

February 2018

Village of Elwood
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Mayor's Message....



The Village of Elwood's Planning and Zoning Commission recommended that the Village Board approve re-zoning of a parcel of land already annexed to the Village, rezoning upon Annexation of another parcel and several Special Use Permits for 851 acres for the Compass Business Park on a three to one vote, after the conclusion of the Public Hearing on January 17th. The request was to rezone all the acreage to I-2 (light industrial).

The Commission's role in the development process is to consider the proposal in light of the Village Zoning ordinance to determine whether the action requested is appropriate.

On June 27, 2017, NorthPoint held an open house to receive input from the community on the Compass Business Park. They also held additional meetings for residents of Mississippi Street, South Street and the Shady Nook Mobile Home Park.

The Public Hearing started on December 19th, was continued to January 11th and concluded on January 17th. The process began with a two-hour review of the project by NorthPoint representatives. During the three meetings, with approximately 14 hours of testimony, more than 100 people shared their thoughts with the Commission and had the opportunity to ask questions of NorthPoint representatives.

I would like to thank the members of the Village of Elwood Planning and Zoning Commission for their dedication to the process and their commitment to the residents of the Village of Elwood. I would also like to thank those who testified at the hearing.

The Village of Elwood insisted that the proposal focus on the area west of the Village of Elwood's boundary agreement with the Village of Manhattan to comply with the terms of the Elwood-Manhattan Boundary Agreement.

The development proposal has been under study for the past several months by the Village staff and consultants. Staff and consultants are assessing planning, financial, engineering, traffic and public safety potential concerns.

The next step in the process is for the Village Board to evaluate the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission and NorthPoint's 675-acre annexation request.

We will not be moving forward with this discussion until the staff and consultants have completed their assessment. When that work is done, it will be presented to the Board so that we can determine what best serves the short and long term needs of our village.

You can find the NorthPoint Development application on the Village's website – www.villageofelwood.com under the Economic Development tab.

Warmest Regards,

Upcoming Meetings

Planning and Zoning - February 27, 7 PM

Village Board of Trustees - March 7, 7 PM

Park Committee - March 28, 6:30 PM

Village Offices closed February 19th for Presidents Day

Canine “Sam” Newest Member of Elwood Police

At the village board meeting February 8, 2018 Mayor Doug Jenco and the Board of Trustees welcomed the newest member of the Elwood Police Department “Sam.”

Police canine “Sam” is a 20-month-old German Shepard and Belgian/Malinois mix who weighs in at a healthy 78 pounds. Canine “Sam” is partnered with his new handler Officer Ed Wright an 11-year veteran of the Elwood Police Department.

Officer Wright and his new partner attended 6 weeks of intensive training at the Shallow Creek Kennels in Sharpsville, Pennsylvania.

During their training Officer Wright and his K9 completed over 300 hours of instruction which included 256 drug exercises, 196 simulated narcotics discoveries, 12 tracking exercises, and 54 apprehension drills.

Sam is a Narcotics Detection and Patrol Police Service Dog who meets the minimum certification requirements. Illinois law requires on an annual basis, local law enforcement agencies must submit the narcotics detection canine to an annual compliance course offered through the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board (ILETSB) or an approved police academy.

The Elwood Police canine team is now ready to make our community safer. As we are aware, the Will County area is experiencing an epidemic of unprecedented proportions with heroin-related drug overdose deaths.

No community, big or small, is immune from the plague of this illicit drug and Will County has broken several records in the past decade due to heroin-related deaths. Will County States Attorney Jim Glasgow along with the Elwood Police Department believe the addition of a K-9 pro-

gram with a dog trained to detect the presence of illegal narcotics, will empower the Police Department with the necessary tools to identify potential dealers and help remove heroin and other dangerous drugs from our streets.



At the Village Board meeting, Village Clerk Julie Friebele administered the “Oath of Office” to police canine Sam.

In addition to narcotic detection, the purpose of a canine unit is to support general patrol duties and provide additional support for tracking fleeing suspects, searching for missing people or children, building searches of large warehouses, vehicle searches, school safety checks, and most importantly community relations.

Will County States’ Attorney James Glasgow agreed to fund the purchase and training of K9 “Sam” for the Police Department. The States Attorney will allocate drug-asset forfeiture funds, which is money seized by police in illicit drug arrests and prosecutions.

Stop Sign Installed on Diagonal



Public Works installed a new stop sign January 31st at Diagonal Road and Chicago Avenue.

This makes the intersection a four way stop. The new stop signs on Chicago Road going north & south have a red flashing beacon to warn motorists of the new stop.

Below the stop sign is a sign stating 4-way.

Vegetable Garden Plots



There are 25 garden plots available for 2018 at Lloyd Erickson Park. Contact Marie at 815-424-1093 if you are interested.



SeniorGuidance.org

Helping seniors during most difficult times.

Village joins Lower Des Plaines Watershed Group

In 2017, the Lower Des Plaines Watershed Group (LDWG) was formed.

This organization is comprised of local municipalities, industrial facilities, and other private parties such as consulting firms and environmental advocacy groups that are interested in the potential impacts of storm water and wastewater treatment plant discharges to the Lower Des Plaines River.

The focus of the group is to develop a long-term plan for monitoring the chemical, physical and biological aspects of the lower Des Plaines River ecosystem.

This plan can then be used to determine the critical aspects of the ecosystem that must be addressed to enhance and protect the river and resources can be allocated to the projects or policies that will have the most meaningful impact.

The study will take several years to complete. Due to the size and complexity of the watershed, sampling will take place over a multi-year period with additional time needed for data analysis and report writing.

The results of the study will be used to determine the treatment levels that must be met by the Village's wastewater treatment plant for discharge to the lower Des Plaines River.

In addition to impacts from wastewater treatment plant discharges, the health of the lower Des Plaines is also impacted by storm water runoff. Look for future articles in the Village newsletter about simple ways you can help to protect and enhance the water quality of our area streams and rivers.

Additional information about the LDWG can be found at www.lowerdesplaineswatershed.org.

Village Offers Warming Center During Extended Cold Spells

When bitterly cold temperatures are expected for an extended period, the Village of Elwood will open its community room to serve as a warming center.

The Village Hall Community Room is open from 8 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Basic necessities like cots, bedding, and light refreshments are available during the cold weather emergency.

Referrals or appointments during off hours are accepted by calling the non-emergency dispatch number at 815-423-5411.

Additional warming centers throughout Will County are posted on the Will County Emergency Management Agency web site - www.willcountyeema.org.

Let's get back to the basics of recycling.

Remember these three rules each time you recycle:

1



2



3



Recycle all empty plastic bottles, cans, paper and cardboard.

Keep food and liquids out of the recycling.

Empty recyclables directly into your cart - NO bagged recyclables.



#RORR

To Learn More Visit RecycleOftenRecycleRight.com



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Elwood/Jackson Township Historical Society



The Elwood Depot was located on the west side of the tracks, near the grain elevator. There were two passenger trains— the Ann Rutledge and the Abraham Lincoln. One in the AM and one in the PM. The train stopped in Elwood if there were passengers.

In 1863 George Pullman put the first railroad into service on the C&A line between Chicago and St. Louis. It passed through Elwood on its way.

Resolution Approved Supporting Federal Funding for I-80 Project

The Elwood Village Board, on February 7, approved a resolution supporting federal funding for adding lanes on and the reconstruction of portions of I-80 from Ridge Road to Harlem Avenue.

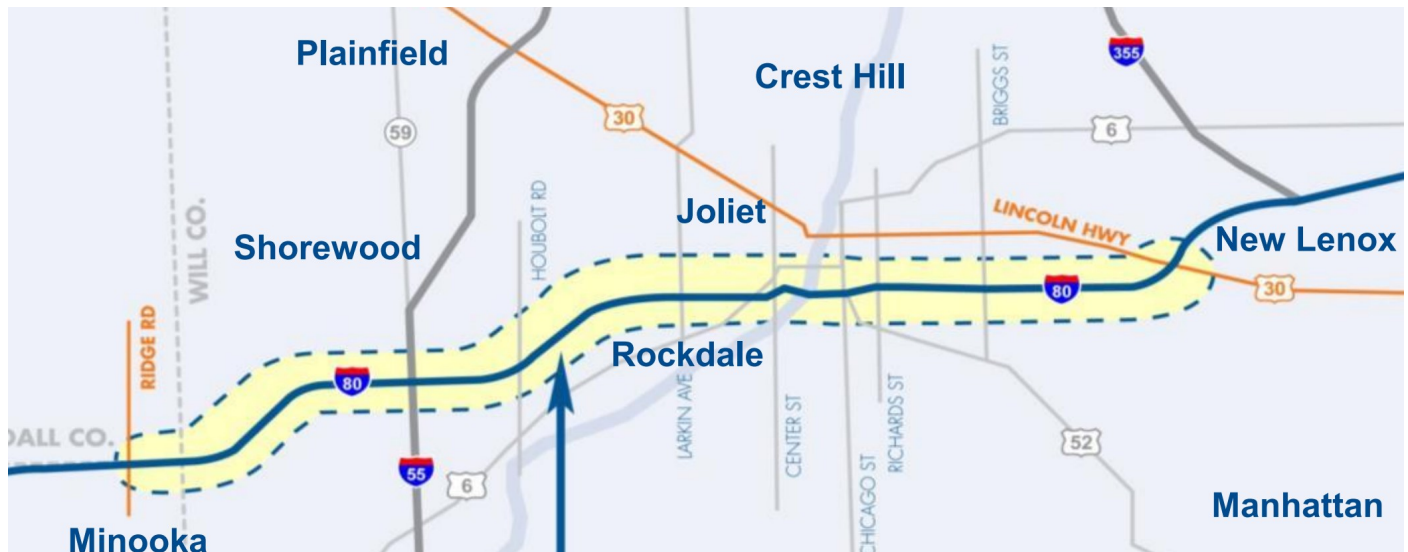
The recently released Will County Community Friendly Freight Mobility Plan identified more than 100 projects that would improve local transportation throughout Will County.

Two I-80 projects were noted to be Tier I projects. These involve adding lanes from Ridge Road to Route 30 and I-355 to Harlem Avenue. The Village of Elwood would like to partner with the organizations that sponsored this critical plan to support federal funding for the I-80 projects.

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is developing a

nates outside of Will County.

Mayor Doug Jenco said, "The Village Board understands that I-80 is a regional corridor which provides freight mobility for all neighboring states and beyond, which is why we support the I-80 improvements with a resolution to seek Federal Funding for the project. The Village of Elwood would like to partner with areawide leaders to convince Federal Legislators of the needed funding since the equivalent of 3% of the national gross domestic product flows through the corridor annually. The I-80 corridor is critical for the movement of the Nation's freight annually and we believe that Federal funding is the best way to accomplish these improvements expeditiously."



proposal to make substantial improvements on I-80 between Ridge Road and Harlem Avenue and recently held a public open house in Joliet to share the alternatives that have been developed to improve the current roadway.

The stretch of I-80 running through Joliet was constructed more than 60 years ago. IDOT recognizes that traffic usage of this portion of I-80 has significantly intensified during the last 60 years and it no longer meets the needs of this area.

In their 5-step process, they have reached Step 3, range of alternatives, after having completed data collection and developed a purpose and need for the improvements. At the public meeting, they presented a number of alternatives to improve the current situation. In Step 4 they will determine the preferred alternative and then move into design approval.

In addition to Will County being the home to the largest Inter-modal Port in North America (Elwood/Joliet) the freight mobility plan also identified 14 current freight clusters throughout the County. The Plan documents that 65 percent of the freight traffic traveling through the County originates from and termi-

Elwood Family Fun Night

Crafts



**Friday,
March 9th**

Village Hall

6:30 to 8:00 PM

Refreshments

