



THE ANCHOR

Village of Fox Lake Newsletter

From the desk of the Mayor



We are nearing the end of summer, and I would like to reflect on some of our recent accomplishments, upcoming projects, and goals for the future.

As you will read more about in the public works section, many important village projects were recently completed. The Nippersink Road Reconstruction Project which included sewer and water improvements, a new road, bike trail and increased parking was named as the 2022 Lake Branch Project of the Year Award from the American Public Works Association. The project was primarily funded through grants. While it was a shame to see the old Fox Lake sign removed, it was damaged beyond repair. The new sign is something that we as a Village can all be proud of.

You will also read about the completion of the Interconnect Project. The village had been running two separate sewer and water systems. Not only was this costly and inefficient, but a major upgrade was mandated by the EPA for the northern sewer system on Grass Lake Road. Rather than upgrading to a new sewer system, we were able to combine the two sewer and water systems into one fully-functioning system, and at a much lower cost. This project resulted in a more reliable service to our residents and a cost savings of over \$100,000 per year in operating fees.

Concerning upcoming projects, the Lakefront Park enhancement, Knollwood Subdivision flood control and street reconstruction, Washington Street reconstruction, and planning for many other projects is underway.

We held a public meeting and conducted a survey to solicit feedback from residents about which types of amenities they would like to see at Lakefront Park. Over 300 responses were received. A public beach, public pier, riverwalk, enhanced playground equipment, options for additional activities and a band shell were the most requested features. The final plans, including feedback from residents and stakeholders, are being completed and construction will begin this fall.

Knollwood Subdivision has suffered from flooding for many decades. During a flood event, emergency access, mail, food and medical deliveries, school bus service and garbage pick-up are impossible. In many cases residents cannot even leave their homes. I am happy to share that the village received grant funding, and the roads will be reconstructed this year, allowing access for residents and services even during a flood event.

The Washington Street reconstruction project is designed to alleviate the traffic delays at the high school, and includes traffic lights, sidewalks, a bike trail, street lights and storm water improvements. This is a joint project with the Lake County Highway Department and the Village of Fox Lake. The project was originally slated for completion this year, but will pick up next year. Lake County was to receive a portion of their funding through the federal government, due to a delay in receipt of the funding the timeline was pushed back. It appears that the funding is now in place, and the project will resume next year.

Development is essential to the village. Development comes in many forms such as tourism, new businesses, and housing. When a developer approaches the village, in addition to job creation, tax revenues, and leakage (a term to describe goods or services our residents have to go to another town to purchase or receive), we look at the overall impact the potential business will have within our community.

If we can increase revenues through development, we can provide greater goods and services to our residents without raising taxes or fees. For example, in order to meet the needs of our sewer and water system, each year there has been a cost of living plus two percent increase in the sewer and water fees. With the addition of more than 120 homes over the last few years, the increased revenue from the new homes will allow us to forego the annual increase in sewer and water fees beginning next year.

While new development is critical for the village, a thorough review of both short-term and long-term impacts that the development may have within the community is necessary. Another example: a high density housing project may provide a one-time revenue stream through issued building permits and associated fees, but may not be a good fit for the village and could potentially cost the village in the long run. A project may only be approved after individual review, as well as a public hearing via the Planning and Zoning Board and Village Board. Members of both boards recognize the responsibility of serving the village in this capacity, and take this role very seriously.

If you have not done so already, please take advantage of the many events listed in the Parks and Recreation section of this newsletter. It's a great way to meet your neighbors and enjoy the many amenities of living in Fox Lake.

I hope to see you all at one of the events. As always, you can contact me at 847-587 3943 or by email at schmitd@foxlake.org

Donny

Tanya Hill named next recipient of village anchor award



Tanya Hill was named the next recipient of the Anchor Award for her outstanding community service and volunteerism. The award presentation takes place at the village board meeting on Tuesday, September 13, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. Tanya serves the community in a variety of ways. She organizes a Thanksgiving meal for individuals who would otherwise spend Thanksgiving alone. This year will be her third year. The initiative had such a positive response that she coordinated an Easter meal with the assistance of Grant Township in April. Each event fed 50-60 individuals. Tanya also volunteers for the Northern Illinois Food Bank twice a week,

and distributes food in town in front of Extra Space Storage. She partners with Grant Township to assist residents who are unable to drive with transportation to and from appointments as well. In addition to coordinating meals and distributing food, Tanya organized the group, Fox Lake Shines, an initiative under Promote Fox Lake, in which she enlists the help of volunteers to collect litter throughout the village. Her goal is to host a minimum of one collection per week, lasting at least one hour.

Tanya has lived in town with her husband and two children (currently away at college), for the last five years. Thank you Tanya, for your passion to serve others, and your commitment to the region.

Fox Lake hot dog restaurant ranked one of the top in Illinois; other business updates



Congratulations to **Dogs on the Chain**, one of the top hot dog restaurants in Illinois according to NBC's July report. They are located at **10 S. Route 12**.

Dairy Queen, located at **2 US-12**, is under revitalization and will reopen around October.

Valvoline is constructing a new building at **1370 S. Route 12**. The anticipated opening is December 2022.



Elle Vayda Salon held their Grand Opening in June. They offer hair services, eyelash extensions, waxing, onsite bridal hair and makeup services. The salon is located at **1276 S. Route 12**.



Crystals by Fox Lake hosted their Grand Opening in July. Located at **601 S. Route 59**, they offer crystals, Tarot card readings, and Reiki therapy.

A **sushi restaurant** is under construction at **41 E. Grand Avenue**. The anticipated opening date is in November.

Sweet Calibri specializes in vegan desserts is opening their new store at **1280 S. Route 12**.

Hygeia Coldpress, a cold-press juice shop offering smoothies and other healthy snack alternatives is opening at **23 S. Route 12**.

Pizza Hut is moving back to Fox Lake and will be opening later this summer at **1390 S. Route 12**.

Get the latest time-sensitive village alerts sent directly to you

Join our new community notification system.

Get the latest time-sensitive village alerts sent directly to your phone with CodeRED, Fox Lake's new notification service. The quickest way to sign up is to scan the QR code below. You can also go to <http://tiny.cc/FoxLake> or visit www.FoxLake.org and follow the CodeRed information.



This is how you will learn about emergencies in the village such as extreme weather, flooding, and road closures. You will also have an option to receive general information such as events and other announcements.

A Fox Lake CodeRED emergency message has a caller ID of **866-419-5000**. A Fox Lake CodeRED general message has caller ID of **855-969-4636**.

We recommend saving both numbers in your phone and use a contact name such as Fox Lake Emergency and Fox Lake General. Unfortunately, we are unable to program the numbers to come up as Village of Fox Lake.

The village's 911 Center, FoxComm, is available to help you enroll in the system. Call **(847) 587-3100**.

Several village streets slated for reconstruction

The village is currently in the design phase of reconstructing several roadways. The 2022 Roadway Improvement Project includes a water main replacement on Lincoln Avenue, a water main extension on Garfield Road, and the rehabilitation of Lakeside Lane, Glenview Place, Lincoln Avenue, Garfield Road, Jefferson Street, and Adams Street. In 2019, a roadway inventory was completed and rated these streets a 2/10, which indicates poor condition due to drainage issues, cracking, potholes, and rutting. There have been several water main breaks along these roadways over the last five years, making the replacement of the water main on Lincoln Avenue and Garfield Road a necessity. We will share construction information as it becomes available.

Follow the village on Facebook and Twitter, or sign-up to receive updates through the village website.



Award-winning Nippersink Boulevard project now complete

The Village of Fox Lake received the Lake Branch Project of the Year Award from the American Public Works Association for the Nippersink Boulevard Reconstruction Project. This project took three years beginning with the installation of a new water and sewer main. The construction also included new storm sewers, fresh hot-mix asphalt and roadway base, sidewalks, lighting, bike lanes, and a retaining wall displaying the village name and logo. These improvements enhance the downtown corridor and promote both walkability and bikeability throughout downtown leading into our Lakefront Park.



Interconnect project provides a long-term, reliable water resource to the village



The Interconnect Project is one of the largest infrastructure improvements in the village's history.

For decades, the village operated two separate water and sewer systems, resulting in increased regulations and operational concerns. In 2014, the village planned to combine both systems. The combined design was complex because the systems crossed and connected beneath the lakes creating one village system. The project was designed and permitted by several regulatory branches including the Army Corp of Engineers, Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), and Lake County, Illinois Division of Transportation (IDOT). The project included the installation of several thousand feet of pipe and two new lift stations. The village decommissioned an outdated wastewater treatment plant sending the flow to the regional treatment facility off Rollins Road. The Interconnect Project is a long-term solution for the village, providing a more reliable water resource for generations to come.

Brush pick-up continues through November

The last brush pick-up of the 2022 season takes place Friday, November 4, 2022. As a reminder, the limbs should be no longer than 6 feet in length, or larger than 6 inches in diameter. All cut ends should be facing the street with the pile stacked neatly at the

curb. Brush pickup guidelines are available online at www.foxlake.org. 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.



Parks and Recreation

Fox Lake Farmers Market

Dates: Every Tuesday, June - September

Time: 3-7 p.m.

Location: Fox Lake Community Garden Green
17 E. School Ct. Fox Lake, IL

Come shop at the Fox Lake Farmers Market this summer for crafts, fresh produce, food and more. The Fox Lake Farmers Market is in its fifth year and is held every Tuesday from 3 - 7 p.m. June - September.

Fox Lake Summer Art Series: Art Exhibit

Location: Fox Lake Community Garden Green
17 E. School Ct. Fox Lake, IL

This summer the National Art Honor Society from Grant Community High School put together an art exhibit for the community to enjoy all year long. The theme is "growth" and is made up of over 25 pieces of artwork done by local high school students.

Fox Lake Summer Art Series: Friday Night Concerts

Dates: Fridays, June to September

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Location: Fox Lake Community Garden Green
17 E. School Ct. Fox Lake, IL

Looking to enjoy live music this summer? Join us on Friday nights starting at 6:30 p.m. until 8 p.m. for performances by local musicians. The National Athletic Club sells beer on-site.

Fall Festival

Date: Sunday, October 2, 2022

Time: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Location: Grant Township Center
26725 W Molidor Rd, Ingleside, IL 60041

The Village of Fox Lake and Grant Township partner together to host the annual Fall Festival. This free event has music, craft vendors, pumpkin carving, food, refreshments, and much more.

Fox Lake Pumpkin Jubilee

Date: Saturday, October 8, 2022

Time: 3 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Location: Community Garden Green
17 E School Ct. Fox Lake, IL

Join the Village of Fox Lake for pumpkin carving, live magic, fall themed crafts, and many great vendors! Pumpkin Carving is \$2 per pumpkin, and pumpkins are cleaned out by our volunteers. Participants are encouraged to light their pumpkin and leave it on our pumpkin wall to be displayed overnight. Pumpkin pick-up is the following morning between 10 a.m. and 12 p.m.

Senior Resource Fair

Date: Thursday, October 20, 2022

Time: 10 a.m. to Noon

Location: Lakefront Park Building,
71 Nippersink Blvd, Fox Lake, IL

Come learn about area community programs and resources for senior adults. The event is open to anyone looking for resources and is free to attend. There will be a Medicare 101 informational program at 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. hosted by Humana and the Fox Lake District Library.

Murder Mystery Dinner & Show

Date: Friday, October 21, 2022

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Location: Maravela's Banquet Hall,
4 Washington Ave, Fox Lake, IL

The Village of Fox Lake will host a Murder Mystery Dinner and Show. The ticket includes a buffet style meal and an show where tables work together to solve a murder. Registration information can be found at foxlake.org

Halloween Howl

Date: Monday, October 24, 2022

Time: 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Location: Fox Lake Police Department
301 Route 59, Fox Lake, IL

Celebrate Halloween and meet members of the Fox Lake Police Department. Enjoy treats, hot dogs, children's activities, hot chocolate, and hay rides. This is a free event, and Halloween costumes are encouraged for both children and parents!

Senior Luncheon

Date: Third Thursday of every month

Time: 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Location: Lakefront Park Building
71 Nippersink Blvd, Fox Lake, IL

Senior Luncheons are in partnership with Grant Township. The next one will be on Thursday, September 15, 2022 at Lakefront Park building. Cost is \$10 at the door and includes a meal with drinks and dessert along with live entertainment. To reserve your seat, please call the Parks and Recreation Department at (224) 225-1404.

Fall Youth Sports

Date: September-December (please visit the village website for specific session dates and times)

Time: TBD

Location: Lakefront Park Building
71 Nippersink Blvd, Fox Lake, IL

Keep the kids active this fall with youth sports. The Village of Fox Lake offers soccer and basketball for kids ages 3 - 9 years old starting Wednesday September 14, 2022. Youth Sports classes are \$57 per child. Fall Youth Sports will be held at Lakefront Park building and Stanton School Field. Registration forms are under **applications & forms** at www.foxlake.org.

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foxlake.org

CONTACT INFORMATION

Village of Fox Lake

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

*****ECRWSS*****
POSTAL CUSTOMER
FOX LAKE, IL 60020

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	Amy Driscoll

Village Administrator

Deb Waszak

Village Contact List

Emergency	911
Village Hall.....	587-2151
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.

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.

