



FOX RIVER GROVE QUARTERLY

A newsletter for and about the Village of Fox River Grove

SPRING 2015

Village News

Tree Lighting A Great Success

Thanks to everyone who came out to this past holiday season's annual Tree Lighting festival! We hope you had fun! Of course, the Miracle Express Train was again a big hit with the little ones!

The Special Events Committee would like to especially thank the various groups and people who helped to make the event a great success: Algonquin Road School, FRG Middle School Choir, Cary-Grove Chamber of Commerce and Miss FRG Magalie Baker, FRG Lions Club, FRG Lioness Club, FRG Babysitting Co-Op, Reaching Higher Preschool, and Francesca Richardson for assisting with the planning and decorating the gym. We would also like to thank Cary-Grove High School Swing Choir for treating us to such a spectacular holiday performance. A special treat that was!

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Summer Festival

Last year's 95th Anniversary Celebration was such a success, the Special Events Committee is doing it again! This year's event will be on Saturday, June 6th.

Mark your calendars and make your summer plans accordingly! You don't want to miss the summer's biggest party! More details to be announced soon!

Do you have ideas for what this summer's event should be called? Get those creative juices flowing and submit your suggestions to the committee via their Facebook page for a chance to win a gift card/certificate to one of Fox River Grove's local restaurants! Check our page at <https://www.facebook.com/frglivingfortheweekend> for more info. While you're there, Like us too!

**SAVE THE DATE:
FOX RIVER GROVE
FIREWORKS!
JULY 11, 2015**

Fox River Grove Spring Clean-Up Time!

Waste Management's annual Spring Clean-Up is on May 16th. 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, computer parts or plasma TV's

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

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

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New Online Payment Service For Water & Sewer Utility Bills

The Village recently implemented a new software program that links water and sewer utility customers' data to the web. Village residents and business owners may now manage their utility account online – with features such as the ability to view their billing and usage history and pay their bill online with a credit or debit card (you must have your account number to look at your account).

Previously, water and sewer customers could only pay their bill online with an added convenience fee. With the new system, the convenience fee is eliminated and customers can pay their bill without an additional fee.

This new payment system will complement the Village's other payment options:

- Auto Pay: Utility bill amounts are automatically withdrawn from a checking or savings account on the

due date. Account holders will continue to receive a card each billing cycle showing current charges. However, it will clearly say "Auto Pay" near the due date field. Because payment is automatic there are never postage costs or penalties for late payments. If interested in auto pay, please complete the form on the Village website, or stop by Village Hall.

- Mail/In Person: Account holders can always mail a check to the Village Hall, put a payment in the drop box outside Village Hall, or pay in person during business hours.

The Village is also now accepting credit or debit card payments for water and sewer bills in person at Village Hall. Whether online or in-person, no convenience fee will be assessed.

The President's Letter

Hello neighbors,

As I write this article for what we call the Spring Newsletter, I am looking out upon great piles of snow and the wind chill is 10 degrees. I am going to try and get into the spirit of the coming spring, but it is a challenge.



One of the things that Spring brings to the Village, is the beginning of our Road Renewal Program. This year the total cost of construction for these projects is \$1,423,000. The following roads are included –

- Algonquin Road from Route 14 to Lexington
- Algonquin Road from Elder to Old Hunt Road
- Plum Tree Road
- Doyle Road

These roads will be funded through the STP (Surface Transportation Program) grant which the Village pays 20% of the total cost of construction. The total projected grant amount to be received by the Village is \$587,000.

Other roads included:

Bristol Lane, Crompton Court, Foxmoor Road from Brighton to Route 14, Huntcliff Court, Manchester Court, Highview Drive, Lily Lane, Park Court, and Woodbine Lane.

These roads are funded under the Village's annual road program. The roads are selected by the Public Works Department based on engineering studies finding the most needed locations. If your street is not listed now and it needs attention, it is certainly on our planning list, but drop us a note if you feel yours needs special attention.

In the Winter letter I mentioned the arrival of Little Caesar's Pizza. I stopped in the store and they are making good progress and should be open the end of March! And while I am mentioning food, I suspect you are wondering what is going on in the old Café Salsa building (the Castleview for the real Grovers). The location is being repositioned as a family restaurant and bar. The plans look great, the inside is being

almost fully redone, and the food offerings very tasty.

Many of you know that the Village has been struggling with the need to provide more space at our Waste Water Treatment Plant. You probably also know that this situation will require the moving of the Streets and Parks Garage to a new site. This Spring, the Trustees will take action for the final solution to the problem. The land acquired several years ago, now not favored, will be sold to a developer for new housing. Further, the sites directly across from the Treatment Plant will be submitted to the architects for construction of the garage. The funding for this project has been in place for several years.

In closing, I want to call your attention to the McHenry County 211 Service. It is something of which you and yours should be aware. Calling this number will get you free help in finding resources concerning health and human services along with other family issues. It is excellent for those in need.

Have a great Fox River Grove day!!

Robert J. Nunamaker
President, Village of Fox River Grove

General Sewer Information for Residents

If you notice a strong sewer smell in your home, this could indicate a dry trap on a sink or basement floor drain. Running water into each drain will fill the trap and eliminate the odor. If you notice any unusual gurgling noise or a drain is running slowly, you may be experiencing the beginning of a blockage.

If clear water is entering through the walls or cracks in the floor, this is an indication of a water-proofing issue, a blocked footer or a blockage in the storm lateral.

If you have trees in your front yard, be aware that the root system extends out as far as the widest part of the canopy. Roots tend to seek out "the path of least resistance" to supply the tree with water. This occurs often with the sanitary and storm laterals.

Slow sanitary laterals can also experience back up from detergents used for laundry. The detergents build up in the line, reducing the size of the pipes.

Ways to protect your property:

- Have a plumber's name and number.
- Make sure power strips are up off the floor and secured. Power strips can continue to function—even under water.
- Storage items should be placed on shelves in plastic containers. Cardboard boxes absorb water and odors.
- Make sure your gutters are cleaned once a year.
- Grade planting beds away from the house foundation. Water should flow at least three feet away from the foundation.



- Periodically check and clear debris from any yard or driveway drains on your property. This will ensure that they flow properly.
- If you have a catch basin in the street near your home, take a moment to clear debris from the top. If the basin needs attention, call Bay Service.
- If you have a garbage disposal, make sure to run water for 3 to 5 minutes after disposing of food. This will ensure that waste does not build up in your sanitary lateral. Use ice cubes to sharpen the blades on your disposal.
- Never dispose of fats, oils and grease (FOG's) down the drain. They tend to coagulate within laterals and the city sanitary main lines and are the primary cause of back ups.

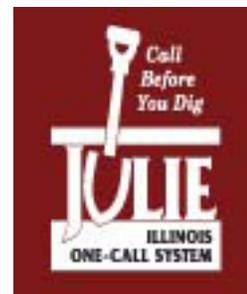
Call J.U.L.I.E. Before You Dig

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. (Joint Utility Locating Information for Excavators) 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 the following 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).





St. Pat's Fundraiser



The Parks Commission is hosting their annual FRG Parks Fundraiser "Raising Green to Preserve the Green" on Saturday evening, April 25th at Brunch Café. There will be delicious food and drinks; each ticket includes unlimited food plus 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 \$7,500.00 was raised!!! These funds went towards a basketball hoop and a new 30 x 50 picnic shelter to be installed this spring in Picnic Grove 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 information about this great event, contact frgparks@ameritech.net.



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 25, 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, just 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!



PTO Fundraiser

El Sombreo is hosting a Fundraiser for the Fox River Grove PTO on May 27th and 28th. They will give back 15% for all purchases made from open to close both days. Please mention the fundraiser when ordering!

The Kona Ice fundraiser will be held June 3rd at Algonquin Road School from 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Be sure to mark your calendars for both events and support the Fox River Grove PTO!

Conserve Your Water At Home And Work

Saving Water at Home

Here are some simple things you can do to reduce water usage:

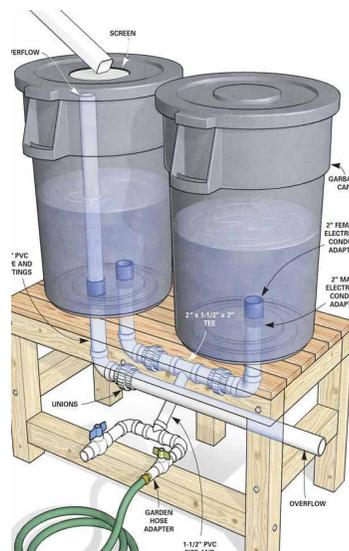
- Make sure, whenever possible, you are using low water-use showerheads, aerators, toilets, washing machines and dishwashers. Report to management or repair drips, leaking toilets or other leaking water fixtures
- Take short showers and turn the water off while lathering or shaving
- Don't use running hot water to defrost food. Plan ahead or use the microwave

Rain Barrels

Landscapes can soak up more than 50% of the water used at a typical home. Capturing rain from your roof is a quick way to conserve water and help prevent pollution by reducing the amount of runoff entering our storm drain system. Then, use your catch to help irrigate your landscape.

How do they work?

Rain barrels are used to collect rainwater from



hard surfaces such as rooftops. When you install a rain barrel at your home you are helping to maintain a healthy urban watershed by reducing the demand on the potable water system to irrigate your garden, and by reducing the amount of wet weather

runoff that is collected and sent into the public storm water system, which goes untreated into our rivers and streams.



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 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 rinsing fruits and vegetables, catch the water for use to rinse dishes, run the garbage disposal or water plants
- Scrape food off dishes before washing rather than rinsing them
- Use a basin or the largest pot to hand-wash dishes rather than filling the sink
- Run your dishwasher and washing machine only when full
- Take your car to a car wash
- Use a broom to clean the patio

How much water do they save?

The amount of water that can be collected from a rooftop depends on several variables, including the dimensions of the rooftop, the collection capacity, and the amount and timing of the rain received. Be sure to do some calculations to determine how much rain barrel storage capacity you need.

Saving Water at Work is Good Business Sense

Saving water at work can sometimes be difficult. It's much easier to save water at home by taking shorter showers, adjusting the sprinklers or buying an ultra low-flow toilet. But, there are always opportunities to save this precious resource which will also help the company save water.

Here are some simple things every employee can do:

- Look for ways to save water at work and share the ideas with management. Remember, water saving ideas are money saving ideas
- Use a broom, whenever possible, to clean the walkways and parking areas around your business
- Report or repair drips, leaking toilets or other leaking water fixtures
- Don't let the water faucet run unnecessarily
- Be conscientious when washing your coffee mug/dishes - use a personalized mug and give it a quick rinse
- Report broken sprinkler heads or excessive wet spots to management
- Do not use the toilet for a trash can





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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ◆ **Business Roundtable** March 12th FRG Village Hall
Enjoy lunch with our Village President and hear about what is happening around town.
- ◆ **Hydrant Flushing this week**..... April 20th All Around Town
Public Works will be flushing hydrants throughout town.
- ◆ **Parks Clean-Up Day** April 25th FRG Parks
Sign up at Village Hall to help with Parks beautification!!
- ◆ **St. Pat's Fundraiser**..... April 25th Brunch Café
Enjoy an evening of fun, food, and to raise some funds for our Parks!
- ◆ **Free Yard Waste Pick-Up** May 8th & May 15th All Around Town
Take advantage of free yard waste pick-up.
- ◆ **Spring Clean-Up** May 16th Your House
Time for the annual clean out the garage and basement.
- ◆ **Memorial Day Parade** May 25th Algonquin Road School
Great way to pay tribute to our Veterans.
- ◆ **PTO Fundraiser** May 27th & 28th El Sombrero
Have a delicious dinner out and support the PTO at the same time!
- ◆ **Summer Festival** June 6th Stone Hill Center
An early summer festival!!

**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.



Summer Help Wanted

The Village Public Works Department is looking for hard working summer employees to start in May and end in August. Must be 18 years of age and be able to work Monday - Friday and some special event weekends. Starting pay is \$8.25 an hour.

Please stop by Village Hall or visit the website www.foxrivergrove.org to get a summer help application.

FRG Business Roundtable

This year the Business Roundtable luncheon is scheduled for Thursday, March 12 at the Village Hall beginning at 11:45. President Nunamaker is the guest speaker and will give a short presentation followed by questions and answers. The cost is \$25 for chamber members and \$35 for non-members and will include lunch. Please contact the Chamber office at 847.639.2800 to register.

Spring Fire Hydrant Flushing

Beginning the week of April 20th, 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 improves water quality.

There may be some water discoloration and pressure fluctuation at the time of flushing 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.