



FOX RIVER GROVE QUARTERLY

A newsletter for and about the Village of Fox River Grove

SPRING 2013

Village News



St. Pat's Fundraiser

The Parks Commission is hosting their annual parks fundraiser "Raising Green to Preserve the Green" on Saturday, March 9th at Brunch Café. There will be delicious food – Mini Crab Cakes, Pulled Pork Sliders, Corned Beef Sliders, Filet Gorgonzola Bites, Caprese Skewers, Breaded Ravioli, Mini Chicken Salad Croissants, Guacamole and Chips, Homemade Potato Chips, 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 we raised \$3000 for our Stanger Park Playground!! With that money and generous donations from the Village of FRG, the FRG School District, and the FRG PTO, we were able to install new playground equipment last fall. This year, we are raising money to make all of our parks handicap accessible. We are also looking into installing a skate park in Fox River Grove!!

Come out and support Fox River Grove's parks! The fun starts at 7:00 p.m. and the cost is \$30 per person and includes unlimited appetizers and 2 drinks.



Spring Clean-Up in May

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 18th. 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



Help Keep Our Parks And Open Areas Clean

The Streets and Parks 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 to our community – let's keep them beautiful!

Speaking of keeping our Parks beautiful, the Parks Clean-Up Day will be **Saturday, April 20th**. Last year was very successful and a lot was done. The Streets and Parks Department is putting together a list of items that can be completed this year. There were many great volunteers last year and we hope to have more groups this year. To sign up to work, contact **Donna Brouder**, Village Clerk at 847-639-3170 or village@foxrivergrove.org.

Spring Fire Hydrant Flushing

During the week of April 15, the Village of Fox River Grove Water Department will be flushing fire hydrants throughout the Village. Fire hydrant flushing helps ensure all hydrants are in good working order and 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, we ask that you run the cold water until it clears, usually only a few minutes.

You may 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 cooperation.

The President's Letter

Hello Friends,

As I write this I am looking out the window at the last vestiges of a snowman, which is melting away to make room for the spring daffodils. They can't come soon enough!

I am reminded of my little granddaughter's joke "What did one snowman say to the other? I smell carrots".

Now that we have elected our U. S. President for another four years, it is time for us to address our own local elections. These are elections which may well affect you more than the first one. Our local elections will be held on April 9th, at your usual polling place. There are six good people now vying for the three open seats of Village Trustee. Elsewhere, in the newsletter, you will find information on each of the candidates. Please read them.

I, myself, find that there is no opposition to my being a candidate for a second term. This support of the things that we have tried to achieve in the last four years is very gratifying. I sincerely thank all of you for volunteering efforts and endorsement.

Every year at my State of the Village meeting, I make awards to special businesses in the Village. This year it was **Dunkin Donuts/Baskin Robbins**, for outstanding community support. They give to many local fundraising organizations. Also, an award was given to our **Pieful Gathering Quilt Shop** for their unique store and their national recognition as a destination quilt shop. Please stop in both of them and congratulate them.

At that meeting, I covered other Village news that I will share with you. The Village financial position is stable, balanced and now improving. I hope you noticed that we did not raise your property taxes this year. Store sales in the Village continue to increase year over year. Our redevelopment efforts in the downtown area continue and are kicked off with the new train station. Yes, they will finish that by summer.

Have a great Fox River Grove Day!!

Robert J. Nunamaker
President, Village of Fox River Grove



Exterior Home Repair Checklist

Keep your home maintained and your property value secure. Check it now, so you can enjoy the whole summer.

- Walls: look for holes, decay, peeling paint, missing brick or mortar.
- Roof: look for leaks, worn shingles, broken gutters and downspouts.
- Chimney: structurally sound, look for any loose or missing bricks.
- Doors: (including garage) check for weather tightness and secured hinges and locks.
- Foundation: check for any holes and cracks.
- House Address Numbers: at least 6 inches high, visible from the street, in numerals only.

Reminder: if you are doing work, get a building permit.

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 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).

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 10th** and **Friday, May 17th**. You may put out as many brown kraft bags as needed without stickers. You can buy the bags in town at Leader Ace Hardware or Dominick's, but can purchase them from anywhere. They do not have to be any special type – just brown kraft bags.

The Problem With Stormwater

Stormwater is generally rain and melting snow that runs off surfaces that cannot readily absorb water. Along the way it picks up contaminated sediments such as oils, grease, fertilizers, pesticides, litter, and metals. Stormwater can carry high concentrations of these pollutants to nearby lakes, rivers and drinking water supplies. Polluted stormwater runoff is the nation's greatest threat to clean water, even rivaling discharges from factories and sewage treatment plants.

Things To Do To Reduce Stormwater Pollution

Each of us can do our part towards enhancing the quality of life in Fox River Grove by observing a few simple guidelines:

- Compost yard waste
- Sweep paved areas instead of washing with a hose to keep waste and debris out of storm sewers
- Use organic types and reduce the amount of fertilizers and pesticides applied on your lawn
- Bag leaves and keep them out of the street and gutter
- Direct gutter downspouts away from paved surfaces to lawns or gardens
- Take your car to the car wash or wash in the yard
- Pick up after your pet
- Dispose of toxic waste properly
- Recycle used motor oil, batteries, and paint supplies
- Keep your cars tuned-up and in good operating condition
- Drop-off medication at Fox River Grove Police Department for disposal
- See McHenry County Green Guide (www.mchenry.edu/recycling) for more recycling information

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 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.

Metra Update

Still looking forward to a summer completion. This will be a great start on our downtown area!





Meet Your Candidates for the Consolidated Election April 9, 2013

The election will be held on April 9th. President Nunamaker is running again for another four-year term. We have six candidates running for three open Village Trustee positions. Here is a little information about each of them.

Tom Anderson

My name is Tom Anderson and I am running for Village Trustee. Why am I running? I want to continue being involved in and serving the community. My family has lived in the Village since 2001 when we moved back to the Midwest.

I am married to Laura Rae; we celebrated our 30th anniversary in 2012. We have three grown children, Ray, Katie and Margaret. I am the Assistant Vice President, Fleet Operations, for American Steamship Company, a Great Lakes shipping company. My background also includes 20 years as a volunteer firefighter and a veteran of the U.S. Coast Guard. I served in Desert Storm. Currently I sit on the Village Zoning Board. If elected my emphasis would be responsible budgeting and fiscal planning, being responsive to the concerns of residents, retaining the businesses we have and recruiting new businesses. I very much enjoy serving the community and strongly feel my background and experience will be a good fit for the Village Board.

Andrew Migdal

My name is Andrew Migdal, and I have lived in Fox River Grove for fourteen years. I have been married to my beautiful wife, Krista, for the past eight years. I am running for Village Trustee in order to help encourage the development of the downtown area without losing that small town feel.

I would bring a different perspective to the Trustee position, because I have a vested interest in the success of the downtown area. My family has owned and operated AD Specialty Sewing, which is located in the old "Grove Market" building, for thirty-five years. I plan on staying in this town, and I would love the opportunity to represent the town as a Village Trustee.

Michael Ireland

My wife, Sarah, and I have called Fox River Grove home for over 25 years. We were fortunate enough to have 2 sons, Jamie and Elliott, and we couldn't have picked a better place to raise our family. My career path began out of high school by serving in the U.S. Army, then attending college; and for the last 34 years, I have worked in the sales/marketing field.

I have served our Village as a Trustee starting 2000 – 2004 and 2008 to present. I'm confident that my knowledge and experience both working in the private and public sector, provides the quality representation that you desire and deserve. I have and will continue to ask the difficult questions that many would like to ask, yet are reluctant.

My objective remains the same; to represent all residents and local businesses with integrity and commitment, while working collaboratively to improve the quality of life for our community. It would be an honor to continue as your elected official.

Suzanne Blohm

My name is Suzanne Blohm. My husband, Gerry and I have lived in Fox River Grove for 18 ½ years and we have three children. As a taxpayer, resident, and parent I share the same struggles and concerns as others in our community. I will bring that perspective to all my decisions. I am committed to continuing initiatives that strengthen our revenues and control expenditures, while maintaining quality services for our residents.

During my current term, I have shown my commitment to our residents by rebating property taxes in the form of a free vehicle sticker in 2012 and by abating property taxes in 2013. My previous experiences as a Trustee (1998-2003 and 2010-present) demonstrate proof of my capabilities.

My number one priority is to enhance the quality of life for our residents through economic development. We need to focus our efforts on maintaining our current businesses and attracting new businesses. Our new train station and the creation of a TIF district are great first steps to accomplish these goals.

I would like to make Fox River Grove a destination for shoppers as well as improve the quality of living for our residents. I believe we need to invest in our downtown area "streetscape" (sidewalks, lighting, green space, etc). We may not recoup this investment in a strictly financial sense, but it will make Fox River Grove welcoming and a community we can be proud of.

Chester Olencheck

My name is Chester Olencheck and I am a candidate for a four-year Village Trustee term. I have been employed by the United States Post Office for 26 years as a letter carrier. When I moved to Fox River Grove nine years ago, I immediately felt a sense of neighborhood and family values that permeate our community. Shortly after moving here, I transferred from Park Ridge to the Fox River Grove Post Office and realized even more satisfaction working in the same Village in which I reside.

Having the opportunity to talk with community members about their visions, change, growth, strategic planning and transparency is the reason for my interest in running for Trustee.

Why am I running for Trustee? Simply, I believe in our community and I have heard your voices. I want to help define a vision that unites and captivates our community! I realize that maturity in a leader is based on recognizing that we can accomplish more for our community by increasing involvement and sharing the decision making process.

How can I make the Village of Fox River Grove

a better place? New leaders of tomorrow are visionary. I will think for the community beyond today and create impressive change!

Additionally, I believe that the prerequisites to making a good Village Trustee begin with a simple statement. I work for you and look forward to building a partnership that provides you an avenue to let your voice be heard! If a matter interests or affects you, I want to be the liaison that gets you the results you are looking for. Through this partnership and active participation, the betterment of our Village will be realized within the power and the resources of our Village. I ask that you allow me to serve you and our community! Thank you.

Robert Kandler

I have lived in the village for over 25 years. My wife, Jean, and I have two children. Kevin is in college and Clara in high school. I have been a tradesman/carpenter in the area since 1986. I am a long standing member of the Fox River Grove Lions Club, currently serving as President.

I decided to run for Village Trustee to learn more about how local government works. I believe I can better represent the average hard-working citizen of this Village because that is who I am.

Fox River Grove Trustee Debate

Boy Scout Troop 166, will be hosting a Fox River Grove Trustee Debate at our Village Hall on April 1, 2013 at 7 p. m. The debate is scheduled for 60 minutes, which will be completely run by our scouts. The questions will be composed by and selected by our scouts regarding general concerns, future, and leadership of our village. There will be a reception after the debate.



Welcome to our Village Treasurer

The Village is happy to announce Jennifer Menz has been hired as Village Treasurer. She will be replacing Penny Toppel who retired January 18th.

Jennifer comes from southern Illinois and is a wonderful addition to our staff. Stop by to welcome her and say Hello!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ◆ **St. Pat's Fundraiser** March 9th Brunch Café
Help the Parks Commission raise funds for our parks.
- ◆ **Easter Egg Hunt** March 23rd - Noon Lions Park
Bring your basket and camera to hunt for eggs and get a photo with the Easter Bunny!
- ◆ **Trustee Candidates Debate** April 1st Village Hall
Check out the candidates and hear their thoughts on the future of Fox River Grove.
- ◆ **Hydrant Flushing this week** April 15th All Around Town
Public Works will be flushing hydrants throughout town.
- ◆ **Parks Clean-Up Day** April 20th FRG Parks
Sign up at Village Hall to help with Parks beautification!!
- ◆ **Free Yard Waste Pick-Up** May 10th & May 17th All Around Town
Take advantage of free yard waste pick-up.
- ◆ **Spring Clean-Up** May 18th Your House
Time for the annual clean out the garage and basement.
- ◆ **Memorial Day Parade** May 27th Algonquin Road School
Great way to pay tribute to our Veterans.

Sign Up For Free Notifications

Visit our website, www.foxrivergrove.org, to sign up for notifications from the Village and the Police Department. The service is free and comes to your email account. You do need to sign up for both separately.

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.

New Phone App

The Illinois Department of Transportation has come out with a new Smartphone app called **Travel Midwest Mobile**. It is completely free and available on Android and Apple phones. This app allows commuters to access travel times and road conditions before getting on the road. Time issues are one of the biggest expenses for any business. Travel Midwest Mobile would help increase the productivity of a business by enabling their employees and customers to know the traffic before they leave their destination. For more information about this program visit <http://www.travelmidwest.com/lmiga/home.jsp>.

Tree Lighting – A Great Success

Thanks so much to everyone for making the Tree Lighting “a Great Success”. There were so many guests and volunteers to assist them!! Special thanks to the **Fox River Grove Lions and Lioness Clubs, Miss FRG Keely Robinson, the Cary-Grove Area Chamber of Commerce, Fidelity Motor Group, Cary Grove High School Interact Club members, Cary Grove High School Swing Choir, the Richardson Family, Babysitting Cop, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, FRG PTO, Angel Nollett and the Trinity Irish Dancers, FRG Middle School Choir, and Alex and Buddy from Dr. Woods Guitar Emporium**. And an extra big thank you to our committee: **Sheri Sepeczi, Michele Drage and Jennifer Bolf**.

President
 Robert J. Nunamaker
Trustees
 Suzanne Blohm
 Joanna Collett
 Michael Ireland
 Steve Knar
 Gerald Menzel
 Michael Schiestel

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Presorted Standard
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 Fox River Grove
 IL 60021

This newsletter is published by the Village of Fox River Grove,
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 Phone (847) 639-3170 • Fax (847) 639-9876
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