Camp Duncan, PADS lunch making and more.

Members also commit to a service partnership, gain leadership experience, volunteer to teach peers, and represent Grant Community High School at a Leadership Conference annually.

We are thankful for the continued support and partnership with NHS and are pleased to honor the members with this quarter's Anchor Award.

NIPPERSINK BLVD RECONSTRUCTION



The Nippersink Blvd Reconstruction project began late February. This project will consist of reconstructing curbs, gutters, and sidewalks along Nippersink Blvd as well as drainage improvements. The project will also allow for ADA upgrades and separated bike lanes on both sides of the pavement, allowing for safer travel for residents. A new retaining wall is set to be constructed along with landscaping restoration. Businesses will still be open during construction along with the Metra station.

Road closures are set to occur during the duration of construction, but alternate routes will be available for those traveling this road.

INTERCONNECT PHASE II

Phase II construction of the Interconnect is currently underway. This project will allow the Village's north sewer and water systems to be connected to the Village's main sewer and water system. This pipeline will stretch from the intersection of Riverside Island Drive to the Tall Oaks Treatment Plant. The extension of the existing main will allow for a new Tall Oaks lift station to be constructed and the existing Tall Oaks Treatment Plant to be retired.

This will provide many benefits to the Village and the environment. The retirement of the existing Tall Oaks Treatment Plant will eliminate the discharge into Dunns Lake.

This project will allow for continued growth in the North Service Area.



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.

BRUSH PICKUP TO RESUME

Public Works will be resuming brush pick up in the Spring. As a reminder, the limbs should not be longer than 6 feet in length, or larger than 6" in diameter, and all cut ends should be facing the street. The pile should be stacked neatly at the curb. Brush pickup guidelines are available online at www.foxlake.org. We thank you in advance for your cooperation.

If you have any questions regarding the guidelines or would like to schedule a brush pick up, please contact Public Works at: (847) 587-8570.

FOX LAKE POLICE ALERT

Recently the suburbs have been experiencing an increase in "carjackings". There has been significant media attention related to these crimes. Fortunately, Fox Lake has not had a reported carjacking event as of this writing. Cars, especially luxury ones, provides quick cash for drug users and other criminals who commit these crimes. Since some of the suburban communities have experienced these types of crimes, and our residents may travel through them, we are providing some common sense safety information. It is important for your personal safety that you stay alert and always takes precautions to protect yourself whether you are at home, work, shopping, or enjoying leisure time.

Theft prevention:

- Vehicles parked along city streets can be targeted for "smash and grab" thefts.
- Do NOT leave valuables in plain view.
- Store items under seats or in the trunk otherwise, take valuables with you.
- Be aware of your surroundings.
- Have your keys ready when you approach your vehicle.
- Do a quick scan of the interior before getting in.
- Be alert to any activity near your vehicle. Be aware of people who may be following you to your vehicle.
- Lock your doors when inside the car.



Be alert to potential dangers:

- Be alert when people approach your vehicle asking for directions, change, or passing out flyers.
- When stopping in traffic, leave enough distance between your vehicle and the one in front of you so you can pull away quickly if needed.
- Be alert when approaching drive-up automated teller machines.

Actions:

- Try to keep a cell phone accessible when driving.
- Keep a pen and notebook accessible in your car to write down important information about suspicious circumstances.
- In case your vehicle breaks down, call the police for help and use great caution when approached by unknown individuals.

Avoid:

- Don't get out of your vehicle if you witness suspicious circumstances. Drive away and call the police if necessary.
- Avoid using an ATM at night, especially if you see people loitering nearby.
- Never leave small children unattended in your vehicle.
- Avoid parking in secluded, poorly lit areas. Keep all valuables out of sight when parking.
- When having your vehicle serviced or cleaned, remove your house keys from the key ring.

Beware of Phone Scams



Securing today
and tomorrow

Social Security wants you to know about widespread phone scams where scammers pretend to be government employees. They may tell you about a Social Security-related problem to gain your trust and steal your money. We want you to hang up on scammers – help us “slam the scam”!

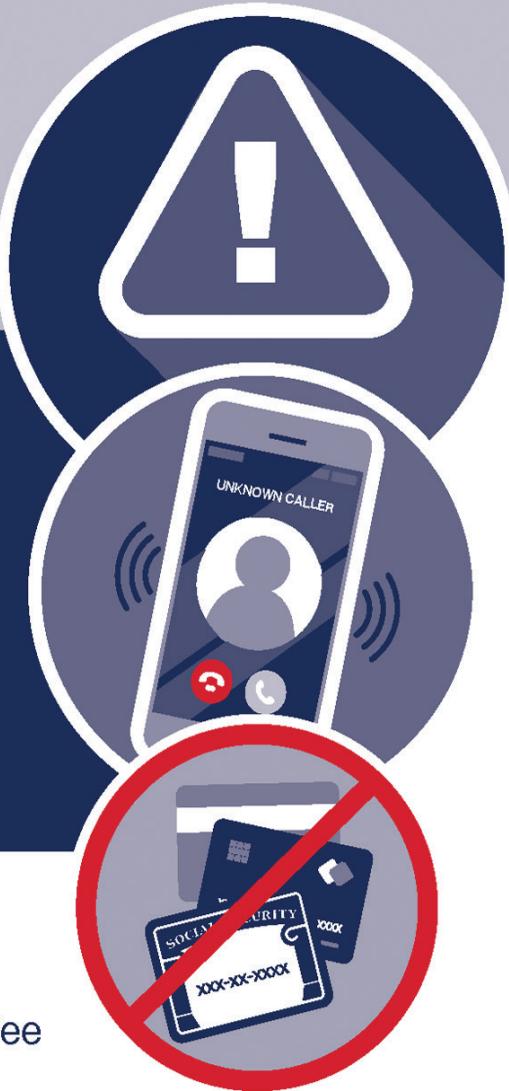
IF YOU RECEIVE A SUSPICIOUS CALL:

- 1** Hang up
- 2** Do not give money or personal information
- 3** Report the scam at ***oig.ssa.gov***

Social Security may call you in some situations but we will never:

- » Threaten to arrest you unless you pay a fine or fee
- » Suspend your Social Security number
- » Require immediate payment from you by cash, gift card, pre-paid debit card, or wire transfer
- » Demand secrecy in dealing with a Social Security problem

Protect yourself, friends, and family: don't forget to “slam the scam”!



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 hundreds of 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:

1. DO NOT use the card or call the number and provide personal information.
2. Monitor your credit.
3. Report to IDES under Reporting Unemployment Insurance
https://www2.illinois.gov/ides/Pages/Reporting_Unemployment_Insurance_Fraud.aspx
4. 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 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.

Identity Theft Scam Phase One

So now you have survived the ordeal to resolve your fraudulent unemployment claim, what may be next? Phase Two of the Identity Theft Scam may involve Fraudulent Tax Return Fraud. Each year thieves attempt to steal billions of dollars in federal income tax withholdings by stealing your identity and filing false Income Tax Refund money. Each payday, your employer withholds tax money from your paycheck. Those funds are deposited in your federal tax account. Until you file your tax return, the IRS does not know whether you need to pay more in or if they need to refund your overpayments throughout the year. Cyber Thieves and Identity Theft Fraudsters are well aware of this too.

Thieves may take advantage of this weakness in the system filing a fraudulent tax return as soon as the IRS opens the on-line system accepting electronic filings. By filing before actual tax payer, they can receive your refund long before you even file before the April 15th deadline. So what can you do to help prevent them?

1. File Early – The sooner you file your tax return, the less likely a thief will beat you to your refund. Once you file a fraudulent return is more likely to be rejected by the IRS.
2. Get an Identity Protection PIN – All taxpayers who can verify their identity to the IRS can get an Identity Protection Pin (IP PIN) from the IRS. The IP PIN is a six-digit code known only to you and the IRS that helps prevent identity thieves from filing fraudulent tax returns. If you want an IP PIN, visit irs.gov/IPPIN.
3. Check your credit reports – If there is any suspicious activity on your account and on your credit report.
4. Protect your ID – Be suspicious of people asking for your personal information. Never give out your Social Security Number or other identifying information to someone who called you.
5. The IRS will not call you asking for information or directing you to pay outstanding debt by gift cards. If the IRS suspect something is wrong with your account, they will send you a notice not call you.
6. If you receive a notice, respond immediately. Get the direct contact information from the IRS website, don't trust contact information on a form sent to you by email or mail. Getting the direct contact information from the secure IRS website lets you know the number provided is valid.
7. If your refund is hijacked, file an Identity Theft Affidavit (IRS Form 14039). This will record your problem with the IRS and they will take extra steps to verify your account activity is coming from you and not some identity theft thief.

Having your identity stolen is one thing. Having your tax withholding stolen and then needing to unravel this problem with the IRS is a major hassle. The good news is that if the IRS pays out a refund to someone stealing your identity, they are on the hook for the loss, not you. The bad news is that it is a tedious process and takes time.

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORTS

NOW AVAILABLE

The Village of Fox Lake 2020 Consumer Confidence Reports are available for both water systems.

Consumer Confidence Reports provide consumers with information about the quality of their drinking water. This information has always been available to consumers who requested it from their water supplier. Now it is provided in an easy-to-read format.

The Village is pleased to report NO violations for 2020.

A copy of these reports can be obtained at:

South (0970200) System Report

<https://www.foxlake.org/DocumentCenter/View/4627/2020-South-System-Consumer-Confidence-Report>

North (0975780) System Report

<https://www.foxlake.org/DocumentCenter/View/4626/2020-North-System-Consumer-Confidence-Report>

A paper copy may also be obtained at the Village Hall at 66 Thillen Dr. or upon request. For questions or more information about Consumer Confidence Reports, please contact the Sewer and Water Department at (847) 587-3506.

FLOOD PREVENTION

With spring upon us, the potential for flooding increases. Village residents can take some simple steps to help reduce the risk and impact of flooding on their property, starting with our storm sewer system - most of which is under ground and out of sight. However, there is a visible component - the storm drain, that makes the storm sewer system work.



What are storm drains? These are the grates or culverts you see on a street corner and they allow water to drain from Village streets. These drains are the entryway to the Village's storm water system. They are especially important during storms when the high volume of falling water or melting snow will otherwise cause flooding. On rainy days, rainwater and anything else on the streets can enter storm drains. Storm drains typically have grids to prevent large objects from falling into the sewer system. However, the bars are spaced apart so the flow of water is not blocked. Consequently, many objects can fall through. If these basins get clogged with items such as leaves and other debris, water cannot be drained from the street.

The Village needs your help operating this system. By keeping debris off of your storm sewer grate, you can help keep water flowing, and decrease the likelihood of flooding. Do not attempt to remove the grate, only the debris on top of the grate. When the forecast calls for heavy rainfall or snow and ice, remove debris from the catch basin before a storm. After a storm, maintain drainage by clearing away any snow or ice. Together we can reduce the impact of flooding.

For questions or concerns regarding your storm water system, please contact the Street Department at (847) 587-8570.

LEAF BURNING REMINDERS

Leaves may be burned on private property between the period of April 1st to June 1st and September 1st to December 1st, of each and every 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.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

The Fox Lake Community Garden is now accepting gardeners and volunteers for the 2021 growing season! The Community Garden is open to any resident of Grant Township and Fox Lake. The Village will provide basic services such as the garden site, water, initial tillage, and basic gardening tools.

Gardeners can sign up for their own 12 by 4 ft plot to maintain throughout the season. Each plot is \$40 for the season, or two plots are \$60. Applications can be found at <https://www.foxlake.org/105/Applications-Forms> under the Parks & Recreation tab.

For questions regarding the Community Garden, please call the Parks and Recreation Department at (224) 225-1404.



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.

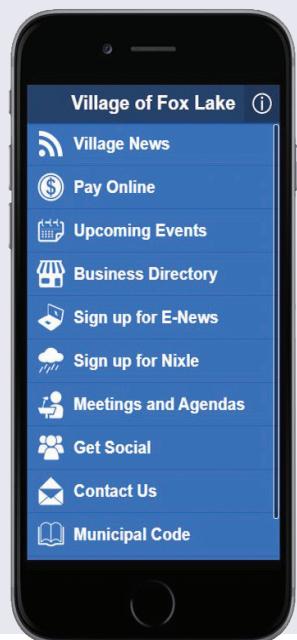
The Village of Fox Lake Mobile App was developed in-house and provides one-stop access to Village news, payment portals, upcoming event information, social media, business directory and more.

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.

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

For questions please call (847) 587-2151.



SPECIAL EVENT UPDATE

The Village of Fox Lake has posted 2021 special events as "Save the Dates". Additional event information will be posted as the event nears. 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.

The Village of Fox Lake is currently monitoring state regulations, and will be making decisions regarding event cancellations as information is available. Thank you in advance for your patience during this time. For questions please call (224) 225 - 1404.



FOX LAKE TRIATHLON

Time: 6:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Location: Lakefront Park

Swim (1K), bike (12.5 Miles) and run (5K) at the Fox Lake Triathlon! Register at <https://raceroster.com/37320>



FATHERS DAY FISHING FRENZY - Save the Date

Time: 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: Lakefront Park

Come to Lakefront Park on Father's Day weekend for a morning of fishing. No fishing licenses are required for this event. Bring your own poles, bait, and other fishing supplies.



CELEBRATE FOX LAKE - Save the Date

Parade

Time: 4:00 p.m. (line-up at 3:00 p.m.)

Location: Grand Avenue

Food/Drinks/Entertainment

Time: 5:00 p.m. (following the parade)

Location: Lakefront Park

Fireworks

Time: Dusk (around 9:30 p.m.)

Location: Lakefront Park



FOX LAKE BLOODY MARY FEST - Save the Date

Time: 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Location: Downtown Fox Lake

Event information can be found at foxlakebloodymary.org



CARDBOARD BOAT REGATTA - Save the Date

Time: Boat Races starts at noon.

Location: Lakefront Park



2021 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.

Please keep in mind that the situation is constantly changing, and the market may change throughout the season. For additional information please visit our website at www.foxlakefarmersmarket.com or call (224) 225-1404.

INTERESTED IN BEING A FARMERS MARKET VENDOR?

The Fox Lake Farmers Market is now accepting applications for the 2021 Farmers Market Season. Contact the Village of Fox Lake at (224) 225-1404 or visit www.foxlakefarmersmarket.com for additional information.

SUMMER ART SERIES CALL FOR ART

The Village of Fox Lake is doing a call for local artists to submit a 2 by 3 ratio landscape sized piece of art. Submitted art can be a painting or drawing of nature or landscapes. Art will either be professionally photographed or scanned depending on the size to make a digital copy.

A digital copy of the art will be printed and displayed outdoors at the Photography Exhibit at the Community Garden Green (17 E. School Ct.) throughout the summer. All original pieces will be returned to the artists. Please include the title of the piece, artist's name, medium used, and social media handle (optional).

The final piece of art must be submitted by Monday, May 10, 2021.

If you are interested and plan on submitting, please call the Parks and Recreation Department at (224) 225-1404 or email marketing@foxlake.org.



Like Us On



Follow Us On



Sign Up For



Visit Us

foxlake.org

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 Contact List

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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STAY CONNECTED

Stay up to date with Village news through social media. The Village of Fox Lake is on Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook using the handle @foxlakeil.

Updates can also be obtained via email in our weekly e-newsletter - the E-Anchor.

News and updates can also be found on the Village's website at www.foxlake.org.

For more information please contact the Village at (847) 587-2151.