

# February 2017 Regional Status Report

Including Jackson & Channahon Townships

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

[villageofelwood.com](http://villageofelwood.com)

[facebook.com/Elwood.IL](https://facebook.com/Elwood.IL)

[twitter.com/elwood\\_il](https://twitter.com/elwood_il)



**Village President**  
**William Offerman**

## 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 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 a 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  
Corrissa 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 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

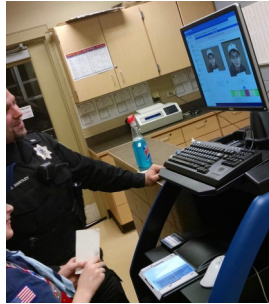


On Wednesday February 1st, Elwood Cub Scout Pack 156 visited the Elwood Police Department. Officer Jim Hartley and Officer Nick Adams provided the Cub Scouts with a highly educational presentation on the inner workings of law enforcement.

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](http://wmatyourdoor.com).
- 2 Call toll free 1-800-449-7587 (M-F, 5am-5pm)
- 3 Email [AtYourDoor@WM.com](mailto: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 [WMATYOURDOOR.COM](http://WMATYOURDOOR.COM)
- Call (800) 449-7587 - We're available 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. CST M-F.
- Email [ATYOURDOOR@WM.COM](mailto: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

Antifreeze, batteries, brake fluid, motor oil and filters, fuels, and more.



### Garden Chemicals

Fertilizers, insect sprays, herbicides, pesticides, and weed killers.



### Paint Products

Paint, caulk, glue, stain, stripper, thinner, and wood preservative.



### Household Cleaners

Ammonia, heavy-duty cleaner, rust remover, tile/shower cleaner, upholstery cleaner, and more.



### Electronics

Computer, monitor, keyboards, MP3 players, televisions, DVD/CD players, tape players, VCR, cell phones, desktop printers, fax machines, and microwaves.



### Mercury containing items

Batteries, compact fluorescent lamps, fluorescent tubes, thermometers, and thermostats.



### Sharps, needles, and lancets

Must be placed in a sealed, rigid, puncture resistant container.

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.



# THE VILLAGE OF ELWOOD CHILDREN'S GARDEN 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY T-SHIRT ORDER FORM



PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	SIZE	SUBTOTAL
		TOTAL DUE:	

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

	CHECK
	CASH
	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

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.

**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 1<sup>st</sup>  
Time: 9 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Registration packets are available at [elwoodschool.com](http://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.**

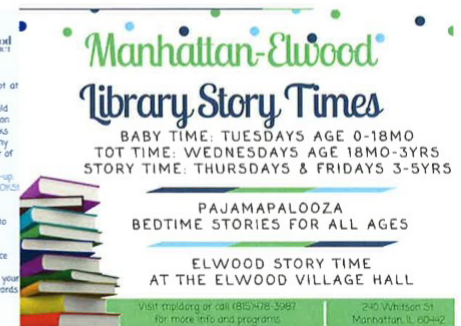
Register at [mpld.org](http://mpld.org)

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



## March 2017

KID EVENTS (AGES K-5)

Teen Events (grades 6-12)

Visit [mpld.org](http://mpld.org) for more info and to register

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 11:30A ELWOOD OUT 4P CRAFTY KIDS: POMPOM CANNONS	2 9A ELWOOD STORY TIME	3	4 11A IRISH FEST MINE GOLF
5	6	7 5p Tech Tuesday: Blogging 101	8 5p Crafty all Things DIY Phone Speakers	9 9A ELWOOD STORY TIME 6:30P PAJAMAPALOOZA	10	11 10A ELAM THE LEPRECHAUN SCAVENGER HUNT
12	13 3:30P MIM: HEALTHY HEART 4:30P STIPS & SMUCKS	14	15 4P WORLD TRAVELERS BRAZIL	16 9A ELWOOD STORY TIME 4P HOW TO DRAW: LEONARDO	17 1:15P SCHOOL'S OUT/ MOVIE DAY: ZOOTOPIA	18
19	20 3:30P MIM: BOOK BINDING	21 5p Tech Tuesday: Spring Vinyl	22 5p Grin! Society Kids Delivery Service	23 9A ELWOOD STORY TIME 6:30P PAJAMAPALOOZA	24 5p & 5:30p Laser Tag Lock-In	25
26 SPECIAL GUEST CHRIS FASCIONE MARCH 27TH AT 9 PM	27 12P SPRING INTO ART: DAYS 4P LEGO SCIENCE	28 12P SPRING INTO ART: SCULPTURES 5P JUGGLING STORYTELLER	29 12P SPRING INTO ART: WRITE OUT WORDS	30 9A ELWOOD STORY TIME 12P SPRING INTO ART: STAINED GLASS	31 12P SPRING INTO ART: SPLATTER PRINT	

# Elwood Egg Hunt & Community Breakfast Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>

**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 - Midwin 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](mailto: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**

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

# 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](mailto:jamie.mack@villageofelwood.com).



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