



Fox River Grove QUARTERLY

SPRING 2022



PARKS CLEAN-UP DAY

SATURDAY, APRIL 30TH 8:00 – NOON

Join the Public Works Department for the annual parks clean-up day. Public Works will be placing a box of bags under the shelters at three park locations: Picnic Grove, Lions Park & Foxmoor Park. We are looking for volunteers to pick up trash throughout the parks. This is a great volunteer activity for scout troops or other student organizations! Once your bag is full, tie it up and leave it by the parking lot and Public Works will pick it up for disposal. Remember to bring gloves.

HELP KEEP OUR PARKS AND OPEN AREAS CLEAN

The Public Works Department 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 – help us keep them beautiful!

RIGHT-OF-WAY (PLOW DAMAGE)

Once pulverized dirt is available, Public Works will begin restoring plow damage sustained from the winter season.

HELP NEEDED! VILLAGE SUMMER EMPLOYEES

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 special event weekends. Starting pay is \$13/hour. Applications are available on the Village website.

FREE LANDSCAPE WASTE PICK-UP MONDAY, APRIL 4TH & 11TH

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 paper landscape waste bags as needed. Yardwaste stickers are not required on these days.

BRANCH CHIPPING

1ST 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. Stumps and roots cannot be chipped. Place branches curbside with the cut ends toward the street. If a contractor cuts down a tree, the contractor is responsible for the disposal of the branches.



SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY

SATURDAY, MAY 21ST

This is **not** our regularly scheduled pick up day. It is a great time to go through your house and garage to dispose of the things you have been storing and accumulating during the year. **All items must be at the curb by 7:00 AM** to ensure pick up. Praireland will pick-up the following items:

- Furniture
- Lawn & Garden items
- Basement & Garage items
- Plumbing fixtures
- Bundled construction debris <1 cubic yard

NOTE: MATTRESSES MUST BE COVERED IN PLASTIC.

Exclusions: **All items must be less than 50 lbs.** Tires, chemicals, paint & propane are not accepted. Electronics (such as TVs and computer monitors) are also excluded. There will be a separate E-Waste disposal date in August.

Go to www.prairelanddisposal.com under the Municipalities tab > Village of Fox River Grove or call 847-381-9300 with questions.



A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR MARC

Hello Friends and Neighbors,

I was so happy to see three jumpers from our very own Norge Ski Club qualify for the 2022 Winter Olympics. This achievement is a testament to the hard work and dedication of these young men, their families and the Club.

The State of Illinois recently announced two grants awarded to the Village. The first, Senator McConchie was able to secure \$140,000 for the Village to help fund the bike path through Picnic Grove Park. This connection will allow riders from Spring Street to make their way through Picnic Grove Park to Ski Hill Road. These connections mean that bicyclists, runners, and walkers will be able to stay alongside the Fox River for the entire stretch of Fox River Grove north of Route 14.

The second, Representative McLaughlin (no relation) helped the Village secure \$400,000 to partially fund the replacement of components of the rotating biological contactor (RBC) system (our ammonia removal system) at the Wastewater Plant. Thanks to the excellent job our Public Works staff has done maintaining the current RBCs (installed in 1978), they have lasted well beyond their useful life.

I am pleased to announce that another residential development may be coming to Fox River Grove in the coming year. A national developer is proposing to build up to 110 single-story 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom, 2-car garage attached single-family homes

off Route 22. Developments like this and the Grove Residences help build our local tax base, support local businesses, and help offset future utility rate increases.

On a different note, I want to draw your attention to a program that just became available to our lower income residents called the Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP). Through an agreement with the McHenry County Housing Authority, the Village will be able to accept direct payments from the Housing Authority on behalf of low-income residents towards past due or current balances, as well as any fees or penalties incurred. The COVID-19 pandemic has been especially difficult for many of our residents, and we are hopeful that some Grovers will be able to benefit from this program.

Finally, I'd like to share that the Village is in the initial phase of planning a community-wide celebration once every five years. This celebration could call for a carnival, music, entertainment, etc., akin to the wonderful time we had during the Centennial Celebration. Should this celebration move forward, the next planned event would be in the Summer of 2024, our 105th anniversary.

Mayor Marc

Marc McLaughlin
President, Village of Fox River Grove

MCHA

LOW INCOME HOUSEHOLD WATER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Do you need financial assistance with paying your water/sewer utility bill? The McHenry County Housing Authority (mchenrycountyhousing.org) has funding assistance available to qualified households. The Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) provides funds to assist low-income households with water and sewer bills. If you or someone you know is low-income and has fallen behind on a water or sewer bill and needs assistance under this program, please contact Lisa at the McHenry County Housing Authority at 815-338-7752 to begin the application process.



CARY-GROVE FOOD PANTRY

There are many families in need and the food pantry needs your help. Items in great demand are paper products, toiletries, laundry and cleaning supplies, baby food, diapers, canned foods, pasta, rice, and healthy cereals. Please visit their shopping list at cgfoodpantry.org for more needs. Cash is also appreciated to help replenish the shelves and to buy perishable items. Donations are accepted Tuesday and Thursday from 4-6 p.m. and on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Saturday of the month from 9-11 a.m., located at 8901 Cary-Algonquin Rd. Cary, IL 60013.

HOLIDAY DECORATING CONTEST

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Holiday Decorating contest. The spirit in Fox River Grove never disappoints! Whether you submitted an entry, enjoyed looking at pictures on the FRG Living FB page, or drove by the decorated houses, our little Village knows how to say "Happy Holidays!"

Congratulations to the winners:

Mayor's Choice: Sarah Cassidy, "Dachshund in Paradise"

1st Place: Pat Chamerski's, "Sleigh Bells Ring"

2nd Place: Lisa Witek

3rd Place: Jake Lindquist's, "Candy Cane Lane"



AVOID STORMWATER POLLUTION: PROTECT WATER RESOURCES

Stormwater pollution run-off prevention begins at home. Run-off comes from rain/melting snow that flows off streets, lawns, parking lots, rooftops, open fields, etc. This run-off can hurt our environment and threaten our drinking water, swimming, fishing and more.

Everyone lives in a watershed: the area of land that catches rain/snow which drains into a common body of water. In Fox River Grove, the drainage ditches that run along the street are the first part of your neighborhood's drainage system in the watershed. The stream or pond that receives drainage from the streets is part of a larger watershed. That stream in turn flows into a larger stream, lake or river. Pollution in any part of a watershed can affect the larger water body. Unlike sanitary sewers, anything dumped into the storm drain system flows directly into the nearest pond or stream to the Fox River, without any treatment to remove contaminants.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP:

- Don't dump leaves or other yard waste into streets, storm drains, ditches or creeks.
- Pick up pet waste. Bacteria from pet waste is a serious threat to the quality of our water.
- Never pour used oil, paint thinners or other chemicals into storm drains, waterways or on the ground surface. Recycle used oil and dispose of chemicals properly.
- Use lawn chemicals sparingly according to directions. Organics are a good alternative.
- Keep vehicles properly tuned and repair any fluid leaks.
- Wash vehicles and equipment on the lawn to reduce runoff into storm drains.
- Keep litter and recycling contained to prevent them from entering the storm drains.
- Use a mulching mower or a mulching blade and leave grass clippings on the lawn as fertilizer.

The Village of Fox River Grove appreciates every resident's efforts to reduce stormwater pollution.



POLICE NEWS

SNOW REMOVAL

Did you know that it is unlawful to deposit (shovel/snow blower) snow into village streets and/or sidewalks and that it is a \$75 fine? Please help keep our streets safe and clear of any snow and ice.

PET OWNER REMINDER

Village Ordinances require that all dogs need to be on a leash and that any dog running loose is a nuisance. They also require that all pet owners must immediately remove animal waste from public or private property. Please be a responsible pet owner and respect your neighbors and visitors to our community by abiding with Village laws.

WAYS TO SAVE WATER

There are many simple things we can do to save water. Below are some simple tips that you can do today to help protect our water supply!

Turn off the Tap! Just by turning off the tap while you brush your teeth in the morning and before bedtime, you can save as much 200 gallons a month, enough to fill a fish tank that holds 6 small sharks! The same is true when you wash dishes. Turn off the tap! Scrape your dirty dishes into the trash—then put them in the dishwasher.

Shower Power! Taking a shower uses much less water than filling up a bathtub. A shower uses around 25 gallons, while a bath takes up to 70 gallons! If you do take a bath, be sure to plug the drain right away and adjust the temperature as you fill the tub. To save even more water, keep your shower under 5 minutes—try timing yourself with a clock next time you hop in!

Fix That Leak! Fixing a toilet leak is a great way to reduce water use. If your toilet has a leak, you could be wasting about 200 gallons daily. That would be like flushing your toilet more than 50 times for

no reason! Test for leaks by placing a drop of food coloring in the toilet tank. If the color shows up in the bowl without flushing, you have a leak!

Beat the Heat! Watering your yard first thing in the morning is a great first step to water-efficient landscaping. Watering when it is hot is wasteful because most of the water evaporates before the plants have time to drink it. Also, make sure not to water plants too much—a little sprinkle goes a long way!

Who Needs a Hose? An easy way to save water is to use a bucket and sponge when washing cars and bikes. Washing your bike or car with a bucket instead of a hose saves a lot of water. A hose can waste 6 gallons per minute if you leave it running, but using a bucket and sponge only uses a few gallons! Also, some car washes recycle water instead of letting it run down the sewer drains.

HYDRANT FLUSHING

Hydrant flushing is scheduled for the 3rd week in April. Check for hydrant flushing signs posted at major intersections and at entrances to subdivisions. The water distribution system is flushed to improve water quality and ensure that hydrants are in operating condition for emergencies. When flushing occurs, you may experience some loss of water pressure. Also, check for discoloration of the water before doing laundry. If you notice discoloration, turn on the cold water until it flows clear.

RPZ VALVES

Many homes and businesses have a RPZ (Reduced Pressure Zone) valve. The purpose of an RPZ is to prevent contaminated water from flowing back into your water supply. The device has a series of check valves that only allow water to pass in one direction, preventing backflow due to either increased or reduced pressure. This ensures the safety and purity of your drinking water. RPZ devices are generally required in systems that have irrigation or sprinkler systems or large boilers containing rust inhibiting chemicals. Law requires that RPZ devices be inspected annually. The Village requests each water customer fill out a "Cross-Connection Control Backflow Survey." The form is online:

https://www.foxrivergrove.org/egov/documents/1643394679_87004.pdf



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

President:

Marc McLaughlin

Trustees:

Jennifer Curtiss
Steve Knar
Andrew Migdal
Melissa Schladt
Sheri Sepeczi
Patrick Wall



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SUMMER SAVE THE DATES

PARKS FUNDRAISER

SATURDAY, JUNE 18TH

Be sure to save the date for the annual outdoor fundraiser at Picnic Grove Park. Many had fun last year, and the Parks Commission hopes to see everyone again this summer. **Don't pass up another chance to win a golf cart in the golf cart raffle!** Watch for details in the Summer Newsletter or check out our Facebook and Instagram pages: Fox River Grove Parks and Playgrounds.



FIREWORKS CELEBRATION

SATURDAY, JULY 9TH

The Special Events Committee will once again be planning this summer's Fireworks Celebration at Picnic Grove Park. Check out our Facebook page FRG Living and the Village website for more details! We truly appreciate the many businesses and residents that have made donations in the past and hope that you will consider contributing again this year. Please consider making a donation online at foxrivergrove.org under payments.

FOX RIVER GROVE SENIORS

If you are interested in making new friends, like to play bingo and enjoy special luncheons and day trips, then stop by the Village Hall on the first and third Wednesday of the month. The group meets at 10 AM and socializes all morning. For more information, contact Mary Ann Cutsforth at 847-639-2267.



FOX RIVER GROVE MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The library is hosting a Strategic Planning Open House on Saturday, March 12, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. There will be drawings for many prizes, including a grand prize of a \$200 Jewel-Osco gift card!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- April 4 & 11** Free Yard Waste Pick-Up
- April 18** Hydrant Flushing Week
- April 30** Parks Clean-Up Day
- May 21** Spring Clean-Up
- May 30** Memorial Day Parade (Algonquin Road School)
- June 18** Parks & Playgrounds Fundraiser
- July 9** Fireworks Celebration