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# ELWOOD COMMUNITY DAYS

Celebrating The 20th Anniversary

of Elwood Children's Garden

Friday, August 25

Saturday, August 26

Sunday, August 27



Lloyd Erickson Park  
801 N. Chicago Street  
Elwood, Illinois



Bingo • Cold Blooded Creatures • Car Show • DJ • Bands  
History Display • Bean Bag Tournament • Tractor Show • Crafts  
Photo Booth • Carnival Rides • Beer Garden • Parade • Fireworks  
Fishing Contest • Food

For the full schedule of events go to  
[elwoodcommunitydays.com](http://elwoodcommunitydays.com)

Gold Star Sponsor — NorthPoint Development



AUGUST  
2017

Village of Elwood  
401 E. Mississippi  
Avenue  
Elwood, IL 60421  
815-423-5011

Village President  
Todd Matichak

Village Trustees  
Doug Jenco  
Don LaPaglia  
Darryl Lab  
Dean Lowrance  
Mary Matichak  
Jasen Melahn

Village Clerk  
Julie Friebel

Village Administrator  
Marion Gibson  
[marion.gibson@villageofelwood.com](mailto:marion.gibson@villageofelwood.com)

Chief of Police  
Fred Hayes  
[elwoodpolice@villageofelwood.com](mailto:elwoodpolice@villageofelwood.com)

Public Works  
Superintendent  
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## Mayor's Message...



Hello to all the residents of the great town of Elwood. Since I was elected in April and sworn in as Mayor in early May, we have all seen a multitude of proposed changes to say the least!

A commercial sprinkler ordinance change will allow residents to build in Elwood without any additional construction costs. Excessive traffic through town is being addressed in the form of speed bumps, which will be used to slow vehicles speed down on the side streets. Also, an additional police officer will be hired to ensure the safety and well-being of all the residents.

And last, but certainly not least, is the proposed Compass Business Park by NorthPoint Development group. This proposal is still in the very early stages and has a lot of obstacles and questions that need to be answered. I can assure you that the Village of Elwood staff, the Board members and I are doing our due diligence to ensure that the best interests of the residents are our primary concern. (See article on page 2)

Please attend Board Meetings, or contact any Village official regarding any or all of these happenings in Elwood.

I would also like to congratulate the Children's Garden on a phenomenal 20-year anniversary. The Garden is an amazing and wonderful place for children of all ages.

Sincerely,

**Todd Matichak**

[mayor.matichak@villageofelwood.com](mailto:mayor.matichak@villageofelwood.com)

Congratulations to Elwood Children's  
Garden Celebrating 20 years  
of Growing!



Thanks to the volunteers for their  
thousands of hours devoted to supporting  
the Garden over the past 20 years



Hayli Logue created the design for the 20th Anniversary T-Shirts and Hoodies. Order forms are available at the Village Hall.



## Development Proposals Under Study

The Village has been approached by two separate development groups.

**J-Power USA** is exploring the development of a state of the art combined cycle power plant to complement their existing peaker power plant. This new plant, located at Brandon and Noel Roads, uses a gas turbine for 60 percent of its power and then recovers waste heat to generate an additional 40 percent of the power in a steam turbine, leading to more efficiency in power generation. It is expected the new plant would generate enough energy to power 1.2 million homes. The following benefits have been presented by J-Power USA:

- > The plant will help keep Illinois' power prices competitive
- > Take advantage of abundant, affordable natural gas
- > Reduce Illinois' dependence on older, inefficient power generation plants
- > Be up to 50% more efficient than peaking plants
- > Have the lowest emissions of any fossil fuel plant in Illinois
- > Support intermittent wind and solar energy generation
- > Stimulate the local economy with jobs and property taxes

The zoning of the project site is heavy industrial and is located in the Village of Elwood. This project is in the early stages of analysis by the Village staff.

**NorthPoint Development** is in discussion with the Village regarding a 2,200 acre business park. Public meetings have been held for the Compass Business Park soliciting input from area residents through an open house and individual and small group meetings. Village of Elwood staff, consultants and Compass Business Park

## Feral Cat Challenge

The Village of Elwood is not immune from the challenges of a burgeoning colony of feral cats. Recently several complaints were received at Village Hall and the Police Department was requested to look into the matter.

The feeding or harboring of these animals is causing a nuisance for the surrounding neighborhoods. The cat crisis can lead to areas taken over by feral cats that disturb residents, with the areas riddled with cat feces and urine as well as newborn kittens and numerous cat fights.

The Elwood Police Department would like to remind residents that the Animal Control Ordinance of the Village of Elwood regulates the duties and requirements for cat and dog owners.

Village Ordinance No. 911, restricts a single-family residence to three dogs or three cats, either singly or in combination. No dog, cat or other domestic animals shall be allowed or permitted to run at large upon any

developers have created five teams to study the project's viability and potential benefits to the Village. The five teams meet periodically to collaborate and develop an overall comprehensive plan to be presented to the Village Planning & Zoning Commission and then to the Village Board.

**Planning Team** is developing the Compass Business Park Master Plan. The master plan will provide an overall development concept and guidelines for individual site development.

**Financial Team** is determining if the project provides additional revenues for area taxing bodies and to support the Village's future budget constraints and compensation for Village services. (See article entitled "Village Contracts For A Financial Management Plan")

**Engineering Team** is examining the need for additional sewer and water capacity, streets, storm water management and other infrastructure improvements.

**Traffic Team** is evaluating the closed loop truck access system, employee monitored access points to support existing and future employee traffic, increased traffic on surrounding arterials, farm access and the need for an additional traffic signal on Illinois Route 53.

**Public Safety Team** is reviewing emergency access plans, appropriate staffing and equipment needs and resident safety.

It is important that this thorough due diligence be conducted, as it is crucial to the Village's decision-making process.

**Grass clippings should not be blown into the street as it clogs drains and can cause rain water flooding.**

## Village Contracts for Financial Management Plan

The Village has been approached by two developers about the opportunities to locate new businesses within the Village. There has been discussion about the potential impact of these opportunities to the Village, from a financial perspective as well as other quality of life issues.

The Village has recently contracted with Ehlers, a financial consulting firm, who will create a Financial Management Plan (FMP). The FMP will assist the Village to evaluate these development opportunities and provide input on how the projects may help the Village in resolving its financial challenges.

The Village currently has four outstanding General Obligation (G.O.) debt issues. All the G.O. bonds were issued more than 10 years ago by the Village under the assumption that the Village would develop at a rate and level that has not yet been realized.

The economic recession that began in 2008 led to stagnant growth in areas which were previously identified to have enormous residential and commercial potential. Village infrastructure including water and sewer facilities, road improvements and Village Hall construction were built according to those plans and the Village anticipated that its ability to pay debt service for infrastructure would increase as the residential and commercial development was completed, as is the

case in many growing communities.

The demands of the debt service payment have put stress on the Village's financial situation. The Village has expended cash in the (water, sewer and garbage) funds in order to support governmental activities and debt service. While the General Fund operates at a "break-even level", the bonds that will require payments starting in 2021 and beyond will necessitate additional new revenue sources. It is the goal of the financial planning process to help the Village to identify those revenues.

As part of the financial planning process, The FMP will incorporate potential costs and revenues from these projects so that the Village can determine if there is a net financial gain to the Village.

For a more sustainable financial plan for future Village operations, debt restructuring and expenditure reductions will help, but the Village needs to generate significant new revenues and expand its tax base to pay for its current and future services and debt obligations.

Therefore, it is in the Village's best interest to fully evaluate any new economic development opportunities presented.

**FAMILY FUN NIGHT AT LLOYD ERICKSON PARK, SEPTEMBER 15TH FROM 5-7 PM**  
Enjoy a cookout, play bingo, play outdoor kids games. Elwood Family Fun Night is a free event sponsored by the Village of Elwood & Elwood Church.

5:00 p.m. Free cookout  
6:00 p.m. Bingo & family games begin  
7:00 p.m. Music-"Stay Tuned String Band" will play in the Children's Garden  
Dusk - Movie sponsored by the Village of Elwood  
The free cookout is sponsored and served by Elwood Church. The church will accept non-perishable donations to support the Jackson Township Food Pantry.

## Solicitors Required to have Village ID Card

Individuals soliciting in the Village of Elwood must have an ID card issued through the Village Hall. Please notify the police immediately of anyone who is soliciting without the proper identification. Call 815-423-5411.

	Company Name Street Address City, ST, Zip Code Phone Number
First Name Last Name	Date Valid Solicitor Signature
Julie Friebele, Village Clerk	

## Mayor Mow My Lawn!

Purchase a chance to have one of our Elwood officials mow your lawn

Choose your lawn mower...

**Mayor Todd C. Matichak, Police Chief Fred Hayes, Fire Chief Bill Offerman, School Superintendent Cathie Pezanoski**

All proceeds benefit Elwood programs & Events  
Purchase a ticket for \$20

Tickets are available at Village Hall and will be sold at Elwood Days  
Winners will be drawn at Elwood Days on August 27

## Leave the Fireworks to the Professionals

The Elwood Police Department has received an increase of complaints related to fireworks and loud noise. Residents can help combat the nuisance by immediately reporting violations by calling the dispatch non-emergency line at 815-423-5411. The caller should provide the location and description of the offenders. You should instantly dial 911 if the fireworks are an immediate threat to life or property.

In Illinois, it is illegal to possess, purchase or use consumer fireworks without a consumer permit obtained from the State of Illinois and authorized by local officials.

Every year illegal fireworks are to blame for fatalities, injuries, fire, and millions of dollars in property damage, not to mention the loud noise nuisance suffered by surrounding neighborhoods.

Two state laws control the use, sale, distribution, and possession of fireworks in Illinois. Additionally, violators can be cited for a separate violation of the Village's Unreasonable Noise Nuisance Ordinance. Any person causing or permitting the nuisance can be fined.

So, come on out and enjoy the professional fireworks during this year's Elwood Community Days. The fireworks will be launched from Lloyd Erickson Park 801 N. Chicago Street, on Saturday, August 26 8:45 PM.