

Postal Customer

EDM MAILER
ELWOOD, IL 60421



Update on Development Proposals

NorthPoint Development Phase One of the Compass Business Park development is a total of 851 acres. The developer will be presenting an application for rezoning of 675 acres to I-2 (light industrial) at the Village's Planning and Zoning Commission meeting on December 19 at 7 PM at the Village Hall. The remaining 176 acres of the Park is already in the Village and will also proposed to be rezoned.

The property, which is under consideration for rezoning, lies West of the Village of Elwood's boundary agreement with the Village of Manhattan. Mayor Todd Matichak said "the Village of Elwood is committed to honoring our boundary agreements with all of our neighboring communities".

The development proposal has been under study for the past several months between the Village staff and NorthPoint. Staff and consultants have evaluated planning, financial, engineering, traffic and public safety. In addition to meetings with the Village's team, developers have held a number of meetings with the property owners who are adjacent to the business park.

The development application states in part, "the focal point of Compass Business Park is to create a restricted-access semi-truck road network using a system of overhead barriers and semi-truck turn-arounds to limit the ability of semi-trucks to

access Compass Business Park from local or residential roads, including Route 53."

The NorthPoint development proposal can be found on the Village's website – www.villageofelwood.com at the Economic Development tab.

J-Power USA's development of a state of the art combined cycle power plant water and sewer study is nearing completion by the Village's engineers Baxter and Woodman.

After reviewing the study with Village officials and the Developer, it is anticipated that a development agreement will be presented for Village Board consideration early next year.

Financial Management Plan is nearing completion and will be presented to the Village of Elwood Board in the next couple of months. In the August and September newsletters, comprehensive information was provided regarding the need for the Village to develop a financial management plan.

The situation was created in part due to General Obligation bonds issued more than eight years ago which will become due six years from now in 2023. The bonds were issued to support anticipated development and growth through significant infrastructure improvements.

Large Crowd Enjoys Tree Lighting Ceremony



December 2017

Village of Elwood

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

Village President

Todd C. Matichak

Village Trustees

Doug Jenco

Darryl Lab

Dean Lowrance

Mary Matichak

Jasen Melahn

Village Clerk

Julie Friebele

Village Administrator

Marian Gibson

marian.gibson@villageofelwood.com

Chief of Police

Fred Hayes

elwoodpolice@villageofelwood.com

Superintendent Public Works

Larry Lohmar

public.works@villageofelwood.com

Finance Director

Robbie Day

robbie.day@villageofelwood.com

Code Enforcement &

Permit Technician

Pat Winters

Pat.Winters@villageofelwood.com

Events Coordinator

Marie Rodgers

Marie.Rodgers@villageofelwood.com

villageofelwood.com

facebook.com/Elwood.IL
twitter.com/elwood_il

Merry CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY New Year

Mayor's Message...

Hello Elwood. I hope all is well and your 2017 has been great so far. The cold weather has arrived so please take precautions and make sure little ones are dressed appropriately.



The Elwood Christmas tree was donated by Al and Barb Denzy.

I would like to thank everyone who came out for the tree lighting ceremony on Saturday, December 1st. I hope everyone had fun and got a chance to sit with Santa.

Thanks to the Village staff, the Elwood School band and choir, the Elwood Church, the Fire Department and Cub Scout Pack 156 along with the many students from Joliet Central High School.

A special thank you goes to Al and Barb Denzy for donating the beautiful tree and the Elwood School Student Council for decorating the tree.

On December 16 volunteers will be placing wreaths on the grave sites, of those who served our Country, at the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery as part of the "Wreaths Across America" program. Please take a drive through the Cemetery to see how beautiful it looks.

With the change in the weather, I encourage you to check on your neighbors to make sure they are doing well. I am sure they would appreciate your help in shoveling their sidewalk or getting their mail. Sidewalk shoveling also makes it much safer for our children to walk to school.

There will be two additional crossing guards at Diagonal/Chicago and Mississippi/Chicago to help the children safely cross the street to and from the school. Additionally, we will be adding a stop sign at this Diagonal/Chicago intersection. See the article on Page 3.

With the falling temperatures, the Public Works staff is putting up the ice rink in the next couple weeks at Lloyd Erickson Park. We are going to try something different with the rink. It will be placed under the pavilion which will solve lighting issues and we hope it will extend its use. If we get some good snows, remember the sledding hill in the park.

As always, stay safe, be careful and if you need anything please contact the Village for assistance. Have a wonderful holiday season, a Merry Christmas, and a great 2018.

God Bless,

Todd C. Matichak

mayor.matichak@villageofelwood.com

Offices Closed for Holidays

December 22 to 25—Christmas Eve and Christmas
December 29—Noon, for New Years Eve
January 1—New Years Day

Upcoming Meetings

December 19, Planning and Zoning Commission, 7 PM
January 3, Village Board Meeting, 7 PM





Be Alert for Village Snow Plowing



The Public Works staff wants to remind you that it's that time of year again with **SNOW** season upon us. Just a reminder when snow is being predicted, keep your vehicles off the roadways and in your driveway.

Under Village ordinance 919, parking is prohibited on the street during or after a snowfall with an accumulation of two or more inches. Also if a vehicle parked on the street is declared a nuisance or hazard, it will be towed at the owners expense.



This allows our snow plows to clean and salt the streets without having to avoid parked vehicles. Stay back 150-feet from our plows to avoid being sprayed when salt is being applied.

It is not safe to try and pass a snow plow because the driver has a hard time seeing you with his windows icing up while controlling the plow and spreader.

The Village currently has 400 tons of treated salt stock-piled for this winter to use on the 138 plow miles they cover and 1.75 acres of parking lots. The salt is treated so that it will be effective to -10 degrees.

Quiet Zone to Start in Mid-January

The Village has completed the process of filing for a quiet zone at the UP Railroad crossing at Manhattan Road.

All necessary approvals have been received and the NO TRAIN HORN signs have been installed. The UP has notified the Village that their trains are programmed to sound their horn at the crossing and they will need until the second week in January to update the computer program in the train engines to recognize the new quite zone.

Let's get back to the basics of recycling.

Remember these three rules each time you recycle:



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.



LED Street Lights Generate Savings

Early this year the Village of Elwood signed an agreement with ComEd to participate in their Smart-Ready LED Streetlight program.



The upgraded technology is provided through ComEd's Smart Ideas Energy Efficiency Program at no cost to the Village. ComEd is planning on replacing nearly 18,000 ComEd-owned street lights in more than 50 Illinois municipalities.

The LED streetlights connect to a digital smart controller. The LED streetlights will link to ComEd's smart grid wireless network enabling two-way communications.

In the future, this will allow the Village to remotely and instantaneously dim lights for energy savings and brighten or flash them for greater safety and to receive immediate notification if a lamp is in need of maintenance.

Savings are being generated through lower operating costs. For example, 175w bulbs are being replaced with 53w LED bulbs. The 150w bulbs are being replaced with 75w LED bulbs.

ComEd has estimated an annual cost savings, for the Village, of more than \$3500 per year.

The Village's Public Works staff will be retro-fitting, the ornamental street lights on Mississippi, to LED's this month.

Elwood Soccer Team at Morris Tournament



The picture was taken after the first day of the Morris Tournament. Kneeling from left to right: Liam Zimmerman, Chris Garza, Cody McLaren and Liam Walsh. 2nd row: Nate Tallon, Landyn VanGampler, Isaac Zimmerman and Kaydi Tallon. 3rd row: Nate Butt, Jersy Hauert, Keegan VanGampler, Garret and Jonny Berscheid, Jayden and Johnny Majewski, Matthew Giorgetti, and Johnny Stasiak. Backrow: Bob and Josh Zimmerman. Not pictured: David Casey and Garret Johnson

Two Crossing Guards Added

At the beginning of the school year, Mayor Todd Maticak requested that the police department take a look at the school crossing guard program with expectations of improving safety for all school children walking to and from school.



A school crossing guard program works to improve the safety for students who walk, bicycle, or take transit to school.

The Elwood Police Department (EPD) works closely with school officials each year to ensure that all measures are in place to make the passageway to, from, and around Elwood School safe so that children are able to walk and bicycle with minimal conflicts with motorized traffic.

EPD also works with the Village of Elwood Public Works department for the inclusion of engineering measures that can be utilized, including physical improvements to the transportation infrastructure in the vicinity of the school.

Currently Elwood School has one crossing guard assigned in the

school zone at Chicago and Bush. EPD officers are regularly assigned to assist the crossing guard and provide traffic enforcement coverage at arrival and dismissal times. Due to an increase in passenger vehicle traffic and Commercial Motor Vehicle's (CMV's) traveling through to get to the CenterPoint Industrial Park, the Elwood School Administration also recommended the assignment of crossing guards at two additional intersections.

As part of a neighborhood traffic management program the Village of Elwood invited CenterPoint Properties to help fund the placement of more school crossing guards. Under this program the cost would be equally shared between Elwood School District #203, Village of Elwood, and CenterPoint Properties. The cost includes staffing three intersections for Elwood School as follows:

1. Chicago and Bush (current)
2. Chicago and Mississippi (new)
3. Chicago and Diagonal (new)

At the November 1st Village Board meeting, the Board of Trustees approved the intergovernmental agreement between the Village of Elwood and the Elwood School District authorizing the reimbursement of costs to the Elwood School District.

Trees Planted at Lloyd Erickson Park



Scott Starkey and Rhea Kerrigan, of the Public Works Department, planted 16 trees at Lloyd Erickson Park in mid-November. The Village received the trees through an Illinois Forever Tree Program grant.

Elwood/Jackson Township History Club



This 1910 photo of Mississippi Avenue is looking west through downtown. The History Club has other photos of the village and township prior to 1899. The Club meets the 2nd Thursday of the month at the Village Hall at 1 PM. Visitors and new members are welcome.

Community Service Hours Available

If your son or daughter needs hours for graduation, we can provide opportunities at various village activities/projects. Contact the Village Hall for additional information.

