



Village of Elwood

• *Established 1889* •

Proud of our past, Building our future

Village President: William E. Offerman

December 2009 Status Report

Village to honor those who serve

Our village hall will establish a Wall of Honor and Respect for local active duty United States Service Members. We are asking for the public's help in identifying area men in women who serve our country. Military families in Jackson Township are asked to contact Elwood Village Hall, 815-423-5011.

Residents reminded to lock car doors

Elwood Police Department reminds area residents to lock their car and garage doors, as communities throughout the area have seen a substantial increase in burglaries to automobiles.

"People need to make certain, even in Elwood, that they lock their cars and garages," warns Elwood Police Chief Dave Albert. These are crimes of opportunity, as thieves are not breaking into cars, but opening unlocked car doors and taking whatever they find inside. GPS systems, purses, sunglasses, cameras and even spare change have been stolen. Area wide, burglars have even entered garages where cars are parked to gain access to these items. By simply locking doors, we can protect ourselves and keep Elwood's crime rates among the lowest in Will County.

Board maintains low tax rate

As Elwood Village Board prepares to approve the 2009 tax levy, there is no proposed increase in the village tax rate. Elwood's current tax rate of 0.25 is the third lowest in Will County (We come in slightly higher than Diamond and Godley.). The village will levy \$7,000 in additional funds without raising the rate due to an increased Equalized Assessed Valuation (EAV), much of it in the form of new property added to the village tax rolls this year. By capturing this recently constructed property at the CenterPoint development, Elwood residents will continue to enjoy the benefits of a low tax rate.

Santa Claus is coming to town

Santa Clause will visit Elwood Village Hall Community Room on Saturday, Dec. 19 from 10 a.m. until noon. Children and their families are invited to visit with Santa and have their pictures taken with the jolly old elf, make a holiday craft and watch favorite seasonal movies. Cookies and cocoa will be served. The event is free courtesy of the Elwood Park Committee.

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Downtown sidewalk project completed

Sidewalk repair along the Mississippi Ave. downtown district is complete. The public works project, executed by Quigley Construction, repaired and replaced worn concrete and connected sections of the ten-foot wide bike path. The street light portion of the project will be finished by the end of the month, as Comed is scheduled to raise power lines within the next two weeks. Elwood Public Works Department appreciates the patience and cooperation of downtown businesses during this project and hopes residents and business owners will benefit from the improvements.

Elwood Food Pantry offers assistance

The Elwood Community Church/Jackson Township Food Pantry is open on the third Saturday of each month from 10-11 a.m. Residents of Jackson Township are welcome. Proof of residency is required. The food pantry operates by generous donations of area residents and businesses, and donations are needed this holiday season. Collection boxes are located at Bank of Elwood, Elwood Post Office and Elwood Community Church. Elwood Food Pantry is located at 101 N. Chicago Street in Elwood. Call 815-423-5113 for more information.

Weight Watchers to start meetings in Elwood

Coming in January, Weight Watchers will begin holding meetings at the Elwood Village Hall Community Room. The program will start Jan. 8, and meetings will be held every Friday at 9:30 a.m., with weigh-in beginning at 9 a.m. For more information call 815-954-9259. Right now, Weight Watchers is waiving registration fees for new members. Meeting fees are \$12 per week or \$39.95 per month.

It's not too late to join Yoga-Fitness class

The current session of Yoga-Fitness Class is underway. The class meets on Tuesdays from 5:30-6:30 p.m., and new participants are welcome. Those who did not register at the start of the class may purchase 4 classes for \$20. Those classes may be used any time during the current session. Yoga Fitness combines elements of Yoga with the cardiovascular benefits of a traditional workout. It's a great workout for any skill level. For more information, call 815-424-1093.