



IN THIS ISSUE:

Shop Local, Shop Elk Grove

Holiday Lights Recycling

Village, Public Works Union Agreement on Five-Year Contract Brings Long-Term Stability to Village Workforce

How 2020 Changed The Way We Use Water

Winter Snow & Ice Control

Police Department Project Help Program

Special Recycling & Refuse Services Beyond Curbside Pickup

Holiday Safety Tips

This newsletter is published by the Village of Elk Grove Village
901 Wellington Avenue
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007
Telephone 847.439.3900
TDD 847.357.4088
www.elkgrove.org

The Village Hall is open 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday for payment of water bills, local fines, vehicle stickers and general Village information. In addition, the Finance counter is open on the first Saturday of each month from 9:00 a.m. to noon, and the Community Development counter is open on the first Saturday of the month of May through September from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

Village Board meetings are generally held on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

POLICE DEPARTMENT EARNS APPROVAL FROM NATION'S LEADING ACCREDITATION COMMISSION

Following a rigorous assessment by the nation's leading law enforcement accreditation agency, the Elk Grove Village Police Department's accreditation was renewed last month, signifying that the Department delivers on its public safety mission at a standard that only 5 percent of national law enforcement agencies achieve.

"This accreditation shows that the Elk Grove Village Police Department continues to be at the forefront of modern policing" said Mayor Craig Johnson. "Our Police Department does a phenomenal job keeping Elk Grove Village safe because they are always working to improve how they operate and evolve to meet new public safety challenges."

The Police Department first achieved accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) in 1993 and has been re-accredited nine times. CALEA accreditation places the Elk Grove Village Police Department in elite company—just five percent of law enforcement agencies in the United States have received CALEA accreditation. The Police Department has also received CALEA's Advanced Meritorious Award, in honor of the Department's longstanding commitment to professional excellence through accreditation.

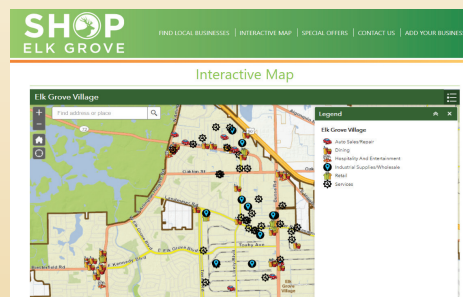
"We're proud to be reaccredited because it demonstrates our commitment to constant improvement in the way we keep our community and our officers safe," said Police Chief Chuck Walsh. "When we earn accreditation, our community is the beneficiary because it means that we are delivering critical public safety services using modern, best practices."

Continued on page 3.

SHOP LOCAL, SHOP ELK GROVE

Elk Grove Village residents are encouraged to shop local amid the holiday season and the ongoing pandemic. The Village launched shop.elkgrove.org during the initial stay at home order to provide residents the latest information about how local businesses are continuing to operate and serve customers during the coronavirus pandemic.

The Shop Elk Grove website (www.shop.elkgrove.org) also encourages residents to support businesses that are still open, albeit with limited hours, operations or product offerings. This resource can help residents shop and access services safely and conveniently.



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Without a doubt, we are all looking forward to the new year. As we prepare for the end of 2020, we want to share information about ongoing programs and safety tips to consider during the winter season.

The coronavirus pandemic has had a direct impact on many aspects of our daily lives, including traditions during the holiday season. The decision to cancel our First Responders and Essential Workers Holiday Tree Lighting & Rally was not easy, but the safety of our community is always our top priority. The holiday light display around the Village Green will be up throughout the holiday season and we encourage you to come out with your family to enjoy the decorations.

As we all prepare for the holidays, we need to plan for safety as part of our celebrations. While holiday traditions are important to all of us, the health and safety of our loved ones is worth skipping or modifying some this year. Please consider modifying plans to keep your friends, family, and communities healthy and safe during this pandemic. We encourage you to keep gatherings small and socially distanced, you could even try hosting a virtual meal with friends and family who do not live with you, and deliver traditional dishes to friends and family to enjoy safely. For additional information about a healthy and safe holiday season, please visit www.cdc.gov.

As winter approaches, our Public Works Department stands ready to respond to winter storms. Our equipment has been prepared and salt supply has been secured. You can help our community achieve a successful snow removal season by checking out information on page 6.

Public Works may be preparing for the winter freeze but we know our residents are preparing for the season with holiday decorations and displays! If you come across non-working or old holiday lights you no longer use, please recycle them! Residents can drop off holiday lights and extension cords now through March 31, 2021. Find out more on page 3.

Speaking of recycling, have you come across items that you don't know how to dispose of? We can help! For information on how to properly recycle or dispose of bulk



Pictured in front row from left to right are Trustee Nancy Czarnik, Mayor Craig Johnson, and Trustee Christine Prochno. Pictured in the second row from left to right are Trustee Jeffrey Franke, Trustee Stephen Schmidt, Trustee Samuel Lissner, and Trustee Patton Feichter.

items, appliances, hazardous household materials and electronics, check out page 7.

Overnight parking restrictions have been waived from December 19 through January 4. Please remember that residential street parking is prohibited if there is more than 2 inches of snow on the ground or if the Village is expecting snow.

This has been a year of unprecedented events and we hope the second round of economic relief to residents will help lessen the impacts of the pandemic and provide a positive start to the new year. A \$200 credit will begin appearing on water bills in January 2021 as part of the second round of coronavirus relief.

This year, we have also experienced a change in the way we use water. These changes are largely caused by the effects of the pandemic and compounded by dry summer months. To learn about water use in 2020, please visit page 5.

Residents are always invited to share thoughts, concerns, or questions by clicking "Contact Us" on the Village website (www.elkgrove.org).



POLICE DEPARTMENT EARNs APPROVAL FROM NATION'S LEADING ACCREDITATION COMMISSION

Continued from page 1.

CALEA Accreditation is a continuous process that runs in four-year cycles. As part of the re-accreditation process, the Elk Grove Village Police Department undergoes a full assessment of all policies and practices for the first three years of the cycle. In the fourth year, an assessment team conducts an onsite evaluation to ensure the agency is complying with over 460 internationally recognized CALEA standards that guide professional excellence and provide best practices related to life, health, and safety procedures.

The accreditation process provides the framework for addressing high risk issues in a contemporary environment, and ensures officers are prepared to meet community service expectations and manage critical events. Accreditation status is only granted after intensive review of every aspect of the Police Department.



Elk Grove Village Police Chief Chuck Walsh, Deputy Chief Michael Gaspari, and Commander Michael Garrison (pictured above) attended the CALEA hearing virtually on November 12, 2020 to receive the Meritorious Award for Advanced Law Enforcement Accreditation following a complete assessment of the Department's policies.

HOLIDAY LIGHTS RECYCLING

The Village is accepting unused and non-working holiday string lights and extension cords as part of the SWANCC Holiday Lights Recycling Program. SWANCC and participating communities have partnered with Elgin Recycling Inc. to recycle the lights and cords.



**Community Development Counter
Village Hall, 901 Wellington Ave.
Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**



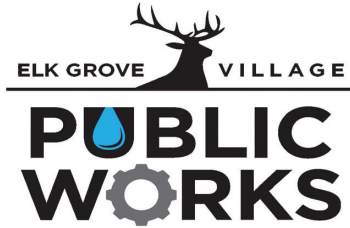
Residents can drop off holiday lights and extension cords now thru March 31, 2021. The Village cannot accept garland, live greens, wreaths, or other non-recyclable materials. Call 847-357-4220 for more information.

OVERNIGHT PARKING RESTRICTIONS WAIVED FOR HOLIDAYS

From December 19 through January 4, residents and visitors can park on residential streets overnight. Please remember that residential street parking is prohibited if there is more than 2 inches of snow on the ground or if the Village is expecting snow.

Have a safe and happy holiday season!

VILLAGE, PUBLIC WORKS UNION AGREEMENT ON FIVE-YEAR CONTRACT BRINGS LONG-TERM STABILITY TO VILLAGE WORKFORCE



At the Village Board meeting on November 17, Village officials announced that they have reached a long-term agreement with the union that represents 39 of the Village's public works employees.

Mayor Craig Johnson and Union Stewards for the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 150 Jeff Reynolds and John Wesa, signed a letter of intent at a brief ceremony during the November Village Board meeting. The contract was formally approved at the December 8 Village Board Meeting.

The five-year contract, which is the product of ongoing labor negotiations between the Village and the union, includes annual raises for the employees responsible for maintenance of Village infrastructure and equipment. The Public Works Department maintains water and sewer utilities, public streets and right of ways, urban forestry and land, and other critical infrastructure. The department is also responsible for engineering the design of public improvements.

"This is a win-win for taxpayers and our employees. One of the reasons we are so effective in delivering top notch services to our residents is because we enjoy strong relationships with the unions that represent so many of our critical employees," said Mayor Johnson. "We work in partnership with the unions, not against them, because we know that when there is stability with respect to contracts, salaries and working conditions, we're better equipped to focus on the job at hand, which is working hard on behalf of our residents to improve our community and our quality of life."

John Wesa, who works in the Elk Grove Village Public Works Department and serves as the union's representative, said Local 150 worked with Village leadership toward a fair and mutually beneficial agreement.

"This contract agreement was only made possible with the respect and understanding shown by everyone involved," said Wesa. "We look forward to continuing our goal of providing quality services to the residences and business community of Elk Grove."



The signing of this labor agreement, which will last through April 30, 2026, means that there are long-term contracts in place for all three unions representing Elk Grove Village employees. The contract between the Village and police officers is in place through April, 2023. The contract between the Village and firefighters/paramedics will run through April, 2024.

The new public works contract will take effect this spring and includes the following salary increases:

2.50% - 2021	2.25% - 2022	2.50% - 2023	2.25% - 2024	2.50% - 2025
--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	--------------



HOW 2020 CHANGED THE WAY WE USE WATER

In 2020, our residents have been using more water at home than ever before. These changes are largely caused by the effects of the pandemic and were compounded by unusually dry July and August months. Given these unusual circumstances, many residents' current usage may seem quite high in comparison to the historical usage shown on residents' bi-monthly water bills.

Stay At Home” Also Means “Use Water at Home”



The coronavirus pandemic has caused significant disruption of our day-to-day lives, notably through the stay-at-home orders issued by Governor Pritzker.

With non-essential businesses and schools shut down to limit spread of the virus, water use shifted from work and school to homes. As workers and students spent more time at home, they used the sink to wash hands, clean, and flush toilets. Modern toilets use up to 1.6 gallons per flush while older toilets use an average of 5 gallons or more of water per flush—and that adds up!

With dine-in restrictions at restaurants, more meal preparation took place at home. Water is used to clean vegetables, boil water, run the dishwasher, and to drink!

In addition, restrictions on recreational activities and travel meant more time at home. Pool permits in the Village quadrupled this summer, and many residents used kiddie pools to entertain their children. Water consumption was drastically reduced at schools, public pools, restaurants, and hotels.



Watering Plants in a Dry Summer



During the months of July and August, the Chicago area experienced abnormally dry conditions, which turned lawns brown. In July, rainfall came about an inch short of the average and it was even lower the next month—less than an inch of rain was recorded for the month of August, almost 4 inches less than normal. With low soil moisture throughout the summer, residents used more water to keep their grass green and flowers, gardens and landscape alive.

Temporary Change in Billing Periods

The water billing periods throughout 2020 for many residents also included a transition to new water meters. The change to new water meters meant some water bills showed additional water use due to a temporary extended water billing period and increment of unreported water consumption, which the old meters would have rolled into the next bill. These changes even out in the long run, but can make comparisons with historical water usage difficult during the transition.

Have Questions? We're here to help!

As the pandemic continues with stay-at-home advisories this winter season, residents may potentially see a continued increase in water use on their bills compared to past winters. If you see something on your water bill that doesn't make sense, we can look into it for you.

Call our Utility Billing staff at 847-357-4060 with any questions or concerns about your water usage or water bill. Staff is available Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and voicemail messages are returned within one business day.

As a reminder, a \$200 credit will begin appearing on residential water bills in January 2021 as part of the second round of coronavirus relief.

WINTER SNOW AND ICE CONTROL

The Elk Grove Village Public Works stands ready to respond to this winter's freeze in a timely and expeditious manner. Our equipment has been readied and the salt supply has been secured. Residents and businesses play an important role in ensuring our streets are maintained in a clean and safe condition.



We would like to thank everyone in advance for their cooperation, patience, and understanding during the unpredictable winter season. To help achieve a successful snow removal season, please keep in mind the following tips:

Parking Restrictions

When 2 or more inches of snow have fallen or are predicted to fall, do not park on any public street. Parked vehicles slow the progress of our snow removal fleet and often result in a section of roadway left unplowed. Parking is prohibited on both sides of a public street for 24 hours after the snowfall stops or until the clearing operation is complete.

Be Considerate of Pedestrians and Seniors

Residents and businesses are asked to shovel their sidewalks, clearing a path for pedestrians. In addition, please assist your neighbors who may be unable to clear their walks. Please be aware that pedestrians may be walking in the street when sidewalks are inaccessible due to snow.

Plowed-In Driveway Aprons

Snow removal equipment is designed to push snow to the parkway and unfortunately, pushing snow onto driveway aprons is unavoidable. Property owners can minimize the amount of snow pushed onto driveways by placing snow on their side of the sidewalk, as well as placing driveway apron snow in the parkway away from the flow of traffic to help our plows to push snow away from your driveway rather than onto it.

Do Not Push Snow Into Streets

Driveways and sidewalks should be cleared by placing the snow on your property or adjacent parkway. Pushing snow into the street creates hazardous driving conditions and negates the effort of our snow operation. It is unlawful to move snow from driveways or private parking lots onto Village streets or the right-of-way.

Drive Cautiously

Whenever practical, please stay off the roads during a heavy snowfall. If you must travel, drive slowly and cautiously. Please yield to snow removal equipment.

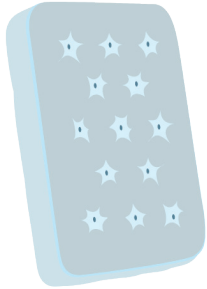
For more information on snow removal activities, please feel free to contact Public Works at 847-734-8800.



SPECIAL RECYCLING & REFUSE SERVICES BEYOND CURBSIDE PICKUP

In addition to regular weekly waste and recycling pickup, residents have access to many different services for recycling and for disposal of special materials such as electronics, appliances, bulk items, and more.

Bulk Item Disposal (Curbside)



Waste Management provides a bulk item collection service to dispose of discarded materials which are too large to be handled by regular refuse collection equipment.

Residents must notify Waste Management by phone at 1 (800) 796-9696 to request a bulk item pick-up.

Residents must place bulk items at the curbside on their regular refuse collection day. Collection is limited to one (1) bulk item, or one (1) cubic yard, whichever is larger. There is no additional cost to the resident for this service. Waste Management may charge residents for any bulk items that exceed these limits.

For a list of eligible bulk items, please visit www.elkgrove.org/recycling.

Appliance/White-Goods Pick-Up (Curbside with Fee)



Large appliances (white goods) contain materials and gases which can harm the environment and have been banned from all landfills in Illinois. White goods also contain numerous metals and a steel shell which can be recycled.

Residents disposing of white goods are must notify Waste Management in advance. A separate truck will collect appliances on your regularly scheduled pick day. Please call Waste Management at 1 (800) 796-9696 to schedule a pick-up at \$40.00 per item.

The following items are accepted for appliance/white good pickup: Washer, Freezer, Dishwasher, Stove, Dehumidifier, Air conditioner, Furnace, Hot water heater, Dryer, and Refrigerator.

Electronics Recycling (Drop-Off)



The Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) provides free electronics drop-off locations available to Village residents and residents of other SWANCC communities. Information on drop-off locations and other locations that accept electronics for recycling (including some in Elk Grove Village!) is available on the SWANCC website at www.swancc.org. There is NO FEE for SWANCC member drop-off locations.

Household Hazardous Waste (Drop-Off)



Household hazardous waste (HHW) items are materials purchased for cleaning or maintaining a home, such as aerosol cans, household cleaners and pesticides.

There are only a few disposal sites for HHW in the State of Illinois. The closest location for Village residents is in the City of Naperville, which is open on Saturdays and Sundays, excluding holidays. No material may be dropped off at any other time.

Naperville HHW Collection: 156 Fort Hill Drive, next to the Public Works Service Center

For information on hours of operation and a complete list of accepted items at this disposal site, please visit the City of Naperville website at www.naperville.il.us. For a list of other HHW disposal sites, please visit the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency website at www2.illinois.gov/epa.

POLICE DEPARTMENT PROJECT HELP PROGRAM



The Elk Grove Village Police Department offers the Project Help program for residents that would help first responders in identifying and interacting with family members at risk, suffering from medical conditions or mental health issues.

To register at-risk family members, residents can contact the Police Information Center at 847-357-4100. Please be prepared to share information on medications, emergency contacts, a photo, and any other information that would assist first responders in helping your family member get to safety.

HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

'Tis the season to be jolly and...SAFE! As you are running your holiday errands to preparing for the most wonderful time of the year, keep in mind these safety tips:

While Running Errands:

- Never leave your vehicle running while unlocked and unattended
- Keep valuables and packages out of view in your vehicle
- Be aware of your surroundings and park in well-lit areas at night
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash
- Do not put personal items in shopping carts; keep them on you at all times

At Home:

- Do not advertise the goodies in your home - avoid posting about expensive items on social media and conceal "big ticket item" boxes on trash day
- Check your credit card statement regularly for unauthorized purchases
- Remove packages off your porch right away, or ask a neighbor to pick them up for you
- Breakdown boxes for items such as TVs and Computers before placing the boxes out for garbage pickup. These empty boxes can be a signal to thieves driving by your home.

Remember to always call 9-1-1 if you see something suspicious!

ATTENTION PET OWNERS

The Village has many residents, including those with four legs! Please keep these courtesy tips in mind when it comes to taking care of your pets:

- Keep your pet on a leash: Walking your pet on a leash protects your pet from traffic, and unrestrained animals. It also provides a way for your pet to be properly introduced to people or children. Leashes should be no more than 8 feet long.
- Maintain Supervision: It is neither safe nor appropriate to allow your dog to roam free. We ask pet owners to respect their neighbors and be cautious of their pets' whereabouts.
- Pick up after your pet: Be a responsible pet owner and do your part to clean up after your pet.

