



FOX RIVER GROVE QUARTERLY

A newsletter for and about the Village of Fox River Grove

WINTER 2015

Village News

Cary-Grove Food Pantry

The annual Season of Giving is here and the food pantry needs your help! There are many families in need, and the food pantry supplies always get low this time of year!

Items in great demand are pancake mix and syrup, canned fruit, macaroni and cheese, pasta products, soap, and personal hygiene products.

Cash is also appreciated to help replenish the shelves and to buy perishable items. There is a collection box for non-perishables located at the Village Hall year round. This is a great opportunity for you and your families to help others. Please consider donating!

Business Roundtable

The annual Business Roundtable will be early next year - Thursday, January 14th, 2016. Residents and business owners are invited to attend.

President Nunamaker will discuss the current happenings in town and include an open forum for questions and answers. Other Village officials will also be present. There is a cost for the box lunch. Call the Chamber at (847) 639-2800 to make your reservation.

Thank You Dave Miller

The Village would like to thank **Dave Miller** and Lake Julian Contractors for removing the concrete pad in the Picnic Grove Park area. The area looks great! We really appreciate your generosity!

Holiday Hours

The Village Hall will be closed the following days for the Holidays. Please use the drop box for any payments or correspondence.

Thursday, December 24th and Friday, December 25th

Thursday, December 31st and Friday, January 1st

Don't Miss The Fox River Grove Tree Lighting!

Please join the Special Events Committee on Saturday, December 5th from 2:00-5:00 p.m. at Algonquin Road School for this year's tree lighting.

- Santa will be arriving by fire truck and will of course stay for pictures. Come by and check out our new and updated backdrop for behind Santa's sleigh.
- Go for a ride on the Miracle Express electric train.
- Play a game or make a holiday craft or two.
- Enjoy refreshments while listening to Christmas carols.
- Cary-Grove Swing Choir will again be performing for us.
- There will also be a performance by Irish dancers.

Mark your calendars! You don't want to miss these sure to be spectacular performances and all the holiday fun!



Ever wonder why, after Thanksgiving, the Fire District puts up a wreath on the firehouse with nothing but red holiday light bulbs?

It's to signify their "Keep the Wreath Red" campaign for holiday safety during the Christmas season.

With the first day of the Christmas holiday season traditionally starting on the Friday following Thanksgiving, the Fire District hangs a holiday wreath on their fire station. This signifies that Fox River Grove is fire safe for the current holiday season.

Should there be a fire in town over the holiday season that is attributed to holiday decorations, one red bulb will be replaced with one white bulb. The goal is to keep the wreath red for the entire holiday season, which ends on January 2nd.

The Fire Protection District encourages all residents to avoid letting their Christmas trees dry out. Use proper safety precautions when burning candles, and make sure that all indoor and outdoor holiday lighting is in excellent physical condition.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all from the Fox River Grove Firefighters.

Railroad Crossing Rules

We have all seen this happen – the stoplight is red and a car crosses over the tracks to make a right turn on red. This is extremely dangerous as well as illegal!

Located on the south side of the tracks at Lincoln Avenue, Algonquin Road and Foxmoor Road are signs stating "Stop Here on Red. Proceed Only on Green".

These signs were placed to keep motorists on the south side of the tracks until their traffic signal turns green.

There are traffic sensors there, but you must be stopped at the painted stop line to activate them. There is no right turn on red from this position. Please set a good example for all drivers and follow the law!!

The President's Letter

Hello Friends,

A few weeks ago we observed the twentieth anniversary of a tragedy that happened in our Village. A big school bus, making a morning run to Cary Grove High School, was hit by a passenger train as the bus sat at the stop light located at Algonquin and Route 14.



That sad day seven high school children lost their lives and many families were forever changed. This was all the more sad because one thing we know about the Grove is that we love our kids. It is twenty years and we are still trying to get over it.

Many things about train crossings, in our town and across the country, were changed due to the investigation of this affair. The most obvious change here was the coordination of the train crossing gates with the Route 14 stop lights. A fairly complicated system now controls how soon the gates come down, how fast the trains travel, the status of the stop lights and the ability of crossing traffic to clear the tracks. It has not helped speed car travel through town, but the crossing is now much safer.

This year our Fire Protection District held a memorial "Seven Angels" blood drive to provide blood for other accident victims like the angels we lost that morning. Thank you to all of you who came out and gave to this worthy cause.

Also our United Methodist Community Church held a solemn memorial service to remember those children and families who were devastated that day.

All this helps to move on and cherish our children all the more. Thus, on a lighter note I wish to point out some of the goings on at our wonderful Cary Grove High School.

First, the opening of the new Fine Arts building which I had the opportunity to enjoy at the first play the students presented, "Little Women." The play was up to their very high standard and the building is terrific so be sure to come to one of the future shows.

Then, there are the sports teams. They are always good, but as I write this the girls' volleyball team is headed to the State finals, and the football team is deep into the playoffs. Hey, this is fun, come out and enjoy and celebrate our youth.

See you around town and at the Tree Lighting. Have a great Fox River Grove day.

Robert J. Nunamaker
President, Village of Fox River Grove

Snow Is On The Way

When the weatherman forecasts snowy conditions, our Public Works Department makes every effort to ensure that the snow is removed from our streets and salted to ensure safe travel for everyone. The Village will continue its salt conservation again this year, so please drive cautiously and allow more time to get to your destination.

Observe the winter parking ban – Parking is prohibited on streets for 24-hours following a snowfall of two (2) inches or more to allow our plows easy access through town.

When shoveling your driveway, push the snow to the left side of your driveway as you face your home. This helps prevent the snowplow from dragging more snow across the front of your drive.

Village ordinance prohibits the shoveling or blowing of snow into the street.

The Village encourages all residents to be a good neighbor and shovel their sidewalks.

Remove all rocks, stones, posts and other decorative objects from the road easement. These items are difficult for the drivers to see with snow cover and can damage a snowplow.

If you don't have a curb on your street, consider adding reflecting rods at your street edge.

As the plows pass through the neighborhoods clearing the streets, mailboxes may suffer under the weight of the displaced snow. Please inspect your mailbox and post to ensure it is securely planted with the face of the mailbox at least nine (9) inches from



the curb. Consider adding reflectors to your mailbox. The Village will repair mailboxes accidentally hit by the plow itself, but repairing mailboxes that succumb to the weight of the plow-driven snow is the homeowner's sole responsibility.

Businesses -- Village Ordinance #2003-13 requires business owners or occupants of the building to remove snow and ice from all sidewalks abutting their businesses within 24 hours of its accumulation.

Your cooperation promotes public safety and encourages customers to visit your establishment. Please be sure to keep your area safe and clear of snow. During a major snowstorm, try to maintain a four-foot path along your front sidewalk.

Excessive snow plowed up over the curb onto business sidewalks will be hauled away by the Village once all the streets are cleared.



Energy Conservation

- Turn your computer off at night. This could reduce your energy use by 810 kWh per year and also lowers heat stress and wear on your system.
- Use the standby/sleep mode instead of a screen saver.
- Turn off lights when you leave a room.
- Install a programmable thermostat for your heating and cooling needs.
- Choose energy-efficient appliances (Energy Star models).
- Wash and rinse clothes in cold water. They will be just as clean as if they were washed in hot or warm water.
- Recycle aluminum cans, glass bottles, plastic, cardboard and newspapers.
- Unplug cell phone chargers, hair dryers, or other household electronics when not in use.
- Turn down the thermostat on your water heater to 120 degrees. Not only will this save money but it could prevent your child from being scalded.
- Replace your furnace and air conditioner filters monthly during the appropriate season.



Haunted Forest

The Haunted Forest on October 24th was put on by the Special Events Committee and the Fox River Grove Firefighter's Association. It was a big success. The hayride was non-stop and packed full each time

it went out! Thank you to all who came out to enjoy. The committee would also like to thank Fox River Grove's Community Church for hosting the games and The Flour Shoppe for coming out with all of their yummy goodies. Until next year!



House Numbering

According to Village ordinance, every house in the Village is required to have their address displayed on the front of their home. The figures should be at least two and one-half (2-1/2) inches high, showing the number of the house visible from the street.

Please make sure your home has the address viewable from the street. It makes it difficult for emergency vehicles, delivery people, police and guests to locate the correct home.



Salt Safety

When using salt or other chemicals to melt snow and ice on your drive or walkway, please use it sparingly. This run-off ultimately ends up polluting our valuable water resources.



Adopt A Fire Hydrant

With winter approaching, the Fox River Grove Fire Protection District is encouraging residents and businesses to "Adopt-a-Fire Hydrant" in your neighborhood. Make it a priority to uncover your fire hydrant after every snowfall and plowing, and clear a path approximately three feet around the hydrant. This will help our firefighters save time, life, and property in the event of an emergency.



Check Your Outside Faucets

As part of your winter clean-up – storing the patio furniture, cleaning up the yard, putting away the hose – be sure to check your outside faucets for any leaks. A leak can cost you big bucks – no kidding!



Com Ed Outage Alerts

Com Ed offers a program which helps you stay informed about outages in your area. The program lets you know when outages occur and the estimated power restoration time. To enroll text "Add Outage" to 26633 (ComEd) or visit ComEd/Text to enroll.

You will instantly receive a text about your enrollment options. To report an outage, simply text "OUT" to 26633 (ComEd). You can unsubscribe at any time by simply texting "STOP" to 26633 (ComEd).



Seniors Wanted

If you are interested in making new friends, Pinochle and other card games, bingo, special luncheons and trips, then stop by the Village Hall Community Room on Wednesdays. This lively group meets at 10:00 a.m. and socializes into the afternoon.

Stop by next Wednesday and join the fun!

Village Hall Services

Our Village Hall which is located at 305 Illinois Street offers several services for our residents:

A drop off box for used eyeglasses – The Lions Club of Fox River Grove collects used eyeglasses and gives them to health care professionals for distribution.

Handicapped parking placard – Once approved by a physician, we can offer a temporary placard which is good for up to 90 days. Permanent ones are obtained through the Secretary of State.

Notary public – We offer this service for our residents at no charge.



Battery Recycling – A battery collection bin to recycle used batteries is located in the Village Clerk's office. Please be sure to tape the ends before dropping them off.

Voter Registration – Two forms of identification are required and one must have your current address. Registration closes 28 days prior to each election.



Preventing And Avoiding Frozen Water Pipes

Here are some tips to help prevent your water pipes from freezing over the winter.

• **Power Outage:** If the power goes out and you are no longer receiving a water supply, the potential for your pipes to freeze is even greater.

The best thing to do is shut off the main water supply valve (coming into your home), then to open all taps so that the remaining water in the pipes trickles out and leaves no pressure in the system.

• **Existing Homes:** Assuming that your home's heat system doesn't fail, it is the water pipes that are located in outside walls, or in floors over unheated spaces, such as garages, that are in danger.

Bathrooms over a garage are a common source of trouble. If you have an attached garage, keep your garage door closed. Unheated garages can be twenty or more degrees warmer than the outside temperature, and even if you don't have water pipes over the garage, keeping it closed will keep the adjoining rooms of your home warmer, too.

Get in the habit of checking that the door is closed before you retire for the evening! If your home has water supply lines running on the outside walls that you have access to, insulate the pipes with pipe insulation or pipe heaters, available at most hardware stores.

If you're vacationing for the holidays, never turn your heating system off, or set the thermostat below 55 degrees. Regardless of how well insulated, unless

Vehicle Stickers – Vehicle stickers are available year round. They are renewed each May 1st and must be displayed by June 30th.

Senior Garbage Stickers – Seniors age 62 and older who reside within the corporate limits are eligible to participate in the Senior Garbage Program. Instead of receiving a bill from Waste Management these pre-paid stickers can be attached to your garbage bag. Residents who elect this option can register at the Village Hall.

Yard Waste Stickers – Stickers are available at the Village Hall. Place these stickers on the biodegradable yard waste bags and the bags will be picked up on regular garbage days. Yard waste pick-up is only available April 1st through November 30th.

Cary-Grove Food Pantry Collection Bin is located at Village Hall.

The Library and Cary Grove Rotary have a book exchange corner at the Village Hall.



there is a source of heat for the pipes, they can freeze if the temperature of the room drops low enough.

Typically, frozen water pipes occur in unused rooms whose heat has been shutoff, and from vacant homes and commercial buildings whose thermostats have been turned down or off. Arrange to have someone check on your home frequently if you are away for a prolonged period during the winter.

If you have a pipe that freezes every year, try installing a lowered grille or some source of air flow between the room that frequent freezing occurs in and a heated room. This will allow some heated air to get to the pipe and keep it warm. When insulating, look for small holes to the outside that let cold air access to the pipe. Some expanding foam will do a nice job of sealing out the breeze.



As an additional precaution during especially cold periods, you can leave one of your faucets, farthest from the supply of your home's water, open and running slightly. If the water is running, the pipes will be less likely to freeze. It might be a waste of water, but in an extreme case it is a better alternative than a frozen or busted pipe.



This newsletter is published by the Village of Fox River Grove,
 305 Illinois Street, Fox River Grove, IL 60021
 Phone (847) 639-3170 • Fax (847) 639-9876
 www.foxrivergrove.org
 village@foxrivergrove.org

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 Layout - Chris Erbach

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President
 Robert J. Nunamaker

Trustees
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ◆ **Tree Lighting** December 5th ARS
 Take a ride on the train, get a picture with Santa, enjoy cookies, and make some crafts!
- ◆ **Holiday Band Concert**..... December 10th FRG Middle School
 The Band shows off their talents to our community at 7 p.m.
- ◆ **Holiday Concert** December 14th Algonquin Road School
 Enjoy the kindergarten, first and second graders' winter concert at 2:00 p.m.
- ◆ **Holiday Concert** December 16th Algonquin Road School
 Third and fourth graders perform at 2:00 p.m.
- ◆ **Holiday Concert** December 17th FRG Middle School
 The Middle School Chorus performs for the community at 7 p.m.
- ◆ **FRG Business Roundtable** January 14th Village Hall
 Hear what is new in your hometown!
- ◆ **CGA Chamber Annual Dinner** January 29th Onion Pub
 Casino night, dinner, a silent auction and some networking at this very fun event!
- ◆ **Norge Winter Jump** January 30th & 31st Norge Ski Club
 Watch the jumpers fly through the air!
- ◆ **Annual Parks Fundraiser** March 12th Brunch Cafe
 Mark your calendars for the annual fundraiser! Each year it gets bigger and better!
- ◆ **CGA Chamber Community Showcase**..... April 16th Cary Grove High School
 Check out what is new with many of our local businesses.

Visit the Village of Fox River Grove web site at www.foxrivergrove.org for all the latest information on events, regulations, policies, etc.

Village Hall hours: Monday–Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.