



FOX RIVER GROVE QUARTERLY

A newsletter for and about the Village of Fox River Grove

WINTER 2012

Village News

Meet Our New Village Administrator

The Village is happy to welcome our Village Administrator **Karl Warwick**. Mr. Warwick's most recent position was that of Assistant Village Administrator for the Village of Lindenhurst and prior to that the Senior Assistant for the Village of Grayslake.

He is very excited to become a part of our community. If you see him out and about, be sure to introduce yourself and welcome him.

FRG Holiday Hours

The Village Hall will be closed the following days for the Holidays. Please use the drop box for any payments or correspondence. The Police Department will remain open normal hours.

- Tuesday, December 25th
- Monday, December 31st
- Tuesday, January 1st

Village Hall will be open on Monday, December 24th from 8:30 – 5:00 as it is the last day to turn in Nomination packets for the April election.

Santa Sightings

Watch for Santa at Stone Hill & Foxmoor Crossing shopping centers on Saturday, December 8 from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. He will be strolling in & out of the shops. Shoppers are welcome to bring their cameras for photos of their children with Santa!

“Adopt A Fire Hydrant”

With winter approaching, the Fox River Grove Fire 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.

Water Meter Replacement

The Village of Fox River Grove will soon replace all of the water meters in our service area. We have contracted with Ferguson Waterworks to complete the installation of these meters. You will receive a letter within the next year from Ferguson asking that you schedule an appointment with them to complete the installation of your new water meter.

We realize that our residents and business owners lead busy lives. Your time is valuable and that time is at a premium, as life only seems to get busier. To respect that, we have required Ferguson to provide a streamlined scheduling process. One phone call or email is all that will be necessary to set your appointment. The communication will go directly to Ferguson with no remote “middleman”.

The installer will arrive and complete the meter installation work within a two-hour time frame. The actual installation should take approximately 20 minutes. Please make sure the area around your water meter is clear so that the technicians can quickly do their work.

Your safety is paramount. All installers are experienced contractors. They will have ID badges, wear uniforms,

and travel in marked vehicles. We insist on the utmost professionalism by the installer. If you experience anything less than that, please let the Village know.

We apologize for any inconvenience by this project and thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation. With your help, the meter upgrade project will ultimately provide us with quicker reading times and more accurate and detailed consumption records, all of which will allow us to give you an even higher level of customer service. Please feel free to contact our Water & Sewer Department at 847-639-8360 or t.zintl@foxrivergrove.org if you have questions.

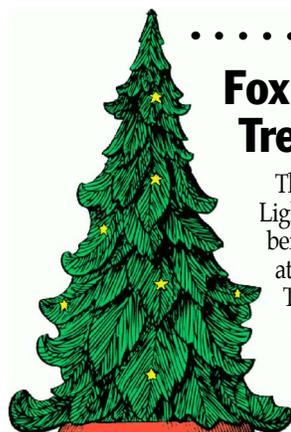


Keep The Wreath Red

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.



Fox River Grove Tree Lighting

The Fox River Grove Tree Lighting Festival is December 1st from 2:00-5:00 p.m. at Algonquin Road School. There will be children's crafts, bingo, games, stories and cookie decorating. You can enjoy some festive holiday

treats! Plus, Santa will arrive by fire truck for photos!

Special thanks to the Fox River Grove Lions Club, Fox River Grove Lioness Club, Chamber of Commerce, Miss Fox River Grove **Keely Robinson**, PTO, Middle School, High School Choirs, Babysitting Co-Op, Sunshine School, Boy Scouts, Brownies, **Francesca Richardson** and the Village of Fox River Grove.

Thanks also to the great Committee who put all of this together: **Sheri Sepeczi, Michele Drage and Jennifer Bolf!!**

The President's Letter

Hello Everyone,

Fox River Grove, what a great place to live! And if you have children it is just an awesome place to raise them.

I have just read in the newspaper that the State Interactive Report cards are complete and the winner is... FRG School District



3. This is a comparison of the schools in the upper Fox Valley area, which compared third grade math and reading scores and eighth grade reading and math scores. The eighth grade came in first in both math and reading, and the third grade came in first in reading and second in math. What a gratifying result for our parents, and by the way, it makes all our real estate more desirable. Hats off to the teachers! Then, I read that the Cary-Grove High School football team has just won their division championship with an undefeated season. Now they are off to the playoffs! Go Eagles!! Go Trojans!!

And speaking of schools, I just had the opportunity to go through the excellent new Montessori school that we have in Foxmoor Crossings. It offers varied length programs that accommodate half day students, full day students, and year round attendance for working families. Bella Vista is the best school of this type that I have been in.

The Cary-Grove Animal Hospital had a petting zoo open for Halloween so all the kids could have some fun. I went inside the operating room and was surprised that it is as well equipped as our Good Shepherd. Who said a dog's life is bad?

You could not help but notice that the Metra station project is well under way, with the closing of Algonquin Road and the blocking of one lane of traffic. Hang in there, it will soon get better, we are about a month behind schedule. The project is expected to be completed around mid July 2013.

The winter snow season will soon be upon us and the current forecast is for a heavy snow fall. This is certainly a good thing as it will help restore the ground water that we lost last summer, but the other side of it is the job of removing snow from the Village streets. This year the Village is using a variation of the current snow parking ban. Many of

you have pointed out that the majority of the snow fall comes in the night time hours, thus the parking ban after a two-inch snow fall still finds many cars parked on the roadway, which was clear of snow when people retired for the night. This results in cars getting plowed in and streets not properly cleared for the morning commute.

This condition has resulted in the new seasonal parking system where no parking is allowed between 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. from November 1st through March 31st. Most of our nearby Villages already do this, and while it requires some planning on all of our parts, it will contribute to our safety. We ask for your cooperation and help as we go to this new system.

Finally, as you have read, we have a new Village Administrator, **Karl Warwick**. Karl is in the Village Hall most days, so if you are in there for something, please ask to meet him and say hello.

I hope to see you at the Tree Lighting on December 1st at the Algonquin Road School.

Have a great Fox River Grove day!

Robert J. Nunamaker
President, Village of Fox River Grove

Snow And Ice Control

When the weatherman forecasts snowy conditions, our Public Works Department makes every effort to ensure that the snow is removed curb to curb and the streets salted to ensure safe travel for motorists. The Village will be continuing its salt conservation program this year, so, please allow more time when traveling and drive more cautiously.

Please park your vehicles off the street to allow snowplow access. During the months of November through March, after a two-inch snowfall, Village Ordinance prohibits parking on all Village streets from the time snow starts falling until 12 hours after it stops.

A new ordinance has been passed which prohibits any on-street parking from November 1st to March 31st from 2:00 a.m. until 6:00 a.m., unless permission has been obtained by the Police Department. The 900 block of Ski Hill Road is exempt.

The Village encourages all residents to shovel their sidewalks. It is illegal to walk in streets that

have a sidewalk on either side. Streets are likely to be slippery and visibility uncertain.

Other Snow Tips

- It is illegal to shovel or blow snow into the street.
- When shoveling your driveway, push the snow to the left side as you face your home. This will help to prevent the snowplow from dragging more snow across the front of your drive.
- Remove all rocks, stones, posts and other decorative objects from the road easement. These items could create an invisible obstacle that can damage a snowplow.
- If you don't have a curb on your street, consider adding reflecting rods at your street edge and reflectors to your mailbox.

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.



The Village does not have the manpower to clear sidewalks, so 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.

\$50,000 DCEO Grant Award

The Village of Fox River Grove was fortunate to be awarded a \$50,000 Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) grant. Funds from this grant will be used for asphalt paving costs associated with patching various roads within the Village.

The \$50,000 was added to our 2012 pavement maintenance program that includes asphalt patching, crack sealing, and concrete curb repairs. The additional funding benefits residents by increasing our maintenance dollars, improves economic development, and extends pavement life.

Cary-Grove Food Pantry

'Tis the Season of Giving and the food pantry needs your help. With many families in need, their supplies are getting very low. Suggested 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. For your convenience, there is a collection box for non-perishables located at the Village Hall year round. This is a wonderful opportunity for you and your families to help others now and throughout the year.

Best Of Luck Penny Toppel!

Our long time employee and resident, **Penny Toppel** has decided to retire from the Village. Penny started working as the part-time Utility Billing Clerk in 1992. She was appointed our Village Treasurer in October 2002.

Penny and her husband, **Chuck**, moved to Fox River Grove shortly after they were married. She is a wealth of information about the history of our great town. We will definitely miss her and wish her the very best of everything in her retirement.



Picnic Grove Park

Picnic Grove Park is a great, lighted sledding hill. Please keep in mind, for the safety of everyone on the hill, snowboarding is not allowed and all dogs must be restrained with leashes. Enjoy the season!!

Calling All Seniors

If you are interested in making new friends, like to play card games and bingo and enjoy special luncheons and day trips, then stop by the Village Hall Community Room on Wednesdays. This lively group meets at 10:00 a.m. and socializes all morning. Stop by next Wednesday and join the fun!

Parking Reminders

A little refresher for parking your car:

- You cannot park within fifteen (15) feet of a fire hydrant.
- Within twenty (20) feet of a crosswalk at an intersection.
- Within thirty (30) feet from any flashing beacon, stop sign, or traffic-control signal located at the side of a roadway.

Garbage Cans – Hours

Just a friendly reminder that any garbage or recycling containers cannot be placed at the curb sooner than 3:00 p.m. on the day prior to the regular and customary pick-up day.

Also, the containers need to be brought in within twenty-four (24) hours after pick-up. At all other times, garbage and recycling containers should be stored out of public's plain view. Please be a good neighbor and keep your block looking good!

Metra Updates

The new station work is now underway. The result is going to be fabulous! In the meantime, to check what is happening and messages regarding any delays or closures, visit our Metra page: www.foxrivergrove.org/metra. It will have updates as we receive them. Remember, your patience will be rewarded when all is complete!

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.

Lock Your Doors

The Fox River Grove Police Department would like to remind everyone that it is important and necessary to lock your car doors and keep your garage doors closed. The Department has had several instances where things have been stolen from unlocked vehicles and open garages. Don't give crime any opportunities at your home!!



Energy Conservation Tips

- 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.
- Flat screen monitors use less energy than a monochrome monitor.
- 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.

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!

Village Notifications

Just a reminder to sign up for free notifications from the Village and Police Department. Our email system is generously donated from a resident who owns CDI Create. Many residents have signed up for this service and have found it very useful. Visit our Village website - www.foxrivergrove.org - to sign up. You do need to sign up for both the Village and Police Department separately.

Coming Soon: Water Bill Auto Debit

The Village of Fox River Grove will be offering auto payment for our water & sewer bills. The auto payment feature will allow residents to have the water & sewer bill automatically debited from your checking or savings account.

Check our website www.foxrivergrove.org for more information.

Recreation Council

As the winter months approach, we have a great way for your kids to stay active, learn new skills and meet new friends. Through our "FRG Hoops" program, kids in grades K through 4 will learn the game of basketball and improve their skills through fun filled drills and games.

To register, visit www.frgrc.info.

Registration: December 3-31

Season: January 7- March 7

Kindergarten: \$45 - meets Monday evenings and Saturday mornings at ARS

1st/2nd Grade: \$55 - meets Tuesday evenings and Saturday mornings at ARS

3rd/4th Grade: \$60 - meets Tuesday and Thursday evenings at Middle School

The program concludes with a spectacular - and very fun - March Madness event on Saturday, March 9, 2013. Visit their website at www.frgrc.info today!

Business Roundtable

The Cary Grove Area Chamber of Commerce and the Village of Fox River Grove will host the annual Business Roundtable on Thursday, February 21st, at 12 noon at the Fox River Grove Village Hall, 305 Illinois Street. Village President Nunamaker will discuss the Metra Construction plans, downtown redevelopment, new businesses in town, PEDC Business Initiatives and local business recognition for notable community participation. Local residents and business owners are encouraged to attend.

The program will include a presentation and open forum for questions and answers. Other Village officials will also be present. The cost of the February 21st Business Roundtable is \$15 and includes a box lunch. Reservations are required. Call the Chamber at (847) 639-2800.



Apartment Owners Reminder

If you are the owner of a Multi-Family apartment or condominium property, it is important that you maintain your owner registration, have annual inspections of all exterior areas, all common areas including but not limited to corridors, storage, laundry, and utility areas, and have your

individual rental units inspected when you have a change in tenants.

This Village requirement helps to protect the health, safety and welfare of residents and owners and ensures the rental units comply with minimum housing standards as well as preserve the value of the land and buildings. Contact our Building & Zoning Department 847-639-3170 ext. 213 to set up an appointment.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ◆ **Tree Lighting**.....December 1st..... Algonquin Road School
Get your photo taken with Santa Claus and tell him what's on your wish list!
- ◆ **Santa Sightings**December 8thStone Hill & Foxmoor Crossings
Watch for Santa at Stone Hill & Foxmoor Crossing Centers between 11:30 & 1:30!
- ◆ **Holiday Concert**.....December 13thFRG Middle School
The Band and Chorus entertain the community at 7 p.m.
- ◆ **Holiday Concert**December 17th Algonquin Road School
Enjoy the kindergarten, first, and second graders' winter concert at 2:00 p.m.
- ◆ **Holiday Concert**.....December 19th Algonquin Road School
Third and fourth graders perform at 2:00 p.m.
- ◆ **Story Time with Mrs. Claus**December 21stBella Vista Montessori School
Come see Mrs. Claus and enjoy some milk & cookies, music & holiday crafts ~ 3-5 p.m.
- ◆ **CGA Chamber Annual Dinner**.....January 25, 2013D' Andrea Banquets
Have a great time at Chamberitaville!! Includes dinner, a silent auction and some networking at this very fun event!
- ◆ **Norge Winter Jump**.....January 26th & 27thNorge Ski Club
Come cheer on the International and Jr. National Jumpers!
- ◆ **CGA Chamber Community Showcase**....February 23rd Cary Grove High School
Check out what is new with our local businesses.
- ◆ **PTO "Spring Fling"**March 2rd Onion Pub & Brewery
Come out to support the FRG PTO.
- ◆ **St. Pats Fundraiser**.....March 9th Brunch Cafe
Mark your calendar for this annual FRG Parks Fundraiser.

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

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

Pet Problems

Clean up after your pets! Pet waste left on yards, streets and parkland eventually washes into storm sewers and empties untreated into our streams, ponds, rivers and lakes. Coliform bacteria in pet waste are harmful to our health. To help keep drinking water and our natural resources safe and healthy, follow these easy guidelines:

- Carry a plastic bag when you walk your pet to pick up the waste.
- Throw pet waste away in the trash or toilet, not in storm drains.
- When treating your pet and yard for fleas or ticks, check with your veterinarian for safe substitutes that will minimize impact to the storm drains and your family.
- Dispose of flea dip liquid as a household hazardous waste, not in storm drains.

The Village does receive complaints from residents about dogs running loose, owners who are not picking up after their dogs and constantly barking dogs. Village Ordinances require that all dogs need to be on a leash and that any dog running loose is a nuisance.

It is also required that all pet owners must immediately remove feces or vomit from any street, alley, public property or private property. And, there is a noise ordinance, which covers barking dogs. Don't leave your dog outside to disturb your neighbors. Please be a responsible pet owner and respect your neighbors and visitors to our community.

Robert J. Nunamaker
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