



FOX RIVER GROVE QUARTERLY

A newsletter for and about the Village of Fox River Grove

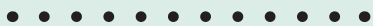
SUMMER 2005

Village News

Seniors -- Have You Heard Of Benefits Check Up?

BenefitsCheckUp is a service provided by the National Council on Aging. It provides a comprehensive online screening service to help determine what private and public benefits are available for older adults. (BenefitsCheckUp is only available online.)

By filling out a short, confidential questionnaire, you can use BenefitsCheckUp to find out what assistance may be available for you to help pay for such items as prescriptions, health care, utilities and other services. There may be programs you qualify for that you aren't even aware of. To find out more, go to the BenefitsCheckUp web site at www.benefitscheckup.org.



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 department at 847-639-2411. Our Parks are a valuable resource to our community ~ let's keep them beautiful!



Fireworks 2005

Celebrate America's Birthday In Fox River Grove!

Mark your calendars for another spectacular fireworks show. It will be **Saturday, July 9th** at Picnic Grove Park. Festivities begin at 6:00 p.m. with food, drink and music!

Marty Monti and **Rick Cornwall** will once again entertain us with music throughout the evening. The FRG Lions Club will be providing us with ice cold beer. The Cary-Grove Jaycees will be selling hot dogs, brats, pop, water, chips and cookies. The Fox Valley Region Jaycees will be selling ice cream. Village volunteers will be selling our glow in the dark necklaces. Each of our community groups generously donate half of their profits back to the fireworks fund. So, bring your family and friends early to have dinner while enjoying the music.

Anyone able to help with the set-up (10:00 a.m.) and take down after the fireworks show of the tents, tables and chairs, or cleanup on Sunday morning, please contact the Village Hall at 847-639-3170. Please help us this year! The more people we have helping the quicker it goes.

A Few Reminders.....

- ◆ No entry after 9:00 p.m. Once the fireworks are about to begin, no one will be allowed to enter through the front gate.
- ◆ No carry-ins of food or drink are allowed. There will be no carry-ins of alcohol, pop, water,



2005 Road Improvement Program

The following roads are scheduled for pavement resurfacing this summer:

- ◆ Lexington Avenue, Dovertown to Old Hunt Rd.
- ◆ Hunters Way, Old Hunt Road to Lexington Avenue
- ◆ Foxmoor Road, Lexington Avenue to Brighton Court
- ◆ Brighton Court
- ◆ Mound Street

snacks, etc. Food and drinks are available. Please support the local groups that are donating their time and half their profits to the fireworks.

- ◆ No pets are allowed. You may love your dog or cat, but they may scare others that are attending, so no pets are allowed.
- ◆ Please do not trespass on private property as you make your way to and from the park. Many wooded areas are actually private property. Call the Village Hall if you are uncertain.
- ◆ Please help the volunteers policing this event. They appreciate your cooperation and friendly greetings!

Shuttle Bus Pick-up Locations

- ◆ **Route #1 ~ Victoria Woods/Hunters Farm (one bus):** Victoria Drive/Tiffany Lane, Camilla Place/Jasmine Way, Victoria Drive/Jasmine Way, Bridle Path Lane/Saddle Lane, Bridle Path Lane, Morgan Lane, Saddle Lane/Morgan Lane.
- ◆ **Route #2 ~ Foxmoor Route (two buses):** Old Hunt Road/Plum Tree Road, Old Hunt Road/Lexington Road, Foxmoor Road/Yorkshire Drive, Algonquin Road Fire Station
- ◆ **Route #3 ~ South Route (one bus):** Algonquin Road School, Lion's Park, Commuter/Metra Lot



- ◆ Ridgeland Street
- Construction activities include curb repairs, asphalt grinding and patching, asphalt binder, prime coat, new asphalt surface and striping. Please drive carefully as there will be only one lane of traffic open during much of the construction process. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and patience during this valuable infrastructure improvement.

What's Inside? Water Info, President's Letter, Village Events and more!

The President's Letter



This is my first letter to the community as Village President, so I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and talk a little about my intentions for the near future.

First, I would like to thank the community of Fox River Grove for its steadfast support during the election. I appreciate everyone's confidence in me and hope that my work as Village President will merit your trust.

I would also like to thank Steve Tasch, our retiring President, for his many years of service and for the numerous sacrifices that he and his family have made over the years.

My husband, Ed and I have lived in Fox River Grove since 1983. We have raised two children, Edmund and Mary, in School District #3 and enjoyed many years in Cub Pack 357, BSA Troop 166, and Girl Scout Troop 710, along with numerous seasons of soccer through the Rec Council. We have followed many parades, as both of our children were members of the District 3 Junior High Band and the Cary-Grove High School Marching Band. We have watched Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremonies, attended Village Picnics, fireworks and watched hot air balloons take off. We have sold cookies, wreaths and flats of impatiens, not to mention, many, many candy bars. As a family, we value the community feeling and pleasures afforded us by our small town.

My involvement in Village Government goes back to 1986 when Dan Shea appointed me to the Zoning Board. After two years, John Green resigned as Chair to volunteer in another position and I became Chairperson

and have served in this position until this past month. Over the years, I have had the pleasure of working with many longtime community volunteers, such as, Dan Shea, Bill Yocius, Mike Kunz, Lowell Cutsforth, George Tarnow, Bob Schaefer, Mary Murren and many more.

During my nineteen years on the Zoning Board I have also been privileged to work with many Village staff members, including Sylvia Van Dyke, Chris Huizinga, Donna Brouder, Kathy Michels, Curt Ulrich, and Art Osten, to name a few, along with the Village's Attorney and consultants. Our small town struggles to pay its staff competitive salaries and yet we have been extremely fortunate over the years to have dedicated employees who work hard and care about our Village. All of us depend on these people to keep Fox River Grove quiet, safe and running smoothly.

I am looking forward to working with the Village Board and its newly elected members, Paulette Pelletier, Dennis Bowman and Jerry Menzel, as well as continuing members Claudia Bastidas, Duane Figurski and Jim Tuman. I'd also like to acknowledge and thank the outgoing board members, Mary Lu Seidel and Mike Ireland for their hard work and years of dedicated service. We all owe them a debt of gratitude for giving up their time for Fox River Grove.

This new board has many challenging issues to tackle over the next four years. Certainly the financial health of the Village is a top priority. Keeping costs down and finding new sources of revenue are critical to our well being. This is a daunting mission given the Federal and State budgets. Hopefully, with the support of our Regional, State and Federal representatives,

we will be able to find creative ways to bring additional revenue to Fox River Grove. One of the solutions would be to grow our Village economy and increase real estate and sales tax revenues. This will require further development of our business districts. Retaining our small town atmosphere will require creativity and careful planning. I hope that we can consider an appearance review commission to look at new developments and work to keep the "small town atmosphere" in their designs. We also need to continue a concerted effort to support, encourage and help promote existing business in Fox River Grove.

Hopefully everyone is enjoying the arrival of warm weather and all of the activities that come along with it ~ gardening, yard work, home repairs, renovations, soccer, baseball, final exams and graduations. The Village will have many activities for everyone this spring and summer, including the annual fireworks display. I look forward to seeing many of you at these events.

Should you have any concerns or questions for me, please contact me through the Village Hall. My email address is k.laube@foxrivergrove.org and we have voice mail at the Village Hall by which you can reach me and other members of the Board. I look forward to serving the Village of Fox River Grove in the coming four years. Thank you again for your support.

Kay Laube
Village President of Fox River Grove

50/50 Public Sidewalk Program

Does the public sidewalk in front of your house need replacement? Then our 50/50 program is for you. Under this program, the Village will remove the existing walk and provide restoration while a contractor frames and finishes the concrete. This program reduces the overall cost and provides a valuable improvement for all that use the walk.

The average cost is usually \$4 - \$5 per square foot, split 50% with the Village. The Village will determine priority based on safety, condition of the walk and availability of funds. To find out more about this program, contact Jon Huizinga at 639-6165 or pick-up an application at the Village Hall.

Car Seat Program

The Police Department has car seats available to borrow should you have a child that you need to transport. You just need to make an appointment by calling 847-639-2411.

There are different sizes available and you can "check out" a seat for seven days.

Thank you to resident, Cathy Flanagan for donating a brand new car seat to the Village for the Car Seat Program. This brings us to six seats (two infant and four older) that are available to "check out".

Water Shut-off

Do you know where your water shut-off valve is? One thing everyone in your household should know is where your main shut-off valve for your water is located.

The shut off valve is located where the water pipe enters the building. It is usually a red or blue wheel type valve. It may be located on a vertical pipe leading from the point of entry inside your basement wall, crawl space or utility room.

The valve can be used to control water flow when plumbing repairs or installations are necessary. It should be used in the event of a burst pipe. If you do not have a main shut-off valve, you should consider installing one for your own protection.

We hope you never have an emergency which would cause you to use the shut off valve. However, if you do, using it can prevent costly water damage.

Miss & Little Miss Fox River Grove

The Village would like to extend sincere thanks to **Nikki Butler** and **Celeste Pelletier** for their representation of Fox River Grove this past year. It will be a wonderful memory in your scrapbook of life. We would like to welcome **Katie Quid** as Miss Fox River Grove 2005 and **Maddie Keeler** as our Little Miss. Fox River Grove is proud to have these young ladies to represent our community.

Community Showcase

Congratulations to **Rose Haakonsen**, the winner of the Fox River Grove blanket that was donated by **Barb Majkrzak**, our Deputy Clerk. Rose and her husband, **Ray**, are long time residents of our community. Enjoy the blanket, Ray and Rose. Thanks again to Barb for making it!

Norge Ski Club

On Saturday, June 11th Norge will be hosting a "King of the Hill" ski jump tournament. The gates open at 10:30 a.m. with the Junior Tournament beginning at noon and the King of the Hill Tournament at 6 p.m. There will be food, music, games and more. Admission is \$10 if purchased from local merchants before the date and \$15 at the door. Children 12 and under are free. The best jumpers in the country will be competing against each other.

See you there!

Police Department News

Congratulations to the following officers who are continuing their education to better serve our community.

Officer Simcoe has received her certification as an Operation Lifesaver Instructor. She is available to give presentations on train safety. You can contact her at 847-639-2411 to schedule one.

Officer Barham is now certified as an Evidence Technician. This will assist the Police Department in processing crime scenes and evidence collection.

New Employee

Our Streets & Parks Department has a new full-time employee, **Justin Prather**. He previously worked part time for the Village of Crystal Lake. If you see him around town, be sure to say "Hi".

Water & Sewer Rate Increase

Starting June 1st, all users of Village water and sewer services will be subject to a 6.75% increase in rates. This is part of a series of annual increases that primarily reflect the tremendous expense of upgrading our sewage treatment plant. The Environmental Protection Agency has enacted new standards for the quality of effluent that our plant discharges into the Fox River. The additional revenues are needed to pay for the required upgrades.

The Environmental Protection Agency mandates that our treatment plant reduce its discharge of phosphorus and total nitrogen within three years of receiving its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit renewal in October 2007. A three-phase program has been developed to accomplish this. Phase I was completed in 2003. Phase II will take place this year at a cost of \$1,311,000. To make room for the improvements, our public works garage and office must be relocated and a salt storage building constructed in 2007 at an estimated cost of \$3,865,000. (Note that our existing facility is in very poor condition.) Phase III is scheduled to start in 2008 and be completed by 2010 at an estimated cost of \$9,267,000.

The Village has and continues to be very aggressive in seeking to reduce these costs. The \$320,000 estimated cost of Phase I was reduced to an actual cost of \$47,580 in 2003 because Water & Sewer Department employees were able to do the work in-house. Congressman Don Manzullo has secured a \$550,000 federal grant for Phase II. We are actively looking for the most cost-effective type of building possible for our public works facility. A constant stream of letters and meetings with our State and Federal elected officials is at work to reduce our cost for Phase III. (We hope to be able to eliminate or delay certain regulations, receive low-interest state loans, and secure additional grants.) In addition, the cost to residents has also been lowered by increasing our hook-up costs to non-residential users and by selling sewage treatment service to users outside the Village such as Good Shepherd Hospital, the Lake Barrington Industrial Park, and private septic disposal services.

Please feel free to contact the Village if you would like additional information or to schedule a tour of our existing facilities.

Choosing Your Natural Gas Supplier

In 2002, the Illinois Commerce Commission approved Nicor Gas' Customer Select program, allowing customers to choose their own natural gas supplier. Customer Select is a completely voluntary program.

Depending on the supplier, customers will find some offers that "lock in" their gas price for a period of time, and other offers where gas costs vary from month-to-month (like Nicor Gas' gas supply charges). By comparing offers and making the choice that's best for you, you may be able to save money on the cost of your natural gas.*

Occasionally, suppliers participating in the Customer Select program may call or visit your home to market their current offers. This is a normal way of doing business for them, and it should not alarm you. However, please be

aware that these suppliers are not Nicor Gas employees and you are not obligated to purchase anything from them. If you are ever in question about a utility employee or sales person who visits your home without an appointment, Nicor Gas recommends that you ask to see their company identification.

Whether you continue purchasing your gas from Nicor Gas or choose a new supplier, Nicor Gas will continue to deliver your gas and respond to all natural gas emergencies.

For more information on Customer Select and a list of current suppliers, visit www.nicorgas.com and click on "Choosing Your Supplier".

*Savings may depend on several factors including the amount of gas you use, the terms of your agreement with your supplier, and the natural gas market.

Vehicle Stickers

It is that time of year again. Village Ordinance states that any car residing in the Village must display a current vehicle sticker. The new stickers need to be posted on the front passenger side window of your auto by June 30th. The costs per vehicle are as follows:

◆ Automobiles/R.V.'s	\$20.00
◆ Motorcycles	\$10.00
◆ Trucks – A & B Plates	\$26.00
C & above	\$60.00
◆ Replacement Stickers	\$12.00

◆ Senior Citizens \$ 2.00
(Senior Stickers are limit of one per family)



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ◆ **Vehicle Sticker Deadline** June 30th Village Hall
Last day before the rate increases. Be sure to display your Vehicle sticker to avoid being ticketed.
- ◆ **All Star Day** July 9th ARS
Annual event you don't want to miss. Baseball, Softball, great food and fun for all. Hosted by Rec Council
- ◆ **Fireworks 2005** July 9th Picnic Grove Park
A spectacular event! Bring your family and friends to enjoy dinner, some music and a great show!
- ◆ **Firefighters Water Fights** July 10th Picnic Grove Park
Come out to cheer our FRG Firefighters as they compete against the best area firefighters.
- ◆ **Arts and Crafts Fair** July 17th Lion's Park
Browse and shop at the annual FRG Lion's Arts & Crafts Fair offering handmade crafts and works of art.
- ◆ **Crimestoppers Golf Outing** August 1st Chalet Hills Golf Club
Sign up to play in this annual benefit golf outing that supports one of the area's best crime-fighting tools.
- ◆ **Venetian Night** August 27th Fox River
Come down to the park and enjoy the boat parade!
- ◆ **Fox Fest** September 10th Lion's Park
Family day with a parade, music, games, food and drink. Be sure to be there!

Visit the Village of Fox River Grove web site at www.foxrivergrove.org for all the latest information on events, regulations, policies, etc. This web site is a service provided by Rick Gallas, Angel Street Enterprises, Inc. @639-7710.



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