



Fall 2025

The ANCHOR

VILLAGE OF FOX LAKE NEWSLETTER

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From the Desk of **Mayor Donny Schmit**

September 1, 2025

Hello all,

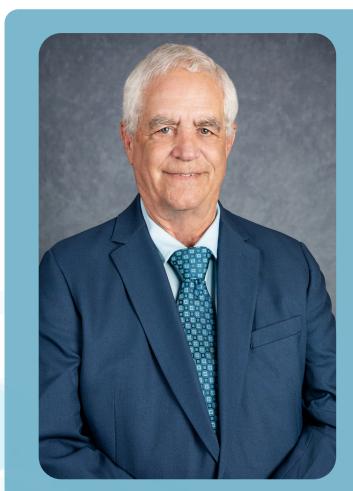
Mary Locher, our Finance Director, has announced that she will retire in October. Mary came to us in a time of great need and has taken advantage of interest rates, provided the Village with financial stability, increased our revenues through careful management of Village funds, and instituted best business practices. We wish Mary the best in her retirement and thank her for all she has done for the Village.

As summer comes to an end, I reflect on all the volunteers who make this a true family community and all the hard work your Village Board and staff have done to make Fox Lake a great place to call home.

Our Lakefront Park expansion has drawn attention from investors and highlighted the potential of our community. Our Community Development Department is actively engaged with developers, and we are excited about two new market-rate housing complexes currently underway.

One is located at the former gravel pit near Route 12 and Big Hollow, and the other is on the site of the old ski hill at Holiday Park. These developments are not low-income housing but are designed to meet the needs of middle-income residents, providing options that are currently limited in Fox Lake. With these new homes, we can expect an increase in population that will not only support our local businesses but also bring in additional revenue through population-based state taxes such as the Motor Fuel Tax and State Income Tax. In addition, we have been approached by hotel, housing, banquet facility, and restaurant developers. While we welcome new opportunities, we also want to make sure that any development fits with the goals of our Village and comprehensive plan.

Our parks and events continue to be a source of pride and activity. This summer's Friday Night Concerts have brought thousands of visitors to Fox Lake, benefiting many local businesses. (*continued on page 2...*)





WASTE MANAGEMENT ROUTE UPDATES

Beginning the first full week of October, Fox Lake residents will see a change in their trash and recycling collection days as part of Waste Management's efforts to improve efficiency and prioritize safety. This adjustment is designed to streamline curbside services and ensure timely, consistent pickups across the community.

To prepare for the change, residents are reminded to place carts at least three feet apart and away from obstacles such as trees, cars, and mailboxes. Carts should be at the curb the night before or no later than 6:00 a.m. on collection day. Recycling should be placed directly into the designated cart with a yellow lid—no bags or loose items outside the cart will be collected. Trash must be bagged and tied before being placed in the green-lidded cart. For more information or to track your updated service day, visit:

www.wm.com/mywm.



Mayor Donny Schmit Continued...

At the same time, we recognize the concerns of some restaurants and will meet with them to assist in developing a strategy that helps drive consumers and foot traffic. I encourage everyone to enjoy our new park and concert series. While here, stop by our local restaurants and shops to show your support.

I am writing this newsletter a few days after the Venetian Night event hosted and organized by the volunteer group Promote Fox Lake and the Taste by the Lake event hosted by the Chain O'Lakes Chamber of Commerce. Along with the bands, wine walk, and boat parade, the drone firework show was outstanding and enjoyed by many. It warms my heart to see our community come together and enjoy our wonderful town and each other.

The Lakefront Park expansion has given us something we can all take pride in and enjoy. We have had a full summer of activities and events. I am especially proud when people from other towns tell me what a beautiful park we have for our residents.

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

Donny



ANCHORED IN FOX LAKE



Newest Onboarded Businesses

- Village Bakery (New Ownership) 25 E. Grand
- EV Med Spa 1280 S. Rt 12
- Specialty Pain Anesthesia 265 E. Grand Ave
- Dom's Home Goods Resale Shop 129 S. Rt 12



Exciting Developments Underway

A 154-unit market-rate apartment complex at Route 12 and Route 134 will offer modern, maintenance-free living at a key gateway into the Village. Nearby, a 148-unit apartment project is transforming a long-vacant site into vibrant housing, addressing the need for diverse living options.

Commercially, a new Honda dealership owned and operated by the Advantage Auto Group on Route 12 will bring jobs and boost the corridor's appeal as a regional auto destination.

These projects, along with increased property restoration and infill housing, reflect Fox Lake's commitment to smart, balanced growth that preserves our natural beauty and small-town charm. Thank you for supporting our vision—This Is the Life.

Businesses Under Construction

- Advantage Honda 91 S. Rt 12
- Living Roots 104 Sayton Rd
- Shell Gas Station 511 Grand Ave
- Antioch Pizza (New Ownership) 20 S. Rt 12
- Magic Pool Services 855 S. Rt 12 #5
- HLM Towing LLC 855 S. Rt 12 #4
- Elysium Motrs, LLC 418 Rollins Rd
- Master Craft and Design 11 E. Grand Ave

SHOP LOCAL - SUPPORT FOX LAKE

As we head into the fall and the holiday season quickly approaches, we encourage all residents to take part in the This Is the Life campaign by shopping local and supporting our Fox Lake businesses. Whether you're picking up a gift, grabbing a meal, or booking a service, every dollar spent locally helps strengthen our economy, create jobs, and build a vibrant community.

Fox Lake is home to incredible small businesses that are the heart of our Village. Let's continue to show them our support—not just during the holidays, but all year long. Follow This is the Life, Fox Lake IL on Facebook and X (formerly Twitter) for more information on Village initiatives and local favorites.

Together, we can keep Fox Lake thriving—because This Is the Life. Follow us Instagram too at This Is The Life, Fox Lake IL!

Community Economic Development Property Maintenance Updates

Prepare for Winter

As the seasons change, it's the perfect time to get your home and property ready for the colder months ahead. Taking a few simple steps now can help prevent costly repairs later and keep Fox Lake looking its best.

- Store or cover outdoor furniture and grills to prevent weather damage.
- Disconnect, drain garden hoses, and shut off outdoor water lines to avoid pipe bursts.
- Ensure house numbers are visible for emergency response, even in snow.



Yard & Landscape Cleanup

- Rake and dispose of leaves properly to prevent clogged storm drains.
- Trim trees and branches away from your home and power lines to avoid winter storm damage.
- Remove dead plants and weeds from garden beds and lawns.

Yard Waste Pickup

Yard Waste pickup by Waste Management ends on November 27, 2025. Yard Waste Stickers are available at the Village Hall for purchase.

Driveways, Sidewalks & Entryways

- Repair uneven or cracked pavement to prevent tripping hazards under snow.
- Ensure outdoor lighting is working for safety during early nightfall.
- Stock up on salt or ice melt and prepare shovels or snow blowers.

Home & Exterior Maintenance

- Inspect and clean gutters and downspouts to ensure proper drainage.
- Check your roof for missing shingles or damage before snow and ice arrive.
- Seal cracks around doors and windows to improve energy efficiency.

Leaf Burning Reminder

Residents may burn leaves on private property between September 1st to November 30th each year and again April 1st to April 30th. 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.

Holiday Tree Pickup

Waste Management will collect holiday trees from December 29, 2025, to January 15, 2026.

Fox Lake Police Department Updates



SAVE THE DATE

The annual Halloween Howl event will take place on Monday, October 27, 2025 at the Fox Lake Police Department. The all-ages event runs from 4:00PM to 7:00PM. Attractions include a hayride, jail cell tours, a scavenger hunt with a giant Hershey bar prize, street hockey, a bouncy slide, touch a truck with Police and Fire Department vehicles, DJ Bob with music and kids games, Hank the therapy dog, and free goodie bags, hotdogs, and hot chocolate. The event is free of charge and costumes are always encouraged.



Holiday Tips

From now until the new year, the winter holidays are a time for family, joy, fun, and observance of some of our highest-regarded holidays; however, it is important to stay vigilant against potential threats that can occur during this busy time. By taking some simple precautions, everyone can remain safe and enjoy the season.

THEFT:

- Lock your doors and windows. Make sure you lock your doors and windows in your homes and cars even if you will only be away for a brief period.
- Make sure your valuables are not left out in plain sight. Don't leave your wallet, purse, shopping bags, or other valuable items in plain sight when leaving your vehicle. Place them in your trunk or under the seat.
- Package deliveries. Try to arrange for deliveries to be made when someone is home or ask a trusted neighbor to secure the package when it arrives.

FRAUD:

- When shopping online, only use websites you know and trust. Use a credit card or secure payment service (Apple Pay, PayPal, Google Pay, etc.) when checking out.
- Be extra cautious when receiving unsolicited texts, emails, or phone calls. Avoid clicking on links or attachments in emails from people you don't know and contact the sender directly to verify legitimacy.

Decorations like trees, lights and candles can increase the risk of home fires so be sure to unplug lights or blow out flames if they are unattended. If you see anything suspicious, make sure to call the police department so everyone can enjoy and a safe and joyous holiday.



Public Works Department Updates

OPEN HOUSE

Join us for the Village of Fox Lake's first-ever Public Works Open House on Monday, October 27, 2025, from 4-7 PM!

Join us for a behind-the-scenes exploration of the vehicles, equipment, and dedicated individuals who maintain the Village's infrastructure. This event features touch-a-truck, paint-a-plow, opportunities to meet the Public Works crews, activities for all ages, and project information displays highlighting upcoming and ongoing work in the Village.

Don't forget to bring a non-perishable food item for our "Fill the Loader" food drive benefiting the Grant Township Food Pantry. The pantry is critically low on canned fruits and veggies, instant mashed potatoes, rice, peanut butter & jelly, dish soap, and all-purpose cleaning and personal care items. It's a great chance to learn, connect, and support the community!



If you believe your mailbox was directly hit during snow operations, please notify the Village within 48 hours so staff can assess the damage. If the mailbox cannot be repaired, a temporary mailbox will be provided.

Residents then have two options:

1. The Village will install a standard post and box when weather conditions allow.
2. Alternatively, residents may choose their own replacement and receive up to \$150 reimbursement with a valid receipt.

Please note that custom mailboxes or those required by homeowners' associations are reimbursed up to \$150, with any additional cost being the responsibility of the property owner. Also, mailboxes that were already damaged, leaning, or in poor condition before winter are not eligible under this policy.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation as we work to keep our community safe and accessible during the winter months.



Mailbox Repair/Replacement

To help keep our roads safe and clear during winter, the Village of Fox Lake Public Works team works hard to manage snow and ice efficiently. As part of this effort, drivers perform dry runs before the season begins to identify the safest areas to direct snow away from the roadway and minimize potential damage.

We understand that mailbox damage can be frustrating. Please note that the Village's policy covers mailboxes only if they are physically struck by a snowplow. Damage caused by snow being pushed or discharged from the plow is not eligible for repair or reimbursement.

Parks & Recreation Department Updates

STAY IN THE KNOW WITH FOX LAKE PARKS & RECREATION!

[Looking for the latest on programs, events, and seasonal fun?](#)

Visit our Village website Parks and Recreation page at www.foxlake.org/120/Parks-Recreation to explore everything we offer! 

From youth activities to community-wide celebrations, you will find our full **Program Guide** packed with exciting opportunities for all ages.

Want to plan ahead? Head over to the Events page for details on annual events—including dates, times, and locations—so you never miss out!

For real-time updates, behind-the-scenes sneak peeks, and fun reminders, follow us on [Facebook at @VFLparksandrec](#). Hit that “Like” button and stay connected with your community!



*Find our
PROGRAM
GUIDE
Here*



Upcoming Events

Event	Date	Time/Location
Mayor's Fish Fry	September 12, 2025	4 - 7 p.m. - Lakefront Park
September Senior Luncheon	September 18, 2025	10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. - Lakefront Park
Pumpkin Jubilee	October 12, 2025	12 - 3 p.m. - Lakefront Park
Senior Resource Fair	October 16, 2025	9 a.m. - 12 p.m. - Lakefront Park
Halloween Howl/Public Works Open House	October 27, 2025	4-7 p.m. - Police Station/Public Works
Halloween Trick or Treating	October 31, 2025	4-7 p.m. - Village of Fox Lake
Fall Crawl	November 8, 2025	12 - 4 p.m. - Various Establishments
November Senior Luncheon	November 20, 2025	10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. - Lakefront Park
Festival of Lights Parade & Kris Kringle Market	November 29, 2025	4-8 p.m. - FL Town Center/Lakefront Park
Florence Fischer Turkey Luncheon	December 4, 2025	11 a.m. - 2 p.m. - Marvela's
Children's Holiday Party	December 14, 2025	1 - 3 p.m. - Lakefront Park
December Senior Luncheon	December 18, 2025	10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. - Lakefront Park

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
David Gauger	Amy Driscoll

Village Contact List

Emergency.....	911
Village Hall (Administration/Finance).....	(847) 587-2151
Community & Economic Development.....	(847) 587-3176
Police Department (Non-Emergency).....	(847) 587-3100
Public Works Department.....	(847) 587-8570
Parks and Recreation Department.....	(224) 225-1404
Northwest Regional Reclamation Facility..	(847) 587-3694

*****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, X (formerly known as Twitter), Facebook, and LinkedIn using the handle @foxlakeil. Updates can also be obtained via email in our weekly e-newsletter—the E-Anchor—or can 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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