

ELK GROVE Villager

December 2021

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Happy Holidays!

The Village of Elk Grove would like to wish everyone a happy & safe holiday season! May your homes be filled with warmth and happiness as we look forward to a New Year!

As a friendly reminder, Village Hall will be closed for regular business on Friday, December 24 and Friday, December 31 in observance of the holidays.



Please note there will be no service delays for the curbside residential and recycling collections for the upcoming Christmas and New Year's Day holidays. Normal operations will continue during the last week of December (12/27/21-12/31/21) and the first week of January (1/3/22-1/7/22). ■



Thank You For Your "Toys for Tots" Donations

The amount of toys collected this year as part of the "Toys for Tots" drive was monumental!

We would like to thank everyone for their generous donations that will make many less fortunate children happy -- they will have something special to unwrap this holiday season because of your kindness.



Message from the Board

2021 Tree Lighting Ceremony

Thank you to everyone who joined us at the annual Holiday Tree Lighting!

We enjoy bringing the community together to kick off the holiday season on the Village Green. This year's ceremony featured a holiday performance by Paul Revere's Raiders.

Paul Revere's Raiders joined Mayor Johnson in throwing the switch to light up the holiday tree and turn on over 250,000 lights around the Municipal Complex, Elk Grove Public Library, and Elk Grove Park District Pavilion. A special fireworks display followed the tree lighting, announcing Santa and his elves.

A special thank you to Gatwood Crane Services, Inc. for providing their time and expertise, the Lions and Leo Clubs and Elk Grove Village CERT members for volunteering their time and services to support the event!

Holiday Tree & Light Display

The holiday light display around the Village Green located at 901 Wellington Avenue will be up

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The Village Hall is open 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday for payment of water bills, local fines and general Village information. In addition, the Finance and the Community Development counters are open on the first Saturday of the month of May through August 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.

throughout the holiday season. We encourage you to come out with your family to enjoy the decorations!

Halloween House Decorating Contest Winners Recognized

At the December 14 Village Board meeting, winners from the 2021 Halloween House Decorating contest were presented with their awards.

Thank you to everyone who participated and for your creativity and excellent decorations!

Beautiful Bulgaria Photo Exhibition at Elk Grove Village Public Library

On December 3, Village officials attended an opening ceremony for the photo exhibition, Beautiful Bulgaria, at the Elk Grove Village Public Library. The photo exhibit featured photos taken by famous Bulgarian photographers.

Officials met with Bozhana Markova, a private tour guide who organized the presentation



Pictured from left to right are Trustee Samuel Lissner, Trustee Stephen Schmidt, Trustee Patton Feichter, Mayor Craig Johnson, Trustee Christine Prochno, Trustee Tammy Miller, and Trustee Jeffrey Franke.

and discussed the Village's Sister City relationship with Pernik, Bulgaria.

Contact Us Any Time!

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



Overnight Parking Restrictions Waived for the Holidays

Overnight parking permission will begin on Saturday, December 18 at 2:00 am and end on Monday, January 3 at 5:00 am.

Please note 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. Vehicles must be cleared from the street until snow removal operations are finished. ■

Elk Grove Honors Trustee Nancy J. Czarnik at Final Board Meeting

On Tuesday, November 16, long-time Village Trustee Nancy Czarnik was honored with a plaque on the Village's Rotunda of Recognition with sincere gratitude and appreciation of her dedicated service to the Village of Elk Grove. Mayor Craig B. Johnson and the Board of Trustees were joined by Trustee Czarnik's family and friends in recognition of her 32 years of devoted service and paid tribute to her accomplishments.

At the Village Board Meeting that evening, Trustee Czarnik was presented with a Czarnik Ct. street sign

on behalf of the Village and was recognized with a proclamation signifying her 32 years of public service on behalf of State Senator Laura Murphy. Trustee Czarnik received a standing ovation after giving her final remarks.

Nancy Czarnik was appointed in 1989, where she served the community for over 32 years. Nancy served with 3 Mayors, 11 Village Trustees, and 3 Village Managers. She attended 649 Village Board meetings; adopted 1,859 Village Ordinances and 1,989 Village Resolutions. The Village wishes Nancy the best in her future endeavors.



Elk Grove Television Enables Live Closed Captioning on Video Programming

Last month, Elk Grove Television (EGTV) introduced a dynamic system supporting the display of closed captioning on all programming. Closed-captioning support for live programming began last month and for on-demand programming will begin in January 2022. This is an important milestone in making the Village more accessible to all members of the community.

Live closed captioning systems display lines of text on the screen that match the action in real-time, allowing the viewer to comprehend everything without sound. This system provides a written depiction of what is heard and said in a video or live stream.

When first installed, the accuracy of the closed-captioning

system begins at about 80%. As a machine learning system, this advanced technology will continue to improve over time and increase to 95% accuracy within just a few months.

The Village's proactive efforts to provide equal opportunity access to content comes at a time when public, educational, and government agencies are currently exempt from video captioning requirements.

In addition to ensuring access to individuals who are hard of hearing or deaf, live-closed captioning provides

many benefits including viewer flexibility, improved accessibility for viewers with English as a second language, and improved comprehension and retention. Closed captioning also allows for audiences to view content in environments where access to audio is limited. ■

"The new system helps ensure all members of our community have access to Village programs. This proactive effort is part of the Village's commitment to be an inclusive community." - Mayor Craig B. Johnson

Groot Transition Information & Service Reminders



Request Free Cart Size Exchange by December 31, 2021

The deadline to request a free, one-time change to your waste and recycling cart size is quickly approaching! To request a cart change, contact Groot at 847-734-6400 or elkgrove@groot.com.

Groot Senior Discount Sign-up Information

Senior residents aged 65 or older that reside in single-family or townhomes and pay their bill directly to Groot are eligible to receive a 10% senior discount. Here's how to sign up:

- Email a copy of your photo ID with age and home address to elkgrove@groot.com; OR
- Bring your ID to the Community Development Counter at Village Hall (901 Wellington Ave), Monday – Friday, 8:00 am- 5:00 pm.



Groot Service Reminders

As Groot continues to provide waste and recycling services to residents, keep in mind the following reminders when it comes to additional services that are provided to residents:



Free Curbside Electronics Recycling: Groot offers free curbside electronic recycling by appointment. Residents can recycle up to two electronic waste items weighing less than 50 pounds each week. To schedule a pick-up, residents must contact Groot at 847-734-6400 at least 24 hours before their collection day. Please note that items that exceed 50 pounds will require a fee.

Free Bulk Item Pick-up: Residents may dispose of one bulk item (under 50 pounds) per week on their regular collection day at no additional cost. Bulk items are items too large to fit inside a waste cart that weighs 50 pounds or less and can be lifted by one driver without assistance. Examples of bulk items include barrels, crates, furniture, and mattresses.



Oversized/ Overweight Item Pick-up: For oversized or extra heavy items (exceeding 50 pounds), residents are required to schedule a special pick-up because they require two or more people to lift. A per-item fee will apply for each oversized item. To schedule a pick-up in advance, please contact Groot at 847-734-6400.

White Goods/ Appliances: Residents must call to schedule a special collection for white goods or appliance pick-up. Please call Groot in advance of your regular collection day at 847-734-6400 to schedule a pick-up at \$50.00 per item. After scheduling a pick-up, please note that white goods or appliances should not be placed at the curb until the evening before the scheduled collection. For a list of accepted white good appliances, please visit elkgrove.org/recycling. ■



HOLIDAY TREE RECYCLING

1/3/22- 1/14/22

Groot will be collecting live holiday trees for the first two weeks of January for recycling.

Place tree on curb on your regular collection day.

Please do not put trees in plastic bags, and make sure all decorations are removed.



Friendly Reminder from the Elk Grove Village Police Department

Keep your holidays merry and bright -- please do not drive impaired! If you plan to celebrate using impairing substances, always plan for an alternative mode of transportation before you drive, such as designating a sober driver or using a ridesharing app. ■



Holiday Light 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 Department
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 April 30, 2022. The Village cannot accept garland, live greens, wreaths, or other non-recyclable materials. Call 847-357-4220 for more information. ■

Elk Grove Village's Snow and Ice Control

Winter is here and the Village is ready to provide safe and clear streets. To help achieve our goal, please keep in mind the following:

Priority Plowing and Salting

During snow/icing events, Public Works crews focus on major streets first to provide access for emergency vehicles and heavier traffic, then begin working on all other streets. Crews will continue this process for the duration of the storm and come back to clean up side streets after the snowfall has ended.



Your Role in Clearing Snow

Snow removal equipment is designed to push snow onto the right-of-way which may result in snow being pushed onto driveway aprons, mailboxes, sidewalks, and hydrants. Residents and businesses are encouraged to clear:



- **Driveway aprons and mailboxes** – Place the snow onto your property or the adjacent parkway;
- **Sidewalks** – Place the snow onto your property as the Village does not provide this service;
- **Hydrants** – Clear the snow and ice three feet around all sides of hydrants to provide access in the case of an emergency.

Keep in mind that shoveling, blowing, or plowing snow into the street creates hazardous driving conditions, negates the effort of our snowplowing operations, and is prohibited by law. Please be careful when moving heavy snow.

Winter Weather Parking Restrictions

Parking on all Village streets is prohibited when 2 or more inches of snow has fallen or is predicted to fall. Parking is also prohibited on both sides of the street for 24 hours after the snowfall stops or until the clearing operation is complete.



Drive Safely and Remember to Yield

Remember to drive cautiously and yield to snow removal equipment and emergency vehicles.



If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Public Works at 847-734-8800.

Winter Months are a Prime Time for Warm-up Thefts

Warm-up theft occurs when thieves steal cars that have been left running to warm up while unlocked and unattended -- it is an open invitation for thieves! If you must warm up your car unattended, use a remote starter or lock your vehicle and use a spare key. It only takes seconds for a thief to strike anywhere including residential areas, private driveways, convenience stores, and gas stations.

Never leave your car running while unlocked and unattended. Make sure to lock up your car and take your keys anytime, anywhere!

Pace Dial-A-Ride

Pace provides curb-to-curb Dial-A-Ride bus service to Elk Grove Village residents Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Fares for a one-way trip are \$1.30 per person, with a discounted fare of \$0.65 for senior citizens (ages 65 or older) and disabled residents.

Residents are encouraged to call one hour in advance of their desired pickup time.

To make a Dial-A-Ride Reservation, please call:

Elk Grove Village Reservation Line

847-299-6212

If experiencing connection issues, please call:

Regional Reservation Line

800-229-0765

To report Pace service issues please submit comments, complaints, and information to: passenger.services@pacebus.com or call 847-364-7223.



Home Winterizing Tips

Winter is on its way! It is important to protect the interior and exterior of your property from the cold weather. The following tips can help prepare your home for the winter season:

1. Protect Pipes

Maintain a consistent temperature of at least 60°F in all areas of your home, and properly seal all possible entry points for outdoor air to prevent freezing of water pipes.

2. Furnace Maintenance

Have an HVAC professional test and service your furnace annually to ensure all components are functioning properly.

3. Fireplace Maintenance

Before using your fireplace for the first time this season, thoroughly clean it by removing soot and debris from the firebox and chimney. If your fireplace needs maintenance and/or repair, consult with a chimneysweeper or fireplace service technician. ■



Elk Grove Village's First Ever Public Works Citizen's Academy Graduates

Last month, 19 participants including Elk Grove's very own Police Chief Walsh and Former Trustee Nancy Czarnik graduated from Elk Grove Village's first ever Public Works Citizen's Academy. This 5-week program provided participants with an immersive experience into the Public Works Department's general operations, engineering, fleet and building services, and utility services.

Participants toured various Village facilities and had the opportunity to operate a backhoe, make their own street signs, take a ride in a snowplow and street sweeper, and more. When participants were asked to share their biggest take-away from the academy, they said:

"The overall learning of everything and what it takes to keep a village running was great."

"Taken back by the quality of people working in Public Works. Can't say enough on how proud I am to live in a city that really cares."

"All very interesting & enlightened me. So very proud of our Public Works."

The academy was well received by participants, and staff enjoyed hosting the group and showcasing their skills and heavy-duty equipment. The department is looking forward to hosting future academies so keep an eye out for posted dates!



COVID-19 Booster Shots

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is recommending COVID-19 vaccine booster doses for everyone ages 18 and older. You're eligible for a booster shot if it's been at least 6 months since your second dose of Pfizer or Moderna, or at least 2 months since your first dose of Johnson & Johnson.

For more information about the COVID-19 vaccine booster, visit the CDC website at www.cdc.gov.

Blood Drive at Village Hall

The Village, in partnership with Vitalant will be hosting four Community Blood Drives in 2022. The first blood drive of 2022 will be held at Village Hall (901 Wellington Avenue) in Room E on the following Saturday:

Saturday, January 8 from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Simple Recycling

The Simple Recycling program offers a convenient and environmentally friendly way for residents in the Village to recycle old and unwanted textile materials.

Since the launch of the Simple Recycling program in September 2020, 103,633 pounds of textile materials have been collected! The Simple Recycling program is free to residents who receive curbside waste and recycling services in the Village.

To participate in the free program, residents can fill up orange simple recycling bags with old clothing or household items and place them at the curb on their normal refuse and recycling day. Once collected, items are sorted for quality and are either donated or broken down for raw materials.

For more information on the Village's Simple Recycling program, please visit elkgrove.org/recycling.



Is Your Car Ready For Winter Travel?



Don't wait until the first snowfall before thinking about how to be prepared while traveling.

- Check your wiper blades and headlights
- Ensure your car is filled with winter-appropriate windshield wiper fluid and keep a refill on hand.
- Keep a small shovel, ice scraper and snowbrush in your car at all times. You never know when a snowfall might hit.
- Stock your car with an emergency roadside kit consisting of a flashlight, warning devices (e.g., flares and reflective strips), a first aid kit, blankets, foods that are higher in sugar (e.g., chocolate bars and candy), jumper cables, and extra warm winter clothing.