

Elmhurst Not Insulated from Economic Woes

Deteriorating economic conditions in the U. S. and around the world are affecting municipal revenue sources that fund services to the Elmhurst community. All revenue sources are down and it is not anticipated that the city's financial picture will improve in the near future. During 2008-2009 budget deliberations, the City Council and staff identified and implemented budget cuts totaling \$1.4 million. The cuts included a freeze in hiring and overtime; reductions in staff conferences, travel and training; elimination of late hours in the Collector's Office on the first and third Mondays; and a cutback in police and fire department educational programs.

In order to maintain the Council-prescribed balanced budget next year, the 2008-2009 cuts will be repeated and an additional \$2.5 million will have to be cut from the 2009-2010 budget. The city's goal is to continue providing the most essential services – those that maintain infrastructure, public safety and other programs that affect the largest number of residents – BUT eliminate or at least reduce expenditures in areas that are desirable, but cannot be afforded this year. The following is a partial list of anticipated cuts:

- A reduction in equipment replacement, resulting in a savings of over \$500,000.
- A reduction in the Community Grant Program.
- A reduction in mosquito control.
- A reduction in street sweeping.
- Elimination of City contributions to the sidewalk repair program, the rear yard drain program, parkway tree planting, and neighborhood block parties.

During upcoming budget deliberations, the City Council and staff will consider other cost-saving measures in the areas of staffing, operations, municipal services and fees. The grand total of General Fund budget cuts that will need to be implemented will be at least \$3.9 million.

www.elmhurst.org

The "Go To" Tool for City Info

The city's website has been completely redesigned and now contains more than twice the information and features of the previous website. The new website provides easier navigation, enhanced features, expanded information on all departments and city services, and access to two new city websites highlighting the Elmhurst Historical Museum, and the Department of Visitor and Tourism. Listed below are some of the top reasons to visit www.elmhurst.org:

- Get up-to-date Elmhurst news.
- Sign up to be notified via e-mail when a particular topic will be on a City Council agenda or when the topic appears in the Council minutes.
- Report concerns, such as barking dogs, potholes and burned out street lights.

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Library Named One of Nation's Top Five

The Elmhurst Public Library has been named one of the nation's top five libraries in its category, according to the 2008 Hennen's American Public Library Rating (HAPLR) Index. This is the third year in a row that the Elmhurst Public Library has been ranked in the top ten by the HAPLR Index. The library was compared to 928 libraries nationwide and 67 others in Illinois serving similar populations. The HAPLR Index bases its ranking on a number of factors, including circulation, staffing, materials, reference service and funding levels. For more information, visit www.haplr-index.com.



The homepage on the City's redesigned website.

www.elmhurst.org

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- Review your utility bill history.
- Make online payments of utility bills and parking tickets.
- Research Elmhurst's cultural attractions and restaurants, lodging and shopping opportunities on the new visitor and tourism page.
- "Ask the historian" about Elmhurst's history and research city history.
- Search the calendar of events to find fun activities for schools, scouts, adults, seniors and families.
- Link to the Historical Museum's website and learn about museum collections and upcoming exhibits.
- Find in-depth information on rules and regulations, local news, events and city services.
- Check City construction project updates in your neighborhood or elsewhere in the community.

The new city website contains a wealth of information, maps, forms and links to other governmental bodies and agencies. Be sure to check it out.

On the Ballot

Municipal Elections will be held on Tuesday, April 7, 2009. The offices of Mayor, City Clerk and Treasurer, as well as one Aldermanic seat from each of the City's seven wards, will appear on the ballot. Those elected to the City Council will serve a four year term.

City Hall will be an Early Voting location for DuPage County voters. Early Voting will take place Monday-Friday between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. beginning on March 16 and ending April 2.

The last day to register to vote or update current registrations is March 10 (28 days prior to the election). Residents of DuPage County may register in the Administration Office at City Hall during normal business hours.

To check your current voter registration, request an Absentee ballot, find additional Early Voting locations or confirm your polling place, contact the DuPage County Election Commission at (630) 407-5600.



Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade

Be sure to don your best green duds and join the fun on Saturday, March 14, for the thirteenth annual Elmhurst St. Patrick's Day Parade and festivities. The parade will step off at noon from the corner of Wilson Street and Spring Road, and will feature leprechauns, bagpipes, marching bands, Irish dancers, choral groups, clowns and much more. For more information, visit www.elmhurststpatparade.com.



There's something for everyone at the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade on Saturday, March 14.

City Approves Sustainability Policy

The United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development defined “sustainability” as meeting “the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” The City of Elmhurst is committed to responsible stewardship of its environmental, economic and social resources, and acknowledges its responsibility to respond to local environmental concerns.

It is anticipated that the Elmhurst City Council will approve a sustainability policy in the near future to guide long-term decision-making and ensure that environmental issues will receive equal consideration in purchases and other critical municipal activities. The following is the “Statement of Policy” contained in the City of Elmhurst Sustainability Policy.

The City of Elmhurst is dedicated to the enhancement and protection of the immediate and long term well-being of the City, its citizens, and its natural environment. To that end, the City of Elmhurst will consider sustainable environmental practices as an integral component of its leadership role in the community.

The City of Elmhurst will continue to face the challenge of maintaining the core water, wastewater, public safety, and all other community services that have been commonly accepted as the City responsibilities. At the same time the City will strive to protect and enhance Elmhurst’s environmental quality, economy and livability. The City is committed to incorporating proven new technologies that result in reducing energy demands; to use the most environmentally responsible products in its daily operations and to address critical local environmental issues when developing new City programs and initiatives which take on particular urgency in light of serious global environmental concerns. The City will seek to be an active partner with other civic organizations and public agencies within the City (Park Districts, School Districts,

Library and Historical Foundation) to achieve sustainable policies and goals.

The City of Elmhurst has initiated some specific policies and programs, and will expand and add others that exemplify the city’s commitment to sustainability. Those policies and programs include the following:

- Publishing information on the city website, in the quarterly newsletter (*The Front Porch*) and through the Elmhurst Public Library, to help residents make responsible decisions regarding the environment.
- Committing to reduce city-wide carbon dioxide emissions to seven percent below 1990 levels by the year 2012; Adding electric/gasoline hybrid vehicles to the city fleet, where possible, to reduce dependence on carbon dioxide-producing fossil fuels.
- Reducing the City’s own contribution to poor local air quality by reducing automobile use and establishing idling guidelines for municipal vehicles.
- Creating a safe environment for walking and bicycling (see Bicycle Task Force article page 4) as an alternative to automobile use.
- Using the lowest feasible amounts of toxic pesticides and fertilizers, and actively exploring other methods in public plantings.
- Reducing waste through the City’s comprehensive recycling program and expanding recycling opportunities in multi-family residences and public areas.
- Retrofitting the Elmhurst Fire Department’s current fleet of fire apparatus with diesel oxidation catalysts to reduce emissions.
- Installing Light Emitting Diode (LED) emergency lights that require less power on all new vehicles and apparatus.

Elmhurst elected officials and staff members are committed to protecting the environment and other resources of the community. The city encourages residents to join in making wise conservation choices.



Do You Need a Building Permit?

Residents who are planning to begin a construction or remodeling project this spring are reminded to contact the City’s Building/Fire Department at 630-530-3030 to determine whether a permit and/or drawings, site plans and the like, are needed for the proposed project. Following is a list of some of the projects that require a permit:

- Air conditioning installation
- Electrical and plumbing revisions
- Porches, decks, fences and gates
- Structure additions
- Attached or detached garages
- Interior remodeling
- Sheds and accessory structures
- Swimming pools and hot tubs
- Driveways
- New home construction
- Signs

For additional information regarding Elmhurst building permits and codes, go to www.elmhurst.org or contact the Building Department at 630-530-3030 for a complete list of projects that require a permit.



The Front Porch

March 2009

Character Counts Awards



In October of 2003, the Elmhurst community officially adopted the nationwide character development initiative known as Character Counts. This innovative program seeks to promote character-building by helping to instill the core ethical values of trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship, into the day-to-day activities and personal interactions in government, schools, sports programs, religious institutions, the business community and private individuals of all ages and walks of life.

The Character Counts in Elmhurst coalition includes the City of Elmhurst, Elmhurst School District 205, Elmhurst Park District, Elmhurst Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Elmhurst Public Library and many other individuals, businesses and organizations. Activities have included a speaker's bureau, photography contest, reading programs, classroom discussions and activities, special park programming, the Mayor-for-a-Day essay contest and an award program to honor volunteers who have made a difference in our community. The 2009 Character Counts Community Service Awards will be presented on _____ at _____. If you would like to nominate a volunteer in our community, please call or stop by the City Manager's Office in City Hall for a nomination form. For more information, please call Cynthia Szkolka at (630) 993-8910.

Mayor Appoints New Bicycle Task Force

To make Elmhurst a more bicycle-friendly community and support the city's sustainability effort, Mayor Thomas Marcucci recently announced the formation of a Bicycle Task Force. The group's goals include encouraging the use of bicycles for transportation and recreation; educating the public about safe cycling practices, as well as the rights and responsibilities of cyclists and motorists; identifying opportunities to increase access to public facilities in the community; acting as a technical resource to institutions and government entities relative to biking in Elmhurst; and considering Elmhurst's five Es (Engineering, Education, Encouragement, Enforcement, and Evaluation and Planning) relative to the possibility of qualifying as a bicycle-friendly community through the League of American Bicyclists. The Task Force includes members of Elmhurst College, Elmhurst Hospital, Elmhurst Chamber of Commerce, Elmhurst City Centre, Elmhurst Park District, Elmhurst Public Library, Elmhurst School District #205, City of Elmhurst and Elmhurst residents.



Mayor's Message

The City of Elmhurst was recently recognized nationally for its exceptional public library by the 2008 Hennen's American Public Library Rating Index, which named the Elmhurst Public Library one of the top five in the country in its category (see article page 1). The City is justifiably proud of this achievement and we congratulate Marilyn Boria and her staff for achieving this distinction — a testament to their professionalism and dedication to the library's mission. There's something for everyone at our library and I encourage residents to take advantage of this valuable community resource.

Last year, Elmhurst was recognized for its walkability by a new website (www.walkscore.com) that gave our City a perfect score for access to community assets. A new Blue Ribbon Bicycle Task Force was recently assembled to enhance the community's "bikability," as well. This group will help to reinforce Elmhurst's firm commitment to sustainability, made in 2007 when the City signed onto the COOL Cities initiative whereby communities meet certain milestones in order to become more "green."

It is hoped that the Bicycle Task Force will help the City to implement policies and programs that improve bicycle safety and encourage residents to increase their use of bikes as a means of transportation. By doing so, we not only build on our commitment to "go green," but also enjoy a healthier lifestyle, with all of the associated benefits. My sincerest thanks to all of the members of the Task Force for volunteering to assist the City in this new initiative.

The entire community is invited to join me on Saturday, March 14, for the "wearing of the green" at the Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade on Spring Road. The St. Patrick's Day committee, an outstanding group of volunteers, has put together a great parade for our viewing enjoyment and I hope to see you there.

A Fond Farewell

Since I am not running for re-election this year, this will be my last Mayor's Message. It has been my deep honor to serve the Elmhurst community for the past sixteen years and I am grateful for the opportunity to work with the City Council on many successful initiatives.

I have many wonderful memories of my time as Mayor, and I am especially thankful for the support of the people I have worked with here in Elmhurst. Following the April 7 election, our new Mayor and members of the City Council will be facing tough economic times and I ask that you support them in their efforts to meet these challenges. The successes we have achieved here in Elmhurst were made possible not only through hard work, but because we pulled together, enabling us to accomplish great things.


Mayor Thomas D. Marcucci

City Vehicle Stickers

Residents are reminded that a City of Elmhurst vehicle sticker must be purchased and displayed by May 1 on any vehicle registered or garaged within the city's corporate limits. Vehicle stickers will be sold at a discount from Monday, March 2, through Thursday, April 30. On and after May 1, the price of stickers will increase. If you do not receive an application in the mail, you may print one from the city's website (www.elmhurst.org), call to have one mailed or pick one up at City Hall.



To avoid waiting in long lines at City Hall, vehicle owners are encouraged to mail completed applications and fees to City Hall, or drop them in the white mail box in the parking lot. Your vehicle sticker(s) and receipt will be returned to you by mail. You may also purchase your sticker(s) in person at City Hall. Please be aware that failure to purchase and display vehicle stickers by May 1 may result in penalties. Money collected through the sale of vehicle stickers goes into the City's General Fund and is earmarked for roadway maintenance and construction. Please contact the city if your vehicle license number changed when you obtained your new Illinois license plates, so that the records can be updated. Call 630-530-3118 for more information or visit the city's new website at www.elmhurst.org.

A Helping Hand for Seniors

Senior Chore Days will be held this spring on the first three weekends in May. This special program is sponsored by the City of Elmhurst and the DuPage Senior Citizens Council to assist eligible Elmhurst seniors with spring yard work. Volunteers and seniors who would like to participate in this worthwhile program, or who need information on other services for seniors, are encouraged to contact the DuPage Senior Citizens Council at 630-620-0804.

Hours for Sunday Liquor Sales Revised

For the convenience of shoppers, the sale of packaged liquor is now allowed beginning at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday morning at all licensed establishments that sell packaged wine and spirits.



Spring Clean-Up

The Citywide Spring Clean-Up will be held this year during the third full week in April, on either Wednesday, April 22; Thursday, April 23; or Friday, April 24 — whichever is your regular refuse collection day. For further information, please contact the Public Works Department at 630-530-3020. (This service is only available to residents within incorporated city limits.)

Yard Waste Pickup Resumes

Yard waste collection for residents living within Elmhurst city limits will resume on their regular refuse collection day during the week of April 1. 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 are available at the Public Works counter in City Hall and at local retail stores. Bags or cans may not weigh more than 50 pounds each. 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 Street Flooding

Springtime storms can cause street flooding — especially if storm drain inlets are clogged with debris. Residents are reminded to rake debris away from storm drain inlets in front of their homes to allow water to flow easily into the city's storm sewer system.

Lock It or Lose It

Close to half of all burglaries to homes and vehicles involve unlocked doors and/or valuables left in plain sight, including laptop computers, tools, purses, cell phones, GPS units and packages. Residents are reminded to keep their homes locked (especially at night), and their garages and vehicles locked both day and night, whether they are at home or not. Don't hesitate to call 9-1-1 to report any suspicious person, vehicle or activity in your neighborhood.



Please Note

City Hall Hours Revised

City Hall is now open from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Beginning in January 2009, the Collector's Office is no longer open after 5:00 p.m. on the first and third Mondays of the month. This change is one of many budget cuts made by the city in response to economic conditions that have affected the city's revenue stream. (See front page story.)





Preparing for Tornado Season

Now is the time to prepare for tornado season. Almost two-thirds of tornados in Illinois occur during the months of March, April and May — and approximately half occur between 3:00 and 7:00 p.m. Tornados, with winds that can exceed 250 miles per hour, are among nature’s most dangerous and costly occurrences, causing extensive property damage, injuries and even fatalities. Being informed and prepared are vital to protecting ourselves and others. All members of the family should be taught to recognize the danger signs. A basement room or a windowless, interior room should be designated as the tornado shelter area. Families are encouraged to hold tornado drills and teach each family member the name, address and telephone number of a relative or friend who lives outside the state.

Advance warning that a tornado has been spotted or is heading toward Elmhurst can be received in two ways.

1) The city’s six radio-controlled outdoor severe weather warning sirens are designed to give the earliest possible

warning. The sirens are strategically located throughout the community to provide maximum coverage. These sirens are sounded if the National Weather Service issues a tornado warning for DuPage County, or if a storm or tornado poses a threat to Elmhurst. The sirens are tested every first Tuesday of the month at 10:00 a.m.

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Tornado sirens are tested every first Tuesday of the month at 10:00 a.m.
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2) Residents are strongly encouraged to purchase a NOAA Weather Radio (NWR), the best source for comprehensive weather and emergency data from the National Weather Service 24 hours a day. Reports are received over a special radio receiver or scanner capable of picking up the signal. Every household should have one as part of their preparedness equipment and supplies.

City of Elmhurst

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

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

City Hall Hours

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

—
Thomas D. Marcucci, Mayor

Patty Spencer, City Clerk

Charity S. Pigoni, City Treasurer

Aldermen

1st Ward - Michael J. Regan, Diane C. Gutenkauf

2nd Ward - Norman Leader, Patricia Shea

3rd Ward - Michael Bram, Susan J. Rose

4th Ward - John E. Gow, Stephen W. Hipskind

5th Ward - Moira Moriarty, Christopher L. Nybo

6th Ward - George Szczepaniak, Steven M. Morley

7th Ward - Donna Lomnicki, Mark A. Mulliner

Wood-Staining Rags Cause Residential Fire

An Elmhurst home under construction — and almost ready for occupancy — was damaged extensively recently when staining rags ignited. This unfortunate event is an example of what is known as spontaneous combustion, an all-too-common occurrence caused by a chemical chain reaction.

Three simple conditions, often referred to as the “fire triangle,” must be present to support combustion: fuel or a substance that will burn (in this case, the rags soaked in a flammable liquid), oxygen (most commonly from the surrounding air) and a heat source. The heat source is anything that will raise the ignition temperature of the fuel to enable it to burn, including flames, arcs, sparks, heated objects or even static electricity from clothing. In this case, the heat was likely caused by a chemical chain reaction, a condition of most concern in spontaneous combustion fires. In time, oxygen from the air slowly unites with the flammable liquid in the soaked rags, gradually producing enough heat to set the rags on fire. The fire then quickly spread to nearby objects and caused considerable damage. Residents are urged to place any rag that has been soaked in a flammable liquid in a sealed metal container to prevent spontaneous combustion. This procedure will eliminate the oxygen supply, one of three “fire triangle” conditions necessary to create a fire.



Elmhurst Historical Museum

120 E. Park Ave., Elmhurst

Phone: 630-833-1457 www.elmhurst.org/elmhurst/museum

Elmhurst Jazz: A Celebration of an American Art Form in Elmhurst

Who knew Elmhurst was this cool? Elmhurst Historical Museum is all about jazz this spring as the museum presents Elmhurst Jazz: A Celebration of an American Art Form in Elmhurst. This original exhibit marks the 75th anniversary of *Down Beat* magazine – the international jazz publication published right here in Elmhurst – and chronicles the traditions of Elmhurst College’s Jazz Festival. In addition, Elmhurst Jazz takes a look at the history of jazz as a pure, American art form. This is a “don’t miss” exhibit with a focus close to home, so be sure to catch Elmhurst Jazz, on display through May 24.



Louis Armstrong, Billie Holiday and Benny Goodman are just a few of the many jazz greats featured in the “Elmhurst Jazz” exhibit, on display through May 24.

Elmhurst Heritage Foundation: Building for the Future

The Elmhurst Heritage Foundation was formed in 2007 as the advocacy voice and support organization for Elmhurst Historical Museum, the Churchville Schoolhouse and the development of the Heritage Center in Elmhurst. This organization is comprised of many enthusiastic Elmhurst residents who volunteer their time and talent to support the preservation of Elmhurst history, and foster culture and education in our community. If you’re interested in knowing more about the important work of this group, contact one of the 2009 Elmhurst Heritage Foundation board

members: Ken Bartels, Ellen Braun (Secretary), Josh Bretl, Gene Evans, Linda Fougerousse, Jackie Haddad, Janet Hodge, Cathy Jordan, Tom Klein, Kelly Kost (Vice President), Leslie Leader, Donald Michaelis, Craig Nelson, Margaret Pruter, Rich Reichert, Cathy Siegerdt, Scott Smith, Vince Spaeth, Val Stewart (President), Jan Vanek (Treasurer).

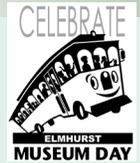
Last call for “Heroes of the Sky” Exhibit

Heroes of the Sky: Adventures in Early Flight, 1903-1939, a national traveling exhibit from NEH on the Road, continues its run at Elmhurst Historical Museum through March 15. The exhibit relates the stories of the bold fliers and innovators who transformed airplanes from novel inventions into sophisticated machines. Heroes of the Sky also documents Elmhurst’s own aviation history as former home to a local airport. Heroes of the Sky is in its last few weeks, so stop by to view this high-flying exhibit soon.

Save the date!

Elmhurst Museum Day

Sunday, May 17, 2009 1-5 p.m.



Free trolley and admission at all four Elmhurst Museums

Fun activities, exhibit tours and great prizes

Landmark Status For Historic Home

On October 20, 2008, the Elmhurst City Council approved the designation of the home at 259 Cottage Hill as a local historic landmark. This home, known as the John L. Pentecost house, is the first private residence to receive landmark designation through the City’s Historic Preservation Ordinance, enacted in 2006 to promote historic and architectural preservation in the community. To-date, the only other buildings to receive landmark designation are the publicly-owned Glos Mansion (current home of the Elmhurst Historical Museum) and the Glos Mausoleum.

The John L. Pentecost house, originally known as “The Pines,” was constructed in 1888. After Mr. Pentecost purchased the home in 1910, it was altered to its present-day appearance. Mr. H. G. Fiddelke of Oak Park, a well-

known architect in the early 1900s, altered the home from its original Queen Anne style to the current style, which incorporates elements of Prairie School and Colonial Revival. The home was named to the National Register of Historic Places in 2003.

City officials are hopeful that many other homes in the Elmhurst community will be designated as local historic landmarks in the future. To be eligible for Historic Landmark designation, a building must be more than 50 years old. An eligible building may be nominated by anyone; however, the property owner must give consent before the Historic Preservation Commission can review the case. For more information about the City’s Historic Preservation Program, go to www.elmhurst.org or contact Martha Corner, Department of Planning, Zoning and Economic Development at (630) 530-6017.



2009 Fire Hydrant Flushing Schedule

The City's Public Works Department will conduct annual hydrant flushing from April 6 to May 1. This operation will take place Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and will be completed during that four-week period. The purpose of hydrant flushing is to ensure that the hydrants are working properly and can provide water to the Fire Department in the event of a fire. (See map for details.)



Retro Look for Police and Fire

The Police Department's first black and white squad car made its debut on Thanksgiving morning, leading the annual Turkey Trot walk/run. The new color scheme followed a survey of Elmhurst police officers who overwhelmingly supported the color change and felt the new design would result in increased recognition and visibility. The black and white squads will be joined in July by the Fire Department's new red engine.

A Fresh Face to the Community

To be more compatible with the City of Elmhurst's redesigned website, as well as other City materials, *The Front Porch* newsletter now has a new look. We hope you like the new design, and as always, feedback about *The Front Porch* newsletter is always welcome, including suggestions for editorial content. Comments and suggestions can be sent to Pat. Dungey@Elmhurst.org.



City of Elmhurst

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(630) 530-3000



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