

The City Newsletter

Elmhurst

March 2001

Issue I

A New Elmhurst Public Library for the 21st Century



The Elmhurst Public Library has completely outgrown its present building. A new, larger library building is planned to meet Elmhurst's growing needs in the 21st century.

The new library will provide much needed space to add shelving for more books and other library materials. It will offer Elmhurst residents multiple Internet computer stations, a computer training lab, more seating and rooms for quiet study or group projects. Public meeting rooms in the new library will meet the demand for more library programs and space where community groups can meet. Additional handicapped and regular parking, ground level entrances, a modern elevator and restrooms



on every floor will make the library comfortable for seniors and completely ADA compliant. Other features will include a drive-up window, drive-up book drops, outdoor reading terraces and an outdoor reading patio for children.

The new library's central location at the corner of Margaret Place and Prospect Avenue will provide convenient access from all parts of town, especially to children attending the three nearby schools. As an additional benefit, Wilder Park will be expanded when the City-owned office building at 110 Cottage Hill Avenue is returned to green space after the new library is constructed. The present library building will be given to the Park District, which plans to use the building for activities such as preschool and senior programs.

On April 3, Elmhurst voters will be asked to approve the sale of \$18.7 million in bonds for a new public library building. The cost to taxpayers will be approximately \$69 per year for a home with a market value of \$210,000.

For more information, you are invited to attend a public forum meeting at the library (see the community calendar inside for dates), visit www.elmhurstpubliclibrary.org or stop by the library to view the models.



On the Ballot

If you have not yet registered to vote in the upcoming City elections on Tuesday, April 3, there is still time. Registration closes on March 6 (28 days prior to Election Day). On the April 3 ballot for the City of Elmhurst will be the positions of Mayor, City Clerk and City Treasurer, as well as seven aldermanic seats. Also on the ballot will be three positions on the Board of Park Commissioners for the Elmhurst Park District (two six-year terms and one two-year term) and three positions on the Elmhurst Community Unit School District 205 Board of Education (four-year terms). Voters will also have an opportunity to vote on the Elmhurst Public Library referendum question (see article on facing column).



Historic Landmark to be Restored

The City of Elmhurst and Elmhurst School District 205 are pleased to announce an inter-governmental agreement regarding the Churchville One-Room Schoolhouse. This remarkable building, located on Church Road north of Grand Avenue in unincorporated Addison Township, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Immediate plans include repairing and restoring the building, repaving the adjacent parking lot and landscaping the grounds. Restroom facilities and other improvements will be considered in a second phase of work. Funds from the City of Elmhurst, District 205 Foundation for Excellence and the Elmhurst Historical Society will be made available for the project. State and federal grant assistance will be applied for, as well as contributions from other possible sponsoring organizations. The schoolhouse, to be operated by the Elmhurst Historical Museum in conjunction with the school district, will provide a rare opportunity to experience a typical school day from Elmhurst's past.

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Historic Landmark

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The Churchville One-Room Schoolhouse is a circa 1850 one-story frame structure. Children from Elmhurst and Bensenville were taught in the building until 1930 when a new brick school was built at Church Road just south of Grand Avenue. The nomination of the building for National Register status states, "The one-room schoolhouse was an institution that was widespread during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The exodus of rural populations to urban areas and the consolidation of schools have left many of these historically significant schoolhouses abandoned. Over the years, many of these schools that once educated several generations have been left to decay, adapted to new uses, or demolished. Churchville School stands today as one of very few one-room schoolhouses with historic integrity that have managed to survive."

The First Ladies of Elmhurst

Prominent Women of the Twentieth Century

The long awaited book highlighting many women who contributed to Elmhurst's history is here. Written by Ruth Strand (1904-1999) and Genie Urick, this hardbound book, complete with color photographs, will be available for purchase through the Elmhurst Historical Museum and local bookstores. VHS tapes featuring several "First Ladies" who appeared as guests on the original television series, "Elmhurst Our Kind of Town," will be available at the Elmhurst Public Library for home viewing.

The Elmhurst Historical Museum and the Elmhurst Public Library will host "An Evening with the First Ladies" on Thursday, April 19 from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at the Elmhurst City Council Chambers, 209 N. York. Come and meet some of these special women. Admission is free. The book will be available for purchase at the pre-publication price of \$40. Proceeds will go to the City of Elmhurst to help support the Elmhurst Historical Museum. For information or an order form, call the Elmhurst Historical Museum at 833-1457.



Fifth Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade



The first Elmhurst St. Patrick's Day Parade, held just five short years ago, featured 88 units and drew a crowd of approximately 2,000 spectators. Since "the shamrock seed was planted" in 1997, the number of spectators has increased five-fold as the parade's reputation has spread well beyond Elmhurst and DuPage County. The Elmhurst St. Patrick's Day Parade is now the third largest in the entire Chicago area and features such favorites as leprechauns and druids, bagpipes and Irish flags, clowns, bands and floats to delight the crowds of over 10,000 who line the parade route. This incredible success is a tribute to the parade organizers and to Elmhurst's community spirit. The 2001 Parade will be held at noon on St. Patrick's Day, Saturday, March 17 and is guaranteed to entertain both the young and the young-at-heart. So brush up on your Irish brogue, don your best green duds and join the fun!



City Vehicle Stickers

Vehicle stickers will be available at a discount from March 1 through April 30. After May 1, stickers are sold at full price. If you do not receive an application in the mail, you may print one from the City's web site, www.elmhurst.org, pick one up at City Hall or call to have one mailed. To save time and avoid long lines, residents are encouraged to mail the completed application and fee to City Hall, or drop it in the white drop box in the parking lot. You may also purchase your sticker in person at City Hall. To avoid potential penalties, please purchase and display your sticker by May 1. Call 530-3118 for more information.

City Goes Live with New Website

The City of Elmhurst's Website, www.elmhurst.org, has been completely redesigned with a number of new features to make it more interactive. New on the Website are online versions of the Elmhurst Municipal Code and Zoning Ordinance, interactive mapping features, service request forms and other downloadable forms. The site also includes numerous links to schools and churches, service and non-profit organizations, the Elmhurst Public Library and Park District, county and state governmental bodies, and transportation agencies. Other new features, such as an interactive business directory and downloadable multimedia, will be added in the coming months. If you have questions or comments about the site, please contact the City's webmaster at webmaster@elmhurst.org.

Protecting Children On-Line

The explosion of computer technology and the Internet in recent years has opened new and exciting avenues of information and communication to both adults and children. Unfortunately it also provides opportunities for unscrupulous individuals to take advantage of the vulnerability and natural curiosity of children and adolescents. Adding to the complexity of on-line child exploitation is the fact that many computer sex offenders are middle-aged male professionals with no prior criminal background, and married with children of their own. They are often well educated and respected individuals who feel secure in the anonymity of the Internet. It is crucial that parents make it a priority to protect their children from exposure to on-line pornography and sexually explicit material and conversations, as well as from direct contact with child predators. The following suggestions can help minimize the risk of on-line predators taking advantage of your children:

- Talk openly to your children about sexual victimization and potential on-line dangers.
- Spend time on-line with them and ask to see their favorite on-line destinations.
- Keep the computer where the screen is visible to parents and other family members.
- Use blocking software or parental controls available through your service provider, but do not totally rely on these mechanisms to safeguard your children.
- Carefully monitor electronic chat rooms. (They are often frequented by computer sex offenders.)
- Maintain access to your children's on-line accounts and randomly check their e-mail. Also be aware of phone calls and correspondence to or from strangers.
- Teach them to use on-line resources responsibly and help them explore other on-line experiences and credible information sources.
- Inquire about computer safeguards being used at other places where your child may use the Internet.
- Be aware that even if your child willingly participated in any form of sexual exploitation, the child is the victim and the offender bears the full responsibility for the crime.
- Instruct your children never to arrange a face-to-face meeting with someone they meet on-line; never to post their photo or give personal information to a stranger on-line; never download pictures from an unknown source or respond to suggestive, obscene or harassing messages or bulletin board postings. Teach them not to believe everything they are told on-line.

The Internet is an exciting and powerful tool but one that presents a unique challenge for parents to keep their children safe on-line.

✓ Guidelines for Teen Parties

The teenage years can be stressful as teens assert their independence and parents try to set reasonable limits on their children's activities. It is very important for young people to have a clear understanding of their parents' rules and expectations. The following guidelines regarding teenage parties were excerpted from an Elmhurst Commission on Youth booklet.

- Know where your teen will be and who will be chaperoning the party. Adult supervision is an absolute necessity for teen parties.
- Talk to your son or daughter about situations that may arise and agree on an acceptable and legal curfew. (The curfew in Elmhurst for children under the age of 18 is 11:00 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 12:00 midnight on Friday and Saturday.)
- If your teen is giving a party, set the ground rules beforehand regarding guests, appropriate activities, and times for the party to begin and end. Make it perfectly clear that the use of tobacco, alcohol or other drugs will not be tolerated.
- Know your responsibilities and be aware that parents can be held liable for the use of drugs and/or alcohol on their property. Never allow a teen to drive home if he or she is under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- If things get out of hand despite your best efforts, call 9-1-1 for police assistance.

Communicating with teens is the best way to stay in touch with what is going on in their lives. Teens have not outgrown the need for their parents' guidance, protection and love.

✓ Child Passenger Safety Checks

Traffic crashes are the leading cause of death for children between the ages of five and fourteen – a fact that can be linked, at least in part, to the fact that many kids are unbuckled or improperly restrained in vehicles. When children outgrow forward-facing child safety seats, they need to be restrained in belt-positioning booster seats until they are big enough to fit properly in an adult seat belt.

The Elmhurst Fire Department now has nationally certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians available to ensure that child safety seats and boosters are properly installed. Please take advantage of this community service offered by your Fire Department. An appointment is required. Call 530-3090 to set up an appointment or for more information.



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Especially for Seniors

Senior Health and Safety Fair

Seniors, their families and other interested individuals are invited to attend the Senior Health and Safety Fair on Wednesday, April 25, 2001, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The fair will be held again this year at the Elmhurst Memorial Center for Health, 1200 S. York Street in Elmhurst. Comprehensive cholesterol screening (HDL, LDL and triglycerides) will be available for a \$15 fee (12-hour fast required). Please call CareMatch at 782-7878 to pre-register for the cholesterol screening. There will also be free vision, hearing, osteoporosis, blood pressure and glucose (diabetes) screenings; informative and interesting exhibits; information on volunteer opportunities; and refreshments. Bring in your used eyeglasses for donation to the needy.

Senior Chore Days

Senior Chore Days to assist Elmhurst seniors on a limited income with spring yard work will be held on and after May 5. Seniors and volunteers will arrange hours that are convenient for both. If you would like to volunteer your time or if you are an eligible senior who needs assistance, please call the DuPage Senior Citizens Council at 620-0804.

Elmhurst Park District Receives Awards

The Elmhurst Park District recently received a second place award (first in the U.S.) in the "Nations in Bloom" international environmental competition. Thirty-five cities worldwide with populations between 10,001 and 50,000 competed in what is considered the "Green Oscars" for environmental excellence. In addition, the Norman P. Smalley Pool was selected as this year's Illinois Parks and Recreation Association's "Outstanding Facility and Park Award" recipient.

Congratulations to the
Elmhurst Park District!



Mayor's Message



I am pleased to inform you that the Elmhurst City Council recently concluded an intergovernmental agreement with School District 205 to take title to the Churchville one-room schoolhouse. Believed to be the only one-room schoolhouse still standing in DuPage County, this unique, cherished asset will be preserved and made available to the community for fun and learning.

We are also very excited about the prospect of a new public library — pending the referendum vote in April. The planned facility will not only be ADA-compliant, but more senior- and child-friendly. The present library is filled beyond capacity, while more and more Elmhurst citizens are using the facility (despite "expert" predictions that the internet would cause a decline in reading). The new library would help manage the need for more materials and technological resources and also provide a spacious, comfortable facility that individuals of all ages can enjoy and visit again and again.

If you haven't yet seen it, please take the time to browse our newly revamped Elmhurst website at www.elmhurst.org. In addition to the visually appealing graphics, you'll find all kinds of information about Elmhurst: maps, churches, zoning ordinances and — one of my personal favorites — what I like to call the "creek-o-meter." The creek-o-meter provides a 24-hour/day real time reading of Salt Creek levels. It can be accessed through the public works portion of the website. The features of the website will continue to expand and change and we hope to add such capabilities as paying for vehicle stickers and water bills and checking account status.

Congratulations are in order for Elmhurst Police Chief John Millner who was recently elected president of the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police. This recognition by his peers shows the high level of competency and professionalism that Chief Millner has exhibited during his career. We are truly fortunate to have him heading up our police department.

I hope to see you at our Fifth Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade — an extremely popular event throughout the Chicago area. The parade will be held at noon on March 17, St. Patrick's Day, and is sure to be fun for all ages.

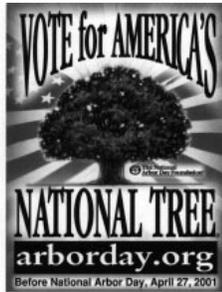
On a final note, I would like to encourage all eligible citizens to vote on Tuesday, April 3. The right to vote is one of our most precious freedoms. Please take the time to become informed about the issues and candidates.

Mayor Thomas D. Marcucci



Vote for America's National Tree

For the first time, the American public has the opportunity to vote for a national symbol. The United States has a national emblem – the bald eagle, a national anthem – the “Star Spangled Banner,” a national motto – “In God We Trust,” a national flower – the rose, and a national march – “Stars and Stripes Forever.” But a national tree has not yet been designated. The voting process will allow Americans of all ages and walks of life to help select this important national symbol. Online voting at www.arborday.org will take place through midnight on April 26, 2001. Votes can also be mailed to America's National Tree, The National Arbor Day Foundation, Nebraska City, NE 68410 by April 1, 2001. Include your name, address and the tree of your choice on a 3x5 card. The results will be announced on Arbor Day, April 27.



City Council Meetings on TV

Residents are reminded that City Council meetings are now being televised and rebroadcast on Channel 6 at noon each Wednesday and at 7:00 p.m. each Thursday following the Monday evening meetings. Video tapes are also available at the Elmhurst Public Library. Council meetings are also open for interested individuals to attend in person every first and third Monday at 7:30 p.m.



Spring Storm Preparedness

Residents are cautioned that the spring months bring not only warm, sunny days but also the threat of sudden storms with the potential for lightning, flooding or tornadoes. Be alert to signs of impending bad weather and allow yourself time to reach safe shelter. For more information regarding storm or tornado preparedness, call the Elmhurst Fire Department at 530-3090.

Responsible Pet Ownership

Pet owners are reminded of the following City ordinances regarding responsible pet ownership.



- Owners are required to clean up after their pets. This applies to pets being walked on public sidewalks and parkways, along the Prairie Path, in parks or elsewhere in the city.
- Dogs must be properly restrained at all times. A dog is considered properly restrained if it is controlled by means of a leash or chain securely attached to its collar or harness.
- It is unlawful to allow a pet to trespass on private or public property anywhere in the city.

Pet owners who violate these regulations are subject to fines.

Parkway Graffiti

With spring just around the corner, garage sale signs, home-for-sale signs and moving sale signs will soon become commonplace in Elmhurst neighborhoods. Please remember that signs advertising such events must be placed on the private property involved in the event. Signs are not allowed on parkways, parkway trees, lampposts, telephone poles or any other public property. Residents offering their home for sale are requested to remind their real estate agent of these restrictions.



Job Opportunity

The City of Elmhurst has openings for part-time school crossing guards to help children cross busy intersections on their way to and from school. Applicants should be able to tolerate a variety of weather conditions, pass a background check and communicate clearly. The position involves up to four hours of work per day, depending on the location and school assigned. The hourly compensation ranges from \$10 (to start) to \$12 per hour. Relief positions are also available on an as-needed basis. Applications are available at City Hall in the Human Resources Department.



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Public Works Working for You

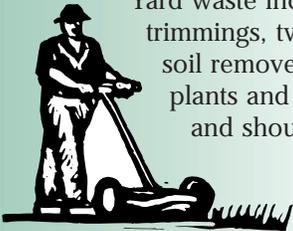
Yard Waste Pickup

Beginning the first week in April, yard waste pickup will resume on your regularly scheduled refuse collection day.

Yard waste includes leaves, brush, shrubbery trimmings, twigs, dead flowers and weeds (with soil removed). Sod, rocks, earth, vegetable plants and fruit are not considered yard waste and should be included with other refuse.

Yard waste may be put in 30-gallon brown Kraft paper bags or in 33-gallon garbage cans clearly marked "Yard Waste Only" (labels available

at the Public Works counter). The bags or cans may not weigh more than 50 pounds. One clearly visible yard waste sticker is required for each bag or container. In addition, a maximum of two bundles of brush will be picked up each week at no extra cost. Brush bundles may not exceed four feet in length or weigh more than 50 pounds each. Branches may not exceed four inches in diameter.



Prevent Flooding

The City of Elmhurst, as part of its ongoing commitment to flood prevention, is pleased to announce the completion of improvements to the last of the stormwater pump stations identified following the 1987 flood. The six pump stations along Salt Creek now have the capability to operate at their full capacity of 580 million gallons per day. Residents are asked to do their part to reduce local flooding during springtime rainy spells by keeping street inlets and rear yard drains free of leaves and debris. Ditches should also be kept clean to allow for rapid runoff of stormwater. Interested residents can monitor Salt Creek water levels through the Public Works section of the city's home page, www.elmhurst.org.



Spring Clean-Up

The third annual Spring Clean-Up will be held in May on either Wednesday, May 9; Thursday, May 10; or Friday, May 11, whichever is your regular refuse collection day. On your Spring Clean-Up day, BFI will collect furniture, appliances, fixtures, carpet, construction and demolition debris (up to two cubic yards) and bulk items. Stickers are not required for this special pickup. Yard waste, tires, car batteries, riding lawn mowers, liquids and hazardous materials are not accepted during Spring Clean-Up.



Free Wood Chips

Wood chips are generally available year-round and are delivered to residents on a first-come first-served basis. Please be aware that wood chips are delivered by the truckload (approximately 10 cubic yards or 80 wheel barrels). Neighbors may wish to share a load. Call 530-3038 to get your name on the waiting list.

Elmhurst Squad Car Design Wins Award

The newly designed Elmhurst Police squad car recently won a first place award in an international design contest sponsored by *Law and Order Magazine*. Squad car designs, submitted from around the world, were judged in various categories. The Elmhurst Police squad car took first place for police departments with over 50 members. The new design, based on a prototype drawn by Sergeant Bob Kopczynski of the Elmhurst Police Department, evolved from the previous design, using the same star and colors but with a more modern interpretation.

Congratulations to Sergeant Kopczynski and the Elmhurst Police Department!



Managing Household Hazardous Waste

Household hazardous waste (HHW) includes household products containing toxic, corrosive, explosive or flammable substances. Common examples are paints, stains, cleaning solvents, automotive fluids and fertilizers. Listed below are important suggestions for safe and proper management of HHW.

- Store and use such products according to label directions. Try to use up household products completely or give them to someone who will.
- Research recycling opportunities. For example, items such as automotive batteries, motor oil and antifreeze are recovered and recycled by DuPage businesses. Contact the DuPage County Solid Waste Department at (630) 682-7373 for a list of potential recycling opportunities.
- Never "hide" HHW in your garbage. Hazardous materials hidden in garbage containers may result in serious accidents or injuries during waste collection.
- Never pour leftover hazardous products into storm sewers or onto the ground. Releasing hazardous

materials directly into the environment causes serious pollution and puts people, wildlife and the surrounding environment at risk.

- Reduce the overall amount of HHW by purchasing less hazardous products, such as environmentally safe cleaners and detergents, and rechargeable batteries.

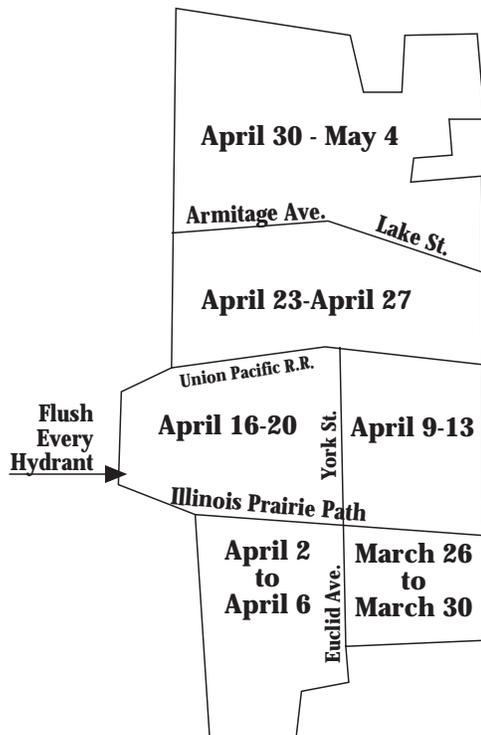
Household hazardous waste collections will be held this spring at the following locations:

- April 21: Village of Itasca Public Works Facility, 415 N. Prospect (corner of Irving Park and Prospect)
- April 28: Parking lot #1 at the College of DuPage (corner of 22nd and Lambert), Glen Ellyn

Hours for these special collections will be 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Household hazardous waste is also accepted from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays throughout the year at the permanent site at Naperville Fire Station #4, 1971 Brookdale Road. Call the DuPage County Household Hazardous Waste Hotline at 510-2810 for details.

2001 Fire Hydrant Flushing Schedule

The City of Elmhurst Public Works Department will begin the annual hydrant flushing program on March 26, 2001. The hydrant flushing operations will take place Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Flushing operations will be completed over a six-week period.



March 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, Norman T. Reinertsen, Paul Fichtner;
2nd Ward, Dennis M. Reboletti, Janice A. Vanek;
3rd Ward, William E. Friberg, Susan J. Rose;
4th Ward, John Gow, Steven DuBois;
5th Ward, James J. Parker, Phillip D. Jordan;
6th Ward, Peter W. Balmegann, Stephen G. Hillsman;
7th Ward, Charles R. Mueller, Mark A. Mulliner.



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The Elmhurst Historical Museum *Bringing History to Life*



Explore the exhibition galleries at the Elmhurst Historical Museum this spring. Through March 25, visitors can still enjoy Antimacassars to Zeppelins and everything in-between, a light-hearted A-to-Z retrospective sure to delight young visitors and those who can relate to earlier times. From March 1 to April 5, Comic Stamp Art will present vintage Sunday newspaper comics, along with "Comic Strip Classics," stamp images from the U. S. Postal Service. On April 14 the museum proudly opens "Barn Again!" celebrating an American Icon from the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service. The exhibit examines barns as a cultural icon, as well as a part of our nation's agricultural history. The display, which includes photographs and other information regarding barns from the Elmhurst area, will close on May 27.

Museum Exhibits Win Awards

Staff and volunteers from the Elmhurst Historical Museum were on hand at the annual Illinois Association of Museums

awards banquet to bring home two special awards for recent museum exhibitions. Competing with museums throughout the state, Elmhurst won an "Award for Excellence" for Views from the Porch: Gardening in Elmhurst and a "Superior Achievement Award" for Spats to Spice Girls: 20th Century Fashion, Food and Fun. The Illinois Association of Museums is composed of museums, zoos, arboreta, and other cultural and educational agencies in Illinois involved in preservation and interpretation of history, prehistory, natural and built environments, and endeavors of a social scientific, cultural and/or artistic nature.

Public Programs at the Museum

In addition to its special exhibitions, the Elmhurst Historical Museum offers a variety of regular programs for children and adults. Second Sunday Drop-In is a free monthly activity program for children accompanied by an adult. Visitors can "drop in" anytime between 1:00 and 3:30 p.m. on the second Sunday of the month. Day Off? Drop In! activities are held from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. on selected District 205 in-service and vacation days for children from four to twelve. Tea Time Tour is a free adult program held at 1:00 p.m. the third Thursday of each month. Public gallery hours are Tuesday through Sunday from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. For more information on museum programs, refer to the enclosed community calendar or call the museum at 833-1457.



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