



elk grove township

Spring 2015



The Colors of Spring

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Michael H. Sweeney, Supervisor

A Note from the Supervisor



Happy New Year, I hope you and your family enjoyed the holiday season. During the holidays our Christmas Adopt a Family program was very successful. Through the generosity of residents in our Township we provided Christmas meals to families as well as gifts for children in need. I cannot thank all of our adopters enough for helping to make Christmas

special for some of their neighbors. If you would like to adopt a family next Christmas or you would like to donate to our food pantry at any time, please contact our General Assistance Department.

I am proud to say that the Elk Grove Township Board voted to reduce the tax levy for the Town and General Assistance funds. We realize that more tax dollars in the Township bank accounts means less money in yours and we decided that there was no need to increase taxes. We control spending, we are always hunting for ways to reduce costs and the Township has a healthy surplus. We appreciate the trust you place in us and we do not want to abuse that trust by asking for more money than we need.

Please take the time to read our newsletter. It provides important information on programs funded with your tax dollars and the services available to you. If you ever have questions about our programs or services you can always call or email us.

Local elections are April 7th and our Clerk Greg O'Brien has provided critical voter requirements and dates in this report. Please take a look and make sure you are ready to exercise your right to vote.

If we can ever be of any assistance please feel free to contact us.

Thank you for allowing me to continue to serve you

Sincerely,

Michael H. Sweeney
Supervisor
Elk Grove Township



Pictured left to right Board Members Art Niewiardowski, Dale Niewiardowski, Andrea Koshaba, Connie Carosielli, Suellen Satern, George Busse, Michael Sweeney and Greg O'Brien.

A Farewell to a Special Friend

It is with extreme sadness that we share with you the passing of a dear friend and colleague. Betty Hall, my Chief Deputy in the Assessors' Office for over a decade, my friend and a special friend to everyone, to her co-workers and residential taxpayers.



Many of you remember the southern drawl, the smiling face, the willingness to help. Betty's commitment to our taxpayers was a standard for those who follow in her footsteps.

Please remember her with the same sweet kindness that she so completely shared with all of you. May she find true peace knowing that our collective hearts ache.



A Report from Clerk O'Brien

The 2015 Consolidated Elections will be held on Tuesday, April 7th. Eligible voters will be casting their ballots for a wide range of local and municipal offices including Village Trustees, School District Boards and Library Boards. The ballot of offices you will be voting for will vary depending on the location of your residence and the associated taxing districts. To view your sample ballot, visit the Cook County Clerk's website at: www.cookcountyclerk.com

Voter Qualifications

To register to vote you must be:

1. A U.S. citizen
2. At least 18 years old by the General Election Day
3. A resident of your precinct at least 30 days prior to Election Day

You also must display two pieces of identification. Neither needs to be a photo ID, but one must include your current address.

Voter Registration

The last day to register to vote is **March 10, 2015**. After that date, there is an allowed Grace Period that extends the registration and voting period up to April 4, 2015. During that grace period you can register to vote; change your name or current address and vote in the election. However, guidelines limit when and where grace period registrants can vote. Grace period registrants are not eligible to vote at the polls on Election Day or take part in early voting.

There are three methods you can use to register to vote:

Online: You can complete the online application found on Illinois State Board of Elections website:

<https://ova.elections.il.gov>

You must have valid Illinois Driver's License or State ID number to complete the online application. Otherwise, you will need to complete a paper application or provide an email to finish your online application.

By Mail: You can complete a mail-in voter registration application form and return it to the Cook County Clerk's Office. *Voter registration forms are available at the Elk Grove Township Hall.*

In-Person with a certified registrar: Eligible voters can also register to vote in person by going to one of the Cook County Clerk's six locations; a village, city or township clerk or an Illinois Secretary of State's drivers license facility.

You can verify if you are already registered to vote at the Cook County Clerk's website: <http://www.cookcountyclerk.com>

Early Voting. For the April 7th Consolidated Election, Early Voting will take place from March 23 to April 4. State law requires that early voters present valid photo identification before receiving a ballot. Local Early Voting polling locations for Elk Grove Township residents include the Arlington Heights Village Hall; Des Plaines City Hall; Elk Grove Village

Hall and the Rolling Meadows Court House. *Please note that our Township offices are not an Early Voting location.*

Vote By Mail. Registered voters can cast their ballot through the mail, but you must first submit an application to the Cook County Clerk's office to receive your ballot.

To obtain your Vote By Mail application:

- Visit or call the Elk Grove Township Hall at (847) 437-0300
- Call the Cook County's Clerk Office at (312) 603-0946
- Apply online at the Cook County Clerk's website: <http://www.cookcountyclerk.com>

The last day to request a Mail Ballot is April 2, 2015. Your completed ballot must be postmarked by April 6, 2015.

Poll Workers. The Cook County Clerk's office is currently accepting applications from eligible voters to serve as poll workers throughout suburban Cook County. There are two types of poll workers, Election Judges and Equipment Managers. Both positions are responsible for setting up the polling place, assisting voters, communicating the election results and packing equipment after the polls close. Equipment managers have some additional responsibilities. Election judges receive \$175 for the day and Equipment Managers receive \$325. There are also special programs for Junior and Senior High School and College students to serve as paid election judges.

To be eligible to serve as an election judge you must be:

- A U.S. Citizen
- A registered voter of Cook County
- Be fluent in English (Bilingual Judges are always needed)

Applications are being accepted by the Cook County Clerks office. You can call them at (312) 269-7984 or apply online at <http://www.cookcountyclerk.com>.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact me at the Township offices at (847) 437-0300 or email me at gobrien@elkgrovetownship.com. Thank you for allowing me to serve you.

Sincerely,
Greg O'Brien





News from your Highway Commissioner...

Thinking about a new driveway?

Residents living in the unincorporated area of Elk Grove Township who are planning to install a new driveway or replace an existing one should be aware that a permit is required.

When applying for a permit, you must include a plan drawing and a copy of a plat of survey. Allow at least one week for processing your application. Applications are available at the Township offices as well as online at www.elkgrovetownship.com the permit application can be found on the Highway Department page. There is a nominal \$25.00 permit fee.

Questions or concerns please call Elk Grove Township Highway Department at 847-437-0430.

Branch Pick-up Reminders

Branch pick-up is offered from April through October weather permitting, on the fifteenth of each month. If the fifteenth falls on a holiday or weekend, branch pick-up will be scheduled for the first work day which follows.

Branches are picked up in residential areas on the streets maintained by the Township ONLY (unincorporated areas). We ask you to limit your piles to storm and wind damaged branches and not to exceed two cubic yards. If a landscaping or tree service takes down a tree on your property, they are responsible for its disposal. Please also remember your waste disposal company will pick up branches that are bundled and tied.

What will be picked up:

Branches with a minimum of 2 feet in length and a maximum of 12 feet in length and less than 6 inches in diameter.

What will NOT be picked up:

- Small hedge or pine clippings
- Yard waste or brush in containers
- Brush or branches with thorns
- Stumps or tree roots maximum of 12 feet in length and less than 6 inches in diameter.

How to stack the brush:

- Neatly stack the branches in one direction with the butt end toward the street.
- No lumber, wire, rope, or other material may be included with branches.

Assessing the Situation

from Connie Carosielli, Assessor of Elk Grove Township



My staff and I hope that you have all kept warm this winter and are looking forward to an early Spring!

I would like to pass on a few reminders about your property taxes:

- All exemptions will be due on April 1st. This includes the Homeowner, Senior, Senior Freeze, Disabled Person, Disabled Veteran's and Returning Veteran's. If you haven't applied for your exemptions, as of yet, please make sure you do it by the deadline.

If you have questions regarding what documentation is required to file your exemption, please call my office at 847-437-0300.

- Elk Grove Township Assessor's office will be accepting Assessment Appeal requests with the Cook County Assessor beginning on April 6th continuing for 30 days. We are here to help you find comparable properties to file your appeal, at no cost to you! This will affect the second installment of 2015's tax bill.

- 2014's 2nd installment tax bills will be mailed at the end of June and will be due approximately the first week in August. Please check your tax bill to make sure you are receiving your exemptions, if not, we will help you get it adjusted before you pay it.

If, at any time, you have questions regarding property taxes, please feel free to call my office for assistance.



Art Niewiardowski
Highway Commissioner



SAVE the DATE



What: 27th Annual Senior Celebration Day

When: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2015
11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Where: Arlington International Racecourse,
Arlington Heights

Same FREE event with health screenings, exhibitors, discounted lunch, entertainment, raffle prizes and much more!

Come and join us!



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Free Hearing Check-Up!**



Janet Preston, Au.D.
Doctor of Audiology



**901 Biesterfield Rd., Suite 312
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007
Call: 847.593.0570**



Bobbi Walker, M.A.
Audiologist

* Studies conducted at University of Northern Colorado (2014) and Oldenburg Hazentrum (2013) showed that Speech Reception Thresholds (SRT) in cocktail-party situations improved up to 29dB for wearers with mild to moderate hearing loss using the latest BestSound™ Technology with Narrow Directionality, compared to people with normal hearing. This corresponds to over 25% improvement in speech understanding.

News from the General Assistance Department

Thank you to all individuals and groups who helped make our Thanksgiving and Christmas Holiday Programs a huge success!

Your generous donations helped make the holidays brighter for our needy residents.

General Assistance Department has several programs which are administered for Township residents who qualify. Listed below is a brief description of some of the most used programs. Please contact us if you have questions about any of these programs and would like to apply.

Applications for these programs require an appointment.

1. General Assistance (GA) is a state-mandated public assistance program for low income adults who do not qualify for any state or federal programs. Applicants must be financially qualified, including assets, and comply with all program regulations. Payments are made for basic maintenance items such as rent, utilities and food.

If your unemployment benefits have expired and you have not found a job yet or earning less than \$1,000 per month at your job; or disabled and your Social Security has not begun, GA may be able to help you.

2. Emergency Assistance (EA) is one-time assistance for those facing a life-threatening circumstance such as eviction, utility disconnection or mortgage arrearage. Any resident, including families, may apply. Approval requires meeting both financial and non-financial eligibility criteria. Payments are made directly to the vendor.

3. Access to Care (ATC) provides primary care physician visits, prescriptions, and other medical services for a nominal fee to uninsured who are not eligible for Medicare or Medicaid programs. Income guidelines apply.

4. Mobile Dental Clinic (MDC) is a traveling dentist's office that comes to Elk Grove Township. It provides cleanings, fillings, simple restorative work and extractions. Income guidelines apply and you must pre-register.

5. Nursing Services are provided by a qualified, registered nurse to seniors and disabled in the unincorporated areas of the Township. For residents living within one of our five villages, a referral to the appropriate municipal nurse will be made. The Community Health Nurse provides education, blood pressure checks, home visits and information and referral.



6. A-OK, or Acts of Kindness program returns. A-OK will send able-bodied teens to rake leaves, clean gutters, wash windows, etc. through this partnership with High School District 214. An adult leader will supervise the work.

With this intergenerational program, you can also spend a little time getting to know the adolescents that have volunteered to help. For kids without their grandparents, the experience can be rewarding. Seniors enjoy the connection too, and have reported discovering a renewed faith in the younger generation. If you are a low income senior in need of help with seasonal chores around the house, contact General Assistance to see if you qualify.

7. Food Pantry. After registration, Township residents may utilize the pantry once every other month. We would also like to thank everyone who donates to our Food Pantry, whether it is one time or on a regular basis. The need for food is constant and year round!



A Note from Youth Services :

Video Games: How Much Screen Time is OK?

After wrapping up the holidays, and having children who likely “unwrapped” new video consoles or games, you might now find yourself wondering if this videogame craze is such a good thing. Your child disappears for hours into a faux world in their rooms that is created for their entertainment by these electronic muses. Is this good? Is this bad? Or, how much is too much?

Well, as you might suspect, research (and advice) is all over the map on these questions, which leaves parents with little clear guidance. So, the staff of Elk Grove Township Youth Services would like to clear a few things up. We often recommend that parents access parent websites, such as, commonsensemedia.org



Importantly, playing video games is an OK way for kids to spend some of their free time—with a few qualifications. Kids who play up to an hour per day are generally just fine (are social, adjusted, etc. . . .). The games may even build eye-hand coordination, give kids a sense of mastery and accomplishment, and improve cognition. The game “Minecraft,” for example, provides an amazing platform for generating creativity. But, kids who use 3 or more hours of screen time per day are more prone to obesity, lack of sleep, academic challenges, aggression, and other behavioral problems. Not good.

A common sense media strategy might be to say, “games are fine, as long as they don’t interfere with family time,

homework, activities, and social time.”

Additionally, a common sense media strategy might involve understanding your child’s developmental stage, and making sure that the “content” of their games is suitable and appropriate for them.



Here are some additional suggestions:

- 1) Understand that it is normal for kids (particularly boys) to want to play video games.
- 2) Video games (and use of all electronic devices) are not entitlements, but privileges. They can be successfully used as levers for completed homework and chores.
- 3) When you (as a parent) decide on the criteria for acceptable games, ask your child for input to select games that fit within your criteria.
- 4) It is really OK to set a limit of up to 60 minutes for school nights (provided homework and other responsibilities are completed). And, don’t fall for “none of my friend’s parents do that (scowl).”
- 5) Be mindful that “online” games bring in an anonymous community of people who can communicate messages to your child. You will need to monitor for both content of games and communication activity.
- 6) Make video games part of “family time.” There are lots of games requiring 2 or more participants. Go “with it,” instead of “fighting it.”

For more information on this, or any other child concerns, call the Youth Services Department at 847-981-0373.

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www.shredfirstinc.com

Elk Grove Township

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*Township
Supervisor*



Greg
O'Brien
*Township
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Niewiardowski
Trustee



Art
Niewiardowski
*Highway
Commissioner*



Connie
Carosielli
*Township
Assessor*



Traveling abroad? Need a passport? Call Elk Grove Township.

The U.S. Department of State has authorized Elk Grove Township to accept passport applications. This service is offered as a convenience to residents and non-residents. Passport applications are by appointment only.

For further information such as fees and what documents are required and to set up an appointment please call the front office at 847-437-0300.

Elk Grove Township Information

Hours Monday-Friday
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Phone (voice) (847) 437-0300
(TDD) (847) 437-4046

Highway Department
(847)437-0430
Fax (847) 437-0434
Email admin@elkgrovetownship.com

Board Meetings
4th Monday of each month, 7:00 p.m.
2400 S. Arlington Heights Road
Arlington Heights, IL 60005