



January 30, 2017 Regional Status Report

Including Jackson & Channahon Townships

401 E. Mississippi Avenue • Elwood, IL 60421 • 815-423-5011
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Mayor's Message...

The Village of Elwood is already hard at work pursuing plans for 2017, and as I look at all we've accomplished so far during my eighth year as Village President, I feel we are on course to achieve the goals we set together for the Elwood community.

We've moved steadily forward to advance our infrastructure, business development, safety and quality of life. Without investment in those areas, a community can't expect to thrive, and in 2016 we successfully completed another round of ambitious improvements.

I notice our village improvements daily as I travel through Elwood and take great pride in what we've built, maintained and restored. Our investment in quality of life is evident everywhere we look.

In 2017, we'll continue to invest in infrastructure and services that make Elwood a safe and efficient place to live, work and do business. We'll continue to create opportunities for residents to enjoy life in our close-knit community, and we'll continue to demand responsible development throughout the region.

As always, I appreciate your continued support of our far-reaching goals and welcome your input and feedback as we move forward this year.

*Sincerely,
William Offerman*

Village Board hears positive audit report

In December the Elwood Village Board of Trustees heard the annual audit report presentation from Matt Baran of CPA firm Lauterbach & Amen.

"It was another good audit year for the Village of Elwood," Baran told the board.

The audit of fiscal year 2015/16, which ended on April 30, 2016, found that Elwood's funds were on budget, and general funds were in a positive surplus. The audit produced no new recommendations for improvements.

"We continually strives to im-

prove Elwood's financial standing and ease the taxpayer burden for operations and debt. Our goal is to provide the highest standard of village services and facilities, while imposing the lowest taxes and fees. This is our board's commitment to responsible government," said Elwood Mayor William Offerman.

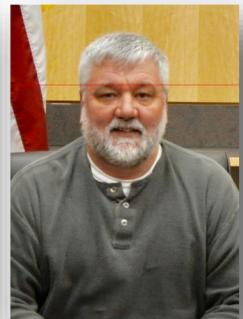
In 2015/16, the village recorded a total assets increase of \$887,781. The General Fund reported an ending fund balance of \$1,414,320, which reflects a \$175,047, or 14.1 percent increase for the year.



**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. 1	Village Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.	Feb. 3	Senior Movie Day	1:00 p.m.	Feb. 11	Valentines Movie Night	5:00 p.m.
Feb. 15	Village Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.	Feb. 17	Craft Group	1:00 p.m.	Feb. 20	President's Day	



Elwood Progress

Public Improvements

Over the past several years, the Village of Elwood has made great progress in improving our public infrastructure. This includes roadways, sidewalks, water and sewer operations, storm water management, erosion control - all the systems that make a town livable. Elwood's Public Improvement Initiative is extensive and has touched every aspect of our daily lives. The improvements we've made to Elwood's infrastructure are too numerous to list, but here are some of the highlights:

- ~ Reconstruction of unsafe intersections, including Bush Drive and Beattie Street.
- ~ Resurfacing and repair of asphalt erosion on streets throughout the village. This has been an enormous, multi-year task. It included curb, gutter, sidewalk and inlaid crosswalk improvements.
- ~ Completion of anti-erosion measures at Lloyd Erickson pond. We accomplished this project without cost to village taxpayers by partnering with the pipeline company whose line is near the pond.
- ~ Maintenance of roadways within the Deer Run Industrial park, including asphalt and concrete repair and roadway shoulder reconstruction.
- ~ Design, engineering and construction of a weigh station facility for Deer Run Industrial Park.
- ~ Replacement of trees throughout the village parkways due to ash bore destruction.
- ~ Replacement of over 100 street signs in an effort to create safer roadways.
- ~ Repair and expansion of Elwood's water main system. We extended the feed lines to loop through the village and eliminate dead ends, creating stronger pressure and better quality.
- ~ Upgrades to Elwood's lift stations. We improved function at the lift stations, installing upgraded pumps and back up generators.
- ~ Updates to the village storm water system. We responded to the needs of homeowners for advancements in our drainage system, resolving issues and preventing future problems.
- ~ Improved efficiency at our water treatment and waste water treatment plants. We took over operations of our service facilities from an outside contractor. In doing so, we not only secured a tremendous cost savings, we improved the efficiency of our operations.
- ~ Updates to Elwood's lift stations. We improved function at the lift stations, installing upgraded pumps and back up generators.
- ~ Design of St. Louis Street safety improvements- We recently received additional grant funding to reconfigure St. Louis Street at Route 53, eliminating the current skewed approach and aligning the St. Louis Street cross road on both sides of IL 53. The project is anticipated to start in 2018.

We've come a long way in a large undertaking. There is still much to do, however, and 2017 will be another year of ambitious public improvements. Our residents have become accustomed to a busy construction season in Elwood. The Elwood Village Board of Trustees thanks everyone for their support of these projects.

Congratulations Elwood Cub Scouts on a great Pinewood Derby!



Elwood Pack 156 hosted its annual Pinewood Derby at Elwood School on January 21, and the scouts showed, once again, that they know how to have fun and learn at the same time.

Judging the derby were Elwood Trustee Jasen Melahn, Elwood Mayor William Offerman, Elwood Trustee Patrick Cotter and Jackson Township Trustee Norm Fanning.

Spotlight On...

Elwood Village Trustee Dean Lowrance

Dean Lowrance is finishing his fourth year as an Elwood Village Trustee. Prior to his term on the village board, Trustee Lowrance served for two years on the Elwood Planning and Zoning Commission. Dean and his wife, Joyce, have lived in Elwood for ten years.

Trustee Lowrance is known for his ability to see a project through to completion.

"In order to have an impact, you need to be involved," Trustee Lowrance said of his decision to serve on the Elwood Village Board.

Among his accomplishments, Trustee Lowrance spearheaded the effort to install a community garden at Lloyd Erickson park and initiated the O'Connor Park Pickleball court.

Trustee Lowrance continues to be involved in both projects, working to execute drainage improvements at the community garden and create Pickleball nights at the new court.

Elwood has a safe place for your newborn. No Shame. No blame. No Names.

Did you know...The state of Illinois has a Safe Haven law to protect infants, and Elwood police and fire departments are Safe haven locations. Illinois law (325 ILCS 2/1-70) says:

- ⇒ You can leave your unharmed baby, who can be up to 30 days old, and
- ⇒ You can walk away with no questions asked, and you will remain anonymous and protected from prosecution.
- ⇒ You must hand the baby to a staff person at a hospital, staffed fire station, police station, or sheriff's office, and
- ⇒ If you leave the baby with someone at a staffed fire, police, or sheriff station, the baby will be transported to a hospital and seen by a doctor.
- ⇒ If you leave your baby with a person at a Safe Haven, there is legal presumption that you are the biological parent, that you consent to the termination of your parental rights and you are relinquishing your baby for adoption.

Give your baby a chance. For confidential information or help, please call 1-888-510-2229.

Staff celebrates five years without an injury claim

While reviewing updates from the village's insurance broker, Alliant/Mesirow, last month, the Elwood Village Board of Trustees observed that Elwood staff has not filed an injury claim in since 2011.

"Elwood's liability insurance trends remarkably low because we have no claims. Safety policies and procedures have been implemented in all departments, and the result is evident. I would like to commend

all staff and supervisors for making safety our priority in this village," said Elwood Mayor William Offerman.

Five years without an injury claim is extremely uncommon in municipal operations, according to Alliant/Mesirow's Karen Rice.

"I use Elwood as an example of a municipality that can have full services and still be claim (payment) free," Rice said.

Elwood School Preschool Open House

Please come join us for a presentation on the Elwood School Preschool Program at Elwood CCSD#203. 409 N. Chicago Avenue, Elwood

Date: Thursday, February 9, 2017

Time: 6:00 - 6:45 p.m. Presentation in the IMC

6:15 - 7:00 p.m. Tour the classroom, and talk with the teacher.

We have 2 program options

- 4 Year Old Program is 5 days per week with an academic school year tuition of \$220 per month
- 3 Year Old Program is 3 days per week with an academic school year tuition of \$140 per month.



Registration will begin on February 15, 2017.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please come to the open house or contact the school office at 815-423-5588.

Thank you.



Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie Supervisor Wade Spang presents Elwood Mayor William Offerman with a letter of thanks, accompanied by a photo of a bison from Midewin's growing herd. Elwood participated in Midewin's first public bison calf viewing event, serving as a shuttle and informational location for the thousands of visitors who came out to welcome the newest members of the new herd.

Elwood will support Midewin's 2017 bison calf viewing event on May 6. We look forward to continued partnership with Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie.

HELP WANTED

The Elwood Children's Garden is seeking a part-time Garden Keeper to work 10 - 12 hours per week. The Garden Keeper will assist with garden planting and general facility maintenance. Applications are available at Elwood Village Hall, 401 E. Mississippi Ave. or online at villageofelwood.com.

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
access to
all these
classes for
just \$65
per month.

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. 1/31	6:30 p.m.	Thurs. 2/2	6:30 p.m.
Tues. 2/7	7:30 p.m.	Thurs. 2/9	6:30 p.m.
Tues. 2/14	6:30 p.m.	Thurs. 2/16	6:30 p.m.
Tues. 2/21	6:30 p.m.	Wed. 2/22	6:30 p.m.
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.



VALENTINES MOVIE NIGHT
SATURDAY, FEB. 11
FREE EVENT

ENJOY TACO DINNER, CRAFTS, TREATS & A MOVIE
at ELWOOD VILLAGE HALL, 401 E. MISSISSIPPI AVE.