

The City Newsletter

Elmhurst

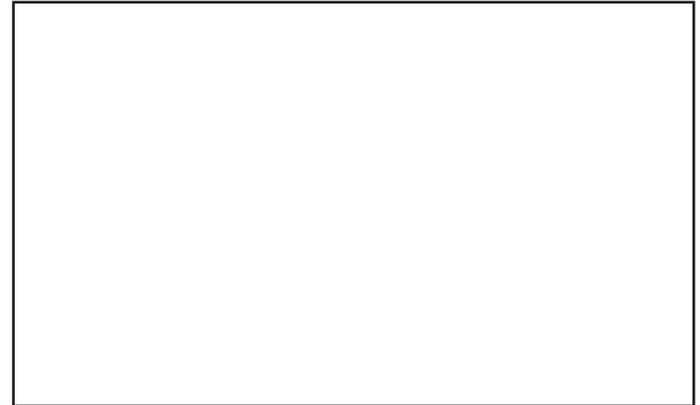
May 2001

Issue 2

Election Results/ Council Sworn In



On Election Day, April 3, 2001, Thomas Marcucci was re-elected for a third mayoral term. Janet Edgley was also re-elected for a third term as City Clerk and David Dyer for a second term as City Treasurer. In the aldermanic race, winning incumbents are John Gow in 4th Ward, James Parker in 5th and Charles Mueller in 7th. The newly elected aldermen are Michael Regan in 1st Ward, David Noffs in 2nd, Michael Bram in 3rd and George Szczepaniak in 6th. Members of the 2001-05 City Council were sworn in on April 23 and will serve four-year terms. The Public Library Referendum, also on the April ballot, was approved.



Front, left to right – Alderman Bram, Alderman Rose, City Clerk Edgley, Alderman Vanek, City Treasurer Dyer, Alderman Szczepaniak

Back, left to right – Alderman Fichtner, Alderman Regan, Mayor Marcucci, Alderman DuBois, Alderman Mueller, Alderman Gow, Alderman Mulliner, Alderman Jordan, Alderman Hillsman, Alderman Parker, Alderman Noffs



Elmhurst Always Remembers

From the Revolutionary War to the present day, dedicated men and women have served in the armed forces and sacrificed to protect the freedoms we enjoy. On Monday, May 28, Elmhurst residents and visitors will once again have an opportunity to remember and pay tribute to the officers and enlisted personnel, past and present, of our nation's military.

The 83rd annual Elmhurst Memorial Day parade will feature military officers and enlisted men and women, costumed Civil War re-enactors, floats and musical groups, including drums and bugles, bagpipes and marching bands. The Grand Marshall for this year's parade will be Lt. Colonel Donald E. S. Merritt, Sr. (retired), an Army veteran who spent 27 months in Vietnam. Merritt flew helicopters during insertion and extraction missions – either dropping troops into combat zones or picking up the living, the wounded and sometimes the dead. He had seven helicopters shot out from under him and was wounded during one of those incidents. Merritt received 13 Air Medals, including the Air Medal for Valor for one particularly hazardous operation, two Bronze Stars, three Meritorious

Service Medals, a Distinguished Flying Cross, two Army Commendation Awards and the Purple Heart.

So dress in the parade colors of red, white and blue, and come early to get a good spot along the route. The parade will step off from York and Third at 9:30 a.m. and proceed to Wilder Park by way of York Street, Robert Palmer Drive and Church. A full military ceremony with speakers, wreath laying and patriotic music will take place at the Veterans Memorial at the conclusion of the parade. As in the past, the American Legion will place rows of white crosses in Wilder Park to honor Elmhurst residents killed during World Wars I and II, the Korean War, Vietnam and Desert Storm. (Visitors may place flowers next to the crosses.)

Bring along your camera and enter your photos of the parade and ceremony in a contest for future publicity purposes. Photos in color or black and white, no larger than 5x7, may be submitted to the Chamber of Commerce, now located at 113 Adell Place, by June 11.

Reminder: Family members or friends may have deceased veterans honored at the Memorial. Call Bill Ralston at 279-5588 for information regarding the ceremony and dates still available.



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North Downtown Plan

After a series of meetings last year, the Elmhurst City Council approved the North Downtown Design Plan. The area involved in the plan encompasses three blocks (approximately 11 acres) strategically located just north of the Central Business District at the intersection of two primary arterial streets, York Street and North Avenue. The plan recommends that the study area be revitalized as an attractive and convenient northern “gateway” to downtown Elmhurst, and an integral part of the downtown. This “transitional area” is positioned between the high-intensity, pedestrian-oriented commercial area to the south and the auto-oriented commercial corridor to the north. The plan recommends a number of improvements and development options aimed at capitalizing on the area’s developmental assets – accessibility and visibility – and helping it develop an image or identity of its own.

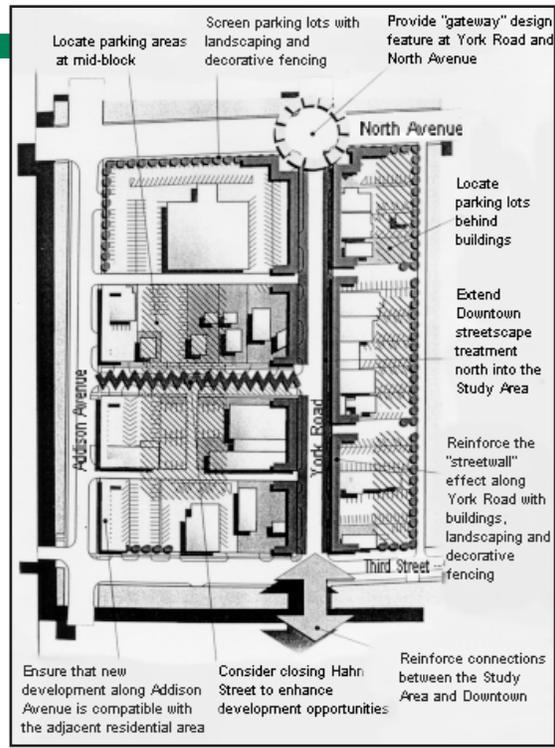
The North Downtown Design Plan makes the following recommendations:

- Combination, interconnection and redesign of the small, separate parking lots into centralized lots that serve multiple businesses;
- Screening and edging of the parking lots with landscaping and appropriate buffering;

Elmfest 2001

Downtown Elmhurst will once again be the spot for family fun during the second weekend in June (June 8, 9 and 10) when Elmfest comes to town. This popular, award-winning community festival will feature carnival rides for the children, tasty treats, a Sunday craft show and two entertainment stages featuring dance, drama, comedy and music. The festivities will begin on Friday, June 8, at

11:00 a.m. and will conclude with a free Elmhurst Symphony Orchestra family concert on the Elmhurst College Mall at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday. Audience members are welcome to bring a picnic supper to enjoy while listening to the concert. Elmfest is sponsored by the Elmhurst Chamber of Commerce, the City of Elmhurst, the Elmhurst Park District, Elmhurst College and the Elmhurst Jaycees. For more information on Elmfest, visit www.elfest.org.



North Downtown Design Plan prepared by Trkla, Pettigrew, Allen & Payne, Inc.

- Storefront improvements to enhance the appearance of existing buildings and help visually unify buildings within the same block;
- Extension of downtown streetscaping (special sidewalk surfaces, street lights and trees in grates) to North Avenue;
- Modification of zoning regulations to facilitate implementation of the North Downtown Design Plan.

Among the key objectives of the plan are to define the unique functional role of this area, and identify projects and actions that will help make this three-block area a more productive part of Elmhurst’s central area.



Family Fun on the 4th

Elmhurst’s annual July 4th parade will step off from the corner of York and Third at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, July 4th. Following the parade, the Elmhurst Historical Museum and the Elmhurst Park District will host the 20th annual Ice Cream Social, featuring cool treats and live entertainment on the museum lawn, 120 E. Park.

Although fireworks are a traditional part of the 4th of July, they are responsible for thousands of hospital emergency room visits each year. Fireworks are not toys for children or adults, and are illegal in Illinois without a permit. The term “fireworks” does not include sparklers, smoke devices, snake and glow worm pellets, and trick noisemakers. Even such seemingly harmless devices, however, can be dangerous, especially in the hands of children. Sparklers, for example, reach temperatures of up to 1,800 degrees Fahrenheit and they remain hot enough to cause serious burns even after they are extinguished. Fireworks not only cause injuries during the summer months but they are also responsible for numerous fires. For safety reasons, it is best to leave fireworks to the professionals.

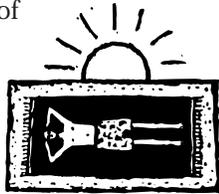
Summertime Safety



Summertime means family fun, dogs and burgers on the grill and splashing in the pool on a hot afternoon. But more people receive emergency room treatment for injuries during the summer months than at any other time of the year. Many accidents can be prevented by following some common sense precautions.

Backyard Pool Safety Tips

Drowning is one of the leading causes of accidental death of children under the age of five in the United States. Pool owners in Elmhurst are required to adhere to the following regulations to help prevent such tragedies.



- In-ground pools must be completely surrounded by a fence, the top of which is at least 48 inches above ground level.
- Pedestrian access gates must be self-closing and have a self-latching device. Access gates must also be equipped to accommodate a locking device (padlock).
- All doors with direct access to the pool (i.e. from the house) must be equipped with an alarm that produces an audible warning when the door is opened.
- The pool must be equipped with an approved power safety cover.

Pools and spas are very attractive to children. Following are some common sense precautions to help keep the little ones safe.

- Adequate supervision is an absolute necessity. Never leave a child alone, out of eye contact, in or near a pool or spa – even for a second. Do not allow a swimmer of any age to swim without a “spotter” nearby.
- Never place chairs, tables or other objects near the pool or spa fence that could allow a youngster to climb over.
- Remove vegetation or other obstacles to assure a clear view of the pool or spa from the house.
- Always completely remove the cover before using your pool or spa to avoid the possibility of someone, especially a small child, from becoming trapped under the cover.
- Drain any standing water from the surface of your pool or spa cover. A toddler or small child can drown in a very small amount of water.

A backyard pool or spa can provide hours of family fun if adequate precautions are taken to prevent a tragic accident.

Beware of Scams

The spring and summer seasons are a time of contrasts, with things we look forward to – sunny days and colorful flowers - and things we could live without – weeds in our gardens and con artists posing as trustworthy contractors or utility workers. These unscrupulous individuals are actually professional criminals with only one goal – to deprive seniors and uninformed people of their savings and/or property. They appear in our neighborhoods every spring looking for elderly residents or older homes in need of repair. They knock on doors and identify themselves as city utility workers, tree trimmers, driveway sealers, roofers or water contractors checking water pressure. They may try to frighten homeowners by claiming they have a serious problem that needs to be fixed right away. Their goal is to steal money, either by charging exorbitant amounts for inferior or nonexistent “work,” or by gaining access to the home and finding cash or valuables hidden inside. They may even use a child in their operation to gain sympathy and get into the house.

How Do We Stop These Criminals!

The police and the courts can only stop these criminals with the help of alert and involved citizens.

Here are some things you can do to protect yourself from being victimized by these unscrupulous con men.



- Never hide large amounts of cash in your home. These professional thieves can find it anywhere you hide it.
- Never hire someone to do unsolicited work in or around your home. Reputable contractors don't sell their services door-to-door. If someone comes to your door claiming to be a contractor or city worker, ask for identification. If they refuse, call 9-1-1.
- Never let a stranger into your home. If the person tries to push his/her way in, call 9-1-1.
- If you see suspicious activity, or a strange vehicle cruising your neighborhood or parked in your neighbor's driveway, call 9-1-1.

If you have questions or need additional information, call Elmhurst Police Detective Ken Carr (fraud investigator) at 530-3078.



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Test Your 9-1-1 Service

If you recently switched your local telephone service, you are encouraged to call Du-Comm, Elmhurst's consolidated 9-1-1 dispatch center, to verify that the information the phone company provided to Du-Comm is correct. Please do not call between the hours of 5:00 p.m. and 1:00 a.m. The best time to call is before 5:00 p.m. Be sure to tell the 9-1-1 operator when you call that you are verifying that you have reached the proper 9-1-1 center and that your information is correct.



News Rack "Corrals" Are a Winner

Beginning in the mid-1980's, the City of Elmhurst embarked on a challenging endeavor, to redevelop and revitalize the downtown business district. Following the establishment of Elmhurst's first Tax Increment Financing District, the City initiated an ambitious streetscape program, including paver brick sidewalks, decorative light fixtures, trees and street furniture. The new look and the introduction of sidewalk cafes paid off as more and more shoppers made Elmhurst their shopping destination. The success of the undertaking, however, was clouded as news racks of every shape, color and size began to appear and mar the otherwise attractive area. The challenge facing City officials was maintaining the appearance of the downtown area without infringing on the freedom of the press. With the cooperation of the Illinois Press Association, a solution was found in the form of expandable news rack "corrals" incorporating the architectural features of the existing street furniture. The news rack corrals, designed by Public Works staff, were recently awarded the 2001 Municipal Innovation Award by the DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference.

Mosquito Control

If you have mosquito abatement questions, call the hotline at 1-800-942-2555.



Mayor's Message



I would like to thank the Elmhurst community for placing its confidence in me by electing me for another four-year term.

Elmhurst is a community with a rich history and a bright future and I promise to continue that tradition by doing the best job possible for the good of all the citizens of Elmhurst. I would also like to extend my heartiest congratulations to our new City Council members and thank the outgoing members of the City Council, as well. The hard work of these dedicated individuals — both past and present — can be seen all around town.

Congratulations are in order for the young men and women who recently received the Youth Service Award from the Elmhurst Commission on Youth (see article pg. 11). Ranging in age from 12 to 18, these students were honored for their volunteer service to the community. They are truly one of Elmhurst's greatest assets and highly deserving of our thanks.

The Elmhurst Public Library referendum was passed in the April 3 election and we are looking forward to the construction of a new 84,000 sq. ft. public library in Wilder Park. By passing this referendum, the citizens of Elmhurst have told us that they are looking for enhanced services in their community library. In the coming year, development of the new state-of-the-art facility will move forward in a responsible and methodical manner. The new library will be a great asset to the City and will respond to the needs of the community for many years to come.

As the summer months approach, we are anticipating all the activities that make this time of year so special. I hope to see everyone at Elmfest 2001, June 8-10, an annual event with something for everyone (see pg. 2). Please remember, too, that our children will be out of school soon. Be extra cautious when driving around town and help keep our children safe.

Mayor Thomas D. Marcucci



Remember to Lock It Up

Every month the Elmhurst Police Department investigates dozens of vehicle and garage burglaries. The best way to reduce these crimes is to keep cars and garages locked, even when you're at home. Never leave valuables in plain sight, even in a locked vehicle on your property or elsewhere.

Sprinkling Hours

Lawn and garden sprinkling (except hand watering) for even-numbered addresses is allowed on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. the following morning. Residents with odd-numbered addresses are asked to sprinkle on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 8:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. Residents are asked not to sprinkle on Sunday.

Water Quality Reports

Watch for a copy of your 2000 Water Quality Report in the mail by July 1. This annual report provides a detailed description of the various properties of the public water supply and any changes that may have occurred. The report's purpose is to educate and assure the public that the municipal water supply meets or exceeds quality standards set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.



Sump Pump Inspections

If you are planning to sell your home, please call the Public Works Department at 530-3020 to arrange for the sump pump inspection. An inspection is required whether you have a sump pump or not. For information on the Sump Pump Disconnect Program, visit the City's website at www.elmhurst.org or call Public Works.

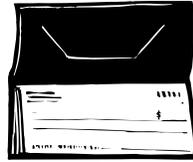
Vehicle Sticker Reminder

The City would like to remind residents that vehicle stickers should have been purchased and displayed by May 1. The fine for failing to display a City of Elmhurst sticker on any vehicle registered or principally garaged in Elmhurst is \$25 until May 31 and \$50 thereafter. Vehicle stickers may be purchased at the Finance Department counter in City Hall. Transfer and replacement stickers are \$1 each.



E Z Payment Now Available

Are you tired of writing out checks and mailing in utility bills? If so, the City of Elmhurst has initiated an "E Z Payment" program for City utility (water, sewer, refuse) bills. Your utility bill payment will be automatically deducted from your checking account on the due date. You will still receive a billing statement indicating the amount to be deducted. To sign up for this convenient service, just complete and sign an application/authorization form (mailed with your utility bill, or available on the City's website, www.elmhurst.org, or at City Hall). If you have questions about this service, call the Utility Billing Department at 530-3110 or 530-3111.



Annual Parking Permits

Annual parking permits will be available for purchase starting July 1, 2001. The first permit will be effective for six months and will be sold for \$100. Thereafter, the annual permit will be sold for \$200, or four times the quarterly fee amount, for the calendar year.

Summer Holiday Announcements

City Hall will be closed on Monday, May 28, for Memorial Day. City Council committee meetings will be held on Tuesday, May 29. City Hall will also be closed on Wednesday, July 4. Please note that refuse pickup will be postponed by one day during the last week in May and the first week in July due to the holidays.



Home by Curfew

With summer vacation just around the corner, parents and teens are reminded that the curfew for children under the age of 18 (unless accompanied by a parent or guardian) is 11 p.m.

Sunday through Thursday nights and 12 midnight on Friday and Saturday.



The City Newsletter

Public Works Working for You

Protecting our Trees

One of the most attractive characteristics of the Elmhurst community is the wide variety of trees that surround our homes, beautify our parks and public property, and protect the environment. Elmhurst was recently recognized by the National Arbor Day Foundation for the 21st year as "Tree City USA" for its outstanding tree planting and maintenance program. That record of 21 years as a "Tree City" is the second best in the state of Illinois. Congratulations to the Forestry Division!



One of the major goals of the Forestry Division is to protect and preserve the majestic American Elm trees that grace our neighborhoods. Since the late 60's, over 18,000 of these beautiful trees, on both public and private property, have been lost to Dutch Elm Disease. Last year, the Elmhurst City Council approved a program to assist residents with the cost of injecting American Elms with a fungicide to help prevent infection from Dutch Elm Disease. The plan offers subsidies to residents to have either their parkway or private elm trees injected. The City subsidy applies to trees considered at risk due to proximity to an infected tree. The amount varies depending on individual circumstances. For information on Dutch Elm Disease and whether your private or parkway elms are eligible, please call the Public Works Department at 530-3020.

Protecting Basements from Sewer Backup

Several years ago, the Elmhurst City Council approved the "Sanitary Sewer Private Property Protection Program" as a way to protect homes from sewer backup. The City's sanitary sewer system provides protection from a three-year frequency storm event but may become overburdened during extremely wet weather conditions. Prior to the introduction of the private property program, the City upgraded and improved the municipal sanitary and storm sewer systems to allow these systems to operate at peak efficiency. Studies have shown that, in addition to improvements to municipal systems, private property improvements are a cost-effective means of protecting homes from basement backup. The City annually budgets \$25,000 to assist homeowners with the cost of replacing gravity-type sewer systems with overhead sewers. The City's participation amounts to 50% of certain costs for the installation, to a maximum of \$3,000. If you have experienced sewer backup in the past and would like more information on this program, please link to the Public Works page on the City's website at www.elmhurst.org, visit the Public Works counter in City Hall or call 530-3020.

Spring/Summer Construction Update

Roadway construction will take place on the following streets during the 2001 construction season:

- Highland from Armitage to Fremont
- Oak from Armitage to Fremont
- Maple from North Ave. to Grantley
- Geneva from Third to North Ave.
- Evergreen from First to Third
- Michigan from Third to Elmhurst
- Illinois from Third to Elmhurst
- Indiana from Third to Elmhurst
- Willow from Third to Schiller
- Alley between Addison and Larch from Third to Second
- Parking Lot at First between York and Palmer
- Elmwood Terrace from Cottage Hill to York
- Arlington from Marion to Adelia
- Lawndale from Adelia to St. Charles
- Huntington from Fair to Park
- Kenilworth from St. Charles to South
- Rex from Prairie Path to Crescent
- Sunnyside from Prairie Path to McKinley
- Fairview from Montrose to Madison
- Vallette from Spring to Mitchell
- Berkley from McKinley to Madison
- Swain from McKinley to Madison
- Wilson from Saylor to Swain
- Harding from Mitchell to Prospect
- Jackson from Kearsage to Cambridge
- Adams from Chatham to Linden
- West Jackson from Swain to Kirk
- Brush Hill from Salt Creek to Kirk



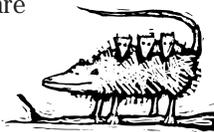
Police to Hold Auction

The annual Elmhurst Police Department auction will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 16, at the Elmhurst Police Station, 125 E. First Street in downtown Elmhurst. Items to be auctioned, including bicycles, power tools, car stereo equipment, jewelry and other recovered items, as well as surplus City equipment, may be viewed the day of the auction beginning at 10:00 a.m. Call 530-3050 for more information.



Controlling the Critters

Many of the wild animals native to Illinois are making a comeback in urban and suburban areas throughout the state. Their return is due, in part, to the decline of commercial trapping and the absence of natural enemies. Skunks, raccoons, squirrels and opossums can be a nuisance and may cause property damage. Homeowners are encouraged to take some preventative measures to avoid problems.



- To keep animals out of attics and off roofs – keep roofs and overhangs in good repair; trim branches that hang over the roof; cap chimneys; and remove trellises from buildings.
- To keep animals out from under home and garage foundations – remove, trim or thin out bushes growing against the foundation or cement porch; keep porches and steps in good repair.
- To keep animals out from under decks – finish decks completely to the ground; or use lattice materials to finish off the bottom of the deck (dig a trench five to six inches deep, place the lattice in the trench and then securely attach it to the deck).
- To keep animals away from garbage cans – if possible, keep cans inside a garage, shed or enclosure; if not possible, keep lids securely in place at all times.

If an animal takes up residence in your attic or under your foundation, there are ways to make your home less attractive to it. Place a large roll of toilet paper soaked in ammonia into its den at dusk when it is least likely to be in the den. During the day when the animal is likely to be “at home,” place a radio tuned to a talk station nearby, or put a string of blinking holiday lights in the hole or attic.

If these “tricks” fail, call Animal Control at the Elmhurst Police Station (530-3050) for assistance.

Congratulations to D.A.R.E. Graduates

Each year, a group of dedicated and concerned Elmhurst police officers presents the D.A.R.E. program (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) to fifth grade students in our public and private schools. The D.A.R.E. program is now in its 13th year in Elmhurst schools. We congratulate the young people who recently completed the program and commend them on their commitment to live drug-free lives.

Youth Awards

Congratulations to the young people nominated for the fifth annual Youth Service Award for individual volunteer efforts! These outstanding young people, ranging from 12 to 18 years of age, were recognized by the Elmhurst Commission on Youth and the Elmhurst City Council at a reception and award ceremony on Monday, May 7. Of those nominated, eleven young men and women received special recognition for exemplary service. They were: Amy Fang, Jean Hatmaker, Erin Heinemann, Leslie Heminsley, Esther Hicks, Stephen Hurley, Justyna Lutow, Leah Lyman, Tim Muzzey, Michael Pingitore and Kristen Pusich.

May 2001

City of Elmhurst

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

Website homepage: <http://www.elmhurst.org>
Email: 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.



The City Newsletter

The Historical Museum Bringing History to Life

Summer Events at Elmhurst Historical Museum

Be sure to visit the Elmhurst Historical Museum this summer and participate in its fascinating variety of programs and activities. Below please find just a few of many things to do at the museum this summer!

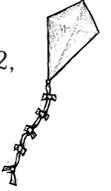
“Made in Elmhurst”

A wonderful new exhibit, *Made In Elmhurst*, opens on June 12 and continues through October 15. The exhibit includes creative hands-on activities for children and adults as they explore how people in the past applied their creativity to make everything from houses to scrapbooks and horseshoes.



Fun and Games

This hands-on drop-in program for children ages 4-12, continues through the summer on ten Thursdays in June, July and August from 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. The events are free, but reservations are required for the kite-making program on July 12. Children must be accompanied by an adult.



Family Festivities Day

Come to the Historical Museum on August 26 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. for an afternoon of craft and art demonstrations and family activities. Admission is free.

For a complete listing of museum programs and exhibits, visit the museum link on the City’s website, www.elmhurst.org or call the museum at 833-1457. Museum galleries are open free of charge to the public Tuesday-Sunday from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.



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