

Community Newsletter

Brought to you by



Fall 2024 Issue

Jackson Township Board meetings are held on the second Wednesday of every month at 6:30 at our Township Hall.

We welcome Township residents at these meetings.

The Jackson Town Hall is also available for rental, see our website for more information.

Jackson Township's top priorities are maintaining its residents' safety and quality of life.

Excess, unregulated, and wayward truck traffic coming through the township is a nuisance, and it creates major safety hazards. To maintain the township's integrity and support our priorities, the board regularly attends Joliet council meetings and meets with state and local officials to voice our residents' concerns and promote solutions.



Jackson Township Government is excited to announce its brand new website at www.jacksontownshipil.com.

Here you will find contact information for your elected officials and resources for township residents.

Upcoming events include handing out **Thanksgiving food baskets** *Saturday November 16th* and **Christmas food baskets** on *Saturday December 21st* to families needing extra help around the holiday season. Contact **815-423-5780** to sign up, basket pickup is at the Jackson Town Hall, *100 Mississippi Avenue in Elwood*.

The Jackson Township Toy Drive will be held on *December 6, 2024* at Stone City VFW.

You can help by purchasing Christmas toys and gifts for our Township residents in need.

Contact Amy Vega at **815-351-7582** if you are interested in supporting this fundraiser. You can also look on the Township Website for information about these upcoming events.

Chief's Message

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the members of the Elwood Fire Protection District, I would like to thank you for your continued support of the Fire District. The mission of the Elwood Fire Protection District is to safeguard the citizens and visitors of our community by providing the highest level of service which includes fire suppression, hazardous materials operations, technical rescue, emergency medical services, fire prevention, and public education services. We make every effort to maintain a responsive and well-trained staff advocating for every citizen in their time of need with honor and courage. These efforts are combined with proficient and proactive fire prevention programs to include public education and code enforcement.

To meet this mission, the Fire District has some of the highest skilled and trained Firefighters/Paramedics. Each is committed to protecting our community while continually identifying ways to improve the delivery of emergency services. I cannot be prouder of the way our members consistently rise to the challenges that face the Fire Service and the Fire District.

The Fire District is rich in history and has a strong sense of community, with members always ready to support one another. From its humble beginnings as a volunteer organization in 1965 to the countless men and women who have served since then, we strive to honor and carry on this tradition. Our enduring commitment is the cornerstone of our District's lasting legacy.

Thank you for the privilege of serving such a great community.

Chris Locacius, Fire Chief

Visit our website www.elwoodfpd.com or call 815-423-5224

if you are interested in any of the following services:

- CPR & First Aid Classes**
- Public Education Requests**

Elwood Fire Protection District is a Safe Haven Site under the Illinois Abandoned Newborn Infant Protection Act. For Crisis and Support Hotlines please visit our website or call 9-1-1 for emergencies.



Contact Information

NON EMERGENCY #: 815-423-5224

Email: admin@elwoodfpd.com

Address: 309 W. Mississippi St. Elwood, IL 60421

Website: www.elwoodfpd.com

Facebook: @ElwoodFPD

ELWOOD CCSD 203

Welcomes New Staff

Elwood School is excited to welcome a few new faces to the school district! The school office support staff has some new talent coming in with new District Secretary, Mrs. Kaity Richardson, and new Building Secretary Griselda Gradilla. Mrs. Richardson isn't really a new face to Elwood School as she served last year as one of our kindergarten paraprofessionals. Mrs. Gradilla came to Elwood from the car dealership world and is excited to become a part of the Elwood School family.

Another not really new staff member is Kim Donchez. Mrs. Donchez was a substitute lunch supervisor last year who will become a full time lunch supervisor this year. She has been married 31 years and has 3 children: 30, 28 and 25 years old. She was a stay-at-home hockey mom and says that she really enjoyed working the last 2 years as a sub. Now she is looking forward to working for Elwood every day!

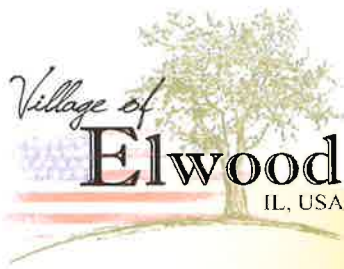
New (but again - not really new) is Ms. Ashleigh Larsen. Ms. Larsen student taught with us this past year under Mrs. Trafton, and will take over her 2nd grade class this year as Mrs. Trafton moves to kindergarten. Ms. Larsen grew up and still currently lives in Minooka. She graduated from Illinois State University with a degree in Elementary Education and says she is so happy to be here and can't wait for an amazing year! A completely new face to our district in the special education department is Mrs. Jennifer Lund. Mrs. Lund brings 20 years of experience with her to our school district, with her most recent experience being with the Lockport Area Special Education Cooperative. Mrs. Lund is excited to begin collaborating with both Elwood students, parents and staff, and we are excited for her to join our team.



Finally, Elwood welcomes a new Assistant Principal to the school this fall. Megan Goetz was hired at the July Board meeting and begins work August 1. Mrs. Goetz comes to Elwood from Saint Dennis and Joseph Catholic Academy where she served as their Assistant Principal. Before moving into administration, she spent 14 years as a choir director for various schools including for Timber Ridge Middle School, Plainfield South High School, and Herscher Middle School-High School. She holds a Bachelors Degree from Millikin University in Decatur, IL and Masters Degrees from both Lewis University, and the Vandercook College of Music.

ELWOOD CCSD 203 UPDATES ITS STRATEGIC PLAN

Elwood CCSD has a new and improved Strategic Plan for 2024-2029! Elwood officially adopts this plan in August. Elwood's current Strategic Plan has been in place since 2021, but technically expires in 2024. Superintendent Page began organizing the update back in April. The new and improved plan was developed through community meetings, committee meetings, surveys of staff and the community, and multiple conversations with stakeholders done over the last four to five months. The Plan focuses on Communication, Curriculum and Technology, Parental Involvement, Climate and Safety, and beginning this year has a new area of focus for the Elwood School Facilities. There are some bigger ticket items coming up for the Elwood School Building. This summer, Elwood renovated the gymnasium which has a history of safety concerns with the previous wood floor. In the next couple of years, there are plans to completely redo the parking lots, the bus barn, and the school library. The new Strategic Plan will be officially unveiled at the Board Meeting on August 13 at 6:00pm in the school library.



*****ECRWSSSEDDM*****

POSTAL CUSTOMER

PRST STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
COAL CITY IL
Permit #5

ECRWSS

Calendar of Events: **2024**

- **Manhattan/Elwood Story Time** – Lloyd Erickson Park, Children's Garden – *September 5th*
- **Elwood Community Days** – Lloyd Erickson Park – *September 13th & 14th*
 - **Fall Clean Up Day** – *September 23rd*
- **Family Fall Fest** – Lloyd Erickson Park, Children's Garden – *October 6th*
 - **General Election 2024 Early Voting** – Village Hall
 - Monday, October 21st thru Friday, October 25th 9:00 am – 4:00 pm*
 - Monday, October 28th thru Wednesday, October 30th 9:00 am – 4:00 pm*
 - Thursday, October 31st thru Friday November 1st 9:00 am – 3:00 pm*
- **Halloween Tyler Park** – *October 31st*
- **General Election 2024** – *November 5th*
- **Thanksgiving Food Baskets** – Jackson Township Hall – *November 16th*
 - **Lighting Celebration Parade** – *December 6th*
- **Jackson Township Toy Drive** – Stone City VFW – *December 6th*
- **Christmas Food Baskets** – Jackson Township Hall – *December 21st*

2025

- **Consolidated Election** – *April 1st*

The Village of Elwood will have the following positions available:

- **One (1) Village President Position, four-year term**
 - **Three (3) Trustee Positions, four-year term**
 - August 20, 2024 – Petition Circulation Begins*
 - November 12, 2024 – First Day to File Petitions*
 - November 18, 2024 – Last Day to File Petitions*
- **Easter Egg Hunt** – *April 4th*

Please visit Elwood School's Activity Calendar to view all upcoming events
<https://www.d203.org/about/district-event-calendar>

Mayor's Message



I hope all is well and 2024 has been a great year so far.

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude of support from my constituents, I am so proud of our community, I'm impressed by the hard work of our Village's Administration Staff, Elwood Police Department, Elwood Public Works, Village Board of Trustees, Planning & Zoning Commission, Park Committee, Children's Garden, and Volunteers for their dedication and their commitment to the residents of the Village of Elwood.

Elwood is a special place where our neighbors, families, and friends can enjoy the great outdoors. We are working together to make sure residents can enjoy the small-town life they expect in our Village.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Village Hall at 815-423-5011.

Sincerely,

Mayor Doug Jenco