



FOX RIVER GROVE QUARTERLY

A newsletter for and about the Village of Fox River Grove

SPRING 2006

Village News

Special Thanks

Did you happen to visit the Village Hall in December and notice the wonderful decorations? They were done by **Stephanie and Michelle Cooke**, and **Heather Szeliga**. They decorated our tree, as well as hanging many intricate designed snowflakes around our offices. We would like to thank them for their artistic ability and thoughtfulness. They are very special young ladies.

Special Events \$100 Raffle

Tickets are now on sale for the \$100 Raffle with all proceeds going to the Special Events Programs for Fox River Grove.

The date for the raffle will be Sunday, April 30th at the Cary Country Club from 6:00-9:00 p.m. You have twelve chances to win cash. First prize is \$4,000 cash, first number drawn is \$250, loser's ticket is \$500 and nine \$100 winners.

You can buy a ticket yourself or split it with a friend or a group of friends. Each ticket allows one person entry for open bar (beer, wine, soda) and pizza. Additional guests are \$10 each. To purchase a ticket or for more information contact **Peter Strand** or **Donna Brouder**.

National Library Week...

...Is April 3 through April 8. Help the Fox River Grove Memorial Library celebrate! Friends of the Library and Staff are planning some events during this time that will interest, inspire, and entertain you.

2nd Annual Earth Day Festival...

...Will be held Saturday, April 22, 1:00-4:00 p.m. Celebrate the wonderful world of nature at the Fox River Grove Memorial Library by creating eco-crafts, learning about local animals, enjoying earth-friendly stories, and munching on treats provided by Mother Nature herself. Opening Ceremonies will be at 1:30 p.m.. All ages are encouraged to attend!

Sidewalk Project Receives Award

APWA Awards

The recently completed U.S. Route 14 Pedestrian Improvements Project achieved a milestone. It received the Project of the Year award in the "Transportation Projects Under \$2 Million" category from the Fox Valley and the Chicago Metro Branches of the American Public Works Association.

The Project provides a non-motorized transportation alternative for residents to travel safely between the Villages of Fox River Grove and Cary. The 5-foot sidewalk starts at Illinois Route 22 in Fox River Grove and heads northwest along U.S. Route 14 over the Fox River to East Main Street in Cary. To contain the sidewalk in the narrow undulating parkway, retaining walls, iron fencing, and land bridges were installed. Pedestrian signals were installed where the walkway crosses busy streets. A barrier wall was also added to the Fox River Bridge to separate vehicles from pedestrians.

President Laube accepted the award on behalf of lead agency Algonquin Township at the Fox Valley Awards Luncheon. In accepting the award, President Laube acknowledged the efforts of project engineer Baxter & Woodman and noted how this project



Pictured are Ed Kalina, President of Fox Valley Branch of APWA, President Laube and Michael Plant of Baxter and Woodman.

epitomized the high level of cooperation which exists between Algonquin Township, Cary, and Fox River Grove. The resulting public infrastructure improvement provides a significant benefit to all our residents.



Spring Cleaning

Our annual Spring Clean-up will be Saturday, May 20th. 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.

Waste Management will pick up the following types of things:

- Bundled construction debris of not more than one cubic yard and weighing less than 50 pounds
- Furniture weighing less than 50 pounds
- Lawn and garden items, but not landscape waste
- Plumbing fixtures
- Similar types of items that are usually found in garages or basements
- Small auto parts drained of oil and gasoline

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
- Computers, computer parts or plasma TV's
- Landscape Waste
- Roofing debris
- Tires
- White goods, such as appliances, air conditioners, water heaters, etc.

If you are not sure about an item, please call Waste Management at 1-800-447-1066

Grove Plating Is 50!!

Congratulations to Grove Plating and the Kostner's on 50 years in business!

The President's Corner



I hope that everyone in Fox River Grove had a wonderful holiday season and that winter provided lots of opportunities to pursue the social and recreational activities you most enjoy.

The weather was especially mild for the Winter Ski Jump at Norge. Even without snow, it was a lot of fun and an exciting event to experience. I strongly recommend that everyone plan on attending Norge's next jump. It is a pleasure to have this kind of entertainment in our own backyard.

McHenry County has recently developed a Convention and Visitor's Bureau, which will be working to promote tourism in our county. Our Norge Ski Jump is one of the best attractions with three exciting events each year that attracts people to Fox River Grove. We welcome visitors and hope that they will patronize our businesses and restaurants while they are in town.

The Board of Trustees, Village Staff and Commissions are continually working to promote new ventures in town and to create a more positive climate for those businesses already here. Our active involvement in the McHenry County Convention and Visitors Bureau is just one of the efforts we are involved in.

Fox River Grove also firmly endorses the Cary-Grove Chamber of Commerce. It's a great vehicle for networking and provides numerous training and informational programs. Hopefully all businesses in town will ultimately be active members.

The Village would like to welcome Totally Fit and J. Bear Heating & Air Conditioning and look forward to Dick's Fox River Roadhouse which is scheduled to open late this Spring.

I am also pleased to announce that Fox River Grove is very close to completing the annexation of land east of town along Route 14, up to and including the Gazebo Grill Restaurant. This will be a terrific addition to our commercial community and was the result of these properties needing Village Water and Sewer service.

When you are out shopping or dining, please remember to frequent Fox River Grove establishments. Spending your dollars here will ultimately support the interest of our town as a whole.

I am looking forward to warmer weather, exercising out of doors and seeing everyone this Spring. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me or Village Hall at your convenience.

Kay Laube

Village President of Fox River Grove

Home Repairs ~ Be Prepared

One of the biggest complaints for home repair is fraud! Don't be a victim of a home repair rip-off. More and more people own their own homes these days, so there is a high demand for quality repair and improvement services. Here are some helpful tips:

- Get more than one written estimate.
- Be sure to ask for references and check with those references.
- Never sign a contract with blank spaces or if you have any questions on the contract.
- If you are applying for a loan to do the work, don't sign the contract until your loan is approved.
- Make sure the contractor offers a warranty or guarantee on his work.
- Be sure the contractor carries insurance coverage for property damage, bodily injury and improper home repair.
- Get lien waivers. This will protect you from any claims against your property if the contractor fails to pay his suppliers or sub-contractors. (Call Village Hall for an explanation.)
- Don't make a final payment until you are satisfied with the work that's been done.

Exterior Home Repair Checklist

Keep your home maintained and your property value secure. Do it now so you can enjoy the entire summer.

- Walls - look for holes, decay, peeling paint, missing brick or mortar.
- Roof - look for leaks, worn shingles, broken gutters and downspouts.
- Doors - (including garage) check for weather tightness and secured hinges and locks.
- Foundation - holes and cracks?
- House Address Numbers - at least 2-1/2 inches high, visible from the street, in numerals only.
- Chimney - structurally sound, any loose or missing bricks?



Books and Baubles At The Library

The Friends 2nd Annual Books and Baubles Sale will run May 11 - May 13, during regular Library hours. Please bring your GENTLY used books, household items and toys. Please do not donate textbooks, encyclopedias, furniture or clothing. The Library will accept your tax-deductible donation Monday, May 1 - May 10. All proceeds will go towards sponsoring programs or purchasing new materials for the Library. Call the Library at 847-639-2274 if you have any questions or would like to help at the sale.

Private Well Testing

Private well owners should have their wells tested annually. The Village has no jurisdiction over nor does it provide testing of private wells. Contact the McHenry County Health Department at 815-334-4510 for information and a list of testing laboratories.

New Employees

Welcome to new employees **Debbie Kempf** and **Al France**.

Debbie, our new Records Clerk in the Police Department, came to us from Crystal Lake where she worked as a dispatcher. She and her husband, Matt, have an eighteen month old son, Austin. In her spare time she enjoys scrapbooking, sudoku and swimming.



Al, the newest member of our Water & Sewer Department is a Marine Veteran and was previously self-employed in the home-remodeling field. He loves the outdoors and enjoys snowmobiling, hunting, boating, fishing and is a big NASCAR race fan. Al is having fun working in Fox River Grove!!

Employee Anniversaries

January - May 2006

- **Mark Slovacek** - Police Dept. - 28 years
- **Dan Hughes** - Water & Sewer - 22 years
- **Tony Musel** - Water & Sewer - 20 years
- **Penny Toppel** - Administration - 14 years
- **Art Osten** - Administration - 8 years
- **Mark Stockley** - Streets & Parks - 7 years
- **Barb Majkrzak** - Administration - 7 years
- **Donna Brouder** - Administration - 5 years
- **Michael Domagala** - Police Dept. - 4 years

Congratulations and thank you for your service to Fox River Grove!

Tree Lighting

The Village would like to thank the Kiefer Family - **Scott, Nancy, Ben, Daniel, Caitlyn** and **Allie** for all their hard work in bringing the Fox River Grove Tree Lighting to fruition. There was much to do and a great time was had by everyone!

Santa arrived on schedule and many children took advantage of the visit to fill him in on what they'd like to see under their Christmas tree.

Our Fox River Grove Seniors were represented by **Emily Richards** and **Sophie Krzcuik** who served cookies, hot chocolate and coffee. (Delicious cookies were donated by them and **Gladys Schovanec**).

Thanks also to the new Fox River Grove Lioness Club who served S'mores in the train station parking lot.

And, to all who made crafts and donated money, \$267.34 was donated to the Cary-Grove Food Pantry. It goes to show that Fox River Grove has many generous families - thank you to one and all.



Where Does Your Recycling Go?

Have you ever wondered where the recycling went to after your driver dumped it into the truck? Here's what happens.

First, they are transported to a processing center where they are sorted prior to being shipped to manufacturers who make them into new products. There are various sorting methods for separating the cardboard, paper, bottles and cans. Special machines are used to sort the different containers. Materials are loaded onto a conveyor belt where a special screen removes the cardboard. Paper is separated from the containers by screens called news screen and then manually sorted by workers into newspaper, office paper, etc. A magnet pulls the steel cans. An "eddy current" (which is a reverse magnet) separates the aluminum cans. Glass is separated out in a machine called a trommel. Plastics are sorted optically.



Stormwater Pollution – Protect Our Water Resources

Stormwater pollution prevention begins at home. Pollution in storm water run-off threatens our drinking water supplies, swimming, fishing and other recreational water use. Stormwater run-off comes from the rain and melting snow that flows off streets, lawns, parking lots, rooftops, open fields and other exposed areas.

Everyone lives in a watershed. A watershed is the area of land that catches rain and snow, which then drains into a common body of water. In Fox River Grove, the curb and gutters or drainage ditches that run along your street are the first part of your neighborhood's drainage system within the watershed. The stream or pond that receives storm water drainage from the streets of several neighborhoods is part of a larger watershed. That stream in turn 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 pond, stream or creek and ultimately the Fox River without any treatment to remove contaminants.

What's in that run-off water and what can I 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.
- We appreciate resident's efforts to reduce stormwater pollution.

Recycle Everything

Would you like to know how to recycle everything from computers and appliances to paint and hazardous materials? How about how to get a business recycling program started?

Check out the Recycling Directory for McHenry County at www.mcdef.org/recy/pdf and the McHenry County Business Recycling Guide at www.mcdef.org/busrec.pdf. If you would like a hard copy, call 815-479-7817.

The Hazards Of Lawn Chemicals

The rate of pesticides used on lawns is on average ten times more per acre than what is used on agricultural land. Pesticide products can pose a threat to humans as well as the environment. Green and healthy lawns do not need toxic pesticides and synthetic fertilizers. Lawn care companies should provide organic and pesticide-free service. Make sure your lawn care company delivers such a program.

Some simple steps to an organic lawn:

- Seed new lawns August 15th to September 15th. Over-seed where turf is thin to force out the weeds.
- Mow high – no shorter than three inches. Leave clippings on the lawn. Sharpen your mower blades once per year.
- Feed the roots in the fall. Use a slow release product on or around Labor Day. Aerate the lawn. If your soil test shows less than 5% organic matter, apply a 1/4- inch layer of finished

compost in the Fall.

- Water your lawn about one inch of water per week.
 - Some weeds can be effectively pulled by hand. Or treat with lemon juice and vinegar.
 - If you're treating your lawn every spring, you're wasting money and also killing beneficial insects. Try natural alternatives to chemical pesticides. Chrysanthemum-derived pesticides, diatomaceous earth and boric acid are sold in garden centers. Citric acid is an effective insecticide. Make your own solution of three to six tablespoons of dishwashing soap (without degreaser) per gallon of water.
- Be patient. It takes several seasons for a lawn to change from chemical dependency to an ecosystem in balance. Be tolerant. A natural yard is not a monoculture, but an abundance of pests, predators, weeds and our favorite plant species. Many of the bugs we think of as pests are dinner for birds.

Pet Reminder

It's almost springtime – and everyone will be outside enjoying the weather with their dogs. If you take your dog for a walk around the neighborhood, be sure to bring a "pooper scooper" or similar device that enables you to pick up after them. It is a Village Ordinance to clean up after your pets. **Remember, it is illegal to walk in the street when there is a sidewalk on either side of the street.**

Section 5-27 of our Village Code of Ordinances requires that every person shall keep and maintain a collar around the neck of their dog and display on the collar a county tag, which is required by law to be displayed on the collar.

Section 5-28 states it shall be unlawful for any person to permit any dog owned or kept by him to run at large within the Village. Any dog found to be running at large is hereby declared to be a nuisance and will be fined \$75.00. Dogs must be leashed.

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 JULIE 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.

Before calling, have ready:

- 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

- Reason for digging
- Date work will begin
- Permit number (if applicable)
- Section and quarter numbers (if available)

After providing JULIE with the above information, the JULIE 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 JULIE are necessary (e.g. to have utility marks refreshed).

The call to JULIE and their flagging of buried utility lines is free. Operators are available to receive and process calls 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Or visit online - www.illinois1call.com.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- ◆ **Art & Crafts Fair**.....March 4thCary Grove H. S.
Check out all the booths set up by local businesses.
- ◆ **Primary Election**.....March 21st Polling Places
Exercise your duty to vote for federal, state and county offices!
- ◆ **Easter Egg Hunt**.....April 8thLions Park
Our Cary-Grove Jaycees have invited the Easter Bunny for a photo opportunity with your children – bring your Easter Basket to hunt for eggs and camera to record a great memory.
- ◆ **\$100 Raffle**.....April 30th Cary County Club
Help raise funds for Special Events!
- ◆ **Spring Clean Up**.....May 20th.....Your House!
Get your spring cleaning done for this special pick up!
- ◆ **Memorial Day Parade**.....May 29th.....ARS
Line up early in remembrance of those who died serving our country.

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.

Do Not Call Registry

Beginning in January, all cell phone numbers are being released to telemarketing companies and you will start to receive sales calls and be charged for the calls!!

Protect your phone number by registering it on the DO NOT CALL NATIONAL REGISTRY. It just takes a few minutes, is very easy and blocks your phone number for five years!

Go to their web site www.donotcall.gov ~ you can list up to three phone numbers. (It serves both cell and home phone numbers). If you don't have access to a computer you can call 888-382-1222 from the phone you want to register.

Most telemarketers should not call your number once it has been on the registry for 31 days. If they do, you can file a complaint with the Do Not Call Registry.

Help The Water Department

Please be sure the water meter viewer on the outside of your home is clear of bushes and shrubs. It needs to be easily accessible for the meter readers to get an accurate read.



This newsletter is published by the Village of Fox River Grove, 305 Illinois Street, Fox River Grove, IL 60021
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Editor- Donna M. Brouder
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Presorted Standard
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Fox River Grove
IL 60021

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