

February 2017 Regional Status Report

Including Jackson & Channahon Townships

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

villageofelwood.com

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Mayor's Message...

I'm happy to report that the village is preparing an application to the Federal Rail Administration for a Quiet Zone designation for the Manhattan Road Union Pacific Rail crossing. Union Pacific recently completed upgrades to the crossing, and the new rail arm structure meets the standards for quiet zone compliance.

For many years, residents in the Manhattan Road area have been looking for some relief from the increasing number of train horns sounding at 110 decibels along the Union Pacific line; however, federal law requires engineers to sound their horns when approaching all public grade crossings-unless there's a designated Quiet Zone.

If the Quiet Zone designation is achieved, trains will no longer sound horns when approaching the Manhattan Road crossing, except in an emergency situation.

A Quiet Zone can only be established if Supplementary Safety Measures, specifically, concrete medians or four-quadrant gate systems, are constructed to reduce the risk of collision. For many communities, the cost of such projects puts the Quiet Zone designation out of reach.

The Manhattan Road crossing now has a four-quadrant gate system, thanks to the recent Union Pacific project there. The village is prepared to benefit from the new gate system by requesting a Quiet Zone based on the newly-installed Supplementary Safety Measure.

The Federal Rail Administration's review process can take a few months, and could take longer in this case, as Union Pacific's high-speed rail program is implemented.

Although we didn't have to invest in the new gate system, there will be some costs associated with a Quiet Zone. The village will be responsible for some striping and signage at the crossing, and we will have to pay an application fee. Elwood Trustees and I feel this is a worthwhile investment to improve the quality of life for a substantial number of village residents.

I will keep residents updated as the Quiet Zone application moves forward.

*Sincerely,
William Offerman*



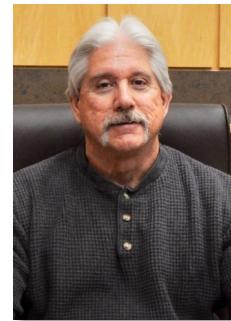
**Village President
William Offerman**



**Village Trustee
Patrick Cotter**



**Village Trustee
Doug Jenco**



**Village Trustee
Don LaPaglia**



**Village Trustee
Dean Lowrance**



**Village Trustee
Mary Matichak**



**Village Trustee
Jasen Melahn**

Dates to Remember

Feb. 24	Mom's Movie & Social Hour	6:30 p.m.	March 1	Village Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.	March 15	Village Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.
Feb. 28	Planning & Zoning Meeting	7:00 p.m.	March 11	Family Movie Night	6:00 p.m.	April 2	Children's Garden Cleanup Day	1:00 p.m.



Elwood Progress

Public Safety

It's impossible to overstate the extent of Elwood's public safety improvements in the past several years. the Village of Elwood has made a great consistent effort to create safety in all areas of this community. Our safety endeavors led us to work with local, county and state agencies to implement safer roadways and railways, improved policing, a secure work environment and outstanding emergency response by the Elwood Police Department and Fire District. Safety First is not a motto in our village. It is foremost in every decision, policy and project. As a result, residents and employees of Elwood are demonstrably safer today. We are very proud to have enacted the following safety measures:

~ Improved Elwood's Insurance services Office (ISO) Rating. Elwood Fire District's Fire Suppression Rating to Class 2 for homes within 5 road miles of the fire station and within 1,000 feet of a hydrant. The lower rating is the result of significant improvements at Elwood Fire Protection District, such as additional firefighter training. Improvements to Elwood's village infrastructure played a key role, as well. Better water main connections created an improved hydrant system - a major factor in the new rating.

~ Created exceptional workplace safety procedures. The Village of Elwood has not had a workplace injury claim in over five years. That's a remarkable achievement. We value our employees and take great care in ensuring their safety. Our safety record is an example to municipalities throughout the state.

~ Successfully pressed the Illinois Commerce Commission to close the Walter Strawn Drive railway crossing. This was the most dangerous crossing in the state and fed thousands of trucks each day onto Route 53. The closure redirected truck traffic to Interstate 55 at Arsenal Road, allowing Route 53 to be used locally, once again. This has given us greater control of the freight traffic within our village and lessened the impact of neighboring development.

~ Persistently policed village roadways and properties. Elwood Police Department has been diligent in directing and policing traffic, demanding compliance with state truck routes and local traffic codes.

~ Achieved Police Department Accreditation. We have made a significant investment in equipment and ongoing officer training to create and skilled accredited department. Our officers are highly trained and community oriented, making Elwood PD the pride of this community.

~ Participated in Rail Safety measures. Elwood Police Department helped spread awareness of railroad dangers. Living in a community with railroad tracks, we sometimes take for granted that our children and drivers will know the dangers, but sometimes we fail to take them seriously. Elwood Police made personal contact with people in the community to remind them about rail safety.

~ Instituted an award-winning Speed Awareness Day campaign to remind drivers of the need for safety behind the wheel.

~ Started an annual National Night Out event to bring people together and raise awareness of community safety programs.

~ Provided safer roads through countless roadway maintenance projects and safer pathways by constructing new sidewalks and maintaining existing walkways.

We won't stop working to make Elwood safer. We know there are still many challenges on our roadways and in our community. Safety will remain our first consideration in all matters.

Elwood students shine

Congratulation to the following Joliet Central High School students and former Elwood Tigers who earned Illinois State Scholar recognition from the Illinois Student Assistance Commission:

Haylie Aeschliman
Derek Bernhard
Ben Hallihan
Corriissa Hansen
Jessy Marasco
Haley Zobel

We're very proud of these students. The State scholar program honors students for their outstanding academic achievement.

Elwood school has a long history of graduating exceptionally prepared students, and we commend Elwood teachers and administrators for continuing that commitment.

LED conversion means big savings

On February 1st, The Elwood Village Board of Trustees voted to approve a Smart-Ready LED Lighting Agreement to allow ComEd to replace existing mercury vapor high pressure sodium street light fixtures with Smart-Ready LED street lights.

The projected annual cost saving to the village of the new LED light fixtures is \$298.19 per month. That's a savings of \$3,578.24 annually.

ComEd will perform the work, and the village will not incur any out of pocket costs to replace the fixtures, thanks to an "Energy Efficiency Credit" from ComEd.

The new LED bulbs shouldn't have to be changed for 20 years. The MV and HPS being replaced have a life span of about four years. In addition, LED bulbs provide more uniform lighting, spreading the light evenly so it provides more reliable lighting without dim areas.



Elwood Mayor William Offerman (left) presents Brian Sheehan, Senior Vice President, Controller of CenterPoint Properties with the Village of Elwood *Above & Beyond* Certificate.

CenterPoint Properties is the first recipient of Elwood's newly-established *Above & Beyond* recognition which acknowledges Elwood's appreciation of business partners who make significant contributions to Village of Elwood community programs and events.

During the Elwood Village Board of Trustees meeting on February 1, Sheehan presented the board with a \$5,000 donation in support of the 2017 Elwood Days event and an additional \$5,000 donation for future programs and events.

"CenterPoint Properties has made a significant investment in our village's community programs. This generous donation will help us sustain Elwood's great local family activities. CenterPoint's support is greatly appreciated," said Elwood Mayor William Offerman.

APRIL 4, 2017 CONSOLIDATED ELECTION EARLY VOTING

**Elwood Village Hall
401 E. Mississippi Ave.
Elwood, IL 60421
815-423-5011**

**Weekdays, March 20 - March 31
9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
No Saturday or Sunday hours**

For additional voter & election information, contact Village Clerk Julie Friebele at (815) 424-1079 or visit the Will County Clerk's website.

Spotlight On... Elwood Village Trustee Mary Matichak

Mary Matichak is finishing her twelfth year as an Elwood Village Trustee. She has lived in Elwood since she was in first grade and has seen decades of positive change in the village during her lifetime.

Trustee Matichak was motivated to serve the Elwood community when her friends and neighbors started asking her to run for the board. She carries on the legacy of her father, Dale Archer, a former Elwood Mayor who was known for his hands-on hard work improving the village.

Trustee Matichak carries on that hard-working, hands-on tradition for today's generation. She is always pitching in and helping out at village events and programs. As a member of the finance committee, Trustee Matichak takes on the immense task of monitoring Elwood's monthly budget and spending. It's not an easy task, but she takes it on for the town she loves.

Spotlight On... Elwood Village Trustee Doug Jenco

Trustee Doug Jenco has served on the Elwood Village Board of Trustees for six years. He came to the village board after serving fourteen years on the Elwood Planning and Zoning Commission.

Trustee Jenco moved to Elwood twenty-five years ago and has been contributing to the community ever since.

He served as Elwood's plumbing inspector for eighteen years, has served many years on the Elwood Community Days Committee and is a member of the Jackson Township Sportsman's Club Board of Directors.

Trustee Jenco is known as a go-to guy among his friends and neighbors. He's the one they call when something needs to get done. He's always ready to help out his community and make the village a better place. As a result, his accomplishments are many.

Among his countless contributions to the community, Trustee Jenco helped initiate the Bob Corcoran Youth Fishing Contest and the Jackson Township Sportsman's Club Youth Hunter Safety Program.

Scouts learn from Elwood PD

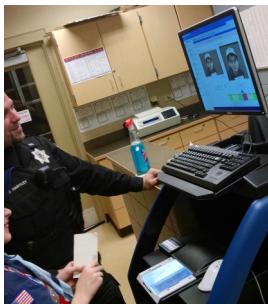


On Wednesday February 1st, Elwood Cub Scout Pack 156 visited the Elwood Police Department. Officer Jim Hartley and Officer Nick Adams provided the Cub Scouts with a highly educational presentation on the inner workings of law enforcement.

Bear Den Leader Bob Gualandi arranged the tour as part of the scouts' community service and recognition development. During their visit, the scouts learned the importance of the recovery of fingerprints from a crime scene as it relates to forensic science.

Scouts participated in a simulation exercise in fingerprinting. Officer Adams demonstrated crime scene processing with basic latent print identification.

Officer Hartley provided hands-on detailed instruction on the department's use of cutting-edge technology with the new biometric Live Scan fingerprinting system



Most importantly, the scouts learned that Elwood Police Officers are here "To Protect and To Serve" and are always here to help. Who knows, maybe someday one of the Cub Scouts will put on the uniform as one of Elwood's finest.

At Your Door service off to a great start

Less than a year after it was introduced to Elwood residents, Waste Management's *At Your Door* collection service has become a well-used village resource.

At Your Door collection makes it easy to dispose of special materials. Before the village started offering this service, residents had to search for an event or location where they could dispose of electronics, paint, automotive products and other uncommon materials.

Now, it only takes a phone call or email to easily recycle or dispose of unwanted items. Acceptable materials include household chemicals, paint products, automo-

tive chemicals and batteries, electronics, garden chemicals, swimming pool chemicals and universal materials. Waste Management's call center representatives will review with you all acceptable materials.

There are three easy ways to schedule a collection of your household generated special materials:

- 1 Schedule online wmatyourdoor.com.
- 2 Call toll free 1-800-449-7587 (M-F, 5am-5pm)
- 3 Email AtYourDoor@WM.com



Do you have old electronics in your home? Used motor oil? Old cans of paint? Used batteries?

To dispose of home-generated special materials and schedule a collection at your home, contact us in one of these three ways:

- Go to WMAKYOURDOOR.COM
- Call (800) 449-7587 - We're available 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. CST M-F.
- Email ATYOURDOOR@WM.COM

Starting August 1, 2016, Waste Management will offer convenient service in your community for residents to properly dispose and recycle home-generated special materials- safely, easily, and responsibly. These items may include paints, household cleaners, compact fluorescent lamps (CFL), automotive products, garden chemicals, batteries, electronics, and more.

The materials accepted through this program include:

 Automotive Products	 Electronics
Antifreeze, batteries, brake fluid, motor oil and filters, fuels, and more.	Computer, monitor, keyboards, MP3 players, televisions, DVD/CD players, tape players, VCR, cell phones, desktop printers, fax machines, and microwaves.
 Garden Chemicals	 Mercury containing items
Fertilizers, insect sprays, herbicides, pesticides, and weed killers.	Batteries, compact fluorescent lamps, fluorescent tubes, thermometers, and thermostats.
 Paint Products	 Sharps, needles, and lancets
Paint, caulk, glue, stain, stripper, thinner, and wood preservative.	Must be placed in a sealed, rigid, puncture resistant container.
 Household Cleaners	
Ammonia, heavy-duty cleaner, rust remover, tile/shower cleaner, upholstery cleaner, and more.	

We do not collect ammunition, explosives, asbestos, tires, or any materials in unlabeled or leaking containers. For program details, contact (800) 449-7587.



THINK GREEN®

MARCH MOVIE NIGHT SATURDAY, MARCH 11

**5:00 P.M. HOT DOG DINER
6:00 P.M. MOVIE**

FREE EVENT!

**ENJOY TACO DINNER & A MOVIE
at ELWOOD VILLAGE HALL
401 E. MISSISSIPPI AVE.**

Order your children's garden 20th Anniversary T-Shirt Today!

THE VILLAGE OF ELWOOD CHILDREN'S GARDEN 20TH ANNIVERSARY T-SHIRT ORDER FORM



FRONT



BACK

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	SIZE	SUBTOTAL
TOTAL DUE:			

PRICES AND OPTIONS

YOUTH T-SHIRT (YS-YXL)	\$12.00
ADULT T-SHIRT (S-XXXL)	\$15.00
WOMENS T-SHIRT (S-XXL)	\$15.00
YOUTH ZIP HOODIE (S-XL)	\$25.00
ADULT ZIP HOODIE (S-XXL)	\$25.00

*ADD \$2 FOR SIZES XL OR LARGER

SELECT PAYMENT METHOD

<input type="checkbox"/> CHECK
<input type="checkbox"/> CASH
<input type="checkbox"/> CREDIT/DEBIT CARD

*MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE VILLAGE OF ELWOOD
*CHECKS/CASH CAN BE DROPPED IN THE WATER BILL
BOX IN AN ENVELOPE WITH THE FORM ENCLOSED
*CREDIT/DEBIT PAYMENTS CAN BE TAKEN AT THE
VILLAGE HALL DURING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS



Karate at Elwood Village Hall

Garden recognition

The Elwood Children's Garden will receive State of Illinois Senate Recognition for the garden's 20th anniversary. Illinois State Senator Pat McGuire will make the presentation during the garden's annual planting day.

The Elwood Children's Garden Planting Day will be held on Saturday, May 20 from 10:00 a.m. until Noon. The planting day is the traditional start of the garden season, and the event is a favorite among garden supporters.

Senator McGuire will initiate the planting day event with a presentation ceremony at 10:00 a.m. The public is invited to attend the ceremony and stay to help plant flowers and vegetables for the season.

ELWOOD CHILDREN'S GARDEN UPCOMING EVENTS



CLEAN-UP DAY
SUNDAY, APRIL 2
1:00 - 2:30 P.M.

PLANTING DAY
SATURDAY, MAY 20
10:00 A.M. - NOON

Students of Sensei John Ventura of the Bob Golden School of Self Defense practice the art of Ryukyu-Kempo Karate. The class teaches not only self defense but also self-respect, discipline, mental focus and physical development. Class meets at Elwood Village Hall Community Room on Fridays from 5:30-6:30. Those interested in joining should come to the class and observe one session. If you decide to participate, you can register after class.

ELWOOD SCHOOL KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Date: Wednesday, March 1st
Time: 9 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Registration packets are available at elwoodschool.com. At the time of registration, three (3) proofs of residency are required, such as mortgage statement, drivers license, gas/electric bill. School fees are due at the time of registration.

MANHATTAN ELWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY STORY TIME AT ELWOOD VILLAGE HALL



THURSDAYS 9:00 - 9:30 A.M.

Register at mpld.org
Elwood Village Hall is located at 401 E.
Mississippi Ave.
For more information, call the library at
815-478-3987.



Manhattan-Elwood PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT ELWOOD VILLAGE BUSY KID BOOKS



Manhattan-Elwood
PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT

13. Sign up in the Children's Dept at the Library
21. Read any book to your child
31. Track the number of books read on paper or using the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten App (Any person, any book, any number of times, count!)
40. Prizes will be given at sign-up, 100, 250, 500, 750, and 1000 BOOKS!

BENEFITS:
Reading to your child leads to better language, letter comprehension, and a better school experience.

When you read 20 min a day, your child is exposed to 180000 words per year

Manhattan-Elwood Library Story Times

BABY TIME: TUESDAYS AGE 0-18MO
TOT TIME: WEDNESDAYS AGE 18MO-3YRS
STORY TIME: THURSDAYS & FRIDAYS 3-5YRS



PAJAMAPALOOZA
BEDTIME STORIES FOR ALL AGES
ELWOOD STORY TIME
AT THE ELWOOD VILLAGE HALL

Visit mpld.org or call 815-478-3987
For more info and programs.

240 Whiston St
Manhattan, IL 60442

KID EVENTS (GRADES K-5)

Teen Events (grades 6-12)

Visit mpld.org for more info and to register

March 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
BABY TIMES TUE 10:30 AM	TOT TIMES WED 10 AM & 10:30 AM	STORY TIMES THUR 10:30 AM FRI 10:30 AM	1 11:30 AM ELWOOD OUT 4P CRAFTY KIDS: POM-POM CANNONS	2 9A ELWOOD STORY TIME	3	4 11A IRISH FEST MINI GOLF
5	6	7 5P Tech Tuesday: Blogging 101	8 5P Craft all Things: DIY Phone Speakers	9 9A ELWOOD STORY TIME 6:30P PAJAMAPALOOZA	10	11 10A LIL' LEPRECHAUN SCAVENGER HUNT
12	13 3:30P MM: HEALTHY HEART 4:30P SIPS & SMOKS	14	15 4P WORLD TRAVELERS: BRAZIL	16 9A ELWOOD STORY TIME 4P HOW TO DRAW: LEONARDO	17 1:30P SCHOOL'S OUT/ MOVIE DAY: ZOOTOPIA	18 2:30P PAJAMAPALOOZA
19	20 3:30P MM: BOOK BONDING	21 5P Tech Tuesday: Spring Vinyl	22 5P GIGGLE SOCIETY: KIDS DELIVERY SERVICE	23 9A ELWOOD STORY TIME 6:30P PAJAMAPALOOZA	24 5P & 5:30P Laser Tag Lock-In	25 12P SPRING INTO ART: SPLATTER PAINT
26	SPECIAL GUEST: CHRIS FASCIONE MARCH 26TH AT 5 PM	27 12P SPRING INTO ART: DOTS 4P LEGO SCIENCE	28 12P SPRING INTO ART: SCULPTURES 4P JUGGLING STORYTELLER	29 12P SPRING INTO ART: WHITE OUT WORDS ART	30 9A ELWOOD STORY TIME 12P SPRING INTO ART: STAINED GLASS	31 12P SPRING INTO ART: SPLATTER PAINT



Elwood Egg Hunt & Community Breakfast

Saturday, April 8th

**Easter Bunny Breakfast at Elwood Church
8:00-11:00**
**Free biscuits and gravy breakfast
&**
Easter Bunny Photos



**Egg Hunt at Tyler Park
for children age 2 through 10**
10:00 - 2 & 3 year old egg hunt
10:15 - 4 to 6 year old egg hunt
10:30 - 7 to 10 year old egg hunt

Join us for this well-loved annual tradition. The Elwood Egg Hunt and Easter Bunny Breakfast are free community events. All are welcome!

Elwood Church is located at
101 N. Chicago Street, across from Tyler Park.

For more information call 815-424-1093.



Red Carpet Corridor

May 6 & 7 at Elwood Village Hall

— Saturday & Sunday —

Antique Tractors - Historical Presentation

— Saturday Only —

Red Carpet Roundup - Midewin Bison Shuttle

9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

New! Fitness Classes

The Ultimate Fitness Factor (TUFF) is now hosting NEW fitness classes at Elwood Village Hall, 401 E. Mississippi Avenue, starting January 23! Classes will be somewhat of a boot camp style with resistance training, functional movements, and cardiovascular exercises all combined to make a fun filled experience that produces results! For more information, find our business page "tuff training Elwood" through "what is happening in Elwood" page on Facebook. You can also inquire about the program and register by sending an email to tufftraining@icloud.com.

Classes offered 5 days a week! Cost is \$65 per month for unlimited classes. Pay and sign up at the start of any class. Hope to see you there!



TUFF TRAINING CLASS SCHEDULE

Great Deal!
You get
Unlimited
classes!

Upcoming Day Classes At Elwood Village Hall Basement

Mon/Wed/Fri
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Upcoming Evening Classes At Elwood Village Hall Community Room

Tues. 2/28	6:30 p.m.	Thurs. 3/2	6:30 p.m.
Tues. 3/7	7:30 p.m.	Thurs. 3/9	6:30 p.m.
Tues. 3/14	6:30 p.m.	Thurs. 3/16	6:30 p.m.

ELWOOD COMMUNITY DAYS



2017

NEW DATE THIS YEAR ...

The reason is simple: If we change the date, we can get a bigger carnival for the same ticket price! MegaPasses will be available at Elwood Village Hall.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

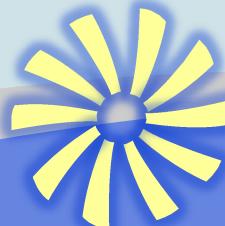
Friday, August 25

Saturday, August 26

Sunday, August 27



Volunteers are needed.
Those willing to help out with activities, please call Elwood Village Hall, 815-424-1093, or email jamie.mack@villageofelwood.com.



At Lloyd Erickson Park, 801 N. Chicago Street, Elwood, IL