



elk grove township

CONTINUING THE TRADITION

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A Note from the Supervisor



It has been a busy winter here at Elk Grove Township. Our Adopt a Family Christmas Program was a success. This program is about neighbors helping neighbors and is made possible by private contributions. I truly appreciate the generosity of our adopters who use their time & treasure to help those in need.

Highway Commissioner Arthur Niewiardowski & his crew have worked hard to keep up with the snow and they have done a great job.

Assessor Connie Carosielli and her staff have been helping residential taxpayers with Senior Homeowner exemptions, Senior Freeze applications and other property tax questions. Connie and her Deputies are a great resource!

Our fiscal year starts April 1st and the Board of Trustees have started the 2014–2015 budget process. We are working hard to spend tax revenue wisely. I'm proud to report that we continue to have no debt, a healthy surplus and the Board has not asked for additional taxpayer dollars.

We have launched a new website and I encourage everyone to take a look: www.elkgrovetownship.com. It has great information and is very user friendly.

Learn more about our Township in this issue of our newsletter and I encourage you to contact us if you have any questions.

Thank you for allowing me to continue to serve you.

Regards,

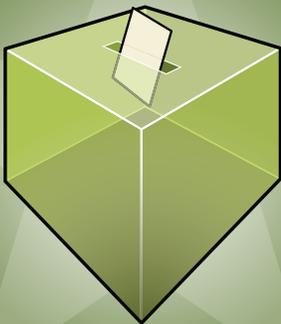
Michael H. Sweeney
Supervisor
Elk Grove Township



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

Election Day!

March 18, 2014



See important information
in our Clerk's Corner...

A Report from Clerk O'Brien



The 2014 Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, March 18th. Eligible voters will be casting their ballots for candidates running for a wide range of offices including:

- U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives
- Statewide Offices: Governor / Lt. Governor, Treasurer, Comptroller, Attorney General, Secretary of State
- State Senators and State Representatives
- Illinois Appellate and Circuit Court Judges
- Countywide Offices: Cook County Board President, Clerk, Sheriff, Treasurer, Assessor
- Cook County Commissioners and Board of Review (Property Tax)
- Metropolitan Water Reclamation District
- Township Committeeman

Voter Qualifications

To register to vote you must be:

- A U.S. citizen
- At least 18 years old by the General Election Day
- 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. Please note that beginning in 2014, eligible 17-year-olds may register and vote in the March 18th Primary Election, if they were born on or before Nov. 4, 1996.

Voter Registration

The last day to register to vote is February 18, 2014. After that date, there is an allowed Grace Period that extends the registration and voting period up to March 15, 2014. During that time 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://ovr.elections.il.gov>

You must have a printer or provide an email to complete 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 March 18, 2014 Gubernatorial Primary Election, Early Voting will take place from March 3rd to March 15th. State law requires that early voters present valid photo identification before receiving a ballot. The closest Early Voting polling locations for Elk Grove Township residents are at 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:

- 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 March 13, 2014. Your completed ballot must be postmarked by March 17, 2014.

Election Judges. There are nearly 10,000 election judges in 1,673 suburban Cook County precincts making sure the polling places run smoothly and the election is carried out honestly and accurately. Election judges are responsible for setting up the polling place, assisting voters and communicating the election results and packing equipment after the polls close. Election judges can receive up to \$170 every election. There are also special programs for Junior and Senior High School 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

Summary of Life Span

Life Span helps victims of domestic and sexual violence obtain safety, hold the perpetrators of violence accountable, and, ultimately, end violence in our society. We focus our work on issues which take time, expertise, and dedication to resolve, and populations that are underserved in our communities. Life Span is celebrating its 35th year providing services to victims of domestic violence in Cook County this year. We have built a national reputation for excellence and innovation in program development and service delivery. Life Span is unique in Cook County's legal services community. Our work in family law centers on complicated family law cases in which domestic violence plays a prominent role. Life Span services are designed to provide a comprehensive solution to domestic violence by combining counseling, support, and information with legal advocacy and representation. Our clients receive: Counseling for survivors; Counseling services for children who are witnesses of domestic violence; Outreach, education and counseling for teens who are from violent homes, and/or who self-identify as being in violent relationships; Criminal court advocacy, Legal representation in Order of Protection and family law cases in cook county civil courts, including the Rolling Meadows Courthouse; Immigration assistance and outreach; and, education and training for service providers. Our counselors have strong presence in the Elk Grove schools. For many years, our teen and children's counseling staff has provided educational trainings that focus on healthy relationships and building self-esteem at Elk Grove High School. Our adult counseling staff attends Elk Gove High School's parent teacher nights to speak about domestic violence and the services Life Span has to offer. The most important and immediate impact of our work is that we provided 27,240.75 hours of direct services to 3,842 victims of domestic and sexual violence and their children this past year.



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Offer valid only at ELK GROVE LOCATION

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\$5.99 Meal Deal
tax not included
Includes: REGULAR SUB, 1CHIP & A 22 OZ FOUNTAIN DRINK!

Offer valid only at ELK GROVE LOCATION

Hurry! Offer expires 4-5-14. One coupon per person per visit per day. Not to be combined with other offers. No cash value. Redeemable in person only. 1613

\$12.99 Meal Deal
tax not included
Includes: 1 GIANT SUB, 2 CHIPS & (2) 22 OZ FOUNTAIN DRINK!

Offer valid only at ELK GROVE LOCATION

Hurry! Offer expires 4-5-14. One coupon per person per visit per day. Not to be combined with other offers. No cash value. Redeemable in person only. 1609

FREE chip & drink
with any SUB PURCHASE!

Offer valid only at ELK GROVE LOCATION

Hurry! Offer expires 4-5-14. One coupon per person per visit per day. Not to be combined with other offers. No cash value. Redeemable in person only. 1605

News from your Highway Commissioner...

As we approach the end of the 2013–2014 snow season, the Elk Grove Township Highway Department is well prepared for anything that Mother Nature might bring. With a commitment to provide the areas maintained by the Township Highway Department being clear and free of winter's ice and snow storms.

Because of the overabundance of this winter's snow and ice storms, the highway department had quickly depleted our inventory of road salt. But unlike many other municipalities, Elk Grove Township was able to easily replenish our own salt supply with multiple semi loads in our arsenal of winter fighting inventory. Also, the Township was spared any additional costs by keeping the cost of road salt at the same level as last season, without a major price increase.

Also, please remember to check and be sure that drainage areas and culverts are free of any debris that might reduce the drainage of melting snow near residents other property owner's areas. This will help the flow of melting snow, and will help reduce flooding.

Lastly, please do not discharge any snow from private areas onto any streets. This practice is not only inconsiderate to our neighbors and the general public, but is also illegal. The Cook County Sheriff's Police have been aggressively monitoring and cracking down on such violators.



Art Niewiardowski
Highway Commissioner

Just a reminder.....

Please keep checking for the Emerald Ash Borer! Spring time is the right time to treat your ash trees. Check with your City and Village Forestry Divisions for further information.

Assessing the Situation

from Connie Carosielli, Assessor of Elk Grove Township

Elk Grove Township senior citizens should have received their renewal applications for the senior citizen property tax exemption. Local senior citizens should feel free to call the Elk Grove Township Assessor's office for help in completing the forms. If your residential property is owner occupied and you were born in 1948 or before, you qualify for the Senior Exemption. This reduces property taxes about \$550.



The Senior Freeze provides some seniors with additional savings if the combined income of all members of the household is less than \$55,000, and if the senior has been an owner-occupant of the property since 2012.

The senior applications that have been mailed are for 2013 property taxes, which are paid in the calendar year 2014. The savings from the exemptions will appear on the second installment tax bills that will likely be mailed in July of 2014.

The Homeowners exemption rolls over from year to year until title to the property is changed. Check your 2012 Second Installment Property Tax Bill to see if you were credited with that exemption. Keep in mind, the property must be owner occupied.

Law on Erroneous Exemptions. A new law requires taxpayers to repay tax savings received from tax exemptions that they are not eligible for. If a senior citizen recently died or moved, the property may not be eligible for a senior exemption this year.

If the senior resided at the property at any time during 2013, the property will be eligible for the 2013 senior citizen exemptions on the 2014 taxes. But the property will not be eligible for senior exemptions on the 2014 taxes, unless the senior left a surviving spouse who was sixty-five or older. A surviving spouse may file a "spouse re-file" to continue receiving the senior exemptions.

Senior citizens struggling with property taxes can defer payment of their property taxes until their homes or condominiums are sold. The Senior Citizen Tax Deferral Program allows seniors to defer as much as \$5,000 of their property tax bill every year.

To qualify for the deferral program, seniors must have annual household income of less than \$55,000, have equity in their homes that exceeds the sum of property taxes deferred, and have lived in their homes for three years. Small multi-family properties such as two-flats that generate rental income are not eligible for the program. Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas, whose office administers this program, has set a March 1st deadline for deferral applications. There are substantial fines associated with misrepresenting exemptions, including back taxing.

The Long Term Exemption is no longer available.

Renewals for disabled exemptions should be mailed by late spring.

My staff and I continue to wish you good health and happiness in 2014.

Important Information from Youth Services...

Divorce - “What About the Children?”

Divorce rates in the U.S. have remained fairly steady over the past 30 years. But, for children who are in the midst of the divorce of their parents, rates are meaningless. Their whole world is being upended.

When parents who are contemplating divorce ask **Youth Services Therapists, Robin Wilson or Dean Reschke**, “does divorce hurt children?” They will hear an unequivocal, “yes,” because clinical and research data suggests that children are negatively impacted. That is why such a drastic step as divorce should be considered only when differences and the nature of conflict are truly “irreconcilable.” And, yes, in many cases they are, and in many cases divorce (when managed well) can truly improve the lives of the couple.



But, “**what about the children?**” We have found that the impact of divorce is profoundly affected (one way or the other) by how each parent manages their own behavior, especially with their children. Youth Services staff often give guidelines to parents called “The Bill of Rights for Children in Divorce Action.” Following these guidelines is essential, and each parent must continually be aware of what is in the best interest of their children, in spite of their own pain, anger, frustration, or sadness. These are not always easy, but are necessary for the children’s mental health.

Below is the “Bill of Rights for Children in Divorce Action.”

- 1) The right to be treated as important human beings, with unique feelings, ideas and desires, and not as a source of argument between parents.
- 2) The right to a continuing relationship with both parents, and the freedom to receive love from and express love for both.
- 3) The right to express love and affection for each parent without having to stifle that love because of fear of disapproval by the other parent.
- 4) The right to know that their parents’ decision to divorce is not their responsibility and that they will live with one parent and will visit the other parent.
- 5) The right to continuing care and guidance from both parents.
- 6) The right to honest answers to questions about the changing family relationships.

- 7) The right to know and appreciate what is good in each parent without one parent degrading the other.
- 8) The right to have a relaxed, secure relationship with both parents without being placed in a position to manipulate one parent against the other.
- 9) The right to have the custodial parent not undermine visitation by suggesting tempting alternatives or by threatening to withhold visitation as a punishment for the children’s wrong doing.
- 10) The right to be able to experience regular and consistent visitation, and the right to know the reason for a canceled visit.

Honoring these guidelines will greatly help children deal with the major disruption in their lives when their family splits apart. Far too often, the bitterness and conflict between parents lingers for years, and bleeds into the world of their children—with damaging results. Parents must find a way to have, if not a good relationship, at least a business-like relationship with each other, so that visitations, decision-making, discipline, holidays and other normal family operations are not tangled with other issues. That is the answer to “What about the kids?”

For questions or assistance, call the Youth Services Department at 847-981-0373.

BICYCLE HELMET SALE

Spring is almost here; time to get ready for bike riding!

**ELK GROVE TOWNSHIP
2400 S. ARLINGTON HEIGHTS ROAD
(inside building)**

**Tuesday, March 25th and Thursday, March 27th
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

Available in 3 YOUTH SIZES
SNELL Certified-All helmets meet the CPSC Bike Helmet Safety Standard
2 styles \$7.00/\$8.00 Each – exact change only please
While supplies last

Please bring your children for the most accurate fitting.

There are absolutely **no** returns or exchanges.

For further information:

847-437-0300

www.elkgrovtownship.com

A helmet reduces the risk of head injury by as much as 85 percent and the risk of brain injury by as much as 88 percent. More children age 5 to 14 go to hospital emergency rooms for injuries associated with bicycles than with any other sport.

News from General Assistance Department

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

Smile Creations

\$100 Credit (see website offers)

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Dr. Marvin Amayun

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Children's Advocacy Center of North and Northwest Cook County Celebrates 25 Years of Service in 2014; serves more than 52 Elk Grove Township Residents in 2013

Children's Advocacy Center of North and Northwest Cook County is celebrating 25 years of service in 2014. The agency, incorporated on August, 28, 1989 has provided hope and opportunity to thousands of children and families within 38 suburban Cook County communities, including Elk Grove Township, who have been directly impacted by child sexual abuse, severe physical abuse, domestic violence, neglect and maltreatment.

Bob Tucker, CAC's Board President, commends CAC's founders for moving forward to create such a Center in an area where no services existed to help children affected by abuse. "Twenty-five years ago child sexual abuse was never talked about, and help for these children and their caring family members was nearly impossible to find. Since then we have helped thousands of children and families in our community regain their lives, their self-esteem and their sense of security and we have helped bring hundreds of abusers to justice."

The CAC model intends for child protective systems to work together to support children in an effective way. One of 800 such Centers in the United States and 10 countries, CAC strives to create a safe, comfortable environment in which children can tell their abuse story one time.

"CAC utilizes a multi-disciplinary approach by coordinating with local law enforcement personnel, DCFS investigators and Assistant State's Attorneys. Working together we aim to minimize further trauma to children who have been through such an experience, while maximizing the factual information to assist the investigations," says Bonnie Fries, Assistant Director at CAC. "It's hard enough to tell one stranger about your sexual or physical abuse so asking children to tell their story multiple times isn't conducive to the healing process."

Mark Parr explains how the model works, "CAC provides multiple touch points within the Center. Children and families may participate in the forensic interview process, meet with a professional counselor for individual or group counseling and or meet with an advocate who helps facilitate interactions a family may have with the court process."

The goal, Parr says, "Is to reduce further trauma for children who have experienced abuse. By limiting the number of people a child has to interact with about their experience it gives them an opportunity to focus on healing. When children are listened to and believed in a compassionate way, they can and do move forward in a positive way."

In addition to CAC's traditional services it also runs Safe from the Start, a program designed to help families with children ages birth to five. The objective is to prevent exposure to violence in young children and reduce further trauma in children who have already been exposed. Crisis intervention, professional counseling, expressive art therapies and other techniques are applied through this program. The CAC provided coordinated child abuse interviews, crisis intervention, court advocacy and support services for 516 children during the past twelve months. Of the children served at the CAC, 52 children and their families (11% of CAC total client base) came from the communities in Elk Grove Township.

These children and their families received more than 390 hours of service through the agency's CASI Program (Coordination, Advocacy and Sensitive Interviewing). The services provided included coordination between the family, local police departments, the Department of Children and Family Services and the State's Attorney's Office; 24-hour crisis response services; child interviews and medical evaluations; linkages to community-based services; court preparation and advocacy; and on-going support and case management.

"We are grateful and honored to serve the residents of Elk Grove Township," says Parr. "With the Township's support we are able to reach a tremendous number of people who might not otherwise have access to these important services."

All services are provided free of charge. To learn more visit www.cachelps.org or call 847-885-0100.

2014 Calendar of Events

Child Abuse Prevention Month 2014

Tue, April 1, 2014

Healing Hearts Gala 2014

Sat, April 26, 2014

Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

Thu, May 22, 2014

Champions for Children 5K Walk

Sun, June 22, 2014

25th Anniversary Celebration

Sat, August 23, 2014

Casino Royale

Fri, October 10, 2014



Elk Grove Township

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Connie Carosielli, *Assessor*

Art Niewiardowski, *Highway Commissioner*

Elk Grove Township and Elected Officials



Michael H.
Sweeney
*Township
Supervisor*



Greg
O'Brien
*Township
Clerk*



George
Busse
Trustee



Andrea
Koshaba
Trustee



Suellen
Satern
Trustee



Dale
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, 7:30 p.m.
2400 S. Arlington Heights Road
Arlington Heights, IL 60005