



The ANCHOR

VILLAGE OF FOX LAKE NEWSLETTER

TABLE OF CONTENTS

From the desk of the Mayor	1
Lakefront Park Update	2
Community & Economic Development	3
This Is The Life	3
Police Department Updates	4
Public Works Department Updates	5
Refuse & Recycling	6
Fox Lake Community Reflections Comprehensive Plan	7
Indoor Pickleball	8
Couples Paint-Along	8
Parks & Recreation Upcoming Events	11
Parks & Recreation 2025 Event Calendar and Information	11
Contact Information	12

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

I hope everyone enjoyed the holiday season, the parade, tree lighting, light show, and the many activities that Fox Lake has to offer. In this newsletter, I want to address two topics. First, my pride in our youth and school systems; second, the Comprehensive Plan the Village is updating.

As people have heard me say many times, I began my schooling at Lotus Grade School, and I am a proud graduate of Grant High School as are my children and grandchildren. Over the years, Big Hollow, Lotus, Saint Bede's, and Grant have asked me to speak to the students. The visits have been for reading nights, civic lessons, to address how local government works and how it affects their lives and a visit to the transition school, where students learn life skills. I am very proud of the education, opportunities, and life skills that our administration, faculty and school boards provide for our children. All the schools have changed since I roamed the halls. They are bigger, offer more areas of study, have improved technology, and are focused on academics, technical training and preparing our children for life. When I attend athletic awards nights, the program focuses as much attention on the student athlete's academic achievements as it does on their athletic accomplishments.

Earlier in November, I was invited to speak to the sophomore class and explain how our Lakefront Park expansion came to be. I was there from 9:00 - 3:00, 6 periods. 2-3 classes at a time were brought to an auditorium. I brought a series of drone picture posters that showed the construction progress each month of the expansion, explained the planning process, funding and construction challenges. I explained "leakage," a term that is used in planning and development. Leakage is when you must leave your community to obtain services or make purchases.

I also asked for their opinions. They expressed that they felt they were not being listened to. We had an exchange on how they could communicate better with me. I asked for a show of hands of how many students used Facebook. Each

FROM THE DESK OF THE MAYOR

(Continued)

group had 1 or 2 students that used Facebook. They all communicated with each other by different means that I did not know about. I told them that their voices were important and mattered to me. They told me of their thoughts and wishes for our community and I was pleasantly surprised and amazed by their insights.

Fox Lake is in the process of updating our Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan is a blueprint for future development, improvement to existing conditions, land uses and vision for our community. Developers and investors often look at a community's Comprehensive Plan when deciding whether to invest in a town. The plan should be updated every ten to twenty years to reflect the changes that have occurred since the previous plan was adopted. We hired a consultant company to assist in developing our plan and have had several open houses to receive input from our residents on their goals and visions.

Back to our schools, the sophomore class invited me back a few months after the Lakefront Park talk to watch their presentations of thoughtful proposals for changes that could positively impact on the community—focusing on ideas that foster connection & benefit the majority. I invited our Community Development Director and Comprehensive Plan consultant. I told the students that this was their opportunity to have a voice in the future, their future, and the future of their children. A pleasant surprise was that many proposals included the term leakage. I was amazed by the technical abilities, passion, and thoughtfulness our children displayed. A takeaway for me was that our future will be in good hands.

Hopefully, the students got as much out of my visits as I did and will remember these experiences and know that their opinions matter and know that they are a vital part of our community.

As always, you can reach me at 847-587-3943 or schmitd@foxlake.org. I hope to see you at the Village board meeting or one of our many events.

A handwritten signature of "Donny" in black ink.

CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT OF LAKEFRONT PARK

The Village is thrilled to announce that it was selected to receive a \$600,000.00 Open Space Land Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) grant from the State of Illinois. This generous funding will significantly support the Village of Fox Lake's efforts to continue to develop its Lakefront Park with an ADA-compliant pier and boardwalk.

Governor JB Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) awarded a total of \$55.2 million to 100 communities for local park development projects as part of the latest round of OSLAD grants.

This grant will allow the Village to enhance the park and provide greater accessibility to families and community members who will benefit from water-based recreation and various special events and program offerings. We are incredibly grateful for the support and encouragement from State Representative Tom Weber, Congressman Brad Schneider, and every member of our community who made this possible.



COMMUNITY *and* ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

FOX LAKE ENHANCES MAPPING AND DATA SERVICES WITH MUNICIPAL GIS PARTNERS

The Village of Fox Lake is excited to announce its partnership with Municipal GIS Partners (MGP), a leading provider of Geographic Information System (GIS) services for local governments. This collaboration will bring advanced mapping and data collection tools to our community, improving everything from infrastructure planning to emergency response coordination. With MGP's expertise, we aim to provide more efficient, accurate, and accessible information to better serve residents and businesses in Fox Lake.

Through this partnership, the Village will benefit from cutting-edge technology and data management techniques that support smarter decision-making. GIS tools enable us to map utilities and track development. Residents will now have easier access to vital information, such as zoning maps, local services, school districts, and voting. Scan the QR code to learn more.



Do maps interest you? If so, browse our zoning map with different overlays by scanning this QR code.



This initiative aligns with our ongoing commitment to enhancing transparency, fostering community engagement, and creating a more connected Fox Lake. Stay tuned for more updates on how these new GIS services will positively impact our community!

THIS IS THE LIFE



We're excited to introduce "This Is The Life", a new business recruitment and retention campaign celebrating Fox Lake as the ideal place to live, work, and grow. This initiative highlights the Village's vibrant community, thriving local businesses and unmatched quality of life to attract new enterprises while supporting our existing businesses. With stunning lakes, established neighborhoods, and opportunities for growth, we're showing entrepreneurs why Fox Lake is the perfect place to plant roots and succeed. Stay tuned for updates on this campaign and how it will help our community continue to flourish! Visit www.thisisthelifefoxlake.com.





Keeping Our Village Safe

COLD WEATHER TIPS FROM YOUR FOX LAKE POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Fox Lake Police Department would like to remind everyone as the winter season approaches that, with an increase in package deliveries, everyone should be extra vigilant. This increase in deliveries also leads to an increase in package thefts. In 2024, 58 million Americans fell victim to package thefts with a total value of \$12 billion worth of items stolen. In Illinois, 4% of people report having a package stolen in the last three months. If possible, schedule deliveries when someone is home or request a trusted family member, neighbor or friend to collect the package for you. If you become a victim of a package theft, verify your delivery, notify the seller and shipper, and contact the police to report the theft.

It is also a good time to make sure your vehicles are locked, even while they are warming up on cold days, and never leave valuables in plain view. With cold weather, we tend to leave vehicles running to stay warm. Always turn off your vehicle and lock your doors when unoccupied.

As we enter the winter months, it is important to be prepared for the hazardous driving conditions brought upon by the cold and snow. The Fox Lake Police Department would like to remind everyone of some winter driving safety tips when traveling.

-  Listen to weather and travel advisories, but if you don't have to travel in bad weather, don't.
-  Slow down and increase following distance.
-  Avoid sudden stops and starts.
-  Beware of roads that may look wet but are actually frozen, often referred to as black ice.
-  Use extra caution on bridges and ramps where ice can form quickly and without warning.
-  State law requires headlights to be used when windshield wipers are on.
-  Use low-beam headlights in inclement weather, especially in cases of heavy or blowing snow.
-  Remove ice and snow from windows, mirrors, and all vehicle lights before you drive.
-  Do not park on the street after 2 inches of snow has fallen or when heavy snowfall is expected.
-  If you become stranded, it's better to stay with your vehicle, call the police for assistance, and remain where you are until help arrives.



PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT



SPRING IS IN THE AIR!

Brush pick-up will be in full swing beginning April 25th, 2025. Brush will be picked up every Friday through November 14th, 2025 (weather permitting).

We kindly ask that:

- The homeowner trims the branches.
- Limbs are no longer than six feet in length.
- Limbs are no more than six inches in diameter.
- Limbs are to 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. For brush pick up please contact Public Works at (847) 587-8570.



ARE YOU LEFT OUT IN THE DARK? STREETLIGHTS OUT?



A. For streetlight poles that are black in color and decorative, the Village of Fox Lake Public Works service these lights. Please obtain the tag number off the pole and call Public Works at 847-587-8570. We will gladly come out to service the light.

B. For streetlight poles that are like the one featured in the below picture, these are serviced by ComEd. Please obtain the tag number off the pole and call 1-800-EDISON-1 (1-800-334-7661) or you may also report it online at www.comed.com. Click on Outage, Report a Streetlight Outage, Request Maintenance, Enter your address in the search box at the top of the screen and press enter. Zoom in on your location, you will see green or red bubbles. These are the streetlights in your area. Click on the one that is out and continue with the reporting process. ComEd usually takes a couple of months to complete a service request that is not an emergency, such as a streetlight.

CRATERS OR POTHOLE SLOWING YOU DOWN?

We can't have that! Please let us know and we will have you on a smooth "er" road in no time. Our Streets Department strives to keep our roads in good condition. Please call us at 847-587-8570 or email konecnyk@foxlake.org and we will be happy to fill the pothole promptly.

Potholes on Rollins Rd, State Park Rd, and Grass Lake Rd are repaired by Lake County Department of Transportation. Potholes on US Route 12 and IL Route 59 are repaired by the Illinois

Department of Transportation. Please contact the respective departments for service.



SPRING RESTORATION

Snow events can make it difficult for plow operators to judge where curbs or other obstacles are located because everything is covered 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 your request by calling (847) 587-8570 or via email to konecnyk@foxlake.org

REFUSE & RECYCLING

As the Village of Fox Lake progresses into the initial months of our new contract with Waste Management for refuse and recycling services, many residents have observed several modifications implemented under the new agreement. Residents within the Village are now required to utilize a green-top toter for garbage and a yellow-top toter for recycling at their respective residences. Those individuals who have requested an exchange for an alternative size toter will have their containers replaced during the first week of February, at which point applicable rate changes will be enacted as well.

If you have any questions about the service, please reach out to our Village of Fox Lake Refuse liaison at refuse@foxlake.org.

To learn more about the new contract terms and conditions, please visit our website at www.foxlake.org/453/Refuse-Recycling.



FOX LAKE

~ COMMUNITY REFLECTIONS ~

Comprehensive Plan

www.FoxLakeCompPlan.com | Stay tuned and take part in Fox Lake's future!

The Fox Lake Reflections Comprehensive Plan is an ambitious effort by the Village of Fox Lake, in collaboration with The Lakota Group, to craft a forward-thinking vision for the community's future. Rooted in the voices of residents, business owners, and stakeholders, the plan aims to address key priorities such as housing, economic development, downtown revitalization, and placemaking. Through a robust and inclusive engagement process, the planning team is weaving together the insights and stories that will shape the Village for years to come.

The journey began with the Fox Lake Conversations event, where roundtable discussions brought the community together to explore pressing issues and opportunities. This event also launched Fox Lake Tales, a podcast series capturing the stories of longtime residents, new arrivals, and everyone in between. These personal narratives are a vital part of creating a shared vision for Fox Lake's future, blending history, aspirations, and diverse perspectives into one collective story.

The engagement didn't stop there. At the Friday Night Concert Series at Lakefront Park, the planning

team hosted a pop-up event to gather even more feedback. Amid local food, live music, and lively conversation, residents shared what matters most for Fox Lake's future. Whether identifying priorities that should "surface" or challenges that might need to "rest at the lakebed," the community's input has been invaluable in shaping the plan.

In addition to these interactive efforts, the planning team has completed the Existing Conditions Report, a detailed assessment of Fox Lake's current state. Covering topics such as housing, retail, transportation, parks, and open space, this report provides a foundation for the next phase of planning. It is now available for review on the project website, FoxLakeCompPlan.com, where residents can stay connected and informed about what's next.

The Fox Lake Reflections Comprehensive Plan is more than a planning effort—it's a reflection of the community's values, stories, and ambitions. With continued engagement and collaboration, the Village is building a roadmap for a vibrant, connected, and resilient future.

Fox Lake Workshop

Tuesday January 21st - 5 to 6:30 pm
Lakefront Park Center



www.FoxLakeCompPlan.com
for more info

FOX LAKE
~ COMMUNITY REFLECTIONS ~



OPEN INDOOR PICKLEBALL



Come join the fun at Lakefront Park for indoor open pickleball! Whether you're a seasoned pro or just figuring things out, this is the perfect chance to rally, serve, and enjoy some good times. Bring your friends and compete in a friendly atmosphere while you polish your trick shot skills! It's just \$2 for residents and \$4 for non-residents. We can't wait to see you there and share some great vibes!

Evening hours may change to accommodate rentals and programs.

MONDAY

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
5:00 - 8:00 p.m.

TUESDAY

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

THURSDAY

1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

FRIDAY

11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.



COUPLES PAINT-ALONG



Bring your special someone and enjoy a delightful evening filled with delicious bite-sized sweets! Sip on some coffee, hot cocoa, or water while you learn to brush and stroke with Our Happy Space, Henna Body Art & Art Studio. Join us at the Lakefront Front Park Building on Friday, February 7, 2025, for an unforgettable experience.

All materials are provided, so just come ready to have fun! Don't forget to register by February 2, 2025. The cost is \$55 per couple, with a minimum of 4 couples and a maximum of 15 couples. We can't wait to see you there!



Upcoming EVENTS



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



FAMILY DANCE

Lakefront Park Gym

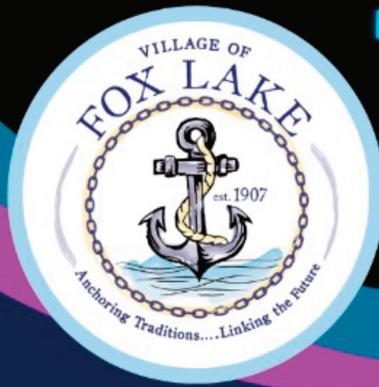
SATURDAY

February 8, 2025
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

\$20.00 for up to 4 people \$5.00 per additional child

MUSIC, PIZZA, ACTIVITIES, & DANCING!

Payment and registration form turned into Village Hall
located at 66 Thillen Dr. Fox Lake, IL. Limited spots!
Registration is required. Deadline is January 29, 2025



EGG-CITING EGG HUNT

SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2025
8:00 - 11:00 a.m.

&

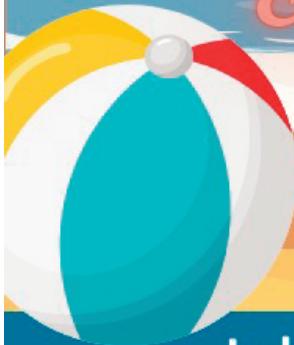
BUNNY BREAKFAST

EGG HUNT AT 10:00 A.M.
Lakefront Park & Lakefront Park Gym



LAKEFRONT *Beach Party*

& Bike Rodeo



Lakefront Park
10 Riverview Ave
Fox Lake, IL

Saturday
May 31, 2025
12:00 - 6:00 p.m.

LAKEFRONT PARK MARKET & CONCERTS

Weekly June - August
Fridays from 3:00 - 9:00 P.M.

DAILY ACTIVITIES AT LAKEFRONT PARK

- Puzzle Exchange
- Drop-In Game Center
- Pickleball
- Open Gym

PARKS & RECREATION 2025 EVENT CALENDAR & INFORMATION

JANUARY 16	FEBRUARY 8	FEBRUARY 20	FEBRUARY 23
Senior Luncheon 11:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m. Lakefront Park Large Gym	Family Dance 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Lakefront Park Large Gym	Family Dance 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Lakefront Park Large Gym	Polar Plunge 1:00 p.m. Lakefront Park
MARCH 20	APRIL 1 - APRIL 17	APRIL 12	APRIL 17
Senior Luncheon 11:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m. Lakefront Park Large Gym	Pelican Palooza Hosted Around Fox Lake	Egg-citing Egg Hunt & Bunny Breakfast 8:00 - 11:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. Egg Hunt Lakefront Park	Senior Luncheon 11:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m. Lakefront Park Large Gym
MAY 15	MAY 31	JUNE 8	JUNE 21
Senior Luncheon 11:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m. Lakefront Park Large Gym	Lakefront Beach Party & Police Bike Rodeo 12:00 - 6:00 p.m. Lakefront Park	Fox Lake Triathlon 7:00 a.m. Lakefront Park	Fishing Derby & Cardboard Boat Races 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Lakefront Park
JUNE 28	AUGUST 5	AUGUST 23	SEPTEMBER 12
Celebrate Fox Lake Parade 10:00 a.m. Celebration 5:00 - 10:00 p.m. Lakefront Park Large Gym	Police Department National Night Out 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. Lakefront Park	Venetian Night with Promote Fox Lake 12:00 p.m. Lakefront Park	Mayor's Fish Fry 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. Lakefront Park
SEPTEMBER 18	OCTOBER 16	OCTOBER 17	OCTOBER 18
Senior Luncheon 11:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m. Lakefront Park Large Gym	Senior Resource Fair 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Lakefront Park Large Gym	Police Department Halloween Howl 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. Police Department	Pumpkin Jubilee 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Lakefront Park Large Gym
NOVEMBER 20	NOVEMBER 29	DECEMBER 14	DECEMBER 18
Senior Luncheon 11:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m. Lakefront Park Large Gym	Festival of Lights Market 3:00 - 6:00 p.m. Parade 5:00 p.m. Santa 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Millennial Park	Children's Holiday Party 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Lakefront Park Large Gym	Senior Luncheon 11:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m. Lakefront Park Large Gym

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).

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 208
GURNEE, IL

*****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.



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foxlake.org