

City to Evaluate Flood Prevention Infrastructure in Response to Recent Flooding

Beginning on Friday, July 23, and continuing through Sunday, July 25, the City of Elmhurst, along with many other western suburban communities, was deluged with torrential rains. An estimated 60 billion gallons of rainwater fell on the Chicago area on Friday, July 23, and Saturday, July 24, alone.

In Elmhurst, the rainfall on July 23 was recorded as 7.35 inches in 8 hours. Based on the Illinois State Water Survey current rainfall chart, this storm was well above the 100-year rain event level, and as a result, significantly exceeded the capacity of the Elmhurst storm sewer collection system — a typical design for sewers in Illinois. Elmhurst's storm sewers are designed for storms from a 5-10 year frequency, so a storm of this magnitude overtaxed the ability of the City's flood mitigation systems to cope with the volume of rainwater that fell.

The consequences of the exceptionally heavy rains were closed streets and highways, in addition to localized flooding in homes and yards. The situation was made more difficult for some homeowners in Elmhurst and other area communities by the loss of electrical power.

In the past, the City of Elmhurst has implemented numerous storm-mitigation systems, including the separation of storm and

sanitary sewers in the 1960s and additional flood prevention structures following the flooding in 1987 when Salt Creek overflowed its banks. At that time a berm and reservoir were constructed, building codes and construction requirements were updated and cost-sharing programs

were instituted, including the overhead sewer 50-50 program and the rear-yard drainage program.

In response to the recent flooding, the City is evaluating new ways to manage flooding situations of this magnitude. Elmhurst City Mayor Pete DiCianni is in the process of forming a Flood Task Force, which will work to address the repercussions of the recent flood event and also evaluate options that could prevent future flooding. (Please see his Mayor's Message concerning the flooding, which can be found on page 4.)

In the coming weeks and months, City officials and staff will be working to formulate a more extensive flood control plan that will include the following priorities:

- Assess the City's storm and sanitary systems and capacities in light of recent rainfall totals that significantly exceeded design capacity and determine how to protect public and private facilities in future.
- Evaluate private property cost-sharing programs to assist in the installation of overhead sewers and other flood protection devices.

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In the coming months, the City will continue to provide updates on its website concerning the recommendations of the Mayor's Task Force together with the results of its evaluation of flood-mitigation systems throughout the community.

First Street Parking Deck to Open in September

Downtown shoppers and commuters will soon be able to take advantage of a new multi-storey parking deck located at First St. and Larch Ave. Financed by the City and made possible by an anticipated \$2.5 million grant from METRA, this third parking deck in the downtown was designed in collaboration with business owners and residents.

The attractive new facility provides 253 additional parking spaces in a convenient, accessible location and supports the continued revitalization of the central business district with the resultant sales tax dollars returned to our community.



Flooding *continued from page 1*

- Continue to review overland stormwater flood conveyance passageways, identify private property potentially in harm's way and implement systems to limit private property exposure to flooding.
- Collaborate with ComEd concerning a plan of action for reinforcements for the power grids that serve the Elmhurst community.

In the coming months, the City will continue to provide updates on its website concerning the recommendations of the Mayor's Task Force, together with the results of its evaluation of flood-mitigation systems throughout the community. For more information, please visit www.elmhurst.org and click on the "Storm/Flood Info" icon at the lower right of the homepage. This special section also provides information about cleaning up and repairing affected homes and who to contact for assistance. Members of the community can also use a Storm/Flood Information Comment Form on the website to describe their experience.

Don't Forget to Vote

November 2, 2010, is Election Day in Illinois and the position of Governor will be on the ballot, along with many other state and federal offices. Don't forget to vote.

Early Voting

City Clerk Patty Spencer is pleased to announce that the City Clerk's Office, in conjunction with the DuPage Election Commission, will provide Early Voting for the November 2, 2010 General Election for all registered voters of DuPage County. Early Voting will take place in the Council Chambers at Elmhurst City Hall from Tuesday, October 12, 2010, through Friday, October 29, 2010, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Countywide Early Voting will begin on Monday, October 11, 2010; however, please note that the City of Elmhurst will not be open for Early Voting on Monday, October 11, in observance of Columbus Day.

DuPage County registered voters may vote "early" at any DuPage County Early Voting site. Voters interested in Early Voting can call the DuPage County Election Commission at 630-407-5600 or visit their website www.dupageelections.com for a complete list of Early Voting locations.

Council Approves Strategic Plan for Economic Development

Elmhurst has a long history of taking innovative steps to improve the community's economic climate, including the use of Tax Increment Financing (TIF) and Special Service Areas (SSA), as well as an ongoing commitment to business retention and attracting new businesses in order to ensure the city's long-term economic viability. In support of these important economic goals, the Elmhurst City Council approved a Strategic Plan for Economic Development; this multi-faceted plan is designed to encourage reinvestment, provide employment and shopping opportunities, and ultimately maintain and enhance a healthy, diverse revenue base.

"This multi-faceted plan is designed to encourage reinvestment, provide employment and shopping opportunities, and ultimately maintain and enhance a healthy, diverse revenue base."

Elmhurst Featured in *West Suburban Living*

An article in the May/June 2010 issue of *West Suburban Living* praises Elmhurst's long-standing commitment to infrastructure improvements and "commitment to its programs, people and places," citing as examples Robert Palmer Drive ("the underpass"), the Elmhurst Police Station, City Centre Plaza, Elmhurst Public Library



and the recently expanded York Community High School, as well as Wilder Park, Schiller Court, Elmhurst Park District's The Hub and the new Elmhurst Memorial

Hospital now under construction. Over a period of 30 years, these improvements came to fruition through the cooperative efforts of city officials and numerous individuals representing other governmental agencies, businesses, educational institutions and cultural bodies. The article also highlighted the community's wide variety of shopping, dining, recreational, cultural, academic and entertainment opportunities, resulting in a "Tree town [that] remains a hub of suburban activity." To read the entire article, please visit the home page of the city's website at www.elmhurst.org and click on "Elmhurst Featured in *West Suburban Living Magazine*."

Elmhurst: "Best Neighborhood for the Money 2010"

The website, www.neighborhoodscout.com, uses a variety of criteria when considering communities for its "Best Neighborhood for the Money 2010" designation. Communities are rated "Best" based on high quality of public schools, low crime rates, large, owner-occupied family homes, neighbors with college or post-graduate degrees and "median home prices [that] are surprisingly

low compared to other premium quality neighborhoods in the area," according to Andrew Schiller, a PhD geographer and creator of [neighborhoodscout.com](http://www.neighborhoodscout.com). Elmhurst was named as a "Best Neighborhood for the Money 2010" in May with median house values of under \$400,000, compared to over \$550,000 in comparable premium neighborhoods in the same metro area.

City Share of Property Tax Still One of Area's Lowest

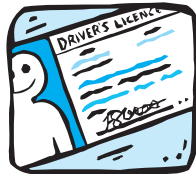
An article in the first issue of *The Front Porch* in 2010 explained in detail the structural imbalance that has existed in the City's General Fund for at least ten years. Each year, city officials were able to bridge that gap by balancing the budget through budget cuts and use of fund balances, without increasing the city's portion of the property tax. Unfortunately, by the end of the 2009-10 fiscal year, the General Fund fund balance had dropped to unacceptable levels. In order to continue to provide the services that make Elmhurst a safe and desirable community, the City Council was forced to make the difficult but crucial decision to increase the city's portion of the property tax to a more appropriate and fair share of the total property tax dollars collected. The city's tax rate was increased from an all-time low of 0.2416 in 2008 to 0.4310. In spite of the increase, Elmhurst remains considerably below the average percentage received by other cities and villages in DuPage County, as well as in suburban Chicagoland.

City officials are aware that some Elmhurst residents have been seriously affected by the nation's economic woes. In order to assist those most impacted by job loss and other problems, the Elmhurst City Council approved a property tax rebate program for qualifying low-income residents. The rebate only applies to the City's portion of the property tax. For more information, please contact Peg Oresanin at 630-530-3109.



Alive at 25

Parents and teens should be aware that 20 percent of all new teenage drivers are involved in a crash within their first year as licensed drivers. Nearly 6,000 teens die in traffic accidents each year and over 325,000 are seriously injured. Impaired driving is one of the variables at play in these tragic statistics, along with inexperience, risk-taking behavior, speed, distractions, failure to use seat belts, road rage and driving with other teens in the vehicle. "Alive at 25" is a special program offered by the Elmhurst Police Department to teach young drivers to make good driving decisions that will help keep them alive to celebrate their 25th birthdays. The class is open to teenagers who attend local public and private schools, or who live in Elmhurst. For more information, or to sign up yourself or your teenage son or daughter for "Alive at 25," please call the Elmhurst Police Department at (630) 530-3050.



City Receives Federal Grant for Law Enforcement Programs

The Elmhurst Police Department was recently awarded \$55,303 in federal grant money, which was distributed by IDOT to help fund the city's seatbelt and DUI enforcement programs.

Peer Juries: Getting Young Offenders on the Right Track

Since the first Peer Jury was convened by the Elmhurst Police Department in early 2005, many first-time, non-violent young offenders have been given a second chance to become successful law-abiding members of the community. This innovative tool provides an alternative to formal court action and is designed not to punish youthful offenders, but to provide the counsel they need through peer mediation. Peer Jury volunteers are chosen from the well-rounded, top students at Elmhurst's public and private high schools. The young jurors listen to the offender's story and make recommendations that may include community service, restitution and/or a letter of apology, based on the severity of the offense and the offender's attitude. Knowing that many of these young people embody the future leaders of our community, the program promotes discipline through self-reflection, community service and peer support. The young jurors deserve to be recognized for their efforts to help some of their peers get their lives back on the right track. Questions regarding the Peer Jury program can be directed to Sgt. McLean at (630) 530-6338.

City Combats Teenage Drug and Alcohol Abuse

The use of drugs and/or alcohol by young people all too often leads to wasted potential, avoidable injury and even death. Use of such substances over the long run can also result in health problems, unemployment and legal difficulties. Keeping Elmhurst teens safe and away from drugs and alcohol are top priorities for the Elmhurst Police Department, as well as for school officials from the community's public and private schools. Programs at local schools include the DARE program, taught by police officers, and special assemblies and programs offered by the schools.

Police enforcement programs target teens and adults who drive while under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Motorists are reminded that the fine for a first-time DUI offense in Elmhurst is \$750. The "Use It & Lose It" law, also known as "Zero Tolerance," has been in effect since 1995 and gives teens another reason to say "NO" to

drugs and alcohol. A first-time offense for a driver under the age of 21 can result in a three-month suspension of the offender's driver's license. A second offense can result in loss of driving privileges for as long as a year. Suspensions are doubled if the offender refuses to be tested.



Police Explorer Open House, October 11

On Monday, October 11, at 7:00 p.m., the Elmhurst Police Department will hold an Open House at the Elmhurst Police Station to welcome new members for the Youth Police Explorer Program. This program is open to individuals between the ages of 14 and 22 who are interested in learning more about careers in law enforcement. For more information, please visit www.ElmhurstPoliceExplorers.com.

The Mayor's Message

The following was excerpted from an open letter to the community posted on the City's website by Elmhurst Mayor Pete DiCianni concerning the recent flood event.



Dear Residents:

During the weekend of July 23-25, over 7.3 inches of rain fell in only six hours in Elmhurst, causing flooding throughout our City. We had residents with waterlogged basements, and in some cases, even first floors. Some citizens have been displaced from their homes because of the floodwaters. It is a difficult time and I want you to know that we are committed to making the damage assessment, clean-up and recovery process as easy as possible for our citizens.

When we have a natural disaster like a flood, there are four phases in the emergency management process:

1. Response is the first phase. In this phase, Elmhurst had water and sewer department personnel working around the clock to ensure the continued operation of the water and sewer treatment plant. We had police department personnel ensuring public safety on our roadways and throughout the City and dealing with issues created by closings of State and Federal highways.

Fire Department personnel went door-to-door in the hard-hit areas to see if people needed help — and in some cases moved people out of flooded areas to safety. We had street department personnel barricading flooded roadways, cleaning debris and checking the Salt Creek Flood Control Levee.

2. Assessment is next. That's the phase we're in currently. In this phase, we gather information about how the flood has impacted our citizens, find out who has been affected and what damages have been sustained. This is an important phase because this is when we gather information to submit to State and Federal agencies, which will determine whether or not a disaster is declared.

3. Recovery and clean-up is the next phase. During this phase, local residents and agencies work to clean up from flood damages and restore properties.

4. Mitigation is the final phase. In this phase, we look for ways to minimize or eliminate the possibility of flood damage in the future. In this regard, I am seeking volunteers to serve on a special advisory task force to work with City elected and appointed officials to

evaluate solutions to our flooding situation. Please apply via our website at www.elmhurst.org.

It is important to know that since we are in the assessment stage right now, we do not know what — if any — funds may be available in the future to help with flood losses. There are a few things you can do right now:

- If you've had flood water in your home, you'll want to take precautions during the clean-up phase. See the City website at www.elmhurst.org for clean-up tips.
- Document everything. Take lots of photos, preferably digital. Keep all receipts, such as post-flood cleaning supplies, work performed by contractors and costs for hauling away flood-damaged furniture. Keep your receipts in a safe place in the event that funds may be available to reimburse some of your costs later. It's important to stress that we do not know at this time whether funds will be available.
- Call your insurance agent. If you have homeowners, renters or flood insurance, call your insurance agent to report your loss and see what benefits may be available to you under your policy.
- Report your flood damage by completing the form on the City website at www.elmhurst.org.

The City website will be updated on a regular basis as information becomes available. Residents can sign up for email or text message updates on storm events or recovery efforts by signing up on the "Notify Me" section on the City website.

I know that many of you are tired, frustrated and even scared about how you are going to recover from the flood loss. And I wish I could give you definite answers about what resources will be available for you and your neighbors. I want you to know, however, that we will get information out to you as it is made available. Elmhurst has earned a can-do reputation and is recognized for our commitment to helping neighbors in need. If you see someone who needs help, please lend a hand. Working together, we can all get through this.

Pete DiCianni, Mayor

New Lead Safety Law

Lead paint poisoning can be a serious problem and young children are at particular risk. Lead stays in the bloodstream several weeks and is then absorbed into the bones. Early signs of lead poisoning may include loss of appetite, irritability, reduced attention span, persistent tiredness or hyperactivity, difficulty sleeping and constipation. Children with high levels of lead in their bodies can suffer from damage to the brain and nervous system, slowed growth, hearing problems, behavior and learning problems, and headaches. Acute lead poisoning may result in seizures, coma and even death.

Common renovation activities, including sanding, cutting and demolition, can create hazardous lead dust and chips which can be harmful to both children and adults. Under a recent rule issued by the EPA that took effect in April, contractors who disturb painted

surfaces in homes, child care facilities and schools built before 1978 must be certified and must follow specific work practices to prevent lead contamination. If your home was built before 1978 and you are having such work done, ask to see your contractor's certification. Renovators must provide a "Renovate Right" pamphlet to all customers prior to renovation work.

If you plan to renovate yourself, call the National Lead Information Center at 800-424-LEAD (5323) and request more information on working safely in a home with lead-based paint. Federal law requires you receive certain information before renovating six square feet or more of painted surfaces for an interior project or more than twenty square feet of painted surfaces for an exterior project or window replacement. This new law applies to renovations in all housing, child care facilities and schools built before 1978. For more information, visit the EPA's website at www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/renovation.htm.

100-Year Anniversary of City's Incorporation



100-Year Anniversary

This year, we are proud to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the incorporation of the City of Elmhurst. Elmhurst's first official mayor, Henry Schumacher, was elected in 1910 at the start of a century of progress and change for Elmhurst. Settlers came to this area as early as 1834, but the adoption of the city form of government was part of early Elmhurst's visionary plan to grow from a farming community on the outskirts of Chicago to a vibrant city that could stand on its own two feet.

As we pass the 100 year marker, this special anniversary allows us to look back and remember those who paved the way. We've come a long way to evolve into one of the most livable cities in the Midwest. With many excellent services, cultural and social opportunities, top quality schools, a world-class library, wonderful parks and recreation, and a thriving business community, Elmhurst has much to offer in the 21st century.



The orchards and fields near York and St. Charles Road were transformed into home sites for the Cherry Hill subdivision in the early 1900s.

To commemorate this era, the Elmhurst Historical Museum will open a new exhibit in October called "Century City" to look back on our city's first 100 years. Be sure to stop by and gain insight into our past

through the stories and artifacts of the people who gave Elmhurst its roots. Here's to the next 100 years – Happy Birthday, Elmhurst!

Elmhurst Timeline: 1910 to 2010

1910 - Population: 2,360

1910 - Adoption of city form of government and Henry C. Schumacher is elected as first city mayor (Note: the Village of Elmhurst was settled in 1836 and the city was incorporated in 1910)

1912 - Election of F.W.M. Hammerschmidt as mayor

1913 - Elmhurst Woman's Club organized

1914 - Boy Scouts in Elmhurst organized

1916 - Elmhurst Public Library opens on York Street

1918 - Elmhurst Boosters Club organized

1919 - Election of Otto Balgemann as mayor

1919 - Girl Scouts in Elmhurst organized

1919 - American Legion Post T.H.B.187 organized



100
1910 – 2010

Citizens working to raise funds for community improvements flocked to the First Ward Improvement Association's fall festival in October of 1911.



100-Year Anniversary

1920

Population: 4,594

1920 - Establishment of the Elmhurst Park District

1922 - Elmhurst Public Library moves to the former Wilder Mansion

1925 - Elmhurst Police Department organized

1926 - Elmhurst Hospital opens

1926 - Elmhurst Garden Club founded

1930

Population: 14,055

1931 - Election of Edward Blatter as mayor

1932 - The League of Women Voters in Elmhurst organized

1933 - Election of Claude Van Auken as mayor

1936 - Elmhurst celebrates its Centennial (100 years) of the first settlement

1940

Population: 15,458

1940 - Elmhurst Community Theatre organized

1945 - Election of William S. Fellows as mayor

1946 - Incorporation of Elmhurst Artist Guild

1949 - Elmhurst Newcomers Club organized



The Elmhurst Fire Department was comprised of local volunteers in the early 1920s.

Harry "Maugie" Magers was the only police officer in Elmhurst history killed in the line of duty at the scene of a robbery in 1920.



A group of Elmhurst Navy Mothers showed their support for the boys during World War II.

1943



100-Year Anniversary



Dutch Elm Disease was a major concern for the Forestry Department in tree-lined Elmhurst with the first case identified in the mid-1950s.

1950

Population: 21,273

1951 - Election of Ervin F. Wilson as mayor

1952 - Elmhurst YMCA organized

1952 - Creation of Elmhurst Historical Commission

1953 - Election of Earl Ogden as mayor

1955 - Identification of first Dutch Elm disease in Elmhurst

1957 - Election of Benjamin Allison as mayor

1957 - Elmhurst Historical Museum opens on the 3rd floor of the Glos Mansion

1957 - Suspension of services by Chicago, Aurora & Elgin Railroad

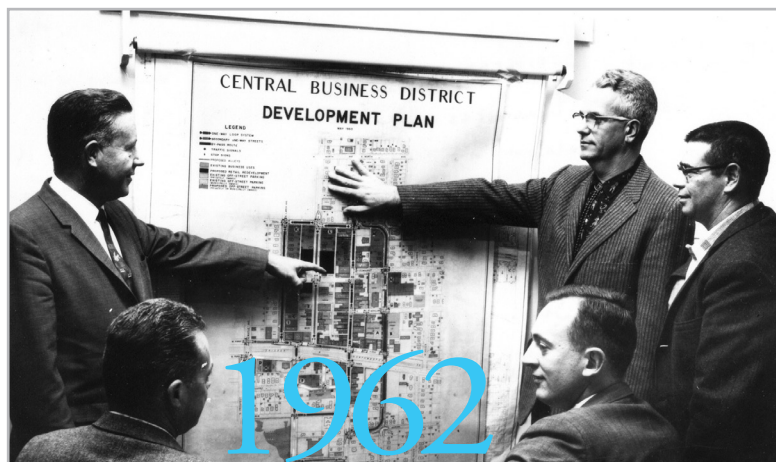
1960

Population: 36,991

1961 - Election of Charles Weigel as mayor

1965 - Dedication of addition to Elmhurst Public Library, relocation of Elmhurst Historical Museum to second floor of library

City planners put the finishing touches on a development plan for the central business district in 1962.

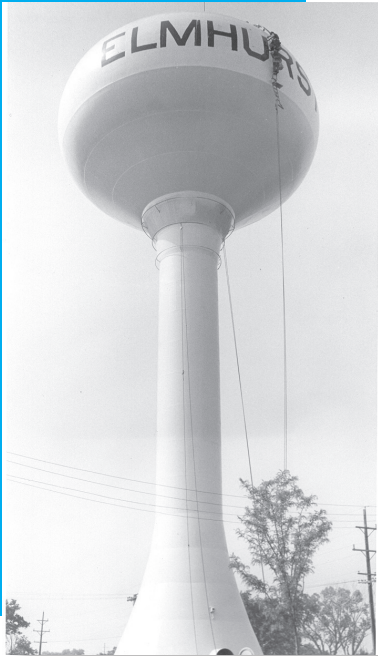


The Glos Mansion, current home of the Elmhurst Historical Museum shown here in 1964, served as Elmhurst's city hall from 1946 until 1970.





100-Year Anniversary



Workers put the finishing touches on the Elmhurst water tower.

1977



The underpass, now known as Robert Palmer Drive, was a controversial initiative that led to improved traffic flow and greater safety in Elmhurst after it opened in 1977.

1970

Population:
50,547

1972 - Establishment of Elmhurst Recycling Center

1973 - Election of Ray W. Fick, Jr., as mayor

1974 - Elmhurst Community Unit School Dist. #205 organized

1977 - Election of Abner Ganet as mayor

1977 - Underpass (later named Robert Palmer Drive) opens

1980

Population:
44,276

1985 - Election of Robert Quinn as mayor

1986 - Elmhurst celebrates its Sesquicentennial of the first settlement

1989 - Election of Charles Garrigues as mayor

For information on Elmhurst's current demographics and interesting facts, go to www.elmhurst.org and click on the "About Elmhurst" link.

1990

Population:
42,029

1990 - New Elmhurst Police Station opens at 125 E. First Street

1992 - City Hall moves to 209 N. York

1993 - Election of Thomas Marcucci as mayor

1997 - Elmhurst Art Museum opens its new building at 150 Cottage Hill Ave.

1999 - Elmhurst Memorial Center for Health opens at 1200 S. York

2000

Population:
42,762

2003 - Elmhurst Public Library moves to its new building at 125 Prospect

2004 - York Community High School dedicates its additions and remodeling

2007 - Elmhurst Historical Museum celebrates its 50th anniversary

2009 - Election of Peter D. DiCianni as mayor

2010

Population:
43,298

Senior Chore Days – A Helping Hand for Seniors

Elderly residents living on a limited income often need a helping hand with storm windows and yard work before winter arrives. Senior Chore Days, sponsored by the DuPage Senior Citizens Council, will be held on the first three weekends in November. Qualified seniors who need help with these chores and potential volunteers are encouraged to call the DuPage Senior Citizens Council at (630) 620-9794.

Halloween Trick or Treating

Motorists are reminded that little ghosts and goblins, princesses and super heroes will be out and about in our neighborhoods during the afternoon and evening hours on Halloween, which falls this year on Sunday, October 31st. Official hours for trick-or-treating in Elmhurst will be between 3:30 and 7:30 p.m. Parents are urged to accompany young children and teach older kids to approach only well-lit homes, avoid entering a home to receive a treat, stay away from dark or deserted-looking areas, cross only at intersections, and watch for approaching cars. Treats should be carefully inspected at home and fruit should be washed and cut into pieces. Have a safe and happy Halloween!



Labor Day Holiday Hours

City Hall will be closed in observance of Labor Day on Monday, September 6th. The City Council meeting normally scheduled for that evening will be held on the following evening.

You Can Help Prevent Street Flooding

Clogged inlets and street flooding can be a problem during periods of heavy rainfall, especially during the autumn months when trees are shedding their leaves. You can help prevent this problem by raking leaves and other debris away from the storm drain inlets in your neighborhood.

Free Leaf Pick-Up at the Curb

Residents who wish to participate in the city's free leaf pick-up are asked to place leaves on the parkway in clearly marked garbage cans, cardboard boxes or Kraft paper bags on your regular collection day during the weeks of November 1 and November 29. Residents are reminded not to place leaves in plastic bags and not to mix leaves with other types of yard waste. Garbage cans and containers other than Kraft bags will be left on the parkway after the pick-up. Raking leaves, grass clippings or other debris into the street is prohibited by city ordinances. This practice may result in hazardous conditions for motorists and may clog inlets, preventing the flow of storm water into the city's storm sewer system.

Lock It or Lose It

Protect your family and property by locking your home, garage and vehicles both day and night, whether you are at home or away. Call 9-1-1 to report any suspicious person, vehicle or activity in your neighborhood.



Honoring Our Vets on Veterans Day

Elmhurst residents and visitors alike are invited to join city officials and members of local veterans' organizations to honor current and past members of our nation's armed forces at a special ceremony on Veterans' Day, Thursday, November 11th. The ceremony is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. at the Veterans' Memorial in Wilder Park.

Holiday Refuse Collection - 2010 and 2011

If a holiday falls on a Monday, collection will be postponed by one day for all residents. If a holiday falls later in the week, collection is postponed only for those residents whose normal collection day is on or after the holiday. On Labor Day, Monday, September 6, refuse pickup will be delayed one day.

Back to School Safety – No Cell Phones or Texting



Summer is drawing to a close and children throughout the community have loaded up their backpacks, sharpened their pencils and started a new school year.

The safety of these young students should be a top priority for parents and for every motorist who uses the streets near our schools. Children who don't ride the school bus are encouraged to walk or bicycle in groups, or with their parents to help alleviate traffic congestion around the schools. If parents must drive their children to school, dropping them off a block or two away will help to relieve the situation. Parents and other motorists are reminded to be patient during drop-off and pick-up times. Congestion issues usually disappear about ten minutes after the bell rings. Crossing guards, parent volunteers and student patrols are available to help children arrive and depart from school safely. Please respect them and set a good example for your children.

Citizen Survey Returns

Every two years, Elmhurst mails survey forms to 1,600 households randomly selected from the city's water billing database. A total of 769 or 48 percent of those surveys were completed and returned by the July 12th deadline this year. Results will give city officials and staff a valuable snapshot of the opinions, concerns and priorities of Elmhurst residents. This vital information is used to prepare budgets, set department goals and plan for the future. The support and participation of those who returned their surveys is sincerely appreciated. Look for more detailed information in the next issue of *The Front Porch* once survey responses have been tabulated and analyzed.



Portable Generators

Portable generators are useful when temporary or remote electric power is needed, but they also can be hazardous. The primary hazards to avoid when using a generator are carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning from the toxic engine exhaust, electric shock or electrocution, fire and burns.

Carbon Monoxide Hazards

When used in a confined space, generators can produce high levels of CO within minutes. When you use a portable generator, remember that you cannot see or smell CO. Even if you do not smell exhaust fumes, you may still be exposed to CO.

Electrical Hazards

Generators pose a risk of shock and electrocution, especially if they are operated in wet conditions. If you must use a generator when it is wet outside, protect the generator from moisture by operating it under an open, canopy-like structure on a dry surface where water cannot reach it or puddle or drain under it. Do not operate the generator indoors or near openings to any building that can be occupied. Make sure to use heavy-duty extension cords that are specifically designed for outdoor use when connecting appliances to generators. Use extension cords that are long enough to allow the generator to be placed outdoors and far away from windows, doors and vents to the home.

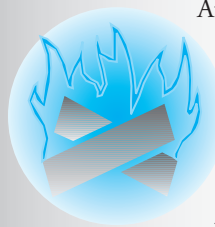
Fire Hazards

Never store fuel for your generator in the home. Do not store them near a fuel-burning appliance, such as a natural gas water heater in a garage. Before refueling the generator, turn it off and let it cool down. Gasoline spilled on hot engine parts could ignite.

Air Rifles, BB Guns, Air Soft Guns, or Paint Ball Guns

The Elmhurst Police Department reminds parents and young people that it is a violation of City ordinance to carry or use air rifles, BB guns, air soft guns or paint ball guns in most areas of the City. They can only be used under adult supervision at appropriate indoor ranges. These types of air driven weapons can be dangerous. The weapons fire projectiles with enough force to injure individuals or do substantial property damage. Additionally, many of these weapons can be mistaken for firearms.

Fire Pit Safety and Burn Permits



Autumn's cool evenings are a perfect time to make memories while roasting hot dogs and marshmallows over a crackling fire. With the increasingly popular portable outdoor fireplaces, it has become much easier to enjoy this simple pleasure. Before you light your portable fireplace for the first time this fall, remember that a one-time-only free permit from the city is required. The permit can be downloaded from the city's website (www.elmhursts.org) and completed, or picked up at City Hall. With the permit, you will also receive a copy of the city's ordinance stating what can and can't be burned, and where to safely locate your fire pit. The permit may be revoked any time the fire is determined to be a hazard or if the permit holder does not comply with the following regulations.

- The fire pit must be positioned at least 15 feet away from any structure and away from over-hanging branches and wires. The firebox must be located above ground level.
- Approved fuels are propane, natural gas, charcoal or seasoned logs. It is illegal to burn yard waste, leaves, lumber, paper, cardboard, unseasoned logs or garbage. Keep all flammable liquids and other materials a safe distance from the fire.
- An individual at least 17 years of age must attend the fire until it is completely extinguished. Keep an adequate amount of sand, dirt or water, or a portable fire extinguisher on hand for immediate use.
- Fires are not allowed when atmospheric conditions or other circumstances make burning hazardous, or when they emit offensive or objectionable smoke or odors.

DuComm (9-1-1), the agency responsible for dispatching fire apparatus, will be sent a copy of your permit. If 9-1-1 receives a call from a concerned resident or passerby, and an address is provided, DuComm can look up the address to see if a burn permit has been filed. If there is no address information available, a fire truck will be dispatched to investigate. However, when the fire is located, even if you have a burn permit, the fire may be extinguished if it is deemed a hazard or a nuisance by the Fire Department.

City of Elmhurst

209 N. York St., Elmhurst, IL 60126
(630) 530-3000

Website homepage: www.elmhurst.org
email: webmaster@elmhurst.org

City Hall Hours

Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Peter P. DiCianni III, Mayor
Patty Spencer, City Clerk
David Dyer, City Treasurer

Aldermen

1st Ward - Diane C. Gutenkauf, Paula Pezza
2nd Ward - Patricia Shea, Norman Leader
3rd Ward - Susan J. Rose, Michael Bram
4th Ward - Stephen W. Hipkind, Kevin York
5th Ward - Chris Nybo, Chris Healy
6th Ward - Steven M. Morley, Jim Kennedy
7th Ward - Mark A. Mulliner, Patrick Wagner



Elmhurst Historical Museum

120 E. Park Ave., Elmhurst

Phone: 630-833-1457 www.elmhursthistory.org

Issue 3

Museum Hours: Tuesday-Sunday, 1-5 p.m.

A New Era for Historic Churchville Schoolhouse

This fall, school is back in session in more ways than one as the City celebrates the reopening of the historic Churchville Schoolhouse. The Churchville Schoolhouse, which is owned by the City of Elmhurst and managed by the Elmhurst Historical Museum, has recently undergone a complete restoration (funded in large part by federal and state historic preservation funds). Now that the multi-phase restoration work is finished, this historic site will soon be open for public use and community programs.

A Brief History

The Churchville Schoolhouse, which was established circa 1846, is historically significant because it is one of the oldest structures in DuPage County as well as one of the few remaining one-room schoolhouses in the State of Illinois still standing on its original site. The Churchville Schoolhouse is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and it is a treasured landmark of Chicago's western suburbs.

The Churchville Schoolhouse is a well-preserved example of typical 1800s rural schoolhouses and was built by local farmers and craftsmen. Situated on Church Road just north of Grand Ave., it is located on property which was once part of the Fischer family farm. Children from Elmhurst, Bensenville and Addison attended the school until 1930.

From the 1930s to the 1960s, the Churchville Schoolhouse was used occasionally as a meeting place for church groups and civic organizations, and the Bensenville School District used the facility for one year as an overflow classroom due to overcrowding in the '50s. Interest in the building resurfaced in the late '60s when a group of former students organized the Churchville Historical Society to renovate and repair the building.

The Schoolhouse took on new life in 1988 when the property was transferred from members of the Fischer family to Elmhurst School District 205. From 1988 to 2001, the school district maintained the Churchville Schoolhouse site, using it for living history lessons for elementary school students from 1986-1997. School district officials deeded the property to the City of Elmhurst in 2001.

Plans for the Schoolhouse

Residents of Elmhurst and the surrounding communities will soon have a close-up view of what life was like in a one-room schoolhouse circa 1910. Plans are in the works to create a living history experience for schoolchildren and visitors of all ages. Many exciting community programs and events are being planned, including field trips and interactive learning experiences for school age children featuring lessons with an old-fashioned school teacher; history-related tours, presentations and special events; and cooperative seasonal programs with the Bensenville Park District and the Fischer Farm Homestead.

Pilot testing for school programs will take place this fall, and field trips will begin in Spring of 2011.



Churchville Schoolhouse Celebration

Sunday
Sept. 26, 1-4 p.m.

All are welcome!

Public Invited to Celebration

Residents are invited to a special celebration on Sunday, September 26, from 1 to 4 p.m. to mark the completion of the Churchville Schoolhouse renovation. The afternoon will include tours, refreshments, musical entertainment and more. Watch local papers and visit www.elmhursthistory.org for detailed information.

The restoration of the Churchville Schoolhouse is a project citizens can view with a sense of pride as we show our commitment to preserving the integrity and heritage of our history through this important national landmark. The City of Elmhurst is grateful to the elected officials who have shown their support over time for this project, and to the Elmhurst Heritage Foundation for their ongoing financial support and commitment. Moving forward, the entire community can take part in making history come alive for future generations as we ring in a new era at Churchville Schoolhouse.

"Century City" Exhibit Marks Elmhurst's 100 Years as a City

Beginning in mid-October and running through the end of February, Elmhurst Historical Museum will host a new exhibit commemorating Elmhurst's 100 years as a city. "Century City" will showcase many fascinating photos, artifacts and video footage from the Elmhurst Historical Museum collection that illustrate the city's progress over 100 years, so be sure to stop by and take in this "must-see" exhibit for Elmhurst residents.

"Magical History Tour" Extended through January 2

Due to popular demand, Elmhurst Historical Museum is extending the run of its current and highly popular exhibit, "The Magical History Tour," through January 2, 2011, which has been a hit with visitors of all ages. In a July 12th *Chicago Sun-Times* review, the exhibit was highlighted as "an enchanted multi-media exhibit about magic and its Chicago connections." Be sure to view "The Magical History Tour" before it disappears.

“Learn Not to Burn”

The Elmhurst Fire Department uses the “Learn Not to Burn” program to teach elementary school age youngsters about fire safety and provide them with the knowledge and skills they need to react appropriately in a fire situation. The program teaches survival skills, such as dialing 9-1-1, the importance of crawling low in smoke and how to stop, drop, cover and roll. The annual “Learn Not to Burn” poster contest is open to fourth graders in the community’s public and private schools. Congratulations to Kyra from Field School, who created this year’s first place poster, Meghan from Jefferson School for her second place entry, Kennedy from Field School who took third place honors and all the other students who participated in the contest. All of the entries can be viewed on the city’s website, www.elmhurst.org. Open the Fire Department page on the drop-down menu of departments, click on “Public Education” and “Learn Not to Burn Contest Winners.”

At right: This year's first place winner in the Elmhurst Fire Department's "Learn Not to Burn" poster contest.

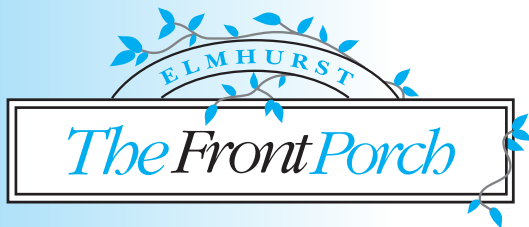


Smoke Alarms: A Sound You Can Live with

Every October for the past 88 years, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has sponsored a fire prevention campaign to encourage individuals to take action to prevent fires and avoid the deaths, injuries and property damage they cause. Residential fires kill thousands of people and injure many thousands more each year. Smoke alarms can mean the difference between life and death. Roughly two-thirds of deaths in residential fires occur in homes that either do not have alarms or do not have working alarms. You can greatly reduce your chances of dying in a fire by installing and maintaining smoke alarms. Smoke alarms should be installed on every level of the house, including the basement, outside each sleeping area and inside each bedroom. It is highly recommended that smoke alarms be interconnected so that when one alarm sounds, they all sound. This is especially important in large or multi-level homes. Test alarms at least monthly by pushing the button and replace the battery right away if the alarm “chirps” a low-battery warning. Never remove or disable smoke alarms. Replace any alarm that is ten or more years old. Don’t become complacent about smoke alarms – they may one day save your life or the life of someone you love.

Fire Prevention Week Open House Oct. 3

Fire Prevention Week will be kicked off with an open house at Fire Station #2 on Sunday, October 3, from 12 - 4 p.m. The afternoon will include a variety of activities for young and old.



City of Elmhurst

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