

*The City Newsletter*



## **The Attacks on America: Elmhurst Responds**

Elmhurst responded to the catastrophic events of September 11 with an outpouring of generosity and concern for the victims by donating blood and contributing to fundraising efforts. As American flags flew at half-mast at city buildings, residents and businesspeople proudly flew flags from their homes, businesses and automobiles as an expression of unity and support. City employees were anxious to help out in any way they could, holding a "Casual Day for a Cause" to benefit the victims' families. Elmhurst firefighters demonstrated their solidarity and concern for their New York colleagues by holding a "Boot Day" benefit. Police employees voted to cancel their annual picnic and donate the money to benefit the families of emergency personnel who died in the collapse of the World Trade Center.

City officials met with members of the City's emergency response team to discuss how the City's resources would respond to terrorist activity that might affect the community. The Elmhurst Fire Department Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) team is trained to handle emergencies involving biological and chemical hazards.

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*Warmest wishes from  
Elmhurst officials and staff  
for a joyful holiday season!*

Mayor Marcucci and Santa will share the spotlight and kick off the holiday season on Friday, November 23 at the annual City Centre Tree Lighting. Festivities begin at 6:30 p.m. and will include sleigh rides, refreshments and entertainment.



# Elmhurst

*November 2001*

*Issue 4*

## **Mayor's Message**



We were all stunned and saddened by the September 11 terrorist attacks on our nation. We mourn with the families and friends of those whose lives were lost, especially the courageous members of the New York Fire Department and Police Department who died while trying to save others.

This terrible disaster caused us as a nation and as individuals to examine our priorities and reevaluate our preparedness. To ensure the safety of our community, your city government swung into action to make certain that sensitive sites were secured and our communication systems were running properly. The City of Elmhurst is prepared to react—but not overreact.

We must remember that these unspeakable acts were the work of terrorists, not of a people or a religion. At the core of our nation's greatness is our ability to accept people from many nationalities and religions. Remember, we don't just live in America, America lives in us. This is not a war against a particular religion or ethnic group — virtually the entire Muslim world condemns the actions of September 11. Our strength is in our diversity.

We were all touched by the outpouring of support from Elmhurst citizens and organizations who joined others nationwide in numerous fundraising events to help the victims of September 11, including the Fire Department's Boot Day.

Now, more than ever, we need to listen to and understand what our national leaders are saying. The fight against terrorism is going to take time and we need to support our national leaders if America is to succeed in these endeavors.

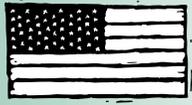
On a happier note, I would like to congratulate Elmhurst Public Library Director, Marilyn Boria, who was named Librarian of the Year 2001 by the Illinois Library Association. This award recognizes a librarian for a career of distinguished service and leadership. We extend our thanks and appreciation to Marilyn for her 17 years of distinguished service to the City and this fine recognition she has brought to our community.

As we approach the holiday season, I invite everyone to join me for our Annual Tree Lighting on Friday, November 23 at 6:30 p.m. Refreshments, sleigh rides and the arrival of Santa Claus will make this a very special event. From all of us at the City of Elmhurst, I wish you peace.

*Mayor Thomas D. Marcucci*



The City Newsletter



## Elmhurst Responds *continued*

Emergency personnel, including members of the Police Department, Fire Department and ESDA (Emergency Services and Disaster Agency), regularly hold mock disaster drills to test and refine the City's response in various scenarios, including large-scale hazardous materials incidents, utility disruptions or various natural or manmade disasters. The drills range from conference room reviews to full-scale operations with "victims," emergency medical personnel and response units from other agencies and surrounding communities.

In addition to resources within the community, Elmhurst is a member of the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS), an organization of fire departments from southern Wisconsin to southern Illinois. This membership would allow the Elmhurst Fire Department to call on an almost inexhaustible number of other emergency response teams for any large-scale incident. The City currently receives regular updates from national, state and local agencies concerning the latest methods for handling potential terrorist activities.

Residents can be assured that the City's emergency response team will remain vigilant and prepared to respond quickly to any potential threat.

## Librarian of the Year

Elmhurst Public Library Director Marilyn Boria was recently named Librarian of the Year 2001 by the Illinois Library Association. This award recognizes a librarian for a career of distinguished service and leadership at the local, state or national level. During Ms. Boria's 17-year tenure as Director of the Elmhurst Public Library, circulation of library materials has grown until the library now ranks as one of the highest circulating libraries per capita in the country. She has been instrumental in bringing the library into the digital age with an online catalog, Internet access and online databases. Ms. Boria says that she's "...fortunate to work in a community that values and supports public library service."

*Congratulations*



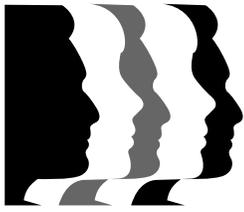
## Community: A Partnership *Citizens and Government*

A great community is a partnership between the citizens and the officials, elected or appointed, who represent them and work for them. That partnership has never been more important than in these uncertain times following the September 11 attacks. As a citizen and resident of Elmhurst you have every right to expect certain things of the people who work at City Hall, or who respond to your call for police or fire protection, or who repair the watermain breaks or the pot holes in the streets. You have every right to expect them to do their best – to protect you, your family and your property – to enforce the laws – to maintain the City's infrastructure – to help keep Elmhurst a top-notch community.

On the other hand, there is more to being a good citizen than merely displaying your flag and going to the polls on Election Day. Citizenship involves being a good neighbor, respecting authority and obeying laws, protecting the environment and making our community a better place. As a citizen, you can make a difference. It is important to keep in mind that there are a limited number of City employees and that residents can help keep little problems from becoming big problems. Here are a few ways you can help:

- Report not only criminal actions but also suspicious activities. The police cannot be everywhere – you are their eyes and ears.
- Clear snow away from fire hydrants to give access to Fire Department personnel during a fire emergency.
- Keep storm drains free of leaves and debris to help prevent street flooding.
- Keep your sidewalk free of snow and ice to provide safe passage for school children, mail carriers and other pedestrians.
- Be mindful of neighbors with special needs who may need help with snow removal or other chores during the winter months.
- Consider becoming a volunteer. The spirit of volunteerism is an important part of what makes America great.
- Watch out for your neighbors, lending a hand when needed and working out mutual concerns together.

As the events of September 11 demonstrated all too clearly, there are times when we cannot afford to wait for someone else to take action. Working together, we can make our community and our nation stronger.



# Identity Theft

Imagine the following scenario: *Someone uses your name and Social Security number to open credit card accounts. The perpetrator charges services and merchandise on the accounts which all end up in collections. You have no idea this has happened until you apply for a mortgage. Because these 'bad' accounts show up on your credit report, you don't get the mortgage.* Sound farfetched? The FTC receives numerous such complaints, identifying a relatively new type of crime – identity theft – the use of your personal information to commit fraud or theft. The following question/answer discussion is intended to give you the information you need to protect yourself and minimize the risk of identity theft.

## How can identity thieves get my personal information?

- They steal wallets, purses and mail that may include bank and credit card statements, pre-approved credit offers, telephone calling cards and tax information.
- They rummage through residential or business trash for personal data (credit card receipts, discarded bank statements, pre-approved credit offers, etc.)
- They use personal information you share on the Internet.
- They open new credit card accounts, using your name, date of birth and Social Security number. The delinquent accounts are reported on your credit report.
- They establish wireless or phone service in your name.
- They open a bank account in your name and write bad checks on the account.
- They buy a car by taking out an auto loan in your name.

## How can I minimize my risk?

Although you may not be able to completely prevent identity theft, there are ways you can minimize your risk by managing your personal information carefully.

- Protect your mail from theft by depositing outgoing mail in post office collection boxes or at the local post office. Remove incoming mail promptly after delivery. Stop mail delivery if you are going to be away from home and unable to pick up your mail.
- Minimize the identification information and the number of cards you carry with you to only what you will actually need.

- Keep your Social Security card in a secure place and do not give out your Social Security number unless it is absolutely necessary. Ask to use other types of identifiers whenever possible.
- Never give out personal information on the phone, through the mail or over the Internet unless you have initiated the contact or know with whom you are dealing.
- Tear up or shred your charge receipts, credit offers/applications, insurance forms, physician statements, discarded bank checks or bank statements and expired charge cards.
- Pay attention to your billing cycles. Follow up with creditors if your bills do not arrive on time.

## What should I do if I become a victim of identity theft?

If you suspect that your personal information has been used to commit fraud or theft, take the following steps immediately and keep a record of your conversations and correspondence.

- First, contact the fraud departments of each of the three major credit bureaus: 1) Equifax, P. O. Box 740241, Atlanta, GA 30374-0241, 800-525-6285, 2) Experian, P. O. Box 949, Allen, TX 75013-0949, 888-397-3742, 3) Trans Union, Fraud Victim Assistance Division, P. O. Box 6790, Fullerton, CA 92834, 800-680-7289
- Second, contact the creditors of any accounts (credit card companies, phone companies or other utilities, banks or other lenders) that have been tampered with or opened fraudulently. Immediately close accounts that have been tampered with and open new ones with new personal identification numbers (PINs) and passwords. When selecting a PIN or password avoid using readily available information, such as your mother's maiden name, your birth date, the last four digits of your Social Security number or phone number, or a series of consecutive numbers.
- Third, file a report with your local police or the police in the community where the identity theft took place. Request a copy of the police report to help you deal with creditors.



**If you need additional information about identity theft, contact the Elmhurst Police Department at (630) 530-3050 and ask for the Detective Division.**



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## Preventing Frozen Water Pipes



### Holiday Fire Safety Tips

- Candles are especially popular during the holiday season but they are one of the leading causes of house fires in this and other communities. Melting candles often tip over or break their glass containers and ignite surrounding materials, such as curtains, towels, tablecloths or rugs. Candles should never be left unattended, even for a minute or two. Children should be taught that candles, matches and lighters are tools – not toys. In a power failure, flashlights or battery-operated lamps are much safer light sources than candles.
- Fires involving Christmas trees, gifts and decorations can be prevented by following a few precautions. Use only one plug per outlet and make sure wiring for lights is not frayed or broken. Older incandescent bulbs pose a greater fire safety hazard than new, low-heat Christmas lights. Keep the tree and packages away from heat registers. Cut one inch off the trunk of a real tree before placing it in a stand filled with water. Real trees dry out easily and, when dry, can present a real fire hazard. They should not be left up for more than two weeks.

**Remember: Fire Safety is an Attitude!**



### Winter Weather Reminders

- City ordinances prohibit street parking for eight hours following a snowfall of two inches or more, or while snow removal is in progress.
- When clearing your property of snow, please do not put snow or ice in the street as this creates a hazardous condition for motorists. Snow plows clear from the center of the street to the curb, usually in a series of four passes. During the final operation, some snow is inevitably pushed onto private driveway approaches. To avoid having to clear your driveway approach twice, please wait until the street has been cleared before clearing your approach.
- Sump pumps may not discharge water onto sidewalks or streets as this creates a safety hazard for pedestrians and motorists, especially during winter weather. For information on the city's rear yard drain program, call the Public Works Department at 530-3020.
- Snow and ice can turn our familiar world into a winter wonderland but the same conditions present hazards for motorists. When driving, buckle up, keep car windows free of snow and ice and adjust your speed and following distance as conditions dictate.
- When participating in outdoor activities on extremely cold days, wear layers of loose, lightweight, warm clothing that insulate by trapping heat close to the body. Always wear a hat, since half of the body's heat is lost through the top of the head. Stay safe and warm this winter!

Every winter many homes are damaged when frozen water pipes break. The danger can be greatly reduced by following a few simple precautions.

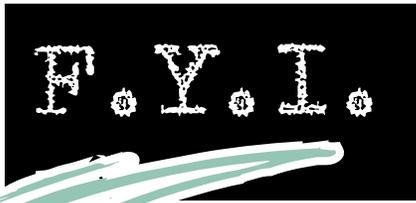
- Insulate pipes located on outside walls or in crawl spaces.
- Seal holes or gaps around pipes and electrical wiring on outside walls to prevent cold air from blowing on pipes.
- Disconnect garden hoses and shut off the faucet inside your house.

*In bitter cold weather, a few extra precautions are in order.*



- Let hot and cold water pipes trickle overnight during periods of extreme cold.
- Open cabinet doors under sinks to allow warm air to circulate.
- When leaving home for a long time, shut off the water supply before the water meter and keep the heat above 55 degrees.

If a pipe freezes, never try to thaw it with an open flame or torch. If a pipe breaks, turn off the water at the water shut off valve to help reduce damage.



## Refuse/Yard Waste Reminders

- ✓ The last free leaf pick-up for the year will be on your regular refuse collection day, either November 28, 29 or 30.
- ✓ Yard waste collection will end on November 30, 2001, and resume on April 1, 2002.

## Holiday Refuse Collection

- ✓ When a holiday falls on a weekday (Monday through Friday), refuse collection is postponed by one day for residents whose regular collection day follows the holiday. For example, during Thanksgiving week, refuse will be collected on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday (one day late for residents with Thursday or Friday pick-up). Refuse pick-up during the weeks of Christmas and New Year's Day will be delayed by one day for all Elmhurst residents since both holidays fall on Tuesdays.
- ✓ Holiday wreaths, garlands, wrapping paper and packing peanuts will be collected with your regular garbage. Boxes may be recycled if they are flattened, bundled or bagged, and measure no more than three feet by three feet.



- ✓ Christmas trees will not require a sticker if placed for collection on your regular collection day during the first and second weeks in January. After the second week in January, BFI will pick up trees with one refuse sticker attached. All tinsel, ornaments, lights and nails must be removed. Trees should not be put in a plastic bag. *The Park District no longer accepts Christmas trees in any of the parks.*

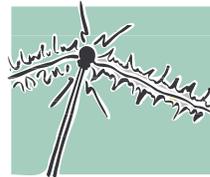
## Coming Soon – 2001 Community Calendar

Watch the mail for your 2002 community calendar. The calendar, sponsored by the Business Alliance (the Elmhurst Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Elmhurst City Centre, the Elmhurst Economic Development Corporation and the City of Elmhurst), will feature volunteerism within the community.



## Toys for Tots

We can make the holidays brighter for needy area children by contributing to the "Toys for Tots" program. New toys are being collected at the Elmhurst Police Station, 125 E. First, and at City Hall, 209 N. York Street.



## Power Out?

To report power outages, residents are reminded to call ComEd at 1-800-EDISON1 (1-800-334-7661). Calls received on this automated line are used by ComEd to determine the parameters of the outage and locate and resolve the problem more quickly.

## City Hall Holiday Hours

City Hall will be closed on Thursday, November 22 and Friday, November 23 for the Thanksgiving holiday. City Hall will close at noon on Monday, December 24 and will be closed all day on Tuesday, December 25 and Tuesday, January 1, 2002. As a reminder, the normal hours of operation for City Hall are from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. The Finance Department counter remains open until 7:00 p.m. on the first and third Monday evenings unless a holiday falls on a Monday.





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## Mobile Driver Services for Seniors

For the convenience of Elmhurst senior citizens, the Mobile Driver Services Facility of Secretary of State Jesse White's Department of Senior and Community Services will be at City Hall in the City Council Chamber on December 5 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Services available to drivers age 55 years or over will include: identification cards, drivers license renewal, corrected licenses, duplicate licenses and license plate renewal stickers (for stickers coming due within the next 30 days). The event will include the written examination and vision screening. *No road exam or CDL services will be available at the mobile site.* Participants must provide acceptable identification to verify name, date of birth, Illinois residency, social security number and signature. (Drivers age 75 or over must take a road test to obtain or renew their driver's license.)

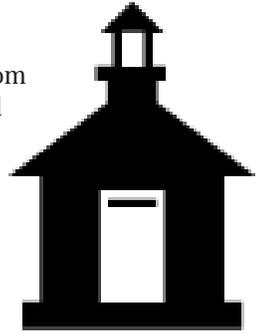
## Parking/Storage of Autos and Recreational Vehicles

Residents are reminded that Elmhurst codes require that vehicles (passenger vehicles and recreational vehicles) in residential districts must be parked or stored on graded surfaces of concrete, asphalt, or pavers made of concrete or brick. No more than four licensed passenger vehicles may be parked on unenclosed parking spaces. Only one recreational vehicle may be parked or stored behind the established building setback line (the setback of the front wall of the structure) on a residential lot. A recreational vehicle may be parked in front of the established building setback line for a period not to exceed 72 hours within one calendar week for loading and unloading. No recreational vehicle may be used for living, sleeping or housekeeping purposes on any zoning lot within the city. Inoperable vehicles may not be parked or stored on an unenclosed space in any residential district.



## One Room Schoolhouse Becomes Public Resource

Earlier this autumn, Churchville One Room School, a circa 1846 schoolhouse located just north of Elmhurst on Church Road, was transferred to the City from School District 205. The structure and site are important to the heritage of Elmhurst, and the City is committed to making them available for public enjoyment. Repair and renovation work is planned for summer 2002, and the museum hopes to begin public programming at the schoolhouse later next year. Please call the Elmhurst Historical Museum at (630) 833-1457 if you have any historical materials related to the school or its pupils.

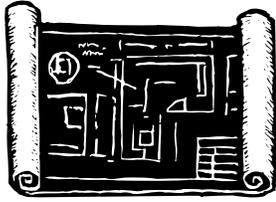


## Annual Parking Passes Now Available

In response to requests received at City Hall, annual parking passes for commuters, employees and residents using permit parking lots within the City of Elmhurst are now available at the Collectors Office counter in City Hall. The annual pass, valid from January 1 to December 31, sells for \$200 **but** is completely non-refundable. Residents are asked not to purchase an annual pass if there is any chance that they will be moving or changing jobs. Quarterly \$50 passes are also being sold for the City's permit lots.

## Holiday Gift Idea

Are you looking for a special holiday gift? Are you looking for a remembrance to give to a long-time Elmhurst resident who has moved out-of-town? Are you interested in Elmhurst history? If you answered *yes* to any of these questions, you may want to buy a copy of *The First Ladies of Elmhurst: Prominent Women of the Twentieth Century* by Ruth Strand and Eugenie Urick. Published in 2001, the hardcover, 143-page book contains the biographies and photographs of thirty-nine women of Elmhurst. The book is available for \$50.00 at the Elmhurst Historical Museum. For more information, call the museum at 630/833-1457.



## Downtown Sector Plan

The City of Elmhurst has begun a four-phase work program to update and amend the Downtown Sector Plan, a component of the City's Comprehensive Plan. The planning firm of Trkla, Pettigrew, Allen and Payne (TPAP) has been retained as consultants to aid the City in this effort.

The current Comprehensive Plan will be amended to reflect changes that have occurred since the Plan was adopted in 1990 and to review changes that need to be made as we move into the future. The Comprehensive Plan is a community-wide focus that consists of numerous sector plans such as the North York Corridor, Lake Street Corridor, Spring Road Corridor, Yorkfield area and the Downtown. The Plan also covers information on such topics as community facilities, transportation, and demographic and economic analysis.

Because of its importance to the entire community, it is felt that the first sector plan to be reviewed should be the Downtown Sector Plan. Other sectors will be reviewed upon completion of the review of the Downtown Sector Plan.

The downtown planning program will include:

- Analyzing existing conditions
- Identifying issues and concerns
- Establishing an overall "vision" for downtown development
- Developing and evaluating alternative plans and projects
- Preparing final planning, design and implementation recommendations

The ultimate goal of this phase will be a Comprehensive Plan amendment that will provide a clear guide to future improvement and development within the downtown. Whether you are a resident or a business owner, we encourage your involvement in this process.

For more information on the downtown planning process or to check the dates of upcoming meetings, visit the "What's New" page of the Community Development Department section of the Elmhurst website at [www.elmhurst.org](http://www.elmhurst.org) ([www.elmhurst.org/elmhurst/zoning](http://www.elmhurst.org/elmhurst/zoning)) or call 530-3100.

## Managing Wildlife

We humans share our community with a variety of four-legged creatures, including skunks, raccoons, opossums and lately even deer, foxes and coyotes. Although most wild animals have a natural fear of people, they can become a problem and even cause property damage. Following are a few simple steps residents can take to make their property less attractive to wildlife.

**Although most wild animals have a natural fear of people, they can become a problem and even cause property damage.**

- Keep garbage cans tightly closed and never leave food outside that might attract animals.
- Eliminate brush piles that make attractive homes for wildlife.



- Fill in holes and sprinkle mothballs around animal dens.
- Keep tree limbs trimmed, especially those that might provide access to roofs, attics and chimneys.

*November 2001*

### City of Elmhurst

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

Website homepage: <http://www.elmhurst.org>  
Email: [webmaster@elmhurst.org](mailto:webmaster@elmhurst.org)

City Hall Hours:  
Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
(Finance Department counter open  
1st & 3rd Mondays until 7:00 p.m.)

Thomas D. Marcucci, Mayor  
Janet S. Edgley, City Clerk  
David Dyer, City Treasurer

#### Aldermen

1st Ward, Paul Fichtner, Michael J. Regan;  
2nd Ward, Janice A. Vanek, David S. Noffs;  
3rd Ward, Susan J. Rose, Michael Bram;  
4th Ward, Steven DuBois, John E. Gow;  
5th Ward, Phillip D. Jordan, James J. Parker;  
6th Ward, Stephen G. Hillsman, George Szczepaniak;  
7th Ward, Mark A. Mulliner, Charles R. Mueller.



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# The Historical Museum Bringing History to Life

## Home for the Holidays

Elmhurst Historical Museum is a wonderful place to visit during or following the holiday season.

Featured through February 9, 2002 is "Piecing Us Together," an exhibition of quilts and other works by the Elmhurst Piecemakers. The museum's galleries are filled with vibrant colors and designs that will surprise even veteran quilters. Children's activities are also included. Bring the entire family.

A complete calendar of programs by the museum's Education Department is included in the enclosed *Community Calendar*, but a series of four workshops, *Threads of Knowledge*, will appeal to quilters of all ages and skill levels. Taught by experts, the workshops will be held from



7-8:30 p.m. on January 17, 22, 31 and February 5. Registration is required. For more information or to register, call the museum at (630) 833-1457.

The museum's *Holiday Open House* on December 2 and 9 takes a 1900s theme this year. The entire museum will be decked out "holiday style" for this free annual event. The event includes a look back to 1900 when Christmas trees were a bit of a rarity, and holiday meals were often cooked on wood stoves. The afternoon will also include refreshments and activities for children and families.



Brownies and Girl Scouts are always welcome at the museum! For information on how to complete badge work at a museum program, call the Education Coordinator at 833-1457.

## Museum Scores Awards

The Illinois Association of Museums announced two awards this autumn for the Elmhurst Historical Museum. *Superior Achievement Awards*, recognizing efforts that are models for the profession, were awarded for the museum's past exhibit, *Antimacassars to Zeppelins and everything in-between*, and for a special kick-off event for *The First Ladies of Elmhurst: Prominent Women of the Twentieth Century*, a book recently published by the City. The museum's staff and volunteers are very pleased to have the museum recognized for its efforts to make Elmhurst a special place for residents.



The City Newsletter

## City of Elmhurst

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