



THE ANCHOR

Village of Fox Lake Newsletter

From the desk of the Mayor



Winter is over, and while it was mild by Fox Lake standards, we welcome the spring season, a time of new beginnings, new growth and hope for the future.

Recently, the two biggest concerns I have received from our residents are our policy on short term rentals (Air BnB's) and the white pick-up trucks. I'll address the trucks first. Ray is one of the biggest fleet dealers in the United States. He was able to sell 1,600 trucks, with delivery and shipping taking place throughout the country. General Motors shipped the trucks to Ray at a much quicker rate than delivery to the fleet customer, which was not anticipated. This is a temporary situation and Ray is working on shipping the trucks to their final destination as quickly as possible.

Several years ago, we were one of the first municipalities to regulate short-term rentals (STR's). There were a few STR's in town and they were disruptive to their neighbors. After public hearings, where we listened to both STR operators and residents, in 2015, we adopted policies where a special use permit was required and rules were instituted. Over the years, the number of STR's operating legally grew to 31. We discovered that there were others operating without a special use permit. Although there were very few problems, the Village Board decided it needed to review the special use permit process, address the allowed number of STR's, modify rules to address situations that arose over the years, and enforce the ordinances that were not being followed. We put a moratorium on new STR permits and held eight public meetings. New rules were adopted based upon the input received during those meetings. Among the recommendations and included in the new ordinance are:

- The number of STR's is limited to 60 (about 1.2% of the total households in Fox Lake).
- Established quiet hours.
- Placards with the owners' contact information to be placed on STR buildings.
- Duration limitations.
- Public nuisance/noise restrictions.
- Background checks and other rules.

If you see an STR operating that is not following the rules, notify the Police Department and we will issue citations.

Please read the Lakefront Park project portion of the newsletter. Construction on the expansion should begin soon, and once completed generations of our residents will enjoy this jewel that Fox Lake has to offer. Since the announcement of our Lakefront Park expansion project, the Community Development Department has received many inquiries about locating businesses in Fox Lake. There are four new businesses opening on Nippersink alone.

This will be an exciting spring and summer for our residents. We have everything from the parade, fireworks, concerts every Friday night, a triathlon, Easter egg hunt, senior game night, open gym, bike rodeo, farmers' market and other events for you to enjoy. Please read the Parks portion of the newsletter for a list of all the great events we have planned.

Finally, on a personal note, for the first time in 48 years, I awoke on December 18 without my wife at my side. She fought a valiant battle with cancer for many years and even though her spirit did not give out, her body did. I want to thank everyone who sent condolences, cards, food, held masses and made donations to her charity. Now, though I miss her dearly, I must adjust to my new reality. Your kindness meant and means the world to me. Thank you.

I look forward to seeing you at one of the many Parks and Recreation events. It's a great way to meet your neighbors and enjoy the many benefits of living in Fox Lake. Make sure you say hello.

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

Building the future together

Construction of Lakefront Park begins soon

Preparations are underway to commence construction of the new Lakefront Park development, following several months of robust community engagement and input solicitation. The final design for the park is complete with plans to begin construction this season.

The village began conducting surveys and holding community meetings in June of 2022 to gather feedback on the desired amenities and features of the park. The resulting plan incorporates a host of exciting new additions, including an amphitheater, playground, upgraded splash pad, outdoor pickleball courts, and a fixed pier and boardwalk.

Collaboration among the village elected officials and staff, the landscape architecture firm, Site Design, and the village's engineering firm, Trotter & Associates, resulted in a vision for the park that balances aesthetics and functionality. This includes the construction of north and south access roads to

enhance the convenience and accessibility of the park to visitors.

The Lakefront Park development project will be carried out in two phases, with construction on all onshore amenities scheduled to conclude towards the end of the year. The second phase of the project involves the off-shore boardwalk and is set to begin in 2024. The park development budget is \$12.5 million with \$750,000 granted by the federal government as a congressional spending request led by Congressman Schneider.

The Lakefront Park development is a significant investment in the community and underscores the village's commitment to creating public spaces that meet the evolving needs of its residents. We eagerly await the construction of this transformative project, which will serve as a hub of community life for years to come.



Beware of Cash App scamming

The Fox Lake Police Department would like to inform community members of the increase in online and over the phone scams requesting money through “Cash Apps”, that are active in the Lake County area. These scams come in many different forms, but follow the theme of asking for money and putting pressure on the caller if money is not sent. Here are some things to look for, and ways to avoid becoming a victim.



Ways scammers earn the trust of caller:

- Refer to the caller by name.
- Spoofing a legitimate police agency phone number and using a real name of a law enforcement officer in an attempt to gain the trust of the victim.
- Approaching defendants during Zoom court hearings by a subject claiming to be an officer of the court, and convincing the person to send money via Cash App in an effort to resolve the case.
- Scams of romance where the scammer gains their victim's trust, pretends to 'fall in love' with them and then requests money via Cash App for expenses such as plane tickets, medical treatment and more. Many times they will also pose as military personnel in need of money overseas where they are stationed.
- Caller may pose as a family member, especially a grandchild that will ask for bond money and request the caller not tell their parents that they are in trouble.

Ways to stay alert to phone and internet scams:

- The caller claims to be from a government agency (police, court, jail, state's attorney, judge, IRS) and asks for unique forms of payment (Cash app, Zelle, Bitcoin, gift cards, money wires). **No government agency will request these forms of payment.**
- **Never** give out personal information including birthdate, social security number, bank information, or home address.
- Do not respond to e-mails or text messages requesting you to “confirm,” “update,” or “provide” account information.
- Trust your instincts: if an unknown caller makes you uncomfortable or says things that don't sound right, hang up.
- Take your time. If the caller puts you in fear, requests you to act quickly or states there is an emergency, it's likely a scam. Scammers create a sense of urgency to get you to act impulsively, without thinking.

If you receive a call like this, hang up immediately and call the Fox Lake Police Department non-emergency line at (847) 587-3100.

For additional information on online and phone scams go to <https://consumer.ftc.gov/scams>



Feeding people, growing communities: Janet Solar's anchoring legacy



**Janet Solar pictured at
the March 14th, 2023
Village Board Meeting**

Janet Solar shines like a beacon in the sea of community service and volunteerism, making her the natural choice for the prestigious Anchor Award. The presentation of the honor took place at the village board meeting on Tuesday, March 14, 2023. Janet's deep devotion to the community is reflected in her role as Vice President of Promote Fox Lake, where she serves with distinction. One of her greatest accomplishments is her designation as a Master Gardener, which she uses to great effect,

beautifying the village with her green thumb. Janet's tireless efforts resulted in an abundance of gardens, grass, and trees planted along Rollins Road and other areas, including both post offices. She also worked magic by transplanting 200 plants from the wall across the train station to the Towne Center parking lot island.

Janet's creative touch is also felt during the holiday season, where she transforms the Lakefront Park building into a festive

wonderland. Her artful decorations spread cheer throughout the community, as she sets up the inflatable polar bear and works on the holiday float for Promote Fox Lake. Her generous spirit extends beyond holiday decorations, as she has volunteered for years with the Fox Lake Shines initiative, collecting trash and preparing food for the hardworking volunteers.

She is an active volunteer in many areas including Thanksgiving and Easter dinners organized by Tanya Hill, ensuring that families in need can share in the joy of the holiday season. She is also a vital part of the Northern Illinois Food Bank's Fox Lake food pop-ups, providing food for those who are struggling. Along with all this, she serves as an election judge, overseeing three sites.

We are incredibly grateful to Janet for her unwavering passion and commitment to serving the community. She is a beacon of hope and a shining example of what can be accomplished when one person commits themselves to making the world a better place. The Anchor Award is a well-deserved honor that recognizes the depth of Janet's contributions to the community, and we congratulate her on this significant achievement.

Officer Ramon Carreno and Telecommunicator Linda Stewart named public safety employees of the year

Fox Lake public safety professionals honored outstanding staff members through a unique peer-nominated program and selection by an awards and commendations committee. Officer Carreno and Telecommunicator Stewart were awarded employees of the year for their outstanding service to Fox Lake in 2022. Nominated by Officer Reid Dawson, Officer Carreno is one of the only Spanish speaking Officers, and often volunteers his off duty time to assist the department with translation duties. He has volunteered to be one of the backup School Resource Officers (SROs) and has obtained the training necessary to accomplish this allowing the department to keep up with state mandated training of SROs. In addition to being a diligent Officer, he is in the process of creating an in house training program in order to keep the Fox Lake Police Department in compliance with state mandated training regarding high risk traffic stops.

Telecommunicator Stewart is recognized for her positive impact on every shift she is on. She always makes her co-workers smile, and has a way to calm and sooth any caller, responder, or other Telecommunicator no matter the nature of the call or emergency. Telecommunicator Stewart also volunteers for numerous projects not only to learn more and teach others, but to help the Village of Fox Lake provide the best dispatch service possible. Late last year she was awarded Telecommunicator of the Year award for 2022, in Springfield by Illinois APCO (Association of Public-Safety Officials). She also started a parade committee for 911 representation in all Village events that the Village and her co-workers absolutely love.

Both Carreno and Stewart are known for going "above and beyond" and are well respected by their peers. Fox Lake is fortunate to have them.



**Far Left:
Telecommunicator
Linda Stewart
Far Right:
Officer Ramon
Carreno**



Spring is here—brush pick up to resume in April

Weather permitting, brush pick up will resume **Friday, April 14, 2023**. Brush will be picked up every Friday through the end of the summer; however, due to other work, holidays, and inclement weather, pickups may be delayed from time to time.

Friendly reminders:

- Branches must be trimmed by the home owner, not a tree service.
- Limbs must be no longer than six feet in length.
- Limbs may be no more than six inches in diameter.
- Limbs must be neatly stacked at the curb.
- Piles are not to exceed 4'x6'.
- Yard waste, tree trunks, logs, weeds, and dirt do not qualify as brush.

Brush piles not meeting the criteria listed above will not be collected.
To schedule a pick-up, please contact Public Works at **(847) 587-8570**.

Let construction season begin: Washington Street repairs to commence this summer

Construction on the intersection of Route 59, Grand Avenue, and Washington Street was scheduled to begin early this year, but due to the endangered northern long-eared bat population, the county postponed the letting of the project until late 2023. Despite the delay of the intersection in its entirety, the village will continue with Washington Street this summer. The project includes the reconstruction of Washington Street from Rollins Road to the limits

of the county project at Moulis Terrace, and will assess drainage issues and provide new and improved street lighting. Design of the project is almost complete and will go out to bid later this spring.



The Village's roadway program continues

Reconstruction of the "Presidents" is complete. Back in November the contractor on the project, Lenny Hoffman, finalized repairs on Lincoln Avenue, Jefferson Street, Garfield Road, and Adams Street. This spring they will begin water and sewer improvements on Lakeside Lane, while

simultaneously reconstructing the roadways on Lakeside Lane and Glenview Place. The entire roadway project which included Jefferson, Lincoln, Adams, Garfield, Lakeside, and Glenview was bid at \$2.8 million and is expected to be completed by the end of May 2023.



Northern long-eared bat



The northern long-eared bat has been reclassified from 'threatened' to 'endangered' by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under the Endangered Species Act.

Features: The northern long-eared bat is a small- to medium sized bat with a small forearm. Its brown fur is black at the base, and each wing is attached to the side of the foot.

Behaviors: The northern long-eared bat may be found statewide in Illinois, but the largest concentration is found in La Salle County. The bats tend to hang singly or in small groups, and play an important role in pest control and pollination. This bat has been known to live for more than 18 years



Village of Fox Lake receives APWA project of the year award for entire Chicago Metro Chapter

The Village of Fox Lake was named a recipient of the project of the year award from the American Public Works Association (APWA) Chicago Metro Lake Branch Chapter, as well as the entire Chicago Metro

Chapter. The Chicago Metro Chapter submitted the project for consideration of the 2023 APWA National Award as well. This is the second consecutive year the village received this prestigious honor.



Left to right: Leo Morand (GHA/APWA Awards Chair), Susan Novak (Lake County Stormwater Management Commission), Andrew Puccini (Trotter & Associates), Trent Turner (Village of Fox Lake), Dan Guinn (Village of Fox Lake), Kealan Noonan (Village of Fox Lake), Deb Waszak (Administrator, Village of Fox Lake), Donny Schmit (Mayor, Village of Fox Lake), and Kyle Johnson (APWA, Lake Branch President) pose for a group photo after accepting the project of the year award at the Jan. 17 luncheon in Libertyville.



APWA project of the year award (continued)

This \$20.7 million project included approximately 1.5 miles of force main, 1.9 miles of gravity sewer, 3.2 miles of water main, the construction of two new pump stations, and pumping capacity upgrades to an existing station. The objective was to connect two separate utility service areas, north and south, that were bisected by the Chain O'Lakes.

The Water and Sewer Interconnect Project was submitted to APWA in early December, in the \$5 to \$25 million environmental category. In 2014, the village embarked on a master plan to evaluate the feasibility and costs of interconnecting the north and south systems versus maintaining two separate utility systems. With interconnection being the most cost-effective, reliable and flexible option, the village moved forward with construction in the fall of 2019. The project was successfully completed on time and within budget in the spring of 2022, allowing the village to improve upon aging water and sewer infrastructure.

“One of the main benefits of this project was protecting the environment. It will also provide our residents with a sustainable sewer and water system,” said Mayor Schmit. “In addition, by combining two sewer and water systems into one, it will reduce costs for generations to come. It also increases the opportunity for additional development, which will increase revenues and allow the village to provide more services for our residents.”

Last year, the village received the project of the year award in the less than \$5 million transportation category, for the Nippersink Boulevard Reconstruction.

Consumer Confidence Reports now available

The Village of Fox Lake 2022 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 2022.



South (0970200) System Report

North (0975780) System Report



For a copy of the South System Consumer Confidence Report please visit: <http://www.Foxlakesouth.us>

For a copy of the North System Consumer Confidence Report please visit: <http://www.Foxlakenorth.us>

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



Parks and Recreation

Join us at the next community event



Registration now open for spring youth sports

Keep the kids active with youth sports. The Village of Fox Lake offers a variety of classes for children ages 3 - 8 starting the week of April 10, 2023. Youth Sports classes are \$57 per child for each session. Registration forms are found on the Village of Fox Lake website under applications & forms.



Enjoy open gym—all ages welcome

Come enjoy open gym at Lakefront Park Building, Monday - Friday from 3:00 p.m. - 4:50 p.m. with a daily cost of \$2 per participant. Monday/Wednesday for grades eight and under and Tuesday/Thursday/Friday for High School and up. Participants grades five and under must be accompanied by an adult. Participants 17 and younger must have a parent/guardian signed waiver to participate. Waivers are found on the Village of Fox Lake website under applications & forms.



Drop by for games, puzzles and more

Stop by Lakefront Park Building every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. for the Senior Drop - In Game Center. The cost is \$1 per person. Enjoy Mahjong, board games, dominoes, playing cards and more. There is also a jigsaw puzzle exchange in the upstairs game room. Simply bring a jigsaw puzzle to leave and select a new one to take home! You can stop in and work on one if you prefer.



Host your next event at Lakefront Park

Need a place to host a business/club meeting, birthday party, shower, or family gathering? Try renting out one of the Village of Fox Lake's indoor facilities. The Fox Lake Community Center offers a large space for parties or gatherings of up to 150 people. Rental fees may vary depending on weekend or weeknight rentals, as well as resident and non-resident rates. For more information please visit the Village of Fox Lake Website or call (224) 225-1404.



Parks and Recreation (continued)



Calling all artists — submit your work for the summer art series

The Village of Fox Lake is doing a call for local artists to submit a 2 x 3 ratio landscape sized piece of art. Submitted art can include 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 15, 2023. Please call the Parks and Recreation Department at (224) 225-1404 for more information.

Grab a plot at the community garden

The Fox Lake Community Garden is accepting gardeners for the 2023 growing season. The Fox Lake Community Garden is open to any resident of Grant Township and Fox Lake. Interested in purchasing a Community Garden plot? Please contact the Village of Fox Lake at (847) 587-2151 to check plot availability.



Upcoming Events

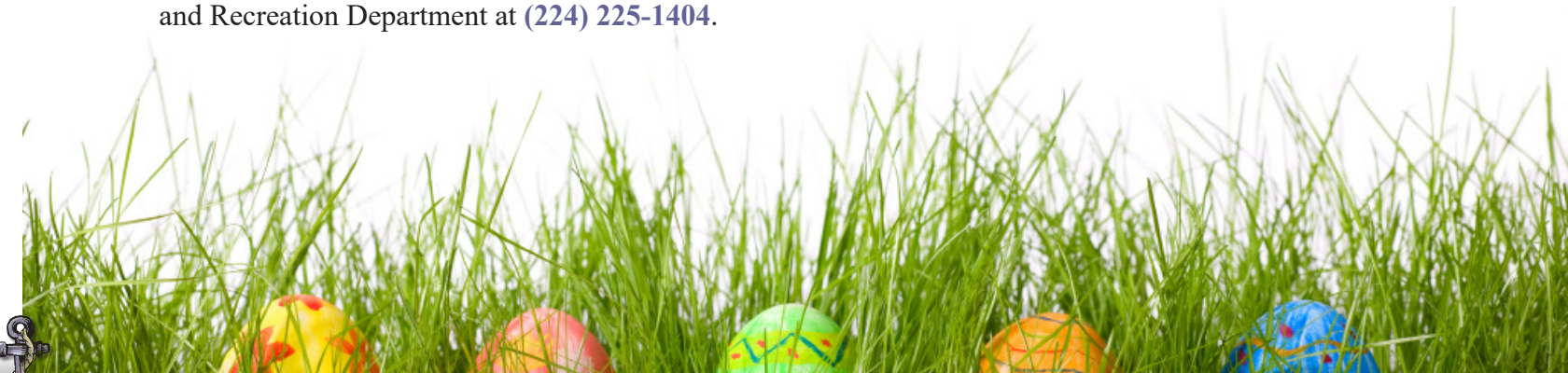
Senior Luncheon

Date: Third Thursday of the month

Time: 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

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

Senior Luncheons are back at the Village of Fox Lake. Senior Luncheons are in partnership with Grant Township and take place on the third Thursday of the month. The 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.



Upcoming Events (continued)

Fox Lake Pelican Palooza

Date(s): April 1 - 16, 2023

Location: Fox Lake, IL

The Pelicans are on their way to Fox Lake and the Chain O' Lakes as they migrate north. This event will have a photography exhibit at the Fox Lake District Library, a scavenger hunt, a photo contest, and pelican educational opportunities. To see activities, please visit the Village of Fox Lake Facebook Page or website. Please call the Parks and Recreation Department at **(224) 225-1404** if you have any questions.

Police Bike Rodeo

Date: Saturday, May 20, 2023

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Location: Millennium Park, 13 Rollins Rd. Fox Lake, IL

Get your bike ready for summer with the Fox Lake Police Department. Enjoy a bike course, a free bike tune up, snacks and give aways, while meeting your Fox Lake Police Officers and Police Bike Patrol Unit. No registration required. Please call the Parks and Recreation Department at **(224) 225-1404** if you have any questions.

Fox Lake Friday Night Concert Series

Date(s): Every Friday, June - August

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

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

Enjoy your Friday nights this summer by visiting the Fox Lake Community Garden Green at 17 E. School Ct. Fox Lake, IL for a live music performance by area musicians. These Friday Night Concerts consist of live solo, duo, and band performances every Friday, June - August from 6:30 p.m. -8:00 p.m. Bring a lawn chair, snacks, and blankets and enjoy the free live performances representing different genres each week.



Upcoming Events (continued)

Fox Lake Farmers Market

Date(s): Every Tuesday, June - August

Time: 3:00 p.m. - 7:00 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. Held every Tuesday from 3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. June – August (no market July 4) at the Fox Lake Community Garden Green located at 17 E. School Ct. Fox Lake, IL 60020. Interested in becoming a vendor? Please call the Village of Fox Lake Parks and Recreation Department at **(224) 225-1404**.

Fox Lake Triathlon

Date(s): Sunday, June 11, 2023

Time: 7:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

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

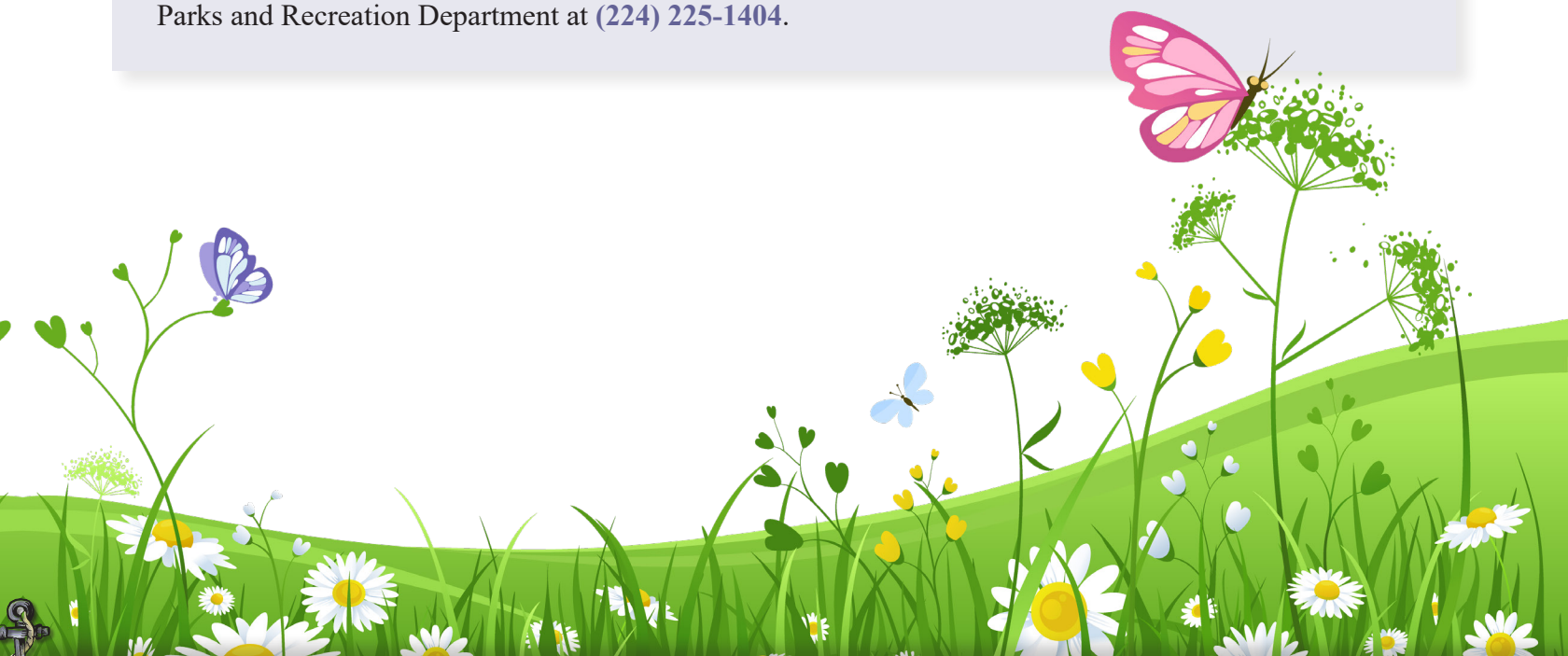
The Fox Lake Triathlon is coming back for 2023! Swim (1K), bike (12.5 Miles) and run (5K) at the Fox Lake Triathlon. Finish line food, festivities, and awards will commence once the last person has finished. Register today at <https://raceroster.com/66092>

Celebrate Fox Lake

Date(s): Saturday, July 1, 2023

Time: 5:00 – 10:00 p.m. (Parade at 11:00 a.m.)

Mark your calendars for our annual Independence Day celebration. The event includes a full day of activities including a parade, live music, food and drinks, and of course fireworks to cap off the night. Additional details will be posted on the village website closer to the event. For questions, please call the Parks and Recreation Department at **(224) 225-1404**.



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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.

