



## From The Desk of The Mayor

Spring 2010

The Village Focus



Earlier this year Trustee Nancy Koske and Don Klusendorf formed a group of Fox Lake Business Leaders to provide input on how to work as a team to share ideas to enhance the community and pursue economic development. The members of this group are Butch and Melinda Conrad, Dave Dingman, John Donnellan, Jack Irvin, Roy Miller, Leonard Thornburg and Pat Weber.

Our mission statement or the vision for Fox Lake is “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”.

### Our focused goals are:

- 1. *Develop a financial plan which balances the needs for resident services and taxpayer wallets.*** This was a tough initiative and I was aware of issues that needed to be addressed right away. We have changed the business office to the Village’s benefit. We have created an Assistant Village Administrator position. We have outsourced some of the accounting and payroll duties, and the Treasurer position was deleted. Walter Korpan will be assisting us during the transition and continue as a consultant as needed. The Assistant Village Administrator will be monitoring the business office accordingly.
- 2. *Retain and recruit high quality businesses by build strong relationships and streamlining processes.*** My efforts are now utilized on this item. I have been working diligently with our present businesses like Ray Chevrolet and the Village Bakery and future projects such as the Thelen property, the Hotel project, working with neighboring Village’s for boundary agreements etc. This is a priority and will continue to be addressed as needed to streamline processes for our residents and businesses.
- 3. *Establish improved lines of communications between the Village and residents with tools, such as an interactive website.*** We are working on the website, it has been in limbo but we are addressing this currently and will be moving forward. We want to keep the lines of communication open to our residents as well as our businesses.
- 4. *Improve the overall appearance of the village.*** We have contracted out for code enforcement. We are talking to business owners; and if they are in violation, 7 days are given to correct the problem prior to issuance of the citation. We are cleaning up the town and also the image which will increase interest in Fox Lake.
- 5. *Increase the year round recreational opportunities for residents, regardless of age or economic status.*** We have to have the necessary services, police department, fire department, 911, but we also need to provide cultural activities as well as parks and recreational activities. In the last 9 years the demographics of Fox Lake have changed and we need to have activities for them as well. Events that are popular include the annual polar plunge, venetian night, boat show etc.

We will continue to pursue the goals actively to achieve the stated vision.

# Village News

## Treasurer Office News -

Great strides have been made in the Business Office at the Village of Fox Lake. We have done a thorough examination of the way it does business and have determined that the Village is indeed a “business” and must focus its attention to improving itself by insuring that revenues exceed expenditures, and to consistently do whatever is needed to take care of the citizens of the Village of Fox Lake. Servicing the customer is key.

A key was to look at the Business Office and determine what could be done to generally improve revenue. All facets of the office were examined to improve efficiencies and morale, and to insure that all revenue collections and accounting practices are done to the highest standards. Everyone in the Business Office is doing everything possible to maximize their specific job assignments. The collection of fees process was improved. Accounting procedures were improved. Specific and clearly understood reports were created and given to the Management Staff Team on a monthly basis to monitor the Village’s financial status. Policies and procedures were implemented to provide guidance to employees to appropriately do their jobs, and the structure of the Business Office was changed to provide more service and a checks-and-balance system through outsourcing and cross-training.

These changes are very healthy for the Village. The Business Office will take the lead in becoming more accountable and responsible to the needs of the Administration and the community. The Business Office is paying attention to every detail. This along with providing good “customer service”, are paramount in today’s society.

## Building Department Update -

Bill Hart, Building Commissioner recently retired from the Village of Fox Lake on March 1, 2010 after 18 years of service. He was instrumental in the building of Fox Lake to its present population through several developments and homes. We congratulate Bill on his much earned retirement and wish him the best in his future endeavors.



The Village Board has appointed Frank Urbina as the new Building Commissioner, and is available to our residents, businesses, developers. Please feel free to stop by the Building Department to see Frank with any questions regarding building and zoning or code enforcement.

Frank’s education and overall experience compliment the Building Commissioner position. Frank holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Illinois – Champaign- Urbana and a Master of Architecture degree from the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee. His 22 years of experience as Architect, General Contractor, Developer and Construction Manager for numerous residential and commercial projects has provided him with a wide scope of challenges.

As a 16-year resident of Ingleside, Frank is determined to focus all of his efforts to improving the health, safety and welfare of the community. Frank’s additional goal is to help make Fox Lake a place to be proud of.

One initial step that has been implemented with the Building Department is Code Enforcement. The code enforcement services of Bob Wildenhain with B&F Technical Code Services, Inc. have begun. Bob is certified with the Illinois Code Council and has 5 years of experience.

Tina Williams is also a strong part of our Building Department team. She has recently achieved her 5-year anniversary with the Village as Administrative Assistant. Her experience and ability to handle numerous tasks simultaneously gives our department the organization and professionalism that is required daily.

Our goal is to work with Fox Lake businesses and homeowners to give Fox Lake a clean and fresh look. By working together we can keep existing businesses and families safe and happy as well as inspire new businesses and families to come to Fox Lake.

# Village News

## Administrative Hearing News -

The Village of Fox Lake has established by ordinance Administrative Hearing Procedures to adjudicate violations of village ordinances ticketed by the police and/or code enforcement. The Administrative Hearings process requires the appointment of an Administrative Hearing Officer to conduct fair and impartial hearings. To fill this position, Hon. Henry C. Tonigan has been appointed by the Village of Fox Lake.



Judge Henry “Skip” Tonigan III received his juris doctorate degree from Southern Methodist University in 1975. Judge Tonigan was in private practice prior to becoming a judge in 1983; his practice focused on civil litigation and real estate law and included handling condemnation cases for both landowners and government entities. Elected to the position of circuit judge in 1992, he has served in all civil and criminal assignments and was chief judge of suburban Chicago’s Lake and McHenry counties from 1998 to 2000. Judge Tonigan has worked as a Circuit Judge from 1983 to 2007 and as an Administrative Hearing Officer for the Villages of Gurnee, Hawthorn Woods and City of Lake Forest, Kildeer and Wauconda over the last three years. Starting in April the Village will be holding hearings the second Thursday of every month here at the Village Board Room.

## Parks and Recreation Update -

The Village of Fox Lake would like to retain and enhance recreation opportunities for the residents. The Village is offering an option for residents and businesses to donate for these events and programs on the Water/Sewer/Refuse billing that is sent out every two months. There is a box that can be checked and it will be applied to Village Events through the Parks & Recreation Department. Please note that any donations cannot be applied to a specific event but will be used as needed to help support events and programs that will be held within the Village of Fox Lake.

The Parks & Recreation have added “Krafty Adult” and “Krafty Kidz” Summer Program this year. For 2010 summer events and Sport programs please visit our website [www.foxlake.org](http://www.foxlake.org) . If you have any questions please contact Nancy Rogers, Parks & Recreation Coordinator at 847-587-3944 or [rogersn@foxlake.org](mailto:rogersn@foxlake.org).

In 2009 the Promote Fox Lake Committee (The Village of Fox Lake and Fox Lake Chamber of Commerce) approved the Fox Lake in Bloom project. Many volunteers contributed to roadside clean up, creating new flowerbeds, and the planting over 100 bulbs to Parks and Entrances into Fox Lake. Large planters with flowers were purchased for the downtown business area. This year Fox Lake will offer Market by the Lake; and it will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday each month at 9:00am to 2:00 pm beginning June through October at Lakefront Park/71 Nippersink Blvd. For more information and registration forms please visit [www.foxlake.org](http://www.foxlake.org) or call Fox Lake Chamber office at 847-587-7474.

## Street Department Reminder-

Do you have brush that needs to be picked up? The Street Department picks up brush every Friday. You need to schedule a pick up by calling the Street Department at 847-587-8570.



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Jon Mumford

**Village Meetings**- Agendas and minutes are available on-line at [WWW.FOXLAKE.ORG](http://WWW.FOXLAKE.ORG)

**Welcome our New Businesses!!**

The Village Bakery - 27 East Grand Ave  
Burrito House - 2 W. Grand Ave, Suite 111  
China Buffet (change of owner) - 111 Towne Center Lane  
Spirit Nail Spa - 123 Towne Center Lane

**Watch for our Upcoming Events**

May 31st - Memorial Day Celebration - 11:00 a.m. Fox Lake Train Station  
June 5th - Policeman's Bike Rodeo - 11:00 a.m. - 2 p.m. - Lakefront Park  
June 13th - Market by the Lake - 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. - Lakefront Park  
July 3rd - Celebrate Fox Lake - 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. - Millenium Park