



# *The* ANCHOR

## VILLAGE OF FOX LAKE NEWSLETTER

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### FROM THE DESK OF THE MAYOR **DONNY SCHMIT**

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving with family and friends. As I sit at my desk, the morning after the Festival of Lights parade and tree lighting, looking out my window at the season's first snow, I am filled with pride in our community, a sense of family, and what it means to be a part of this great Village. On days like today, I am reminded of why I chose

to run for public office and serve my community.

My family moved here in the mid 1950's. I began school at Lotus Grade School in 1959, and proudly graduated from Grant High School in 1971. My children and grandchildren also went to the same grade and high school in Fox Lake, and it is my hope that their children and grandchildren will do the same. One of my goals as the Mayor is to keep Fox Lake an affordable, great place to raise a family that people are proud to call home.

I consider every resident part of the Fox Lake family. When it comes to Village finances, I try to follow the same principles as I do at my small business. Financial responsibility, planning for the future, research, listening to the needs of the community, following the law, and making moral decisions are guidelines for myself, the board, and the staff.

Just as in every family, there may be disagreements. I do not mind and seek constructive criticism. The Board and I must look at all sides of a disagreement. In the end, we will make the decision that is legal, moral and in the best interest of the family- the Village.

I encourage all residents to reach out to me, before believing misinformed facts online. I am willing to speak to anyone and will answer any question that I

# FROM THE DESK OF THE MAYOR

*(Continued)*

can. Call the Village Hall to set up an appointment with me to talk through your questions and/or concerns.

Recent misinformation involves the remodeling of two local businesses. The business owners have run into obstacles that do not pertain to the Village, and they are doing their best to open their doors again as soon as possible.

The Lakefront Park expansion continues to progress. Material shortages and price increases are part of the challenges that we are facing, but we are moving forward. When completed, this will be a haven for the entire community; young and old, and a gathering place for all. Each week I see the progress made and I cannot wait for the project to be completed. It will be a wonderful addition to our town for residents to enjoy for many years to come. Pending the weather this winter, the opening of the park is scheduled for Memorial Day 2024. I hope to see you all at the ribbon cutting next spring.

The Village Board and I have made efforts to be as transparent as we can be. On the Friday before a Board meeting, by 5:00 P.M., the Village Board agenda is available for all to see on the Village website in the transparency portal.

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



Donny

## COMMUNITY and ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

The Village of Fox Lake Community Development Department continues to work on major projects as the summer/fall seasons end and we welcome the winter months. The Classic Cinemas at the Fox Lake Town Center have started renovations that call for four new theater areas that will allow for better service to theater patrons.

The Dairy Queen on RT 12 and Grand Avenue is nearing completion. The store plans to offer cool treats and delicious ice cream cakes year-round. There are also plans to enhance outdoor scenery and landscaping in the Spring!

Several developers have shown interest in constructing multi-family mixed-use developments in our community. We are excited that developers are interested in our beautiful community. All public hearings and meetings are posted on our website.

Even though the construction season is slowing down, we are here at Village Hall to answer your permitting questions. If you are unsure what is needed for a project you are considering, just give us a call. All permit forms are available online and can be submitted to [permits@foxlake.org](mailto:permits@foxlake.org).



# CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION

*Christmas tree collection days will be January 3rd and 9th, 2024. Collection will be from Waste Management.*

If you'd rather donate your Christmas tree, bring your real, undecorated tree to one of eight marked drop-off sites at preserves around Lake County. It will be recycled into wood chips for trails and landscaping in your forest preserves.

The closest drop-off sites to Fox Lake are Grant Woods in Ingleside and or Lakewood in Wauconda. Trees will be accepted until February 1st, 2024. For more information, visit <https://www.lcpd.org/recycle-your-christmas-tree>.

## LAKEFRONT PARK CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Construction is progressing well for the Lakefront Park expansion project. Curbs are poured, the new Riverview alignment has been paved with binder, the walls along the new roads are stained, and the asphalt binder is down on the north parking lot. Work, including final asphalt surface and pervious pavers, to finish out the formed parking lots along the north and south side of the building, as well as the newly aligned Riverview Road, are anticipated to be completed prior to winter but are weather dependent.



Playground equipment is partially installed, and the area is being prepared for the surface(s) that will be installed in the spring months. There is a lot of work still required for the park throughout the winter months in anticipation for the summer of 2024 events. The amphitheater and shade structures were delivered, and it is anticipated that these will be installed over the winter after the beach is completed.

The water level of the lake has officially reached winter levels, which means that the construction of the beach area is expected to begin pending coordination with the governing regulatory agencies.





# A MESSAGE FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

With winter weather on the way, drivers are once again preparing for slippery, icy roads and the bitter cold. It's no secret that these conditions make driving far more hazardous. While there are many things that can be done to avoid accidents, it is unfortunate that some drivers will find themselves stranded on the side of the roadway or involved in a motor vehicle accident.

To aid in the prevention of being stranded on a roadway, drivers should make sure to:

- Check their tire tread to make sure it is sufficient.
- Consider replacing their tires to ensure the best traction possible.
- Check that breaks, lights, wiper blades, heating units and other equipment are in good working condition.
- Continuously check vehicle fluids and gas levels, ensuring they are kept full.
- Replace old batteries to make sure the vehicle will start in below-freezing temperatures. Cold weather can affect a vehicle's battery, which may hinder its ability to start the vehicle.



Even with taking these precautions, it is recommended that drivers store an emergency preparedness kit in their vehicles. Without a kit, a stranded motorist in extreme cold or during a snowstorm can very quickly find themselves in an emergency situation. A small kit consists of a bag or bin to contain the supplies, keeping them dry and organized. Items to include in the kit are:

- Flashlights with extra batteries
- Cellphone charger and battery bank
- Basic first aid equipment
- Blanket (wool works best, even in wet conditions)
- High-Calorie food items (nuts, trail mix, and other non-perishables)
- Water
- Windshield scraper
- Kitty litter/road salt (for traction if stuck)
- Jumper cables
- Gloves, hat, scarf
- Small shovel
- Carbon monoxide detector (battery-powered)
- Additional warm clothing

A well-made kit is relatively inexpensive and provides a driver with protection ranging from additional comfort, all the way to potentially life-saving equipment. If ever stranded in a vehicle with the desire to keep the engine running, make sure the vehicle's exhaust is free of snow and debris. There are many unfortunate documented cases of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning where drivers and occupants have become sick or even deceased due to a vehicle's tailpipe being clogged, allowing CO to enter the vehicle.

CO is an odorless, colorless gas that can be lethal when inhaled. Symptoms include headache, dizziness, weakness, upset stomach, vomiting, chest pain, and confusion.

Steps that can be taken to avoid CO poisoning:

- Do not leave a vehicle running while clearing it of snow.
- Remove all snow that has accumulated around the exhaust pipe.
- Consider cracking a window if the vehicle is going to be idling for long periods of time, to help with oxygen exchange.

Stay safe on the roadway and have a great holiday season!

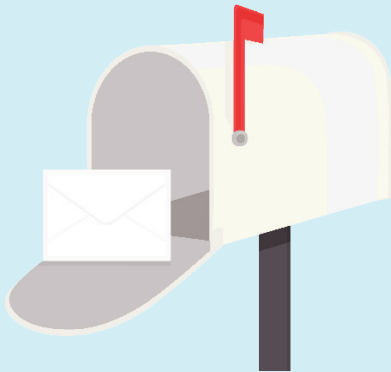


# FOX LAKE PUBLIC WORKS SNOW & ICE OPERATIONS

The Village of Fox Lake provides snow and ice control in order to maintain the safety of the street system during the winter months that is necessary for routine travel and emergency services. Ten Village plow units are used to cover over 60 center-line miles of roadway. Main roadways are plowed first to provide access for emergency fire, police, medical services, and schools with side roads to follow.

In cooperation with the Police Department, Public Works will initiate snow and ice control operations. The depth and time of snow accumulation along with the volume of traffic are monitored to determine when plowing operations begin. Generally, snow and ice control is initiated when snow accumulations reach two inches or when blowing and drifting affect traffic conditions.

It is the Village of Fox Lakes current policy that private streets are the property owner's responsibility for any snow removal activities. Snow from a private driveway may not be placed on or pushed across a Village street. The Village will only clean snow within the confines of curb line to curb line of a street. Snow placed in driveways by Village plows is the property owner's responsibility for removal.



## DAMAGED MAILBOX POLICY

On May 9, 2023, Village Board approved a resolution adopting a mailbox repair and replacement policy during snow and ice removal operations. The purpose of this policy adoption is to set guidelines for damaged mailboxes and the policy for repairing and replacing them. This policy covers mailboxes that are physically struck by the snowplow. Prior to snow season, operators complete dry-runs of their routes, identifying the safest place to discharge snow away from the roadway.

During a snow event, a certain amount of speed is necessary to throw snow off the roadway depending on the type of snow. If you believe your mailbox was damaged during snow operations, please notify the Public Works Department at 847-587-8570 within 48 hours of the damage so staff can go out and assess the damage. Temporary mailboxes will be set up for mailboxes that were physically hit that are not repairable. The property owner will have two options:

- All cost reimbursements of a damaged mailbox will be made only with the presentation of sales receipts for materials used in such repair and replacement. A check request form will be completed. All labor or cost of labor to install the mailbox will be the responsibility of the owner of the mailbox.
- The homeowner will be responsible for the repair and replacement of the mailbox and post if it is damaged or knocked down by the snow coming off of the plow (the windrow) and not the direct hit from the city plow. Therefore, the Village will only replace mailboxes / posts if hit directly by a Village plow.

Please report any damage to Public Works at 847-587-8570.



## LIMITED WINTER PARKING AND PLOWING OR SHOVELING OF SNOW

When snow is being removed from the driveways and sidewalks, it is unlawful for any individual or business to push, place, or shovel snow on or across any street or sidewalk within the Village. This causes slippery conditions for both motorist and pedestrians, while also leaving more snow for the plows to push into the end of your or your neighbor's driveway.

During snow events, it is unlawful for the owner or operator of any vehicle to park on any street in the Village for a period longer than three (3) minutes for the loading and/or unloading of passengers, or for thirty (30) minutes for the loading and/or unloading of property at any time after snow begins to fall and exceeds two inches (2") until snowplowing operations have ceased. Parked vehicles cause safety hazards for emergency vehicles and make it more difficult for snow plows to clear the streets.

## PLOW DAMAGE TO PARKWAYS

During a snow event, it is very difficult at times for plow operators to judge where curbs and other obstacles are located since everything is buried in snow. In the event that damage occurs to your yard due to plowing operations, the Village will complete restoration work in the spring. Please notify the Public Works Department of needed restoration work at 847-587-8570.



## MOTORIST & SAFETY CONCERNS

- Observe all parking bans for on-street parking ordinances. This expedites snow removal efforts by Village forces.
- Remain off the road during snowstorms unless absolutely necessary.
- Do not allow children to make snow forts at the edge of the street; this is a dangerous situation. When plows pass, the weight of additional snow can cave snow in and bury children in their forts.
- Reduce your speed and drive cautiously. Remember, driving on slick winter pavements is hazardous, even if they have been plowed.
- Have patience around Village plows. Snow plowing is a time consuming, laborious and stressful job. Do not follow plows too closely. During their operation, they occasionally have to stop and back up. If you get in the 'blind spot' when they are backing up, it can only lead to an occurrence that no one would want to happen. Please give the plows plenty of room to do a good job for you and everyone else.



# PROGRAMS & EVENTS SURVEY

We believe that our parks are not just a physical space, but a communal hub where everyone's voice should be heard. Your insights and opinions are crucial in helping us understand your needs and preferences, enabling us to develop programs and initiatives that truly resonate with the community. Whether you are a regular visitor, an occasional guest, or a nearby resident, your input will play a significant role in shaping future programs and events.

**To take the survey, visit <https://shorturl.at/lnKM4>**

## ICE RINK

**OPENING SOON!**

The Fox Lake Outdoor Ice Skating Rink, located at 17 E School Ct, Fox Lake, IL 60020, will be open for the season once the ice is frozen. To prevent damage to the rink liner, please check for the green flag prior to entering the ice. A "red" flag indicates conditions are not favorable for skating and the rink is closed. Hours may vary due to weather conditions or snow and ice on the rink. Staff has the discretion to close early if attendance is low or unsafe ice conditions exist.

Public Skate is available daily from 10:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Hockey sticks & pucks are prohibited on the ice during public skate. Hockey with sticks & pucks is available daily from 8:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. No figure skating unless hockey is not present.

For additional information, please see the Fox Lake Recreation Area Outdoor Public Ice Skating Rink, Rules, Policies and Regulations found on the Village website.







# WINTER YOUTH SPORTS

Keep the kids active with youth sports. Youth Sports classes are \$57 per child for each session. A list of available classes will be available soon and registration forms will be posted on the Village of Fox Lake website under applications & forms.

# OPEN GYM

📍 Lakefront Park Building

**MONDAY +  
WEDNESDAY:**  
GRADES 8  
& UNDER

**TUES,  
THURS, + FRI**  
HIGH SCHOOL  
& UP

Participants 17 and younger must have a parent/guardian signed waiver form to participate. Waivers can be found on the Village of Fox Lake website under applications & forms.



## DROP IN GAME CENTER

**CALLING ALL SENIORS!**

Stop by Lakefront Park Building every Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday afternoon from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. for the Drop – In Game Center. The program is \$1 per person/day. Enjoy board games, dominoes, card games, mahjong and more.

These programs, along with daily activities, youth programs, and more, can be found on the Village website: <https://www.foxlake.org/410/Programs>.



# Upcoming EVENTS



Looking for more  
Parks & Recreation  
events? Follow us  
on Facebook!

/VFLparksandrec

## SENIOR LUNCHEONS

3rd Thursday of Every Month • 10:30am-1:00pm

📍 Lakefront Park Building (71 Nippersink Blvd, Fox Lake, IL)

Senior Luncheons, in partnership with Grant Township, take place on the third Thursday of the month. Cost is \$10 at the door and includes a meal with drinks and dessert along with live entertainment. Senior Luncheons are held at the Village of Fox Lake's Lakefront Park Building located at 71 Nippersink Blvd, Fox Lake, IL 60020. To reserve your seat, please call the Parks and Recreation Department at (224) 225-1404.



## FAMILY DANCE

Saturday, February 10 • 6:30-8:00pm

📍 Lakefront Park Building (71 Nippersink Blvd, Fox Lake, IL)

Dust off those bell-bottoms, don your most dazzling sequined outfits, and get ready to boogie the night away! The Village of Fox Lake is thrilled to announce its upcoming Disco Themed Family Dance, promising an evening of electrifying tunes, dazzling lights, and a whole lot of fun for everyone. Mark your calendars for Saturday, February 10, 2024 as we transport you back to the vibrant and lively era of the 1970s.



# LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN POLAR PLUNGE

## Sunday, February 25

📍 Lakefront Park Building (71 Nippersink Blvd, Fox Lake, IL)

Save the date for the most exhilarating event of the year! Join us for the Law Enforcement Torch Run Polar Plunge, where brave souls will take the icy plunge to support Special Olympics Illinois. It's a day filled with fun, camaraderie, and a whole lot of heart, all in the name of a great cause.



## EGG HUNT & PANCAKE BUNNY BREAKFAST

Saturday, March 23 • 8:00-11:00am  
Lakefront Park Building (71 Nippersink Blvd, Fox Lake, IL)

Get ready for an EGG-cellent time at the 2024 Egg-citing Egg Hunt and Pancake Bunny Breakfast! Join us on March 23rd for a morning filled with fun, laughter, and a delicious pancake breakfast, hosted by the Fox Lake Lions Club. Don't miss out on the thrill of the hunt and scrumptious pancakes!



## MARCH 29 to APRIL 14

### Mark Your Calendars!

- Photography Exhibit at the Library
- Family Friendly Scavenger Hunt
- Photography Contest
- Pelican Education Class



Be on the lookout for the Pelicans this spring! This event will have take-home activities and a photography exhibit at the Fox Lake District Library, a family friendly scavenger hunt, a photo contest, and a pelican education class with the Lake County Forest Preserve. To see a full list of activities, please visit the Village of Fox Lake Facebook Page or website.



# 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

## Village Clerk

Michelle Runnion

## Trustees

Bernice Konwent	Brian Marr
Jeff Jensen	Debra Vander Weit
Ron Stochl	Amy Driscoll

## 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).

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# STAY CONNECTED

## *with the Village of Fox Lake*

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, or can also be found on the Village's website at [www.foxlake.org](http://www.foxlake.org).

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

The Anchor is the official newsletter for the Village of Fox Lake.



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