

The City Newsletter

Elmhurst

February 2000

Issue I

1

The Irish on Parade



Leprechauns and druids, bagpipe players and Irish flags will be featured at the fourth annual Elmhurst St. Patrick's Day Parade (the third largest in the Chicago area) on Saturday, March 18. These traditional favorites

will join brass bands, clowns, jugglers, unicycles, marching units, floats, animated characters, and local organizations, businesses and clubs. The parade will step off at noon from the Wilson and Spring intersection and continue north on Spring to Eggleston. Festivities will be ongoing, with food, music and fun as Spring Road businesses welcome visitors. For information, call Doug Kuester at 279-2222 or visit www.springroad.com.

Elmhurst holds the third largest St. Patrick's Day Parade in the Chicago area.

The Census – “How America Knows What America Needs “



ensus 2000 is the “. . . largest peacetime effort in the history of the United States. . . .” (according to Census literature).

The U. S. Constitution directs the Census Bureau to conduct a complete accounting of every resident in the United States every 10 years. Here are just a few of the many reasons why Elmhurst residents should fill out their census forms and promptly mail them back:

- Census data helps government know who we are and what we need.
- Census numbers help communities obtain state and federal funding.
- Census maps are used to create and update 911 emergency systems.
- Census data assists health providers in predicting the spread of disease.
- Census numbers help American businesses reduce financial risk.
- Census figures help individuals prove age, residence or relationship.

Census Day is April 1, 2000. Approximately a week prior to Census Day, most households will receive a census questionnaire by mail. The only way to make sure the residents of Elmhurst are represented in the census is by simply filling out the form and encouraging others to do the same.



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Candles – A Popular Hazard

Several recent house fires in Elmhurst, resulting in extensive damage, were caused by candles that either tipped over or broke their glass containers and lit surrounding materials on fire. Burning candles should never be left unattended, even for a minute or two. They can cause sudden, unexpected fires when the flame comes in contact with combustible materials, such as curtains, towels, table cloths or rugs. Children must never be allowed to play with candles, matches or lighters, and should be taught that these are tools – not toys. Flashlights or battery-operated lamps are safer alternatives to candles in a power failure.

REMEMBER: FIRE SAFETY IS AN . . . ATTITUDE!



Elmhurst Youth: the Best!



The City of Elmhurst and the Commission on Youth will recognize young people who exemplify the volunteer spirit and give of their time and talents in unpaid community service. A reception and ceremony will be held prior to the City Council meeting on May 1. Nominees must live within School District 205 boundaries and must be between 12 and 18 years of age. Nomination forms have been mailed to schools, youth service organizations, youth groups, local businesses and community leaders. They are also available at the Mayor/City Manager's office in City Hall. The submission deadline is March 3. For more information, contact Elizabeth Clower, Youth Coordinator at 530-8999.

The Truth about Stop Signs

City offices regularly receive requests from residents that stop signs be installed at neighborhood intersections. Such requests are carefully evaluated in accordance with rigorous standards that must be met before a sign can be installed. Stop signs are intended to control the right-of-way at an intersection and to provide adequate gaps in traffic to allow safe entry into the intersection. Residents may feel that a stop sign will enhance safety by reducing vehicular speeds, however, it has been clearly shown that stop signs do not control speed. The truth is that unwarranted stop signs may merely provide a false sense of security to pedestrians and motorists, and instead of enhancing safety, may actually increase the potential for accidents and injuries.

Many years ago Elmhurst committed to conform to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). The MUTCD is a document prepared by the Federal Highway Administration to provide nationally accepted criteria to determine warrants for traffic related signage. Stop sign requests received by City offices undergo the following rigorous step-by-step evaluation process:

- A visual inspection is made, noting hazards or roadway alignment deficiencies affecting traffic movement.
- If problems are observed, a preliminary traffic study, including accident history, is conducted and compared to the rigid standards of the MUTCD to determine if action is justified.
- If the accident history is significant but not sufficient to warrant action, a full study, including traffic counts, a speed study and visual observation during problem hours, is completed and again compared to MUTCD warrants.
- If it is determined that action is warranted, the recommended action is reviewed by the Public Affairs and Safety Committee and their recommendation is forwarded to the City Council.
- Finally, with City Council concurrence, an ordinance is passed, the sign is installed and interested parties are notified.

Of the stop sign requests received, 5% or fewer result in MUTCD warrants being met. For additional information, contact the Public Works Department at 530-3020.

Public Works *Working for You*

Solid Waste Contract Renewal

The City of Elmhurst recently renewed its solid waste contract with Browning Ferris Industries. BFI has been the city's contract waste hauler for several decades. The new contract provides for a rate of \$9.07 per month for the current program – weekly pick-up of one 33-gallon can of refuse, unlimited recycling and two bundles of brush between April 1 and November 30. The new contract will also contain an option for residents to utilize a 96-gallon toter in lieu of the base 33-gallon can at a cost of \$12.00 per month. Under the new contract, refuse stickers will sell for \$1.25 and yard waste stickers will remain at \$1.30.

Refuse collection days for Elmhurst residents will continue to be Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. A brochure with details about the new program will be delivered to Elmhurst homes in the near future.

Yard Waste Pickup

Yard waste pick-up will resume the first week in April on your regularly scheduled refuse collection day. Yard waste includes leaves, brush, shrubbery trimmings, twigs, dead flowers and weeds (with dirt removed). Sod, rocks, earth, vegetables (such as tomato 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 33-gallon garbage cans (clearly marked "Yard Waste Only") weighing no more than 50 pounds. One clearly visible yard waste sticker is required for each bag or container. Brush pick-up is limited to two bundles per week at no extra cost. Brush bundles must not exceed 4' in length or 50 pounds in weight. Branches may not exceed four inches in diameter. (For information on area tree specialists who pick up larger limbs, call Public Works at 530-3020.)

Spring Clean-Up

Spring Clean-Up will be held in May on the following schedule: residents with a regular Wednesday collection day - Wednesday, May 10; residents with a regular Thursday collection day - Thursday, May 11; residents with a regular Friday collection day - Friday, May 12. On your Spring Clean-Up Day, BFI will collect furniture, appliances, fix-

tures, carpet, construction and demolition debris (up to two cubic yards), and bulk items. Stickers will not be required for this special pickup. Yard waste, tires, car batteries, riding lawn mowers, liquids and hazardous materials are not accepted during Spring Clean-Up.

Open House at Public Works Facility

Residents and friends are invited to celebrate National Public Works Week at the open house and dedication of the new Public Works facility on Saturday, May 20, 9:00 a.m. to noon. Bring the family for a tour of this state-of-the-art facility, rides in the aerial bucket and sweeper and refreshments.

Free Wood Chips

Wood chips are available year round and are delivered to residents upon request. Please be aware that wood chips are delivered by the truckload, approximately 10 cubic yards or 80 wheel barrels. (Neighbors can arrange to share a load.) Call 530-3038 to place an order.

Prevent Flooding

Residents are asked to be particularly watchful during springtime rainy spells to keep street inlets and rear yard drains free of leaves and debris to prevent flooding. Ditches should also be kept clean to allow for rapid runoff of stormwater.

Household Hazardous Waste

Collections for household hazardous waste will be held at the College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn on Saturday, April 29 and at the Bloomingdale Public Works Facility on Saturday, May 20. They are also accepted on Saturdays and Sundays throughout the year at the permanent site in Naperville. Call the DuPage County Household Hazardous Waste Hotline at 510-2810 for details.

**Dedication of
new Public
Works Facility,
May 20, 9 a.m. -
12 noon.**

Parkway Graffiti

With the approach of spring, garage sale signs, home-for-sale signs and moving sale signs become commonplace in Elmhurst neighborhoods. Please remember that signs advertising these events must be placed on the private property being sold or on which the sale is being held. They are not allowed on parkways, parkway trees, lampposts, telephone poles or any public property. Residents offering their home for sale are requested to remind their real estate agent of this restriction. (Reminder – garage sales are limited to two per year per household.)



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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 26, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The fair will be held this year at the Elmhurst Memorial Center for Health, 1200 S. York in Elmhurst. Comprehensive cholesterol screening (HDL, LDL and triglycerides) will be provided for a \$20 fee (12-hour fast required). Please call CareMatch at 782-7878 to preregister for the cholesterol screening. There will also be free vision, hearing, podiatry, chiropractic and diabetes screening; lots of interesting exhibits; information on volunteer opportunities; and refreshments. Bring in your used eyeglasses to be donated to the needy.

Senior Chore Days

Senior Chore Days to assist Elmhurst seniors on a limited income with spring yard work will be held the mornings of Saturday, April 29 and Saturday, May 6. Volunteers and eligible seniors are encouraged to call the DuPage Senior Citizens Council at 620-0804.

S.A.L.T.

Meetings of S.A.L.T. (Seniors and Lawmen Together) are held every third Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. at the Elmhurst Police Station. S.A.L.T. was formed in 1995 to reduce crimes against senior citizens and enhance the relationship between seniors and the police. Meetings are open to anyone interested in such topics as crime prevention, scams, crime updates and current laws concerning the senior population. For more information, contact Officer Bill Frese at 530-3050 between 7:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Mayor's Message



Thank you to everyone — city officials and staff and Elmhurst residents — for helping to make this year's Y2K event a major non-event. Our city staff worked diligently to ensure all systems were "go" before the calendar rollover occurred. I'd particularly like to thank Lieutenant Don Novak of the Elmhurst Fire Department who headed up the public safety side of our Y2K preparation effort. Don, together with a staff of six, positioned themselves in the emergency operations center in Fire Station No. 1 on the evening of December 31 to be ready for any problems that might occur.

I hope you took notice of our article on page 1 about the upcoming St. Patrick's Day parade on Saturday, March 18. Although quite new to Elmhurst, the parade has become a tradition in our community, growing to the third largest St. Patrick's Day parade in the Chicago area. Over 5,000 people now attend this event from throughout DuPage County and the Chicago area. Hope to see you there!

The City Council recently passed its property tax levy for the New Year, and for the first time since 1991, there was no increase in the city's portion of the property tax. Our hard-working city council is primarily responsible for this good news. As a result of their hard work, Elmhurst now has a strong economic environment and solid tax base. City officials will continue to work hard to keep tax increases as low as possible while continuing to provide the high level of city services our residents deserve.

We are also pleased to announce that seven new firefighters were sworn in on January 17. This represents an increase in the number of full-time Elmhurst firefighters and enables us to have an incident commander on-site should there be a fire. The incident commander directs the firefighting effort and helps to keep everyone safe. Our firefighters deserve our whole-hearted support, so that they can perform their jobs efficiently and safely.

On a final note I'd like to thank the people who came to City Hall on a cold night in December to help us convey our displeasure to representatives from the Federal Railroad Administration and the Union Pacific Railroad concerning their interpretation of the Swift Rail Act and whistle blowing at railroad crossings. In Elmhurst we've fought hard to control airline noise and we will fight just as diligently against this noise problem. We will be working with state and federal officials until this issue can be resolved.

Mayor Thomas D. Marcucci



F . Y . I .

Vehicle Stickers

Vehicle stickers are 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, please pick one up at City Hall. To save time, 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 Council Meetings to be Televised

City Council meetings, held every first and third Monday evening, will soon be televised and rebroadcast later in the week for interested residents who are unable attend the meetings regularly. It is anticipated that this new programming will begin in the summer of 2000.

Important Phone Numbers

- Call the O'Hare Noise Line at 1-800-435-9569 with complaints about noise pollution from O'Hare operations. Calls are important as they are used to gauge the impact of O'Hare on surrounding communities.
- To report power outages, call ComEd at 1-800-EDISON1 (1-800-334-7661). Calls to this automated line are used to determine the parameters of the outage and locate the problem more quickly.
- Nicor Gas requests that customers call 1-888-nicor4u (1-888-642-6748) for general customer service information.

Job Opportunity

The City of Elmhurst has openings for part-time school crossing guards to help children safely cross busy streets 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 is \$7.98 per hour. Relief positions are also available on an as-needed basis. Applications are available at City Hall in the Human Resources Department.

CPR Class to be Offered

An adult CPR participant class (non-certification) will be held on Saturday, April 29 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Fire Station #1, 404 N. York Street. The class will be limited to 20 participants and will cost \$10 per person. Call 530-3090 for more information.

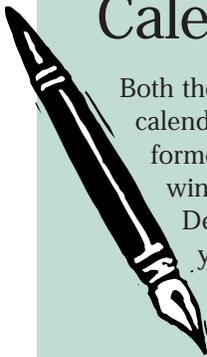
Bus Service to Flower and Garden Show

Pace will again provide round trip express bus service from Elmhurst to the Flower and Garden Show at Navy Pier the weekends of March 11/12, and March 18/19. Buses will pick up passengers at the southeast corner of Palmer and Schiller at 9:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. and return from Navy Pier at 2:00 and 6:00 p.m. Advance tickets may be purchased for \$7.50 round trip at Pfund and Clint, or Thrifty Scholar. Fare paid on the bus is \$10 (exact fare required). Call 847-228-2416 for details.

Entries for Memorial Day Parade

The Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony will be held on Monday, May 29 at 9:30 a.m. For information on entering your group or organization, contact the Elmhurst Chamber of Commerce at 834-6060.

Prizes Offered for Calendar Theme



Both the 1999 and 2000 City of Elmhurst calendars have been applauded by current and former Elmhurst residents. The award-winning 1999 calendar featured "Decade By Decade" historical details and photos. This year's calendar highlights the people, places and events that make Elmhurst "The World Next Door." The city is beginning preliminary planning for the 2001 calendar and is seeking theme ideas from Elmhurst residents. Please send your suggestions in writing to the Office of the City Manager by April 1, 2000. Prizes will be awarded for the winning theme.



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Happenings

The Elmhurst Symphony Orchestra, Elmhurst College and Elmhurst's fine museums offer a delightful variety of concerts, exhibitions and activities during the spring months. Mark your calendar and take advantage of the many cultural and educational opportunities available right here in Elmhurst. And don't forget the great family activities taking place on Spring Road and in the City Centre. Here are some of the highlights. (Call the numbers listed for more information on these and other events.)

Elmhurst Art Museum, 834-0202

- February 8 - April 9: Native American Indian Art
- March 2 - 19: District 205 Art Show (children's art, grades K-8)
- March 9 - April 30: Marc Arctander, mixed media sculpture
- March 28 - 31: Family Day at the Museum - create a Spirit of the Eagle: Ceremonial Dance Mask
- April 6 - May 28: Third annual national ceramics competition
- April 8 - 30: "Hyde Artistic Discovery," high school art competition
- April 16 - June 4: "American Glass," from 1609 to the present
- April 27 - June 4: Paintings, drawings, prints on wood of artist, Robert Erickson
- May 7, 10 a.m.-5:00 p.m: Fourth annual "Elmhurst Press Art in the Park" (Wilder Park), featuring jewelry, paintings, ceramics, mixed media, photography, sculpture, furniture, glass and fiber on display and for sale; children's art activities; and family entertainment

Elmhurst City Centre, 993-1600

- April 15, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m: Spring Treasure Hunt for children 10 and under - free matinee at York Theatre, the City Centre bunny, and candy and tiny "treasures"
- May 17, 24, 31, 7-9:00 p.m: Cool Cars Under the Stars

Elmhurst College, 617-3033

- March 4, 7:30 p.m: Gospel Extravaganza II, Hammerschmidt Chapel
- March 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 8:00 p.m: "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead," Mill Theatre
- March 11, 7:00 p.m: An Evening with Lech Walesa, "Democracy: The Never-Ending Battle"
- March 21, 7:30 p.m: Chicago Chamber Musicians Concert, Hammerschmidt Chapel
- March 29, 7:30 p.m: The Annual Heschel Lecture, Herman E. Schaalman, "Reflections on the Life of Abraham Joshua Heschel"
- April 2, 3:00 p.m: Elmhurst Choral Union Concert, Hammerschmidt Chapel
- April 6, 7, 8, 8:00 p.m: "Love Letters," Mill Theatre
- April 9, 7:00 p.m: 10th Annual Holocaust Education Guestship featuring author Stephen Haynes
- April 27, 8:00 p.m: Elmhurst College Jazz Band/Ensemble Spring Concert, Mill Theatre
- May 1, 7:30 p.m: Elmhurst College and Community Band Concert, Hammerschmidt Chapel

Elmhurst Historical Museum, 833-1457 (All Events Are Free.)

- Through May 6: "Views from the Porch: Gardening in Elmhurst," (see article page 8)
- March 11, 1-3:30 p.m: Second Saturday Drop-In for Families - decorate a pot and plant a heritage vegetable
- March 15, 7-8:00 p.m: Children's author, Marlene Targ Brill on how she uses history to create story ideas (in conjunction with Elmhurst School District 205 Literature Festival)
- March 16, 1-2:00 p.m: Tea Time Tour for Adults, "Americans and their Environment, Past and Present"
- March 25 - May 7: "Going Strong: Older Americans on the Job," (see article page 8)
- April 8, 1-3:30 p.m: Second Saturday Drop-In - make your own family tree
- April 20 and May 18, 1-2:00 p.m: Tea Time Tours for Adults
- May 13, 1-3:30 p.m: Second Saturday Drop-In - Create pinwheels

Elmhurst Symphony Orchestra, 941-0202

- February 29, March 1: Elmhurst Symphony String Quintet to perform in music classes at the eight Elmhurst public grammar schools during their music classes
- March 12, 3:00 p.m: Free Family Concert - York High School Auditorium
- May 13, 8:00 p.m: "Tyrants and Titans," Gustav Mahler's Symphony No. 1, "Titan" and John Knowles Paine's "Prelude to Oedipus Tyrannus" (Youth concerto competition winner to perform), Hammerschmidt Chapel, Elmhurst College

Lizzadro Museum, 833-1616

January 4 - July 2: "Cameos," featuring the museum's large collection of hard stone and shell cameos, antique to modern, carved in Italy and Germany

March 4 - June 4: "Visitors from Outer Space," featuring meteorites and moon rock

March 4, 1:00 p.m.: Dr. Richard Hoover - "Extremophile: The Search for Life on Other Planets," Hammerschmidt Chapel

March 18, 2:00 p.m.: Interactive lecture, "Life on the Space Shuttle"

April 1, 2:00 p.m.: "Amber: The Golden Gem of the Geological Past"

April 29, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.: Fossil Collecting Field Trip

Spring Road, 279-2222

March 18, 12:00 noon: St. Patrick's Day Parade (see article pg. 1)

April 22, 1:00 p.m.: Easter Egg Hunt - Spring Road at the Gazebo and Prairie Path

May 20, 1:00 p.m.: Pet Parade, face painting, bike decorating - Spring Road and Vallette (Sign-up begins at 11:00 a.m.)

Museum Day

Elmhurst's four fine museums will unite on May 21 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. to participate in the international celebration of "Museum Day." All four museums will be free to the public and will feature special events to entertain and delight their guests. A special trolley will be on hand to shuttle visitors between the museums. The Elmhurst Art Museum, the Elmhurst Historical Museum, the Lizzadro Museum of Lapidary Art and the Theatre Historical Society of America are looking forward to this opportunity to thank residents for their past support and make them aware of the museums' outstanding educational programs, tourist activities and award-winning exhibitions.

Take Time to Vote

All registered voters are reminded to come to the polls on Tuesday, March 21 to vote in the primary elections.



This is not only a presidential primary but also includes other national offices, as well as state and county positions. Also on the ballot will be the School District 205 referendum. Voters are encouraged to become informed on this extremely important issue that will affect the future of York High School and a number of other schools in Elmhurst.

Y2K No Show!

2000 Although the year 2000 arrived in the City of Elmhurst without causing any significant problems, a number of benefits resulted from the city's preparation efforts.

- A thorough inventory of city facilities and equipment was completed, and upgrades were made where specific needs were identified.
- A portable generator was purchased for use at City Hall, the Public Works Facility or a lift station during a power failure.
- Traffic signals were upgraded
- Computer systems were upgraded
- A tabletop emergency simulation was conducted, and emergency procedures and the function of the Emergency Operation Center were reviewed. Contingency plans for future emergencies were put in place.

In retrospect, members of the city's Y2K Committee are pleased with their planning efforts and the positive results that came from their hard work.

February 2000 City of Elmhurst

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

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

Email: webmaster@elmhurst.org

City Hall Hours:

Monday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

(1st & 3rd Mondays to 7 p.m.)

Tues., Thurs., Fri. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Wednesday 9 a.m. - 12 noon

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. Balgemann, Stephen G. Hillsman;

7th Ward, George Szczepaniak, Mark A. Mulliner.



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History Comes Alive

Don't miss these fascinating exhibits at the Elmhurst Historical Museum, 120 Park Ave. The museum is open Tuesday through Sunday from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Call 833-1457 for information on these and other museum events.

Gardening in Winter?

Come shake the winter blues at the Elmhurst Historical Museum by exploring the beauty of Elmhurst gardens, past and present. You can experience a bit of summer's glory in a lush garden setting as part of "Views from the Porch: Gardening in Elmhurst," a temporary exhibit designed and built by museum staff and volunteers. Elmhurst was once the site of large estates with formal gardens and has continued its fascinating gardening history through active garden clubs, community gardening programs and family gardens throughout the community. The exhibit will run through Sunday, May 7, 2000.



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City of Elmhurst

209 N. York St.

Elmhurst, IL 60126

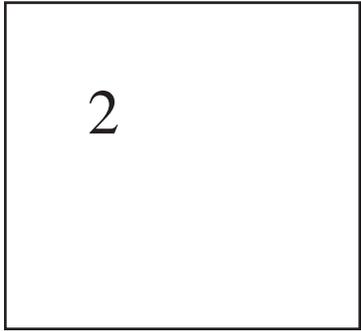
530-3000



"Older Americans on the Job"

"Going Strong: Older Americans on the Job," an exhibit organized by the National Museum of American History and circulated by the Smithsonian Institution

Traveling Exhibition Service, will be on display at the Elmhurst Historical Museum from March 25 to May 7. The exhibit, based on black-and-white photographs by Harvey Wang, focuses on older Americans who exemplify the ideals of dedication, ambition, service and self-reliance. Wang photographed men and women amid the materials and well-worn furnishings of the workplaces they had known for decades. "Going Strong" also invites visitors to touch actual objects seen in the photos: the hammer of Long Island blacksmith John Causarano, the stethoscope of country doctor Lydia Emery. These and other well-worn objects symbolize the dedication to work personified by many older Americans.



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96-year-old Hallie Stillwell, Justice of the Peace in Marathon, Texas (Copyright Harvey Wang)

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