



FOX RIVER GROVE

QUARTERLY

A newsletter for and about the Village of Fox River Grove

SPRING 2014

Village News

Welcome

The Village would like to welcome our new Administrator, **Derek Soderholm**. Derek comes to Fox River Grove from the Village of Grayslake, where he spent twelve years in municipal management. The last several years were as the Deputy Village Manager. He has a masters degree in public administration from Northern Illinois University. Derek and his wife, Nikki, along with their children, Lincoln and London, live in the McHenry County area.

St. Pat's Fundraiser

The Parks Commission is hosting their annual parks fundraiser "Raising Green to Preserve the Green" on Saturday, March 8th at Brunch Café. There will be delicious food, drinks - each ticket includes two drinks - a silent auction, a 50/50 raffle and lots of fun!

Thanks to everyone who attended last year's fundraiser. Not only was it a FANTASTIC time, but over \$5,900.00 was raised!!! These funds were used toward making the parks handicap accessible and the paving of Lion's Park.

Come out and support Fox River Grove's parks! The fun starts at 7:00 p.m. and the cost is \$30.00 per person. For more info contact frgparks@comcast.net.

50/50 Public Sidewalk Program

Does the public sidewalk in front of your house need replacement? Then our 50/50 program is for you. The average replacement cost is approximately \$7 per square foot, split 50% with the Village. This program reduces the overall cost and provides a valuable improvement for all that use the walk. The Village will determine priority based on safety, condition of the walk and availability of funds. To find out more about this program, visit our website www.foxrivergrove.org and click on 50/50 Sidewalk Program for the application or stop by Village Hall to pick-up an application.

Spring Clean-Up is Coming to Fox River Grove!



While you're on a roll cleaning up your garden and yard, you can continue in the attic, basement and garage for the annual Spring Clean-Up on **May 17th**. This is a **Saturday**, not our regularly scheduled pick up day. It is a great opportunity to "clean house" and dispose of the "stuff" you've been accumulating.

The types of items they will pick up are:

- Furniture weighing less than 50 pounds
- Lawn and garden items, but not landscape waste
- Plumbing fixtures
- Small auto parts drained of oil and gasoline
- Bundled construction debris of not more than one cubic yard and weighing less than 50 pounds
- Similar types of items that are usually found in garages or basements

They will not pick up the following items:

- Automobile batteries
- Auto parts weighing more than 50 pounds
- Any liquid or hazardous waste materials such as paints, gasoline or motor oil

- Bricks, stones, concrete
- Roofing debris
- Tires
- White goods, such as appliances, air conditioners, water heaters, etc.
- Computers or computer parts

If you are not sure about an item, call Waste Management at 1-800-447-1066.

Algonquin Township has a Recycling Center that is open 24 hours a day, seven days per week for Algonquin Township residents. They accept the following:

- Aluminum and Metal Cans
- Glass Bottles and Jars (green, brown or clear)
- Plastic Bottles (milk and water jugs, pop and beverage bottles, laundry and household detergent bottles)
- Newspaper, Cardboard, Magazines

On the last Saturday of the month from March through October, between 8 a.m. and noon, they will accept the following items:

- Paint - latex and oil-based paints, stain and varnish are accepted. NO thinners, stains or paint removers are accepted.
- Used motor oil
- Tree branches and brush recycling

Electronics Drop Off, Monday - Friday (except holidays) 9a.m.- 3 p.m. They will take computers, printers/faxes/scanners, monitors, TV, and most electronics.

Visit their website at www.algtwsp.com or call 847.639.2700, ext. 6 for more information

Help Keep Our Parks And Open Areas Clean

In line with keeping our Parks beautiful, this year the Parks Clean-Up Day will be **Saturday, April 26, 2014**, from 8:00 a.m. until noon. Our Public Works Department is preparing a list of items that can be accomplished this year. We had great volunteers last year and we hope to have more this year. Why not get a group together and spend some time outside in the parks? To sign up call the Village Hall at 847-639-3170 or send an email to village@foxrivergrove.org. Everyone is welcome!

The Village maintains over 130 acres of parks and open spaces for your enjoyment. Each year, yard waste (grass clippings, stumps, bushes, tree limbs) and household debris is illegally dumped in our wonderful park areas. If you see this happen, or know of someone who does it, please report it to the Police 847-639-2411. Our Parks are a valuable resource in our community - let's keep them beautiful!

Tree Lighting - A Great Success

Thanks so much to everyone for making the Tree Lighting "a Great Success". This year we had a couple new events with the Tree Walk, where different community groups and families decorated the evergreens by the school, and of course, the "Holiday Express" Train that gave rides throughout the afternoon. A very fun time!

There were many guests and volunteers to assist them!! Special thanks to the **Fox River Grove Lions and Lioness Clubs**, the **Cary-Grove Area Chamber of Commerce**, **Ms. FRG Claire Roehri**, the **Cary Grove Interact Club members**, **Babysitting Co-Op**, **Boy Scouts**, **Girls Scouts**, **FRG PTO**, **FRG Middle School Choir**, the **Sunshine School**, **Sue Bennett** (for the Tree Walk), **Sheri Sepeczki**, and extra thanks to **Francesca Richardson** for spearheading the entire event along with her family, **Michael and Marissa**.

The President's Letter



Hello fellow snowmen,

Wow, what a winter! We have had to cancel all of our meetings on Global Warming due to the unrelenting cold and snow! Seriously, it has been a great burden on the Public Works team. To date, we have had 41 occasions where we have had to plow or salt the roadways. I, and I am sure you join me, give a big thanks to our team for keeping our roads in better shape than most I have seen around us.

Speaking of roads, the Village is currently bidding out the project of repaving all or parts of eight streets, which will be started in the spring. Thank the Trustees for finding the money to continue our comprehensive upgrading of all of our streets.

At the time of this writing, I still cannot tell you what will become of the closed Dominicks store. The Village has reached out to several operators and worked closely with one particular prospect but no one has been accepted by the Safeway management. We will keep this as a high priority to close.

This Fall, Fox River Grove began a new branding initiative. What is the big deal about a brand? Well, it is not a logo or a slogan, not really. A brand is what "they" say about you when you are not around. Branding is what we do to affect what people are saying about Fox River Grove and it can elevate the regard that residents and business prospects have for our community. More about this will come later.

I invite you to come in to the Village Hall and meet our new Administrator, Derek Soderholm, as he settles in to his new roll. We are excited to have him on board.

Have a great Fox River Grove day!

Robert J. Nunamaker
President, Village of Fox River Grove

McHenry County College Offers Free Tax Assistance

McHenry County College will host free tax assistance for those who qualify now through April 12 (excluding March 22, and 29). Hours are 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays and 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesdays in Room A102 at the college; 8900 U.S. Hwy. 14 in Crystal Lake.

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Clinic prepares tax returns for individuals or households with incomes less than \$51,567. All tax forms will be provided.

Participants should bring the following: valid photo ID for main taxpayer on tax return, Social Security cards or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) letters for all family members reported on the tax return (mandatory), all 2013 earnings statements (W2s) and other income/expense documents, copy of last year's tax return, if available, and bank account information for direct deposits.

Other documents to bring, if pertinent, are: tuition statements and expenses (1098-T), mortgage interest statements (1098), real estate tax bill, and cancellation of debt/bankruptcy.

For more information, contact **Ann Esarco** at (847) 260-VITA.



Call J.U.L.I.E. Before You Dig

Spring is the season for digging and with it comes the lure of outdoor projects. All outdoor digging projects, including the smallest tasks, require a call to J.U.L.I.E. 24/7 at 1-800-892-0123. One free call does it all to protect you from digging where utilities are buried – it's simple, safe and the law.



- Have this information ready when you call:
- Your name, address and phone number
 - County and city or county and unincorporated area of township
 - Your company's name and address (if applicable)
 - Location of the dig site
 - Extent of the work involved (reason for dig)
 - Date work will begin
 - Permit number (if applicable)
 - Section and quarter numbers (if available)

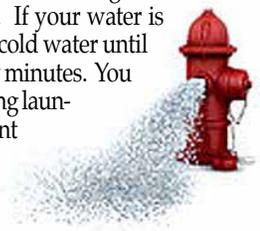
After providing J.U.L.I.E. with the above information, the J.U.L.I.E. operator will give you a "dig number". Be sure to write this number down as it serves as proof of your call. You will also need to reference this number if subsequent calls to J.U.L.I.E. are necessary (e.g. to have utility marks refreshed).

Spring Fire Hydrant Flushing

During the week of April 21, the Village of Fox River Grove Water Department will be flushing fire hydrants throughout the Village. Fire hydrant flushing helps ensure all fire hydrants are in good working order and flushing also improves water quality.

There may be some water discoloration and pressure fluctuation at the time of flushing and for a short period afterwards. If your water is discolored, please run the cold water until it clears, usually only a few minutes. You may also wish to avoid doing laundry during the fire hydrant flushing program. Please watch for the "Hydrant Flushing" signs posted in your neighborhood.

Thanks in advance for your understanding.



Metra Pre-Pay

There is a new monthly payment program for commuters who park at the FRG Metra station. It provides unlimited monthly parking for just \$30/month. You will receive a hang tag for your car in lieu of paying the daily fee at the Metra pay boxes.

Check out the Fox River Grove website www.foxrivergrove.org for more information.



Annual Water Testing

It's important for all users of private wells to have their drinking water tested annually to see if it meets the minimum drinking water standards. Be sure to take advantage of these offers from the Counties.

Lake County Residents - In observance of National Groundwater Awareness Week in March, the Lake County Health Department will offer reduced water testing rates. Between March 3 and 13, water samples can be brought to the Lake County Central Permit Facility at 500 W. Winchester Road in Libertyville between 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

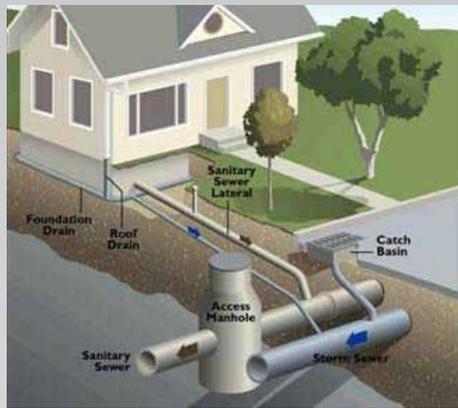
During this time, the normal \$16.00 analysis fee for testing for bacteria and nitrates will be reduced to \$10.00 for residents who rely on a private well for their drinking water. Water sampling kits can also be mailed for \$12.00 or they can be picked up at a variety of locations throughout the county. For a list of locations, call (847) 377-8020.

McHenry County Residents - In honor of Public Health Week (April 7 - 13), the McHenry County Department of Health is offering reduced fees for water testing during the month of April.

Test kits with instructions and drop-off schedules are available at several different township buildings: Algonquin, Dorr, McHenry, Nunda, Richmond, Grafton, the City of Marengo, the McHenry County Department of Health (Building A-LL5) and at their office in Crystal Lake. They will test for coliform and nitrates. The reduced fee is \$18. For information on private water supplies and complete lab services, visit www.mcdh.info.



Help Prevent Sewer Back-Ups



Sewer overflows and back-ups can cause health hazards, damage home interiors, and threaten the environment. A common cause of sewer overflows is pipes blocked by items flushed down the toilet. When you use your toilet, shower, washing machine or dishwasher, wastewater leaves your home through pipes that connect to the Village sanitary sewer system.

Recently the Village had problems with mop heads being flushed down toilets. This happened several times and caused serious damage to our system. Putting the wrong things down the drain can damage the sewer system, cause sewer backups in your home, and sewer releases to the environment. Anyone who uses the sanitary sewer system is responsible for what they flush or pour down drains.

Please help conserve water and only flush appropriate items.

Please do not flush the following items:

- Mop heads
- Disposable diapers (dispose of in the trash)
- Cigarette butts (contain chemicals and should be thrown in the trash)
- Floss (not biodegradable)
- Cotton balls and swabs
- Mini or maxi pads, tampons, condoms (dispose of in the trash)
- Unused medications in original bottle (can be disposed at the FRG Police Department)
- Cleaning wipes of any kind
- Facial tissue
- Bandages and bandage wrappings
- Hair
- Motor oil, transmission fluids, anti-freeze
- Unused chemicals, paints, and cleaning supplies

Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG)

Grease in sewer pipes causes sewer maintenance problems for property owners and the Village. Never pour grease in your toilet or sink drain and try to use your garbage disposal less. Instead, freeze it and throw it out with the trash.

Following these guidelines will help maintain the integrity of the sanitary sewer system and also reduce water usage.

Rivers & Streams Begin at Your Front Door

Even though you live quite a distance from a river or stream, you may be polluting it without knowing it. Before you pour anything into the gutter, ditch, or down the storm drain, stop and think! Storm drains go directly into channels and creeks, rivers and streams.

Did You Know...

Anything we use in our home, car and business like motor oil, paint, pesticides, fertilizers and cleaners can wind up in the street. A little water from rain or a garden hose can carry automotive and household materials through the storm drain, polluting streams, rivers, and wetlands. Storm drains are there to drain water off the street - not for disposal of hazardous materials. Dumping one quart of motor oil down a storm drain contaminates 250,000 gallons of water. Because storm drains are separate from our building's sanitary sewer system, storm water & urban runoff pollution can flow into streams and rivers without treatment.

Where Does It Go?

These pollutants flow together on a journey from the storm drain to ditches, creeks, rivers, streams and wetlands. This type of pollution is called storm water & urban runoff pollution and is a serious threat to the rivers and streams of Illinois.

What Is Storm Water & Urban Runoff Pollution?

Storm water runoff refers to seasonal rainfall flows. It is very noticeable during a heavy rain storm when large volumes of water drain off paved areas. Urban runoff can happen anytime of the year when excessive water use from irrigation, car washing and other sources carries litter, lawn clippings and other urban pollutants into storm drains. Even an automobile leaking motor oil miles from a river or stream can cause pollution.

How Is It Different From Other Forms of Water Pollution?

Storm water & urban runoff pollution can include anything that washes into the storm drain from the community. Unlike water pollution linked to factories or sewage treatment plants, storm water & urban runoff pollution can come from city streets, neighborhoods, farms, construction sites and parking lots.

Where Does Storm Water & Urban Runoff Pollution Come From?

- Automotive leaks and spills
- Improper disposal of used oil and other engine fluids down the storm drain
- Metals found in vehicle exhaust, weathered paint, rust, metal plating and tires
- Pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers from lawns, gardens and farms
- Improper disposal of cleaners, paint and paint removers
- Soil erosion and dust debris from landscape and construction activities
- Litter, lawn clippings, animal waste and other organic matter
- Oil stains on parking lots and paved surfaces

Storm Water & Urban Runoff Pollution and Our Rivers and Streams

Storm water & urban runoff pollution may have a serious impact on water quality in Fox River Grove. Pollutants from the storm drain system can harm aquatic life as well as wetland habitats. It can also degrade recreation areas such as beaches, fishing areas, and boating areas.

A Storm Water Quality Management Program has been developed by the Village of Fox River Grove, which participates in the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). The Village Fox River Grove's responsibilities involve encouraging the public to help protect water quality, monitoring runoff in the storm drain system, investigating illegal disposals and maintaining storm drains.

The support of Village residents, businesses and industries is needed to improve water quality and reduce the threat of Storm Water & Urban Runoff Pollution. Proper use and disposal of materials we use everyday will help stop this form of pollution before it reaches the storm drain and our valuable water resources.

To report possible illegal discharges to the storm drain system, call the Village of Fox River Grove Public Works Department at 847-639-6165 or Police Department non-emergency at 847-639-2411. (Source: Orange County, California, FRG revised)

New York Style Bistro here in the Grove

A new Asian bistro has opened in the Stone Hill Center. The new owners, James, Lee and Charley are from New York City where they learned how to make Sushi and excellent Chinese dishes.

It is really something new to our town and serves the tastes of us who want a fresh and healthier fair. Called the Yummy Asian Bistro, it is located where the prior Chinese restaurant was in Stone Hill Center. Each dish is a work of art!





This newsletter is published by the Village of Fox River Grove,
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Editor - Donna M. Brouder
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Presorted Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 23
Fox River Grove
IL 60021

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ◆ **St. Pat's Fundraiser** March 8th Brunch Café
Help the Parks Commission raise "Green for our green!"
- ◆ **FRG Business Roundtable** March 13th Village Hall
Enjoy lunch with our Village President and learn about what is happening around town.
- ◆ **District #3 Fundraiser** March 19 & 20 Yummy Asian Bistro
Enjoy some yummy food at Yummy Asian Bistro on these two days and they will donate a percentage to the PTO.
- ◆ **District #3 Fundraiser** March 29th KIAGA Gymnastics
Open gym from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. located on Pepper Road across from the Fieldhouse!
- ◆ **Easter Egg Hunt** April 12th Lions Park
Bring your basket and camera to hunt for eggs and a photo with the Easter Bunny!
- ◆ **Hydrant Flushing this week** April 21st All Around Town
Public Works will be flushing hydrants throughout town.
- ◆ **Parks Clean-Up Day** April 26th FRG Parks
Sign up at Village Hall to help with Parks beautification!!
- ◆ **Free Yard Waste Pick-Up** May 9th & May 16th All Around Town
Take advantage of free yard waste pick-up.
- ◆ **Spring Clean-Up** May 17th Your House
Time for the annual clean out the garage and basement.
- ◆ **Memorial Day Parade** May 26th Algonquin Road School
Great way to pay tribute to our Veterans.

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.

Free Landscape Waste

While cleaning out the house and garage, find some time to get the landscape waste together. Landscape waste is classified as grass, brush, garden clippings, leaves, small shrubs, weeds, garden and household plant materials, flowers and branches and limbs not to individually exceed four feet in length and one inch in diameter.

This will be picked up for free on **Friday, May 9th and Friday, May 16th**. You may put out as many brown kraft bags as needed without stickers. They do not have to be any special brand, just brown kraft bags are ok.

Pet Etiquette

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 is 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 vet 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.