



# Fox River Grove QUARTERLY

CENTENNIAL EDITION  
SPRING 2019

## CELEBRATING 100 YEARS IN THE VILLAGE OF FOX RIVER GROVE!



### THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Welcome to our Centennial Year! Our town is 100 years old – incorporated on August 21, 1919. This is a town rich in history. When I look back through our history, these important places stand out: the Spring Creek Tavern, the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad Bridge, Opatrny's Picnic Grove and Louis's Place. Let me share some of Fox River Grove's history with you.

### THE SPRING CREEK TAVERN

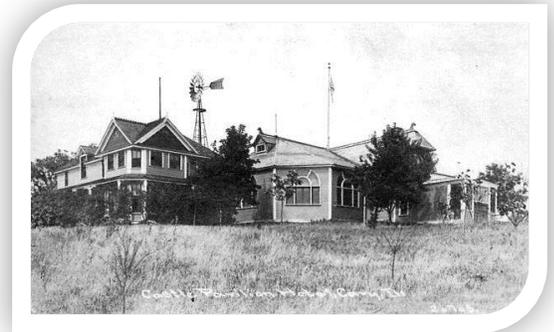
The tavern building is still located at the intersection of Plum Tree and Algonquin Roads near Spring Creek. This was the first settlement in Fox River Grove, which in 1840 was called East Algonquin. The settlement consisted of the tavern, a school house, burying ground/church (St. John's) and a grist mill. All the local meetings and social functions were held in the tavern. It was a favorite hang out for the local farmers. The first Bohemian Social Club, Ceska Beseda, met there.

### CHICAGO AND NORTHWESTERN RAILROAD BRIDGE

This bridge over the Fox River was built in 1854. It was the only way to cross the Fox River until almost 30 years later when a "wagon" bridge was added alongside it. This new development naturally moved the focus of town from the tavern area to the bridge terminal. The later addition of a railroad station at Route 14 and Lincoln completed the shift.

### OPATRNY'S PICNIC GROVE

Eman Opatrny bought the family farm consisting of 80 acres from his father in 1900. Seeing an opportunity afforded by the river and the railroad, he developed the area. Over the next three years, the Picnic Grove Recreation Area, Castle Hotel and Pavilion Dance Hall were built. Eman hired a promoter who convinced the Railroad Company to bring a spur track into the Picnic Grove. The fare to ride the train from Chicago was 50¢ and he entertained crowds of over 3,000 on the weekends.



*Picnic Grove in 1902 - Castle Pavilion and Resort Hotel. This building featured windows from Chicago's 1893 Columbian Exposition.*



### LOUIS'S PLACE

Louis Cernocky, Sr. purchased a small bakery at the corner of Lincoln and Route 14. He turned it into a "Road House" type establishment which featured his wife Mary's Bohemian cooking and a well stocked bar. His son, Louis Jr. married Clara Opatrny, Eman's daughter, and became the operator of the Picnic Grove. He soon added the Crystal Ballroom in 1922. The substantially enhanced Picnic Grove and Dance Hall were the place to be in the 1920's. Stories around town feature alleged trafficking in bootleg booze and mob connections.

### NORGE SKI CLUB

The Norge Ski Club purchased land and erected the ski jump in 1905 which just added to the excitement that was Fox River Grove in the early days.

Check out the many Centennial celebrations scheduled this year on the back of the newsletter. A special thank you to our own Fox River Grove resident, Katie Gleason of *Katie Gleason Designs*, for designing the logo we will be using all year long to celebrate the Centennial. Our first trolley tour will be on June 23<sup>rd</sup> – maybe I'll see you there.

Join the celebration and have a special Fox River Grove day!

*Bob*

Robert J. Nunamaker  
President, Village of Fox River Grove





## VEHICLE STICKERS GO ON SALE MAY 1<sup>ST</sup> PURCHASE & PLACE ON WINDSHIELD BY JUNE 30<sup>TH</sup>

Fox River Grove requires that cars residing in the Village display a vehicle sticker. The funds collected for stickers are used for capital improvement projects throughout the community. Residents will receive vehicle sticker postcards the first week in May. (Postcards are not required to purchase stickers.) You can purchase vehicle stickers online at [foxrivergrove.org](http://foxrivergrove.org) under "Payments", mail a check or in-person at the Village Hall. Stickers purchased after June 30<sup>th</sup> incur a 50% penalty. The penalty increases to 100% August 1<sup>st</sup>. Failure to purchase a sticker may result in a \$100 fine.

### 2019 VEHICLE STICKERS

<b>Automobiles/R.V.'s</b>	\$ 20	<b>Trucks A &amp; B Plates</b>	\$ 26
<b>Non-Highway Vehicles (golf carts)</b>	\$ 10	<b>Trucks C+ Plates</b>	\$ 60
<b>Motorcycles</b>	\$ 10	<b>Senior (age 65+, 1 per home)</b>	\$ 2

## MCHENRY COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM FREE WEEK

JUNE 15<sup>TH</sup> - 21<sup>ST</sup> 6422 MAIN ST., UNION

Fox River Grove residents are welcome to visit the museum free of charge during this week. Explore the Gannon Cabin (1843), West Harmony Schoolhouse (1895), and Exhibits: *From Prairie Trails to Strange Tales: McHenry County's Earliest Years, Made in McHenry County, Mail Delivery, Mark Your Calendars and Adopt-an-Artifact.*



*Fox River Grove's first Post Office in 1920. Postmaster J. Zeman is shown on the porch with his family. He held the position for 21 years.*



## PARKS FUNDRAISER

SATURDAY, MARCH 9<sup>TH</sup>

7:00 - 10:00 PM BRUNCH CAFÉ

This annual fundraiser helps "raise green to preserve the green." Tickets are \$30 and include unlimited food & 2 drink tickets. There is a silent auction, 50/50 raffle and lots of fun. Each year the proceeds help improve the Village parks and playgrounds.

## COP ON A ROOFTOP

FRIDAY, MAY 17<sup>TH</sup>

5 A.M. - 12:00 PM DUNKIN' DONUTS

The FRG Police Department is raising funds for Special Olympics through this annual Rooftop Challenge. Plan on stopping by the Fox River Grove Dunkin' Donuts to show your support!



## CENTENNIAL FIREWORKS CELEBRATION

SATURDAY, JULY 6<sup>TH</sup> PICNIC GROVE PARK

This year's celebration is going to be one to remember. In addition to the fireworks, there will be bands, food & drink, face painting, a balloon artist, bags tournament and shuttle service. Please consider making a donation to help contribute to this event. Go to [foxrivergrove.org](http://foxrivergrove.org) under "Payments" or include a donation with your vehicle sticker purchase.

## 2018 TREE LIGHTING THANK YOU'S

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the festive Tree Lighting celebration in December: Algonquin Road School, Haley Bond and Friends Brass Ensemble, Cary-Grove High School Swing Choir, Cary-Grove Area Chamber of Commerce, Cary-Grove Jaycees, Cary-Grove Lions, Fox River Grove Middle School Beta Club, Fox River Grove Fire Department, Friends of the Fox River Grove Memorial Library, and Viva Voce.

## FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY ANNUAL SPRING BOOK SALE

FRIDAY, APRIL 26<sup>TH</sup> 9:30 AM - 7:30 PM

SATURDAY, APRIL 27<sup>TH</sup> 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM

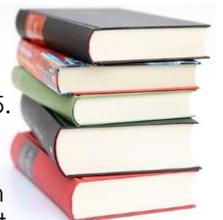
FOX RIVER GROVE MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Find terrific deals on books, CDs, DVDs and more!

Friday: Purchase a library book bag for \$10 and fill it for free while supplies last

Saturday: \$5 Bag Sale all day

Help raise funds by donating gently used books during regular library hours April 1 - 25. (Encyclopedias, magazines, VHS tapes and textbooks are not accepted.) Proceeds from the sale will be used to support programs and purchase new materials for the library.



## BACK TO THE BASICS OF RECYCLING RIGHT

Recycling is important to Fox River Grove and we know residents want to do the right thing for our community and the environment. It's easy to get lazy with recycling, but if you follow these 3 rules, it can make a big impact:



1 Recycle empty bottles, cans, paper and cardboard.



2 Keep food and liquids out of the recycling.



3 Keep plastic bags out of the recycling bin.  
**NO BAGGED RECYCLABLES.**

For materials to have a second life and create new products, they must be free from contamination – that means no trash mixed in the recycling. If these rules aren't followed, your recyclables can't be collected. Go to [recycleoftenrecycleright.com](http://recycleoftenrecycleright.com) to view fun videos and resources to set your family up for recycling success. Look for more info in the mail as we focus on improving the quality of recyclable materials in the Village.



## SPRING CLEAN-UP SATURDAY, MAY 18<sup>TH</sup>

Have you been a part of the Marie Kondo craze de-cluttering your home? Waste Management will pick-up everything you've been accumulating. All items must be by the curb by 7 am to ensure pick up. Go to the Village website under Garbage & Recycling > Spring Clean-up for full details or call Waste Management at 800-447-1066. You can also recycle many items at the Algonquin Township, such as clothes and small electronics. Go to [www.algtwsp.com](http://www.algtwsp.com) or call 847-639-2700 for details.

## FREE LANDSCAPE WASTE PICK-UP DAYS MAY 17<sup>TH</sup> & 24<sup>TH</sup>

Landscape waste includes grass, brush, garden clippings, small shrubs, weeds, garden & household plant materials, flowers, branches & limbs. (Branches/limbs must be bundled with biodegradable string, placed in piles that are no more than 4 ft. long/2 ft. thick & less than 50 lbs.) You may put out as many brown Kraft bags as needed.

## BRANCH CHIPPING 1<sup>ST</sup> TUESDAY OF THE MONTH (APRIL – NOVEMBER)

Public Works provides free branch chipping to residents. Crews start on the south side of town, so it could take a few days to get to your home, depending on your location and how much chipping material is present. Branches must be between 1 – 5 inches in diameter and 4 – 10 feet in length for collection. Stumps and roots cannot be chipped. Place branches curbside with the cut ends toward the street. Note: If a contractor cuts down a tree, it is responsible for the disposal of the branches.



## STORMWATER POLLUTION: PROTECT OUR WATER RESOURCES

Stormwater pollution impacts our drinking water, swimming, fishing and more. Stormwater run-off occurs when rain and melting snow flows off streets, lawns, parking lots, rooftops, open fields and other exposed areas. This pollution can threaten our watershed.

A watershed is the area of land that catches rain and drains into a common body of water. The ditches that run along streets are the first part of the drainage system in the watershed. The stream or pond that receives water drainage from the streets is part of a larger watershed. That stream flows into a larger stream, lake or river.

This means that pollution in **any** part of a watershed can affect the quality of the receiving water body. Unlike sanitary sewers, anything dumped into the storm drain system flows directly into the nearest body of water and ultimately the Fox River, without any treatment to remove contaminants.

## PARKS CLEAN-UP DAY SATURDAY, APRIL 27<sup>TH</sup> 8:30-NOON

Join the Streets & Parks Department for this annual clean-up. Last year was very successful and a lot was accomplished. Residents are encouraged to get a group together and spend time outside helping clean the parks. To sign up, contact the Village at 847-639-3170 or [village@foxrivergrove.org](mailto:village@foxrivergrove.org).

## WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP:

- Don't dump yard waste into streets, storm drains, ditches or creeks.
- Pick up pet waste. (Bacteria in the waste is a serious threat to our water.)
- Never pour oil, paint thinners or chemicals into storm drains, waterways or the ground. Properly recycle or dispose of chemicals.
- Use lawn chemicals sparingly. Organics are a good alternative.
- Keep your car tuned & repair any fluid leaks.
- Don't overflow your trash bins to help prevent waste from entering the storm drains on a windy day.
- Use a mulching mower & leave grass clippings on the lawn as fertilizer.

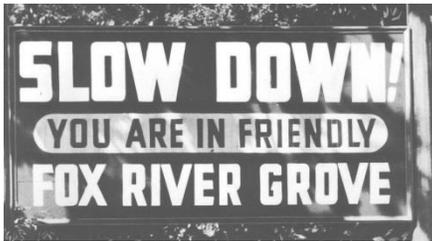
## VILLAGE SUMMER HELP

The Public Works Department is looking for seasonal summer employees to work May through August. You must be 18 years old and able to work Monday – Friday and some weekends. Starting pay is \$10 per hour. Applications are available on the Village website.





**Village of Fox River Grove**  
305 Illinois Street  
Fox River Grove, IL 60021



**Village Hall Hours:**

Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
Phone: 847-639-3170  
Email: [village@foxrivergrove.org](mailto:village@foxrivergrove.org)

**President:**

Robert J. Nunamaker

**Trustees:**

Jennifer Curtiss  
Jacob Fleischmann  
Steve Knar  
Andrew Migdal  
Melissa Schladt  
Patrick Wall



Sign up for Village email notifications at [www.foxrivergrove.org](http://www.foxrivergrove.org)

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**VILLAGE EVENTS**

**April**

- 4/26-27 Library Annual Book Sale
- 4/27 Parks Clean-Up Day
- 4/29 Hydrant Flushing Week

**May**

- 5/17 Free Yard Waste Pick-Up
- 5/17 Cop on a Rooftop  
Dunkin' Donuts 5:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- 5/18 Spring Clean-Up  
Items must be curbside by 7:00 a.m.
- 5/24 Free Yard Waste Pick-Up

You can pick up a **FREE Centennial Calendar of Events** magnet at the Fox River Grove Village Hall.  
Note: The Lions Arts & Crafts Fair date is incorrect on the magnet. The date is 7/14.



**Calendar Of Events**

Centennial Info:  
[frg100info@gmail.com](mailto:frg100info@gmail.com)



Orange colored events are FRG Sponsored Centennial Events

- |        |  |
|--------|--|
| March  | 3/2 - Spring Fling, Makray Golf Club<br>3/7 - Al Capone Presentation, Library<br>3/9 - Parks Fundraiser, Brunch Cafe   |
| April  | 4/8 - The History of Fox River Grove, MCC<br><i>(Presented by: Village President Robert Nunamaker), MCC</i><br>4/13 - Easter Egg Hunt (Jaycees), Lions Park<br>4/20 - Easter Egg Hunt, Bettendorf Castle                       |
| May    | 5/27 - Memorial Day Parade   |
| June   | 6/23 - <b>Historical Tour</b><br>6/26 - Veteran's Picnic, Lions Park<br>6/30 - <b>Historical Baseball Game, ARS</b>  |
| July   | 7/6 - <b>Rock the River, Fireworks Celebration, Picnic Grove Park</b><br>7/7 - FRG Firefighters Water Fights, Picnic Grove Park<br>7/14 - Lions Arts & Crafts Fair, Lions Park<br>7/21 - <b>Historical Tour</b>                |
| August | 8/12-8/17 - Library centennial special activities wk.<br>8/18 - <b>Historical Tour</b><br>8/23-8/25 - <b>Centennial Carnival &amp; Music Fest, Lions Park</b><br>8/25 - <b>Floatin' Through the Decades, Centennial Parade</b> |
| Sept.  | Norge Ski Jump Fall Tournament   |
| Oct.   | Fox Chase 5k<br>10/5 - Cary Grove Homecoming<br>10/26 - Haunted Forest<br>10/26 - Chamber Halloween Walk   |
| Nov.   | 11/22 - FRG Firefighters Turkey Raffle   |
| Dec.   | 12/7 - Tree Lighting, ARS<br>12/31 - <b>NYE Celebration, Avante Banquets</b>   |

