



The ANCHOR

VILLAGE OF FOX LAKE NEWSLETTER

TABLE OF CONTENTS

From the desk of the Mayor	1
Office Hours	2
Leaf Burning	2
Voting & Election Information	3
New Business Updates	3
Public Works Department Updates	4
Homelessness in Fox Lake	6
Police Department Updates	7
Fox Lake Community Reflections	8
Northern Illinois Food Bank Mobile Market	8
Fox Lake Parks & Recreation Upcoming Events	9
Parks & Recreation Programming	11
Contact information	12

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

As Summer comes to an end, we await the changing of the season, the excitement of Friday night football at the local high school, and the array of autumn events that the Village of Fox Lake and Grant Township offer to our community.

I am proud that five generations of my family have called Fox Lake home since we moved here in 1957. Over the course of my lifetime, I have seen many changes in our town. I watched Dollar Lake become the plaza in our downtown. I saw a gravel pit at routes 12 & 134 become Dominic's shopping center. A gravel pit at the entrance to the Chain O' Lakes State Park entrance is now a subdivision called Vern's Landing. Vacation Village was a cornfield on State Park Road when I was young. My childhood was spent in "Snake Woods" off Grass Lake Road, where I rode my horse and played in what is now the Woodland Green and Leisure Village subdivisions. And it was at Holiday Park, now another subdivision, where I worked as a lifeguard and met my future wife during my teenage years.

Things and ways of life change. One thing that has not changed since I was young is the support of our youth and the spirit of our town. Just as when I grew up, there is an army of volunteers that run our youth sports programs, and they are very much appreciated.

When I was a young boy, there was always something to do. Like my own upbringing, a dedicated group of volunteers continues to manage our youth sports programs, and their efforts are greatly valued. Growing up, there was never a dull moment. Vacant fields and empty lots became impromptu baseball and football fields. Local hangouts like Deer Haven near the police station, the mini-golf and batting cages along Route 12, bowling alleys, the cinema, and Holiday Park were the hotspots of our youth. Deer Haven by the police department, mini golf and batting cages on Route 12, the bowling alleys, movie theater and Holiday Park kept us busy in our preteen and teenage years.

I have seen our town go through hard times and times of prosperity. As video games and television became

FROM THE DESK OF THE MAYOR *(Continued)*

more prevalent, one by one, the activities and places I enjoyed as a youth went away. Vacant lots and fields became housing. Deer Haven and the batting cages and mini golf were not economically feasible and closed. The bowling alleys and movie theater also closed. It seemed that, outside of sports, there was less and less for our youth to do in town.

Our town is back on the road to prosperity. Our Community Development Department is diligently working to attract more businesses to the Village. The state-of-the-art movie theater has recently undergone expansion. Additionally, our library now offers an expanded array of programs and resources for all age groups.

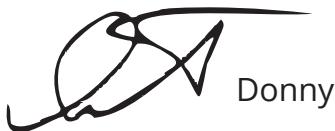
The Village Board and staff have heeded your requests and suggestions, striving to offer activities for both youth and adults. Following your suggestions, for the Lakefront Park expansion, we transformed an area once known as "Skid Row" into a family-friendly zone for enjoyment and socializing. Our Parks and Recreation Department offers numerous programs for all age groups.

We had a decision to make on Lakefront Park expansion. Due to various factors, the construction of the beach, outdoor pickleball court, and splash pad could not be finalized this summer. Consequently, we faced a choice: either keep the park closed until all amenities were complete or open them progressively as each was constructed.

We decided to open amenities as they were completed. Celebrate Fox Lake on the 4th of July weekend was a tremendous success. The Friday Night Concerts were enjoyed by thousands of people this summer. The shoreline has established itself as a beloved fishing destination. Every time I drive by the park and see all the children and families enjoying our playground, my heart is filled with joy and pride. This is just the beginning. We will take the things that worked well and improve them and fix the things that did not work as well as we hoped.

The Village Board and I strive for utmost transparency. Board Agendas are accessible to the public on the Village website's transparency portal by 5:00 p.m. on the Friday before the scheduled meetings.

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



Donny



HOLIDAY OFFICE HOUR REMINDERS

Please be advised the Village of Fox Lake offices are expected to be closed on the following holiday dates:

- Thursday, November 28, 2024
- Friday, November 29, 2024
- Tuesday, December 24, 2024
- Wednesday, December 25, 2024
- Wednesday, January 1, 2025
- Monday, February 17, 2025



LEAF BURNING

Residents may burn leaves on private property between September 1st to November 30th each year (and again April 1st to April 30th annually). 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 will not affect neighboring properties.



ANCHORED IN FOX LAKE

NEWEST ONBOARDED BUSINESSES

The Hussle Barber
2 W. Grand Ave. H #10

La Rosita Fresh Market
17 Towne Centre

Auto Group Holding LLC
418 Rollins Road

Smokehouse Dispensary
44 S. Route 12

Kate's Hillside Drive
24 Hillside Dr.

Justen Cable Construction
(2nd Location)
820 Grand Ave.

S & S Repair and Restoration
62 N. Route 12

BUSINESSES ONBOARDING SOON

143 Plus More Creative Art, LLC
29 E. Grand Ave.

Hounds Town USA
104 Sayton Rd.

Carriage Motors
(2nd Location)
133 S. Rt 12

Parkway Dispensary
31 Towne Center Lane

VOTING & ELECTION INFORMATION

Village of Fox Lake Consolidated Election 2025

POSITIONS AVAILABLE:

VILLAGE PRESIDENT

Term: 4 years | Open Positions: 1

VILLAGE TRUSTEE

Term: 4 years | Open Positions: 3

VILLAGE CLERK

Term: 4 years | Open Positions: 1

KEY DATES:

NOVEMBER 12-18, 2024

Filing dates at Village Hall

NOVEMBER 25, 2024

Last day to file objections to nomination papers with the Village Clerk at Village Hall

NOVEMBER 27, 2024

10:00 AM Lottery for Simultaneous Filers
(if required)

APRIL 1, 2025

Election Day

Nomination papers are available for pick up at Fox Lake Village Hall, located at 66 Thillen Dr., Fox Lake, IL, or on the Village of Fox Lake website at www.foxlake.org. Must be 18 years of age (or 17 years of age and qualified to vote in Illinois) and a resident in the Village of Fox Lake for at least one year prior to the election date of April 1, 2025.

For additional information, please contact Deputy Clerk Ashley Magnine at magninea@foxlake.org or (847) 587-3947.



PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT



WATER SERVICES & BUFFALO BOXES



The Sewer & Water Department has been working on updating and locating buffalo boxes for the GIS mapping program. During this effort, we have noticed there are multiple

properties where buffalo boxes are located in paved, hard surface driveways or private walks.

If a buffalo box in one of these locations is damaged by the building owner or user, then the buffalo box shall be repaired by the Village at the owner's expense. The restoration of the area will be the responsibility of the property owner, and an indemnification agreement will be required for the property.

If you have any further questions, please contact the Sewer & Water Department at (847) 587-3506.



REFUSE & RECYCLING UPDATES

REFUSE SERVICE DESCRIPTION	RATES
95-Gal - Single Family Home	\$26.82*
64-Gal - Single Family Home	\$24.45
35-Gal - Single Family Home	\$22.95
64-Gal - Multi Family Home	\$24.45*
35-Gal - Multi Family Home	\$22.95
35-Gal - Multi Family Home (Leisure Village Only)	\$22.95*
Dumpster - Multi Family Home	\$26.32

*Default Rates

The Village has approved a new Agreement with Waste Management, which will commence on November 1, 2024. Please refer to the table reflecting the new rates.



We encourage all residents to visit our website where you will find a comprehensive list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) and a wealth of information pertaining to the new agreement, including details on the introduction of multi-toter options, exchange periods, updated customer service information, and more.

For more information, please email refuse@foxlake.org.

MAILBOX REPAIR OR REPLACEMENT POLICY FOR THE SNOW SEASON

The Village policy covers mailboxes only if they are physically struck by a snowplow. Before winter, drivers conduct dry runs to determine the safest locations to deposit snow off the roads, minimizing damage from snow ejected by the plows. A certain velocity is required to effectively throw snow, and drivers exercise their best judgment depending on the snow type. If you suspect your mailbox was damaged during snow removal, report it to the Village within 48 hours for assessment. Non-repairable mailboxes that were directly hit will have temporary replacements installed.

Subsequently, the property owner is presented with two options:

- The department will replace the mailbox with a standard post and box when conditions/weather permits.
- The Village will reimburse up to \$150, upon receipt, toward the property owner making the repair or replacing the mailbox.

WHAT IS THE MAILBOX REPAIR POLICY?

It is a policy of the Village of Fox Lake that all mailboxes damaged by the Public Works Department during snow and ice operations will be replaced by a standard post and box when conditions permit. The Village will only take responsibility for the damage if it is caused by a direct hit from the snowplow. If damage occurs as a result of the snow being discharged from the plow, the responsibility for the repair and/or replacement falls on the property owner.

The Village of Fox Lake will not be responsible for the full replacement cost of mailboxes including custom mailboxes. The Village, however, will reimburse up to \$150.00 to the property owner toward the replacement cost of a mailbox of their choice. In instances where property owners have specific mailbox guidelines set forth by homeowners' associations, the responsibility for the cost difference above and beyond \$150.00 will be between the property owner and the association. At the Village's discretion, this replacement fee will be revised and adjusted as needed.



LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

The Village of Fox Lake is commencing its Lead Service Line Replacement Program with Five Star Energy Services, the lowest responsible bidder for the project. The Village has obtained about \$2.28 million of principal forgiveness from the IEPA for this initiative.

The Fox Lake water system serves both residential and non-residential customers, with the majority of non-residential demands located south of Nippersink Lake. The system encompasses approximately 50 miles of water main, 701 fire hydrants, and 625 mainline water valves. The section of the distribution system south of Nippersink Lake, which accounts for two-thirds of the overall system, consists of roughly 30 miles of water main, with the oldest sections dating back to the 1920s.

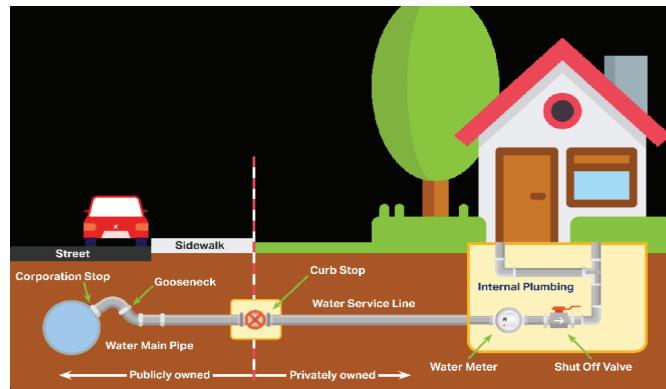
The typical ownership of the water service line is illustrated in the image on page 6 and is defined as follows:

- Village-owned water service (Public Side): Extending from the water main to the curb stop.
- Property-owned water service (Private Side): Stretching from the curb stop to the water meter inside the building.

As the Village continues to inventory water service line materials within its water system, the inventory will identify:

- The total number of service lines in the current year's community water supply (CWS).
- The material composition of EACH service line connected to the community's distribution system.
- The overall service material composition
- The count of suspected lead service lines identified since the last material inventory submission.
- The number of suspected or known lead service lines replaced since the last material inventory submission.

While a complete and verified inventory is currently being compiled, the Village is prioritizing the services installed with the original South System, which are within the oldest sections of the distribution system.



The replacement of lead service lines and related site work will be confined to properties that are presently utilizing lead water service lines. The expected environmental impacts include construction noise, dust, traffic, and soil disturbance. These impacts, while minor and transient, will be minimized through the implementation of best management practices throughout the construction phase. There will be continuous communication with residents and nearby businesses affected by the project. Due to limited access and narrow streets, temporary road closures and detours are anticipated as construction advances.

⚠ HOMELESSNESS IN FOX LAKE

In the Village of Fox Lake, we are dedicated to addressing homelessness by offering education, connections, and resources. We kindly ask for your trust in our initiative as we strive to make a positive impact on the lives of all our residents and our community in the Village of Fox Lake.

How Do People End Up Experiencing Homelessness?

People experience homelessness for many reasons. It could be a financial crisis, (loss of a job, not enough income, a major expense such as auto repair or healthcare), a family issue, substance use, or someone fleeing domestic abuse, among other issues.

What Should I Do if I Feel Threatened? Call 911.

Is Panhandling Legal?

Nonaggressive panhandling is considered free speech and protected by the First Amendment.

How Can I Help Someone Experiencing Homelessness?

It is important to treat all people with dignity. Having a conversation with someone can be a simple and helpful act of kindness.

What Should I Do If Someone Asks Me for Money?

If you are asked or approached for money, you can say no. Additionally, we encourage you to direct the individual to available resources such as 211. By calling 211, it provides access to a variety of other resources for housing, utilities, food, and crisis help. Resources can also be found online at 211lakecounty.org. Other local resources include PADS Lake County and Lake County Homelessness Coalition.



Keeping Our Village Safe

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR FOX LAKE POLICE DEPARTMENT

As we transition from summer to fall, it is an exciting time to reflect on community safety and how we can all work together to keep our village a secure and welcoming place. The changing seasons bring new opportunities for safety awareness, and we want to ensure everyone is informed and prepared.

FALL SAFETY TIPS

As the weather cools down and daylight hours shorten, keep key safety tips to keep in mind:



Watch for Pedestrians: With children back in school and more people out enjoying the cooler weather, be vigilant around crosswalks and residential areas. Always stop for school buses with flashing lights.



Adjust to Changing Conditions: Fall often brings rain and early frost, which can make roads slippery. Drive cautiously, keep your headlights on in low-light conditions, and increase your following distance.



Be Visible: As it gets darker earlier, it is crucial to be visible when walking or biking. Wear reflective gear, use lights on bikes, and stay in well-lit areas.



Secure Your Home: With the return of fall routines, it is easy to overlook home security. Ensure all doors and windows are locked and consider installing motion-sensor lights around your property.



Secure Valuables: As you prepare for seasonal changes, ensure valuables such as bicycles and tools are securely stored in a locked garage or shed.



Fire Safety: Autumn is a popular time for using fireplaces and heaters. Make sure the chimneys are cleaned, and heating systems are inspected. Also, remember to assess smoke detectors regularly.

With fall comes various holidays and events. Whether you are preparing for Halloween or other festive gatherings, review the below safety reminders:



Halloween Safety: Parents accompany younger children on their trick-or-treating routes and remind them to only approach houses with porch lights on. Drivers should be extra cautious and watch out for pedestrians in neighborhoods.



Seasonal Events: If you are hosting or attending events, be mindful of neighborhood noise and traffic. Be respectful of your neighbors and ensure any gathering complies with local regulations.

REPORTING & COMMUNICATION

We encourage all residents to stay vigilant and report any suspicious activity. Your observations and timely reports are invaluable in keeping our village safe. Remember, you can always contact us via our non-emergency number at (847) 587-3100.

As always, thank you for your continued cooperation and support. By working together, we can make our village safer for everyone. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us. Stay safe and enjoy the beautiful fall season!

FOX LAKE

~ COMMUNITY REFLECTIONS ~

The Village of Fox Lake is embarking on an ambitious and forward-thinking comprehensive plan: Fox Lake Community Reflections. More than just a plan, this collective journey to envision a vibrant and resilient future will be shaped by the memories, experiences, and aspirations of our residents. The goal: to ensure transparent communication and encourage active community involvement in shaping the future of the Village of Fox Lake.

What is a Comprehensive Plan?

A comprehensive plan is a critical decision-making tool to help guide a village's long-term development and growth. This plan will provide a clear framework for various aspects of community life, including land use, transportation, housing, economic development, public services, and environmental conservation. By outlining a shared vision and setting specific goals and objectives, the plan helps village officials, planners, and stakeholders prioritize projects and allocate resources effectively. Overall, the comprehensive plan is an essential tool for coordinating efforts, avoiding ad-hoc decision-making, and ensuring a cohesive, forward-looking approach to growth and prosperity.

What's Next?

Please stay updated on our Comprehensive Plan website www.foxlakecompplan.com and media outlet postings for upcoming events and Fox Lake Community Reflections. Your support and participation are vital as we create a future that honors our past and embraces the possibilities ahead. Share your reflections and aspirations to help build the Fox Lake we all envision.



POP-UP/MOBILE MARKET

Northern Illinois Food Bank - Mobile Market

📍 Parking Log of Extra Storage Space – 1258 US-12, Fox Lake, IL 60020 (Enter off Frontage Rd.)

Pick up fresh groceries in the parking lot of Extra Storage Space in Fox Lake. Please bring bags or boxes to package your food. Anyone in need of a little extra help is welcome. No ID is needed.

Distribution times are subject to change based on product availability. While supplies last.

UPCOMING DATES

Friday, October 25, 2024 | 4:00 - 5:30 PM

Friday, November 22, 2024 | 4:00 - 5:30 PM

Friday, December 27, 2024 | 4:00 - 5:30 PM



Upcoming EVENTS



Looking for more Parks & Recreation events? Follow us on Facebook!
[/VFLparksandrec](https://www.facebook.com/VFLparksandrec)



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2024
10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Grant Township Center (26725 W Moldor Rd., Ingleside, IL)

The Village of Fox Lake and Grant Township have partnered together to host the Fall Festival at the Grant Township Center. This FREE event will have music, craft vendors, pumpkin decorating, food, refreshments, a pie eating contest, inflatables, a petting zoo, public works/highways, police vehicles, and much more! If you have any questions, please contact the Parks and Recreation Department at (224) 225-1404.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2024
3:00 - 7:00 P.M.

Lakefront Park (71 Nippersink Blvd., Fox Lake, IL)

Join the Village of Fox Lake for a day of Fall fun! This event will include various artisan craft vendors, food vendors, music, a kids parade, and pumpkin carving. Participants will carve pumpkins and add them to the pumpkin wall that will be on display until 7:00 pm. Participants will take them home at the end of the event. If you have any questions, please contact the Parks and Recreation Department at (224) 225-1404.



MONDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2024
4:00 - 7:00 P.M.

Join the Village of Fox Lake Police Department to celebrate Halloween. Your family will get to meet members of the Fox Lake Police Department and enjoy treats, hot dogs, children's activities, hot chocolate, and hayrides. This is a free event, and Halloween costumes are encouraged for both children and parents! Questions? Contact the Fox Lake Police Department at (847) 587-3100.

JIG-SAW PUZZLE EXCHANGE

New at the Lakefront Park Building, there will be a senior lending library for jigsaw puzzles in the upstairs game room. Simply bring a jigsaw puzzle to leave and select a new one to take home! You can also stop in and work on one if you prefer! If you know a senior who would enjoy a puzzle, but cannot pick one up themselves, please call the Parks and Recreation Department at (224) 225-1404.





SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2024

3:00 - 6:00 P.M.

Before the parade and tree lighting, attend the Kris Kringle Winter Market located at the Community Garden from 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. The parade will start at 5:00 p.m., and immediately following the parade there will be the Annual Tree Lighting at Millennium Park and the opening of the Santa Cottage.

The Festival of Lights Parade starts at Grant Community High School (285 E. Grand Ave.) and makes its way down Grand Avenue into Downtown Fox Lake, IL. The lineup begins at 4 p.m. with the parade starting at 5:00 p.m. Participants are encouraged to decorate and light up their floats and cars! The more lights – the better!

Register to be in the Parade and/or participate as a Vendor in the Kris Kringle Market. Download Applications on our website www.foxlake.org.



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2024

12:00 P.M. (Doors Open at 11:00 A.M.)

Join us for a delightful turkey luncheon with your loved ones at Marvela's, located at 4 Washington St., Fox Lake, IL, hosted by the Village of Fox Lake's Parks and Recreation Department. The menu features a whole turkey, creamy mashed potatoes with gravy, buttered sweet corn, savory stuffing, soup, and a sweet dessert. Reserve a table for 10 at \$280.00 or buy individual tickets for \$28.00 each. Be sure to register before November 27, 2024. To register, send details and payment to the Village of Fox Lake Village Hall at 66 Thillen Dr., Fox Lake, IL. For additional information, please contact the Parks and Recreation Department at (224) 225-1404.



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2024

1:00 - 3:00 P.M.

Come out and enjoy cookie decorating, holiday crafts, and visits with Santa! This is a free event for residents of Fox Lake/Ingleside. The Children's Holiday Party is held at the Lakefront Park Building, 71 Nippersink Blvd. Fox Lake, IL 60020. Questions? Please contact the Parks and Recreation Department at (224) 225-1404.

For additional information about any of our Village of Fox Lake Programs or Events, please contact Parks & Recreation at (224) 225-1404.

PARKS & RECREATION PROGRAMMING

OPEN GYM

Lakefront Park Building
Large Gym
3:00 - 4:50 PM | M - F
Age Varies per Day

Participants under 18 need a waiver signed by a parent/guardian. Those in 5th grade & under require adult supervision.

\$2 per person

PING PONG

Lakefront Park Building
2nd Floor Game Room
1:00 - 4:45 PM | M, W, F
All Ages

Paddles & balls provided. Participants under 18 need a waiver signed by a parent/guardian. Those in 5th grade & under require adult supervision.

\$1 per person

PICKLEBALL

Lakefront Park Building
Large Gym
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM | M, Tu, W
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM | Fri
1:00 - 3:00 PM | M, W
5:00 - 8:00 PM | M, Th
All Ages

Multi-visit punch cards are available.

\$2 Resident | \$4 Non-Resident

DROP-IN GAME CENTER

Lakefront Park Building
2nd Floor Game Room
1:00 - 4:00 PM | W, Th, F
All Ages

Gather with friends & family for a variety of card games, board games, & more! Elevator access is provided.

\$1 per person

COUNTRY LINE DANCING

Lakefront Park Building
Small Gym
5:00 - 7:00 PM | M
(Nov 4 - 25)

Ages 18 and Older

Join DJ Dan Neilson as he instructs you to the best in country line dancing.

\$60 Total / \$15 Per Week

SEATED STRENGTH FITNESS

Lakefront Park Building
Small Gym
9:30 - 10:15 AM | M
(Sept 9 - Oct 7)
Ages 18 and Older
5-week session, pay onsite.
Additional sessions coming soon!

\$45 per 5 Week Session

SENIOR LUNCHEONS

Lakefront Park Building
2nd Floor Game Room
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM | Th
(Nov 21, Dec 19)
Ages 60 and Older

The Village of Fox Lake & Grant Township are hosting 3 Senior luncheons. Reserve your seat now. Catered lunch, doors open at 10:30 AM., and food at 11:30 AM. For reservations, call Parks & Recreation at (224) 225-1404.

\$10 per person

SENIOR RESOURCE FAIR

Lakefront Park Building
Large Gym
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Thursday, October 17

Ages 60 and Older

This event will provide information about area community programs & educational opportunities for seniors. Medicare 101 Information Program at 11:00 AM.

FREE ADMISSION

METABOLIC HEALTH & NUTRITION CLASS

Lakefront Park Building
Small Gym
5:30 - 6:30 PM | F
(Oct 18 - Dec 13, No Class Nov 29)
Ages 18 and Older

Learn how to burn fat and keep it off with Nutrition Coach & Personal Trainer, Tony Vargas!

\$300 Total / \$40 Per Week

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

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).

*****ECRWSS*****

POSTAL CUSTOMER
FOX LAKE, IL 60020

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.

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

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



Like us on
FACEBOOK



Follow us on
TWITTER



Follow us on
INSTAGRAM



Sign up for
MESSAGING



Visit
foxlake.org