

VILLAGE OF FOX LAKE UPDATE

www.foxlake.org – 847-587-2151 – fax 847-587-2237 – 66 Thillen Dr. Fox Lake, Illinois 60020 **Newsletter Date** December 2009

Items of Interest

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Trustees Koske and Griseta have been working with the Plan Commission on updating the Village's Comprehensive Plan. The Plan is an important tool with development and business decision making in the future.

LAKE MICHIGAN WATER

The Village participated in a study which indicates that an allocation of Lake Michigan Water would be necessary to meet future demands of growth. Trustee Greg Murrey has been monitoring this important issue.

TECHNOLOGY

Since more residents than ever are "connected" with either their own computers or those at the library, technology offers fast, cost effective tools for communication.

We are looking at all the alternative to keep constant communication with our residents.

Please register your email if you would like regular updates.

newsletter@foxlake.org



From the Mayor's Desk



It has been a busy 6 months since the election. Our new Trustees have been involved with learning about their responsibilities. We have identified some areas in need of improvement and are making changes accordingly

One of our early priorities was to streamline our Village Board meetings to make them more productive. The response to the changes has been very positive.

Due to budgetary constraints, we have not been able to hire a Community Development Director to connect with our business

Communicating

The Village is developing improved ways of communicating with our residents. We cannot rely on the newspapers, radio, or TV to get the word out, so we have to create other ways of updating our residents.

NEWSLETTERS

In the past, the Village published Focus newsletters for residents. Since the printing and mailing is very costly, they are not published often enough.

This newsletter you are reading has been mailed, but it is only intended to be a short term

community. As a result, I have personally been trying to fill that void.

One of the complaints heard from developers was that Fox Lake's process for evaluating new businesses was too cumbersome. As a result the Village Board approved a new streamlined process that appears to be working well.

I have been meeting with outside developers regarding some potential projects in our community. Although the money is tight these days, I have received some positive

solution while better approaches are developed.

EMAIL EBLAST

We are in the process of implementing an email *eblast* tool. Residents would like to receive updates can register by sending their email addresses to newsletter@foxlake.org. We hope to be completed in January or February 2010. Periodic informational updates on important matters will be emailed to them. This allows the Village to inform the public faster and without the postal costs and to be eco-friendly.

interest in our community.

I have met with Governor Quinn and other elected officials, trying to spread the word about Fox Lake's needs and potential.

We are taking steps to ensure our safety and appearance codes are more effectively enforced.

I am confident that the behind-the-scenes efforts during our first 6 months will show positive results for many years to come.

WEBSITE IMPROVEMENTS

The Village's website is undergoing a major facelift to make it easier to navigate and more user friendly. In addition to providing useful information, it will also provide the residents with the means to voice opinions (www.foxlake.org).

THE UNCONNECTED

For those who are not "connected", alternative ways of getting the information to those residents are in the planning stages. We want all residents to have access to the newsletters.



THE VISION

Fox Lake will be recognized as a recreational, residential community with a healthy business climate, which maximizes the potential of its resources. It will have a friendly, clean, small town character with a sense of community and volunteerism supported by a responsive governing body. It's a good place to call home.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

The Village Hall is closed on December 25, 2009, and January 1, 2010.

Village of Fox Lake
66 Thillen Drive
Fox Lake, IL 60020
www.foxlake.org

Business

Small business investors are leery about opening new businesses in this economic climate. This creates a larger challenge for the Village.

One of the frequent complaints from the business investment community has been the perception that "Fox Lake is difficult to do business with". The Village Board has implemented major changes to reduce the time involved with projects being reviewed.

Financial

The financial status of the Village remains an issue, as it is for most municipalities these days. Our auto dealers have historically been the Village's greatest source of revenue (sales tax). The loss of dealerships has greatly affected our budget picture. Our second leading sales tax sources, the boat dealers, whom are having similar issues due to weather, gas prices and the economic climate has also adversely affected the boat businesses.

Since the Village is operating without a Community Development Director (budgetary concerns), Mayor Bender has been filling that void. He has been meeting with business leaders and developers to get their input on the Village's needs.

The Village Board has raised the expectations concerning the Village's appearance and safety issues. Two property rental businesses were shut

down for extreme code violations, sending a message to other landlords.

One of the keys to attracting new businesses will be to improve the appearance of the Village. The Code Enforcement function and ordinances are being re-evaluated to determine how they may be more effective with improving the overall community appearance.

Staff Reductions

Unfortunately, the bleak financial picture forced the Village to make some difficult decisions - staff reductions in the Police and Street departments.

Village Treasurer

Following the departure of the Village Treasurer, Walter Korpan was hired an interim Treasurer. In addition to his lifelong family ties to our community, he has an excellent financial background in the public sector. He played a key

role in saving the Round Lake School District from near bankruptcy.

Financial Reporting

A new monthly financial reporting scheme has been developed for the Village Board. This should provide the Trustees with better tools for decision-making on a month-to-month basis. They will be able to make more timely financial decisions with these reports.

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