



The ANCHOR

VILLAGE OF FOX LAKE NEWSLETTER



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FROM THE DESK OF THE MAYOR DONNY SCHMIT

As I write this newsletter, after brushing the snow off my car on the first day of Spring, I reflect back on the past 12 years serving as your Mayor. We have faced and overcome many challenges, had setbacks, and have had many successes.

The Village of Fox Lake faces the same challenges as every other community. Street repair, sewer and water maintenance and costs, homelessness, attracting development, retaining businesses and rising pension liabilities are just some of these challenges, and it seems that there is never enough money to remedy every problem. While we have made progress in each area, it is frustrating that we cannot do more.

We experienced two 100-year floods, became a national news story, experienced a water hammer in Holiday Park that damaged over 200 homes, a polar vortex, record snowfalls, COVID, and a recession. Together we met these challenges, endured, and came out even stronger.

While there is still much to do, we have repaired virtually every major collector street and downtown street in the Village, Grand Avenue, the worst portion of Sayton Road, Nippersink Road, the two frontage roads by Jewel and Menards, South Holly Avenue, and the Village portion of Washington Street among others. We have repaired streets in almost every neighborhood, Hickory Cove, Round Hill, Lotus Woods, Eagle Point, and Sundial Farms to name a few. In Knollwood Subdivision, through a grant, we repaved the entire subdivision and resolved flooding issues. Sidewalks, bike trails, and lighting have been added on Grand Avenue, Sayton Road, Washington Street and Nippersink Road. Next, we will focus on repairing neighborhood streets.

Our aging local sewer and water system is also a challenge. Pipes installed in the 1920's, 30's and 40's and later are failing and must be replaced. The Village was running two sewer and water systems.

The sewer treatment plant in the north had reached its capacity, was at the end of its effective lifecycle, and needed to be replaced. Due to both systems, sewer

MAYOR'S LETTER *(Continued)*

and water, reaching their capacity, development in the north was not able to occur. Via an interconnect project, we decommissioned the north sewer and water systems, at a cost less than rebuilding the north treatment plant and are now operating a single sewer and water system. This project will result in unlimited development possibilities in the north, save in maintenance, and chemical and labor costs in perpetuity.

The Village also has begun replacing lead pipe services. We have two phases of this project at a cost of nearly \$6,000,000.00. Phase I is well under way and Phase II will begin this spring. Due to our staff and engineering firm, this will be done at no cost to the Village as the projects are being funded with 100% loan forgiveness from the Illinois Environmental Protection agency.

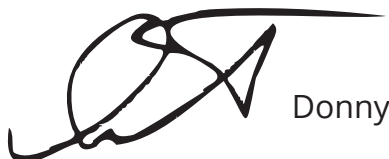
We have clear guidelines for incentives to attract and keep businesses, created business development districts, expanded our facade improvement program, Tax Increment Finance Districts and a marketing campaign called This is the Life Fox Lake. In the downtown, we created a park and water feature on Grace Street, additional parking and landscaping at Sign Appeal, enhanced Millenium Park, landscaped the corner of Nippersink and Grand Avenues and installed decorative streetlights on Grand Avenue, Nippersink Boulevard, Washington Street and Sayton Road. Many new businesses now call Fox Lake home.

We have reinstated the Pace Bus Service for seniors and handicapped residents. Promote Fox Lake, a 501(c) charity, was organized with similar objectives of the former Fox Lake in Bloom program and has greatly enhanced our parks and downtown. Partnerships like this are key to enhancing the experience of our residents and visitors.

We have assembled a dedicated, professional staff that has been instrumental in obtaining nearly \$22,000,000.00 in grants and loan forgiveness. Under their guidance, we are updating our comprehensive plan, with an emphasis on downtown development, are in the process of applying for grants that will assist in developing a transit-oriented district downtown, applying for OSLAD grants, downtown development grants, street repair grants and public safety grants. The efforts of our staff, engineers, and the Village Board allow us to provide more services and amenities for our residents.

Finally, the redevelopment of our Lakefront Park has given our residents of all ages programs, a place to meet new friends, opportunities to enjoy the lake, Friday night concerts, farmers market, a state-of-the-art playground, and many other activities. This is now a family venue that our residents can enjoy with pride. I want to thank everyone who has made it possible to make all these great improvements in the town that we love and call home

As always, I will see you at one of our many events. You can call or email me at office 847-587-3943, mobile 224-426-7000, or email at schmitd@foxlake.org. Enjoy the summer!



Donny

LAKEFRONT PARK UPDATES

Exciting news! This Spring, Lakefront Park will be unveiling some fantastic new features just for you!

Get ready to enjoy:



Outdoor Pickleball



Fun Splash Pad



Beautiful Beach



Updated Bathroom
& Shower Facilities



ANCHORED IN FOX LAKE NEWEST **ONBOARDED BUSINESSES**

Best Cleaners (New Ownership)
2 W. Grand Ave.

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

Cloudy Vape Shop
2 W. Grand Ave.

John's Joint
125 Towne Center Ln.

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

La Cocina (New Ownership)
22 E. Grand Ave.

Los 2 Magueyes (New Ownership)
7221 State Park Rd.

Red Sun Massage
1284 S. Route 12

Something Fishy (New Ownership)
29 Towne Center Ln.

BUSINESSES ONBOARDING **SOON**

Advantage Honda
91 S. Route 12

Antioch Pizza (New Ownership)
20 S. Route 12

BP Gas Station (New Ownership)
49 N. Route 12

IV Glow Hydration & Wellness
1276 S. Route 12

Living Roots
104 Sayton Rd.

Shell Gas Station
511 Grand Ave.

**Specialty Pain Anesthesia
Rehabilitation Consultants**
256 Grand Ave.

Village Bakery (New Ownership)
25-27 E. Grand Ave.



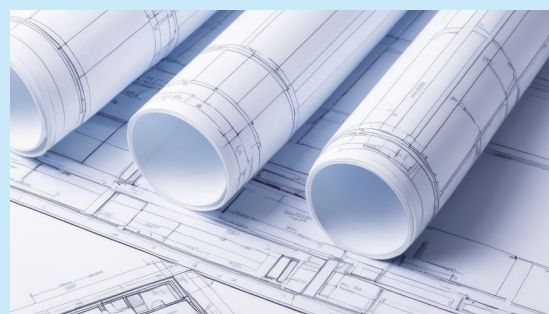
FOX LAKE ADOPTS 2021 BUILDING CODES

The Village recently adopted the 2021 Building Codes as developed by the International Code Council (ICC) to ensure the safety, sustainability, and efficiency of new construction and renovations in our community. These updated codes align with the latest industry standards and best practices, enhancing building quality and resilience.

The updated codes are as follows:

- 2021 (IRC) International Residential Code
- 2021 (IBC) International Building Code
- 2021 International Existing Building Code
- 2021 (IFC) International Fire Code
- 2021 (IMC) International Mechanical Code
- 2021 (IECC) International Energy Conservation Code
- 2021 (IFGC) International Fuel and Gas Code
- 2021 (IPMC) International Property Maintenance Code
- 2020 (NEC) National Electrical Code

Several amendments to the code have been made to meet the unique needs of our town. For more information or to review the new codes, visit https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/foxlakeil/latest/foxlake_il/0-0-0-19159



SPRING PROPERTY MAINTENANCE REMINDERS

Longer days of sunshine and warmer temperatures are a good reminder to take a look around your house or business for any damage that may have been caused by winter or general aging. Below are reminders of things to look for to ensure compliance with property maintenance codes:



Street numbers – All buildings must have an address number at least 4" tall and visible from the street (Chapter 6-1-5).



Tall Grass and weeds – All properties must be free of grass and plant growth in excess of 8" tall. Obnoxious weeds are prohibited (Chapter 6-1-1-12).



Placement of refuse containers – With the exception of garbage collection day, all refuse receptacles must be out of view from a person facing the front of the building (Chapter 5-3-2-B).



Garbage and debris – All properties must be kept in a safe and sanitary condition, clear and free from any accumulation of dirt, filth, junk, rubbish, garbage or similar matter, from vermin or rodent infestation and from materials or conditions which tend to encourage or support such infestation or such accumulations (Chapter 6-2-4).



Exterior maintenance – Make sure the exterior of your home is free from broken windows, missing siding, missing shingles, missing or damaged deck boards, etc. (Chapter 6-1-1-12).



Fence maintenance – Property owners are responsible for the maintenance and repair of their fence (Chapter 6-7-9).



Inoperable vehicles – Inoperable vehicles are prohibited on private property when in view of the general public (Chapter 8-5-13).



Long Term Rental Units – All long-term rental units (anything greater than or equal to 30 days) must be registered with the Village (Chapter 6-2-7-3).



Short-Term Rental Units – All properties utilized as a short-term rental (anything less than 30 days) must obtain a Short-Term Rental License (Chapter 6-2-7-7).

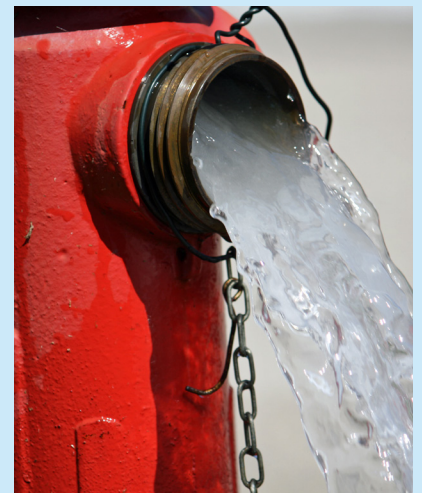


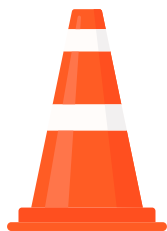
HYDRANT FLUSHING

Starting the first week of April 2025 and running until around May 16, 2025, the Fox Lake Sewer and Water Department will flush fire hydrants in both our north and south water systems.

Signs will be posted in advance. Flushing will take place from 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday.

Please do not do laundry on the days hydrants are flushed in your area, as this may cause discoloration from stirred-up sediment. If your water is discolored afterward, let the cold water run for a few minutes from a tub spout or outdoor spigot to clear it up. Avoid using hot water and any water softeners or filters during this time.





PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT



STREETLIGHTS OUT?

The Village of Fox Lake services streetlight poles that are black in color and decorative (Photo A). Please obtain the tag number off the pole and call Public Works at 847-587-8570 or email pw@foxlake.org. We will gladly come out to service the light. For all other streetlights that are out, please call ComEd at 1-800-334-7661.

If you've seen a streetlight pole like the one in the picture labeled B, it's taken care of by ComEd! To report an outage, note the tag number on the pole and call 1-800-EDISON-1 or visit www.comed.com.

On the website, click "Outage," then "Report a Streetlight Outage." Enter your address and zoom in on your area to find the streetlights represented by green or red bubbles. Click on the out light and follow the prompts to submit your report.

Just a note: it can take ComEd a couple of months to address non-emergency requests like streetlight outages. Thanks for helping out!

BRUSH PICK-UP IS BACK!

Brush pick-up starts on April 25, 2025, and will occur every Friday through November 14, 2025, weather permitting. Please follow these guidelines:

- Trim branches yourself (no tree service).
- Limbs should be no longer than six feet and no thicker than six inches.
- Stack limbs neatly at the curb, not exceeding 4 feet by 6 feet.
- Yard waste, tree trunks, logs, weeds, and dirt are not accepted.

Brush piles not meeting these criteria will not be collected. For questions or to schedule a pick-up, contact Public Works at (847) 587-8570 or email pw@foxlake.org with your name, address, and phone number.

CRATERS OR POTHOLE SLOWING YOU DOWN?

We're here to help! Please let us know about any potholes, and our Streets Department will work to resolve the issue quickly. Contact us at (847) 587-8570 or pw@foxlake.org.

For potholes on Rollins Road, State Park Road, and Grass Lake Road, please reach out to the Lake County Department of Transportation. For US Route 12 and IL Route 59, contact the Illinois Department of Transportation.



2024 UCMR TIER 3 AND CCR REPORTS

The Village of Fox Lake 2024 Tier 3 Public Notice is currently available for the water system. Our water system has been sampled for a series of unregulated contaminants. Unregulated contaminants are those that don't yet have a drinking water standard set by EPA. The purpose of monitoring these contaminants is to help EPA decide whether the contaminants should have a standard. As our customers, you have a right to know that these data are available. If you are interested in examining the results, please contact Trent Turner at 847-587-3506, 66 Thillen Dr, Fox Lake, IL 60020.



You may review the reports on our website at <https://www.foxlake.org/DocumentCenter/View/6119/UCMR-Tier-3-Report---2024>

The 2024 Consumer Confidence Report will be

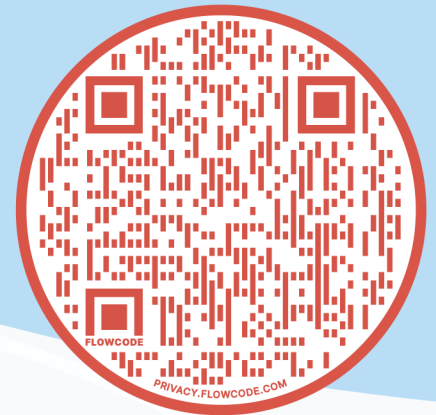
available at the same site prior to July 1, 2025. The Consumer Confidence Report provides consumers with information about the quality of their drinking water. This information has always been available to consumers who requested it from their water supplier. Now it is provided in an easy-to-read format. The Village is pleased to report NO violations for 2024.



You may review the reports on our website at <https://www.foxlake.org/DocumentCenter/View/6121/Consumer-Confidence-Report---2024?bidId=>

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

Fox Lake's Tomorrow.



The Village of Fox Lake is excited to launch "**Fox Lake Community Reflections**," a comprehensive plan aimed at envisioning a vibrant and resilient future for our community. We are now in the second of three phases in this planning process, and it's crucial that we hear from you. This plan seeks to balance growth with preservation, enhance our charming scenery, revitalize downtown, expand recreational activities, and promote sustainability. We invite everyone to contribute by sharing your thoughts, stories, and aspirations in any way you prefer—whether through our website, [FoxLakeCompPlan.com](https://www.FoxLakeCompPlan.com), directly contacting us, or by tuning into the "Fox Lake Tales" podcast, where we explore unique community stories. Let's shape a thriving Fox Lake together, where we honor our heritage and eagerly look toward a bright future. Thank you to everyone who has been actively participating in this process!



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR FOX LAKE POLICE DEPARTMENT

*Be Aware of **Scam Phone Calls** in 2025*

The Fox Lake Police Department is warning the public of an increase in phone scams where the caller is claiming to be a police officer. We would like to remind residents that police officers will never call and ask for a payment of any kind over the phone.

To protect yourself from falling victim to these scams, the Fox Lake Police Department suggests the following recommendations:



Verify the caller's identity: Always request the full name, identification number, and contact information of the caller. Legitimate law enforcement officers will provide this information without hesitation.



Refrain from sharing personal information: Avoid disclosing personal details, such as your Social Security number, bank account information, credit card numbers, or any other sensitive data over the phone unless you are absolutely certain about the legitimacy of the caller.



Be cautious of urgent or coercive tactics: Scammers often create a sense of urgency, coercing victims into immediate action. They may threaten arrest, fines, or legal consequences to pressure you into revealing personal information or making immediate payments.



Don't feel pressured to act. Scammers may have some public information about you (like your name and address), but that does not mean they are legitimate. Verify by contacting the appropriate agency directly using customer service information on their public websites.



They will often tell you to remove monies from your bank account and lie to bank employees about what the monies are for. Do not wire transfer or transfer funds to anyone you do not know.



Educate yourself and loved ones: Share this information with your friends, family, and vulnerable individuals within your community. By spreading awareness, we can collectively protect ourselves and prevent these scams from succeeding.



Be very cautious if someone is requesting money in the form of gift cards, Venmo or Apple Pay. *No police agency will call and request money!*

If members of the public receive a phone call of this nature and they are unsure of the authenticity of the caller, please hang up and call police dispatch at 847-587-3100.

LAKEFRONT PARK BEACH INFORMATION

The Village of Fox Lake is proud to open Lakefront Park Beach for the 2025 summer season! Lakefront Park Beach is open from Memorial Day to Labor Day from 8:00 am to dusk. The beach is not guarded, and everyone swims at their own risk. Over the next couple of months, we will be sharing information about the beach and summer events on our website, social media, and the weekly eAnchor newsletter.

Here's a few things you need to know:

- This is an unsupervised beach, and parents/guardians are responsible for the supervision and conduct of their minor children at all times.
- People less than 16 years of age must be accompanied by a responsible person 16 years of age or older.
- No swimming during inclement weather when lightning is present.
- No pets, glass, alcohol, smoking, and enclosed structures.
- Water at Lakefront Park Beach is tested every two weeks by the Lake County Health Department for bacteria. After testing, the beach may be closed to the public if bacteria levels exceed status limits.
- Notice of beach closures will be posted on the Village of Fox Lake website and the Village of Fox Lake Parks & Recreation Facebook page using a flag system.



Green Flag =
Beach is open.



Yellow Flag = Beach
is open. Swim at your
own risk. E coli bacteria
levels have exceeded
open status limits.



Red Flag = Beach is
closed to swimming.
E coli bacteria levels have
exceeded advisory status
limits or closed for other
reasons.



LAKE COUNTY: CALL 211

The Village of Fox Lake is a key community partner committed to raising awareness of 211 to ensure this service can be used by residents and visitors for years to come.

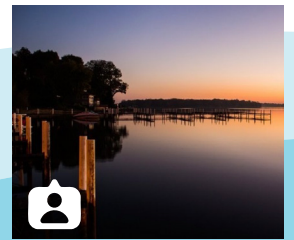
At a recent board meeting held on February 11, 2025, the Fox Lake Village Board hereby proclaimed February 11, 2025, as 211 Day in Fox Lake and encouraged everyone to become aware of the services provided by 211. The United Way of Lake County has served children and families for over a century. In 2019, it launched 211 Lake County, a free and confidential helpline accessible to all residents. This service connects individuals to essential health and human services, reducing non-emergency calls to 911.

Available 24/7 via phone, text, and online, 211 accommodates various languages and locations. Trained navigators help callers identify their needs and direct them to appropriate resources. Since its launch, 211 has facilitated over 375,000 connections across Lake County, including 119 calls from Fox Lake, addressing needs like housing, shelter, employment, and healthcare.

With 99% U.S. population coverage, Lake County serves as a model for 211 services in Illinois. The Village of Fox Lake is a key partner in promoting this initiative, which significantly enhances lives in the community.



Boating season is almost here. Tag us to share and show what “This Is The Life” means for you! #thisisthelifefoxlake #foxlake



NWRWRF CAUTION: FLUSHABLE WIPES

While we all love feeling clean, some products can cause issues. Many people think “flushable wipes” can be thrown in the toilet like toilet paper, but they don’t dissolve as easily and can lead to clogs.

When you flush a wipe, it travels through the sewer system and reaches wastewater treatment plants, creating what workers call “rags.” John Thompson, Executive Director at NWRWRF, says, “We pull piles of these rags from our pumps daily. They cause bigger messes that we have to clean up.”

Even though they’re marketed as disposable, moist wipes shouldn’t be flushed. They contribute to plumbing problems and can jam sorting machines, forcing workers to clean out the equipment manually.

To help keep our pipes healthy, remember to only flush the three Ps: pee, poo, and toilet paper. Everything else should go in the trash can. A little effort goes a long way!





Upcoming EVENTS



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

Session 2 Spring Youth Sports Programs



Registration Due By
04/15/2025

Monday 4/21 – 5/19

Baseball Clinic 101:	7-10y	4:30 - 5:30 p.m.	\$67
Adult/Tot T-ball Skills:	2-3y	5:30 - 6:15 p.m.	\$67
T-ball Skills Clinic:	4-6y	6:15 - 7:00 p.m.	\$67

Tuesday 4/22 – 5/20

Jr. Ninja Warriors:	7-9y	4:30 - 5:30 p.m.	\$67
Adult/Tot Ninja Warriors:	2-3y	5:30 - 6:15 p.m.	\$67
Mini Ninja Warriors:	4-6y	6:15 - 7:00 p.m.	\$67

Classes held at Lakefront Park Main Gym
10 Riverview Ave
Fox Lake, IL

foxlake.org • 224-225-1404

Fox Lake Fishing Derby & Cardboard BOAT RACE

Saturday, June 21, 2025

Lakefront Park – 10 Riverview Ave, Fox Lake, IL

CELEBRATE FOX LAKE Saturday, June 28, 2025

Parade – 10:00 AM
Classic Car Show – 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Fireworks & Fun – 3:00 – 10:00 PM

Lakefront Park – 10 Riverview Ave, Fox Lake, IL

FOX LAKE FRIDAY NIGHTS Live JUNE- AUGUST

We are excited to invite you to our new event, combining our Tuesday evening Farmers' Market and Friday Night Concert Series for a fun community experience! It is free and features food trucks and weekly themed activities with our community partners. Presented by Ray Auto Group. For more info, contact (224) 225-1404.

Farmers' Market – 4:00-7:00pm
Live Music – 7:00-9:00pm
Lakefront Park – 10 Riverview Ave, Fox Lake, IL

PARKS & RECREATION 2025 EVENT CALENDAR

APRIL 1 - APRIL 17

Pelican Palooza

*Visit the Website for
More Information*

Hosted Around Fox Lake

APRIL 12

Egg-citing Egg Hunt & Bunny Breakfast

8:00 - 11:00 a.m.

10:00 a.m. Egg Hunt

Lakefront Park

APRIL 17

Senior Luncheon

11:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m.

Lakefront Park Large Gym

MAY 3

Art in the Garden

12:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Community Garden Green
17 Forest Ave.

MAY 15

Senior Luncheon

11:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m.

Fox Lake Volunteer
Fire Department

MAY 31

Lakefront Beach Party & Police Bike Rodeo

12:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Lakefront Park

JUNE 8

Fox Lake Triathlon

7:00 a.m.

Lakefront Park

JUNE 21

Fishing Derby & Cardboard Boat Races

8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Lakefront Park

JUNE 28

Celebrate Fox Lake Parade

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

Lakefront Park

AUGUST 5

Police Department National Night Out

4:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Lakefront Park

AUGUST 23

Promote Fox Lake Venetian Night

12:00 - 10:00 p.m.

Lakefront Park

SEPTEMBER 12

Mayor's Fish Fry

4:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Lakefront Park

SEPTEMBER 18

Senior Luncheon

11:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m.

Lakefront Park Large Gym

OCTOBER 12

Pumpkin Jubilee

12:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Lakefront Park

OCTOBER 16

Senior Resource Fair

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

Lakefront Park Large Gym

OCTOBER 27

Police Department Halloween Howl

4:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Police Department

NOVEMBER 20

Senior Luncheon

11:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m.

Lakefront Park Large Gym

NOVEMBER 29

Festival of Lights

Market | 3:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Parade | 5:00 p.m.

Santa | 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Millennium Park

DECEMBER 14

Children's Holiday Party

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Lakefront Park Large Gym

DECEMBER 18

Senior Luncheon

11:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m.

Lakefront Park Large Gym

For more information, please visit
www.foxlake.org/120/Parks-Recreation

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.



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FACEBOOK



Follow us on
TWITTER



Follow us on
INSTAGRAM



Sign up for
MESSAGING



Visit
foxlake.org