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ELWOOD, IL 60421



Village of Elwood Easter Egg Hunt & Easter Bunny Breakfast

Saturday, March 24, 2018

Free Easter Bunny Breakfast & Photo with the Easter Bunny
Elwood Church, 101 N. Chicago Street

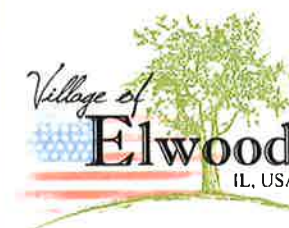
Easter Egg Hunt, Tyler Park

10:00 AM - 2 & 3 Year Olds

10:15 AM - 4 to 6 Year Olds

10:30 AM - 7 to 10 Year Olds

*Students can earn Community Service hours by helping with this community-wide event.



March 2018

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

Village President

Doug Jenco

Village Trustees

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Don LaPaglia

Dean Lowrance

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Events Coordinator

Marie Rodgers

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Mayor's Message....



At our Village Board meeting on March 7, we approved a budget of \$21,341,101 for Fiscal Year 2018-19, a 1.02% increase over the current budget. The new budget goes into effect on May 1, 2018.

Our budget process actually started in October when the Department Managers met with the Finance Director with their initial proposals for the 2018-19 Fiscal Year. In addition, the Board reviews and provides input on the five-year capital budget. This budget includes requests for projects, new equipment and vehicle replacement.

The Finance Director uses the input from the managers to develop a preliminary budget which is then reviewed and revised by the management team.

At this point, the management team then held individual meetings with the Trustees to get their comments on the budget. The tentative budget, which included the recommendations from the Trustees, was presented at a public hearing on February 7, 2018, for residents' comments.

Therefore, when the Board of Trustees approved the final 2018-19 budget on March 7, countless hours had been dedicated to developing the budget. The Board and I would like to thank the Village Staff for the great work they did in developing our budget, especially Robbie Day, Finance Director.

This budget has a small increase in property taxes of \$49,000. Our Workers Compensation premium has dropped by \$12,600 because we have not had a claim in the past 12 years. We are projecting an increase of 20% in health insurance premiums later this year when our policy renews. We will be increasing water rates by 6% and sewer rates by 3% per the Financial Management Plan recommendation by our consultant, Ehlers. Due to a change at the State level, we brought the overweight funds in to support general fund activities and paying for bonds from the general funds.

Capital improvement projects that we anticipate completing in the fiscal year include the replacement of the street lights in the Wooded Cove subdivision, securing the records department in the Police Department and making improvements to the police parking lot including the addition of a fence and a car port. Repairs are planned for the Village Hall and we will be doing some pavement rejuvenation and markings.

We plan to connect our water system to Joliet's water system to provide redundancy for our system. If our water tower would have to be taken out of service for repairs, etc, the connection to the Joliet system would allow uninterrupted service for the village and insure public safety needs are met.

We have moved up the timetable for a water main improvement project for the Shady Nook area from Spring of 2019 to this Spring. The temporary repairs we made to the water line, this winter, only served as a short-term solution, so we feel we need to move forward with running a new 8-inch waterline under Route 53 at St. Louis Street. We have adjusted the budget to reflect this additional project.

The budget can be found on the Village's website.

Warmest Regards,
Mayor Doug Jenco

Upcoming Meetings

Planning and Zoning Commission—March 27, 7:00 PM

Park Committee - March 28, 6:30 PM

Elwood International Port, April 4, 5 PM

Village Board of Trustees, April 4, 7 PM

Save the Dates for Upcoming Village Events

The Village of Elwood has released the 2018 Event Schedule so mark your calendars now for these Village sponsored events. This calendar is also on the Village's web site.

March

24th - 8:00 to 11:00 AM - Easter Egg Hunt, Tyler Park and Breakfast with the Easter Bunny at the Elwood Church

24th - 1:00 to 2:30 PM - Spring cleanup at the Children's Garden (Rain Date April 4th, same time)

April

17th to 19th - Art in the Garden at the Children's Garden

May

5th - 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM - Route 66 Red Carpet at the Village Hall

19th - 10:00 to 12:00 AM - Community Plant Day at the Children's Garden (Rain Date May 26th)

June

1st & 2nd - 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM - Village Wide Garage Sale

12th - 7:00 to 8:00 PM - Silver Strings Band, Children's Garden

19th - 7:00 to 8:00 PM - Ukulele Moonshiners, Children's Garden

July

10th - 6:00 PM - Concert by Shoebox, Children's Garden

11th, 18th & 25th - 7:00 to 8:00 PM - Ukulele Lessons - Children's Garden

August

1st - 7:00 to 8:00 PM - Ukulele Lessons - Children's Garden

7th - 6:00 to 8:00 PM - National Night Out, Tyler Park

14th - 7:00 to 8:00 PM - South Suburban Dulcimers, Children's Garden

24th, 25th & 26th - 12:00 to 3:00 PM - Open House, Children's Garden

24th, 25th & 26th - Elwood Days, Lloyd Erickson Park

September

14th - 6:30 to 8:00 PM - Game Night, Village Hall

October

31st - 4:00 to 7:00 PM - Halloween Party, Village Hall

December

1st - 5:00 to 7:30 PM - Holiday Lighting Celebration, Village Hall

Proper Medication Disposal

The disposal of medications, either over-the-counter or prescription medications, can be done at the Village Hall in the Med Return box located in the front lobby.



Disposing of your medications in the garbage or by putting them down the toilet creates an environmental hazard.

Using the box is a safe way to dispose of medications. Access to the box is available when the Village Hall is open.

Waste Management Spring Clean-up Day Monday, May 7

Items that will be accepted include white goods (refrigerators, water heaters, washers, dryers, etc.) and up to 4 automobile tires (rims removed) per residential unit.

Vegetable Garden Plots



Community garden plots are available for 2018 at Lloyd Erickson Park. Contact Marie at 815-424-1093 if you are interested.

Community Garden Meetings are scheduled for April 3, June 5, August 7 and October 2 at 6 PM in the Community Room at the Village Hall.

SENIOR SERVICES
251 N. Center Street,
Joliet, IL 60435
815-723-9713

ComEd to Install Smart Meters Starting in April

ComEd crews plan to be in the Village of Elwood starting in April 2018 to install smart meters at all homes and businesses in the area. This phase of installation is expected to end in August 2018.

Installations will be performed by a uniformed meter installer with appropriate identification from ComEd or a ComEd-authorized contractor, Corix or MZI Group. Contact the police department if you have a concern about the installer.

A smart meter is a digital electric meter that securely sends energy-usage information to ComEd. ComEd will be installing smart meters that are certified by Underwriters Laboratories, further demonstrating the meters are safe and reliable.

Smart meters help eliminate estimated bills and reduce operating costs that become savings on your energy bills. Residential customers with smart meters have access to energy-management tools, high-usage alerts and weekly reports summarizing daily energy use to help them manage their energy bills.

They can also enroll in ComEd's Peak Time Savings and Hourly Pricing programs and save money by voluntarily shifting energy use to times where there is less demand. Additional money-saving programs that use smart meter information may be available through other electric suppliers.

Smart meters are important building blocks of the smart grid that is providing customers with faster restoration

times by notifying ComEd when an outage occurs and when power has been restored.

Smart meters will be installed in all homes and businesses across northern Illinois by the end of 2018. Homes and businesses scheduled for smart meter installations will receive information from ComEd explaining how the installation process will work and how customers can use smart meters to manage their energy use.

For more information, visit ComEd.com/SmartMeter.

FOIA Information On Village Web Site

New information is now available on the Village's website, under **Your Government** (www.villageofelwood.com).

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests and responses are available on website for 2017 & 2018. It has been posted to provide easy access to documents requested under the act.

Below is a screen shot of what you will see under **Your Government**. You simply click on either 2017 or 2018 and you will see a list of requests along with the Village's response.



You are encouraged, when making a request for documents, to review the website to see if the information has been previously requested.

Food Pantry Change

Starting in April, the Food Pantry will be open the first Saturday of the month from 11 AM to noon. All Volunteers should be there from 8 AM to noon to help sort, stock and bag at the Pantry.

Any questions, call the Elwood Church at 815-423-5113 and leave a message for the food pantry team.

Let's get back to the basics of recycling.

Remember these three rules each time you recycle:



Elwood/Jackson Township Historical Society



This old Iron Bridge was located on Manhattan Road near the Tanglewood Subdivision. The road leading up to the bridge was gravel and curved around through the woods to Highway 53. It was eventually replaced with a modern bridge.