



# FOX RIVER GROVE QUARTERLY

A newsletter for and about the Village of Fox River Grove

SUMMER 2016

## Village News

### Metra Parking

We now have the Metra Prepay Parking program. The cost is \$30 per month for unlimited parking at the Fox River Grove Metra Station.

To enroll in the program, complete the Prepay Parking form, pay \$30 for the first month of parking and provide a voided check that is linked to a valid checking or savings account. You will then receive a hangtag that must be displayed in your vehicle.

The initial \$30 payment covers the first month of parking. After that, the monthly fee will be automatically withdrawn on the first of each month. This is convenient and can save you a few minutes on your daily commute!

### FRG Fire Fighters Water Fights

Be sure to head down to Picnic Grove Park Sunday, July 10th, to watch the Firefighters compete against other teams for the championship. Food and drinks will be available to help you enjoy this fun afternoon.

### Congratulations

Fox River Grove Veteran Walter McCostlin was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal for his service in the Korean War.

He was invited to Washington, D.C. in April for a ceremony where he was presented with his Gold Medal. It is quite an honor and we are very proud of him and grateful for his military service.

### Fire Department Driveway

It is illegal to block the driveway at the Fire Station on Algonquin Road. There is a flashing signal stating "Do Not Block Driveway," as well as painted lines across the entrance. So, when you are waiting for the light to change on Algonquin at Northwest Highway, stay clear of the driveway until your light changes. This enables the fire trucks to be able to leave in the case of an emergency.

## Have a Blast at the FRG Fireworks!

Our annual Fireworks Show will be Saturday, July 9th at Picnic Grove Park. The park opens and festivities begin at 6:00 p.m. with food, drink and music!

**Marty Monti and Rick Cornwall** will be there with music and announcements throughout the evening. The local band, **One Step Forward**, will be performing again this year.

The FRG Lions and Lioness Clubs, the Cary-Grove Jaycees, Jaycee Ambassadors and Cary-Grove Masons will be selling good eats and drinks. Without your purchases, they can't do the good work they do. The Lioness Club will be selling glow-in-the-

dark necklaces. Each of our community groups generously donates half of its profits back to the fireworks fund. So, bring your family and friends early to have dinner, visit with friends and neighbors and listen to the music before the fireworks.

Reminders.....

- **No entry after 9:00 p.m.** Once the fireworks are about to begin, no one will be allowed to enter through the front gate – safety first.

- **No carry-in food or drink is allowed.** Other than a non-alcoholic drink in one hand, there will be no carry-ins of alcohol, pop, water, snacks, etc. Food and drinks are available to purchase. Please make it easy on the volunteers policing the grounds and support the local groups that are donating their time and half of their profits to help pay for the fireworks. Prices are very reasonable!

- **No pets are allowed.** You may love your dog or cat, but they may scare others that are attending, or make a mess in a crowded area, so no pets are allowed.

- **Please do not trespass** on private property as you make your way to and from the park. Many wooded areas are actually private property.

- Please don't litter! Pick up your area before you



leave! Let's keep our parks beautiful and make it easier for clean up after.

Thank you to the many residents who have donated money to the fireworks with their vehicle sticker purchase (many have donated \$5, \$10 and \$20) and those that have dropped it into the donation jars around town. It really helps us provide this great family evening!

### Bus Routes

No parking is allowed in or near the park. Walk on over or take the free shuttle buses. The routes are ~

#### Route #1: Victoria Woods/Hunters Farm

Victoria Drive/Tiffany Lane, Camilla Place/Jasmine Way, Victoria Drive/Jasmine Way, Bridle Path Lane/Saddle Lane, Bridle Path Lane, Morgan Lane, Saddle Lane/Morgan Lane

#### Route #2: Foxmoor Route (two buses)

Old Hunt Road/Plum Tree Road, Old Hunt Road/Lexington Road, Foxmoor Road/Yorkshire Drive, Algonquin Road Fire Station

#### Route #3: South Route (one bus)

Algonquin Road School, Lion's Park, Commuter/Metra Lot

### Rock The Routes - Summer Festival!

Are you ready for summer? The Special Events Committee sure is!! Please join us on Saturday, June 25 for our 3rd annual Rock the Routes event. Our event will be from 11:30 a.m.–8:30 p.m. and will again be held in the Stone Hill Center parking lot at the intersection of Route 14 and Route 22. Entry is FREE!

We will have live music, food from some of your favorite local restaurants, sweet treats, cold treats, and a

selection of craft beers along with LOTS of fun stuff for the kids! All day! New this year - Funnel cakes and soft pretzels! Also new this year is a pet adoption drive with adoptable animals, rescue information, and a raffle/prizes! Stay tuned on our Facebook page FRG Living for live music announcements and other event related updates. We hope to see you there!

# The President's Letter



Hello neighbors,  
Happy summer! I hope you can get out and enjoy our parks and forest trails.

I wanted to take this space to talk about an issue that has recently been in the national press. The issue is that of lead in the water supply and the

fact that it mostly comes from the homeowners own pipes.

The last issue of the Village Newsletter contained an article about our fresh water and our waste water facilities. This is important to read whether you are concerned with quality, pollution, or conservation. Go dig it up.

Let me now focus on the last few feet of the water service to your home. When a new home

is built or an older home is connected to the Village water system, a private contractor connects and buries a pipe from the Village water mains to the house. This pipe is owned and maintained by the home owner and might be a cause of contamination.

Pipes made out of lead were the selection for this use in past years but a shift to copper or plastic pipe was made several decades ago. Based on the age of your house, a lead pipe or plumbing components may be used between the plumbing fixtures in your home and the connection to the water main.

While the Village water system does not have any lead water main pipes in the system, we do treat the water with a compound to help control the effects of lead pipes. This compound coats the insides of all pipe it comes in contact with, thus keeping lead from contacting your water as it flows into your house. The general opinion is that this preventative measure reduces the likelihood that lead will impact the quality of water in your home.

The point here is that if you have an older home you may want to consider testing the water from your tap for lead levels. In the unlikely event that you experience elevated lead levels you can change

your feed line to copper. Many local plumbers will help with that.

An important preventative measure for concerns pertaining to lead pipes in a home is to turn on a faucet for approximately one minute (depending on the amount of pipe from the water main to the faucet) or until the water is at its coolest. This procedure removes any stagnant water within the water pipes that could possibly have elevated lead concentrations. Fresh water should then flow from the faucet.

I hope to see you at this years expanded Rock the Routes festival on June 25th and some of the other exciting things happening in FRG ~ Veteran's Picnic June 29th, Fireworks July 9th, Arts & Crafts July

17th, and Lions Fest September 10th. And our Special Events Committee is hosting a Cruise Night every Tuesday this summer. Fox River Grove is a great place to have fun!!

Have a great Fox River Grove Day,

Robert J. Nunamaker  
*President, Village of Fox River Grove*

## Do I Need A Building Permit??

Why do we ask for permits? Especially, if it is only replacement of an existing water heater?

For a water heater, an inspection is needed to ensure proper combustion air, and ventilation. The dielectric fittings used on the water piping need to be verified and that the proper gas piping connections are made. The inspection checks that the pop-off valve is in place, and the metal discharge pipe is directed to near the floor. Also, that the electrical power is correct. This is all for the safety of your family and home.

Permits are required for:

- Any new construction, additions or remodeling.
- Structural alterations and repairs like brickwork, adding a dormer, drainage foundation.
- New electrical wiring and distribution equipment.
- New or relocated plumbing supply, drain, waste, vent or gas piping.
- HVAC equipment and water heater replacement.
- Installation of a fireplace or wood stove.
- Enlarging windows and door openings (to check for a proper header)
- Finishing a basement or an attic space.
- Driveways, patios, decks, walks and fencing (For Zoning Review).
- Swimming pools over 24" in depth.
- Storage sheds (For Zoning Review)

If you have questions, or are not sure about an item, please call the Building & Zoning Department at (847) 639-3170.

## Village Hall

Don't forget there are drop-off boxes for eyeglasses that are distributed by the Fox River Grove Lions Club and food donations for the Cary-Grove Food Pantry at Village Hall. There is always a need!

## RPZ Valves



Many homes and businesses have a RPZ valve. RPZ stands for Reduced Pressure Zone, and the purpose of the device, as its name implies, is to prevent potentially contaminated water from flowing back into your potable water supply.

The RPZ device has a series of check valves that only allow water to pass in one direction, preventing backflow due to either increased pressure past the valve or reduced pressure on the supply side. This ensures the safety and purity of your drinking water.

RPZ devices are generally required in systems that have:

- Irrigation systems
- Large boilers containing rust inhibiting chemicals
- Sprinkler systems

Law requires that RPZ devices, to ensure they are functioning properly and protecting the potable water supply of the system, are inspected annually. It will help keep your plumbing system up to code and keep your drinking water clean and safe.

Residents should watch for a mailer from Water Resources to have your RPZ checked.

## Vacation House Watch

With summer finally here, many families will be taking a much needed vacation. You can visit our website [www.foxrivergrove.org](http://www.foxrivergrove.org), click on Request a Service, and scroll down to the Police Department to complete a house watch form. This form serves a dual purpose.

As time permits, an officer will check your home to see that it is secure, and secondly, in the event of an emergency at your home, they will have a way to contact someone. And, finally, you can call the non-emergency number 847-639-2411 and they can assist you.

## Vehicle Stickers

New vehicle stickers are now on sale. Stickers can be purchased online at our website [www.foxrivergrove.org](http://www.foxrivergrove.org). Click "payments" then select the "vehicle sticker" link. Complete the online form and submit your payment information. The Village will mail the stickers to you. Residents may also visit the Village Hall or mail in their sticker application with the payment.

All residents living in the incorporated areas of Fox River Grove are required by ordinance to display a vehicle sticker in every vehicle owned or operated in the Village.

Cars & RV's.....	\$20
Non-Highway (Golf Carts) .....	\$10
Motorcycles.....	\$10
Trucks with A & B plates.....	\$26
Trucks with C plates and above .....	\$60
Replacement/ Transfer Fee .....	\$12
Seniors - One per family - age 65+ .....	\$ 2
Late Penalty: 50% between July 1st and July 31st	
100% starting August 1st	



## Boat And Trailer Parking

Boating season has begun. Boats are considered sailboats, motorboats, kayaks, canoes, and rowboats. Watercraft means a 1 - 2 person vessel powered by a water jet or propeller. The following are the Village's regulations regarding boats and trailers:

- Parking on residential lots that border the Fox River: Minimum of three (3) feet from the sidewalk or ten (10) feet from the street, unless parked in a garage.
- Parking on residential lots that do not border the Fox River: December 1 - March 31, no parking in the front yard unless within a garage. April 1 - November 30, minimum of three (3) feet from the sidewalk or ten (10) feet from the street, unless parked in a garage.

There is no motorized boat launching allowed in any of the parks. Enjoy a safe and fun boating season!

## McHenry County Historical Society

The McHenry County Historical Society located in Union, is offering free admission to Fox River Grove residents during the week of June 7th - 10th. If you have never visited, you should make time to attend. Besides the museum, there is a one-room schoolhouse and a log cabin. They offer several events and programs throughout the year. It is definitely worth the visit to find out about our history.

## Senior Bus Services

Algonquin Township Road District provides bus transportation for Senior citizens and disabled residents that live in the Township. Bus service begins at 7:00 a.m. and runs until 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

- The bus can be scheduled for the following:
- Doctor's appointments up to 30 days in advance.
  - All other appointments up to 7 days in advance.
  - All rides must be scheduled a minimum of 24 hours in advance, including extra stops.
  - There is a 10 minutes waiting rule.
  - Please allow 1/2 hour windows for pick-up and drop-off times.
  - Purchases that are made should not exceed what you can carry and keep in your seat.
  - They provide curb-to-curb service.

Please call (847) 639-2700, extension 6 for any questions and to register for scheduling your trips.

## Use The Sidewalks

Stay safe and don't walk in the street. Village Ordinances say a sidewalk must be used if it's available. Walking in the street can be hard for drivers to see you and can impede traffic flow.



## Cruise Nights

The Special Events Committee is very excited to announce Tuesday Cruise Nights this summer. They will be at Stone Hill Center from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. each Tuesday evening.

The themes for summer are:

- May 31 - Dust Off / Cleanest Car
- June 7 - GM Cars
- June 14 - Mopar
- June 21 - Ford
- June 28 - Imports
- July 5 - AMC / Jeep
- July 12 - Bikes
- July 19 - Golf Carts
- July 26 - Luxury Cars
- August 2 - Trucks
- August 9 - Exotic Cars
- August 16 - Corvette
- August 23 - Hot Rods
- August 30 - 1940 & Older Antiques
- September 6 - 50's
- September 13 - 60's
- September 20 - 70's
- September 27 - Winner's Circle

If you have questions, please contact Ken at Grove Auto repair: (847) 639-2260.

## Water & Sewer Increase

The Village Board recently passed a 3% water and sewer rate increase. The base charge is now \$27.31 for water only and \$51.86 for water and sewer. This covers a portion of the cost to operate the water and sewer system for the Village.

The user charge for all customers located within the corporate limits for each 1,000 gallons is \$3.03 for water only and \$7.40 for water and sewer. Regular increases are necessary to keep pace with the increase in operating expenses and facility modernization.

You can also pay your bill through the Village website [www.foxrivergrove.org](http://www.foxrivergrove.org). It is free and you can use Visa, Master Card or Discover. You will need your account number which is listed on the upper left corner of your water bill.

## Consumer Confidence Report 2015

Please visit [http://www.foxrivergrove-il.org/egov/documents/1464123064\\_48927.pdf](http://www.foxrivergrove-il.org/egov/documents/1464123064_48927.pdf) to view the 2015 Fox River Grove Water Quality Report that is under "In the News". This report contains important information about source and quality of your drinking water during 2015. If you would like a paper copy mailed to your home, please call (847) 639-3170.

## Mulch Matters

With warm weather approaching, many gardeners will be busy cleaning up and repairing their gardens and yards from the cold weather. Listed below are some helpful hints when using mulch....

- Try to use organic mulch or mulch that is composted prior to using so that weed seeds, insects and disease microorganisms are killed.
  - Spread mulch under trees, shrubs, and throughout planting beds to a depth of no more than three to four inches for most medium-coarse-textured mulches.
  - Pull mulch away from the base of the tree to create a donut-shaped hole. Placing mounds or cones of mulch (volcano mulching) against the tree trunk may look good but this practice can trap too much moisture near the base of a tree and create the ideal condition for pests and disease.
  - Spread the mulched area around a tree to the drip line of the branches or at least a four to five foot diameter around the trunk. Larger mulched areas are more beneficial.
  - Check the mulch level annually and replenish as necessary. Excessively deep mulch restricts free airflow to plants' surface-level roots.
- Mulching is important because it provides a layer of insulation that protects plant roots from temperature extremes, conserves soil moisture, improves soil's organic composition, prevents erosion, and reduces root competition. (Article printed in part from the Morton Arboretum - Healthy Mulch Use)

## Water Conservation Tips

### Outdoor Ideas

- Set your mower blades three inches high.
- Leave the clippings on the lawn. This provides moisture to the lawn.
- Keep mower blades sharp.
- Give the lawn a good soaking every three to five days. Don't water daily.
- Aim sprinklers to water plants, not the sidewalk or driveway.
- Use mulch to retain moisture.

### Household Ideas

- Turn off the water when brushing your teeth.
- Fix leaks immediately.
- Wash only full loads of dishes and clothes.
- Take a short shower instead of a bath.
- Keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator instead of running the tap until water is cold.
- Install water-efficient showerhead & appliances.
- Compost instead of using garbage disposal.

The Village of Fox River Grove continues to take a proactive role in the conservation of water. To ensure water quality and quantity, we request all residents and businesses to join our efforts to protect and conserve water. A human can live more than a month without food, but only about one week without water.



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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

- ◆ **Rock the Routes Festival** .....June 25th - 11:30 to 8:30.....Stone Hill Center  
 Stop by Stone Hill Center for some good times!
- ◆ **Veteran's Picnic** .....June 29th.....Lion's Park  
 The Amvets & American Legion host the annual picnic for the Veterans at Lions Park.
- ◆ **Vehicle Sticker Deadline**.....June 30th.....FRG  
 Last day to purchase and display your sticker before the late fee is in effect.
- ◆ **Fireworks 2016** .....July 9th .....Picnic Grove Park  
 Come down early to get a good spot and enjoy the activities and some food and drinks!
- ◆ **FRG Firefighters Water Fights**.....July 10th.....Lion's Park  
 Cheer on our FRG Firefighters as they challenge other departments in a water battle.
- ◆ **Arts & Crafts Fair** .....July 17th.....Lion's Park  
 Stop by our beautiful Lions Park for arts, crafts and refreshments.
- ◆ **Lions Fest**.....September 10th.....Lion's Park  
 Enjoy the festivities at Lions Park hosted by the FRG Lions Club.
- ◆ **Cruise Nights**.....Every Tuesday .....Stone Hill Center  
 Check out the different cars each week at Stone Hill Center.

Visit the Village of Fox River Grove web site at [www.foxrivergrove.org](http://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.

**Thank You For Parks Clean-Up**

Thank you to the residents, families and community organizations that worked in the parks on April 23rd. It was a great turnout and many things were accomplished. 30 bags of trash were collected.

One ton of debris was removed from the commuter lots. Buckthorn was removed from the Picnic Grove Park. And an old entryway sign was installed at the park facing the river. Thanks again to everyone who showed up – it is appreciated!

•••••  
**Garbage Can Reminder**

Residents are reminded that garbage containers should be placed at curbside no earlier than 3 p.m. Thursday and must be removed within 24 hours of pick-up. At all other times such garbage and refuse containers shall be stored out of sight.

Garbage cans along the street detract from our community's appearance and increase the chance of being tipped over. Violators are also subject to a fine, so please observe this regulation and make arrangements if you are away.