

# ELK GROVE Villager

April 2023

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## Elk Grove Village passes ordinance to safeguard community from unregulated sale of products containing THC

The Village Board passed an ordinance that prohibits licensed tobacco and “smoke shop” operators from selling any products containing THC, the psychoactive ingredient in cannabis.

The ordinance was introduced and passed by the Village Board following the discovery by Village staff of a “gray area” in Illinois statutes addressing cannabis regulation that allows for the sale of unregulated products such as delta 8 vapes, edible candies such as gummy bears, and similar products containing THC. Many of the products available at local smoke shops contain THC but have not received FDA approval. The Village pointed to numerous studies by the National Institute of Health and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention which acknowledged the adverse effects related to the ingestion of these THC products.

“The steps we’re taking today are aimed at safeguarding our community, especially youth who may be unaware of the harm these unregulated products can cause,” said Mayor Craig Johnson. “Elk Grove Village is the first community in Illinois to identify this loophole. We encourage other communities to follow our lead and, more importantly, for state lawmakers to take swift action to prohibit the sale of unregulated THC products at smoke shops and other establishments throughout the state.”

Elk Grove Village has long been a national leader in taking active steps to protect the health and safety of its residents. In 2006, the Village Board voted to make the Village a smoke-free community, two years before the entire state became smoke-free. The Village Board also voted to increase the age to purchase tobacco products from 18 to 21 almost two years prior to statewide regulations going into effect in 2019.

Village officials pointed out that police officials have determined that sales and resales of these unregulated THC products often involve minors. They also stressed that the ordinance does not contradict state statute, which allows for the sale of cannabis products only at licensed and closely regulated dispensaries. Those found in violation of the ordinance are subject to fines up to \$500, and may also face suspension or revocation of their business license. ■

## Paint & Oil Collection Event on May 6

The Village is hosting a Paint & Motor Oil Collection Event on Saturday, May 6, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and it will be held at the James Paul Petri Public Works Facility located at 450 E. Devon Avenue. This event is limited to Elk Grove residents. IDs will be checked. Business items will not be accepted.

The following items will be collected: motor oil, antifreeze, and paint or stains (latex, acrylic, water-based, oil-based).

Paint must be in labeled, non-leaking cans or containers that are 5 gallons or less. Dried up paint will not be accepted, but can be disposed of in your curbside waste bins.

Items not listed will not be accepted at this event. Items such as adhesives, aerosol cans, cleaning products, pesticides, roofing compounds, sealers/sealants, solvents, and spray paint are household hazard waste (HHW) items, and must be disposed of at an HHW facility.

For questions regarding the recycling event, please call the Village at 847-357-4028. ■

# Message from the Board

## State of the Village Address

On April 13, Mayor Craig Johnson delivered the annual State of the Village Address to members of the community and business leaders at the Greater O'Hare Association Regional Business Association luncheon.

## Arlington Heights/Higgins Entryway Development Open House

On April 13, we hosted a second open house event for residents to provide feedback on an updated proposal for the Elk Grove Woods Plaza redevelopment. We want to thank all residents that attended the open house event and those who submitted feedback in-person and online.

## Upcoming Neighborhood Watch Meeting

Mark your calendars for the upcoming Neighborhood Watch Meeting on Thursday, April 27 at 7 pm in Village Hall Meeting Room E. The Police Department's Crime Prevention Unit will discuss current crime trends and other police-related information.

Questions? Please contact our Crime Prevention Unit at (847) 357-4151 or [crimeprevention@elkgrove.org](mailto:crimeprevention@elkgrove.org).

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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.

## Arbor Day Celebrations

Join the Elk Grove Village Public Works Department, Elk Grove Park District, and Elk Grove High School for two Arbor Day Tree Planting Ceremonies on April 28th. The first ceremony will take place at Elk Grove High School at 8 a.m. and the second ceremony at 10 a.m. at Mead Junior High.

## Coffee with the Mayor & Board

Residents are invited to enjoy a cup of coffee and discuss any questions or concerns with the Mayor and Board on Saturday, May 6 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Village Hall.

## Celebration of Community Event

A special celebration for the 5-year anniversary of the Elk Grove Village Cares program will take place this summer on June 4, starting at 3 p.m. in the areas surrounding the Village Green. The event will feature a car show at 3 p.m., food trucks from 4:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., and musical entertainment by Tony Ocean at 3 p.m. and the Grass Roots at 6:00 p.m. We hope to see you there!



Pictured in front row from left to right are Trustee Tammy Miller, Mayor Craig Johnson, and Trustee Christine Prochno. Pictured in second row from left to right are Trustee Jeffrey Franke, Trustee Stephen Schmidt, Trustee Samuel Lissner, and Trustee Patton Feichter (retired 2/27/23).

## Public Works Hours Change

Beginning Monday, May 1, 2023, the Public Works Department office hours will be changing to 7:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M., Monday through Friday. The James Paul Petri Public Works Facility located at 450 E Devon Avenue will be open during these hours. This hour change does not affect our Public Works operation. If you have any questions, please contact the Public Works Department at (847) 734-8800.

## 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](http://www.elkgrove.org)). ■

## Scam Spotlight: ComEd Impostor

Please be aware of impostors claiming to be from ComEd! Recently, some residents reported receiving scam calls from impostors claiming to be from ComEd stating their power would be shut off unless immediate payment is made. If you receive a scam call like this demanding immediate payment:

- Hang up and call the utility company yourself to verify.
- Never wire money or pay with a reloadable card, gift card, or cryptocurrency to anyone who demands it.
- Resist pressure to act immediately. Scammers want you to pay or give them your personal information before you have time to think.
- If you fall victim to tax scams, report it to your local Police Department. ■

# Chief Walsh Announces Retirement from a 32-Year Career with the Elk Grove Village Police Department



Charles Walsh, who served as Chief of the Elk Grove Village Police Department for more than six years and spent his entire 32-year career in law enforcement with the Village retired on March 17.

Most notably, Chief Walsh has led the Police Department, made up of 90 sworn officers and 30 civilian employees, while maintaining its status as a

fully accredited agency by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA)—which is considered the gold standard in public safety. First receiving its accreditation by CALEA in 1993, the Police Department has been re-accredited nine times.

Chief Walsh is credited with several innovations including the development of Elk Grove Village Cares, which diverts substance abusers from the criminal justice system and into a funded medical treatment program that addresses chronic addictions.

He helped create a program with Northwest Compass (SAFE) to assist homeless individuals in the northwest suburbs by providing shelter and services to help people when they need it the most.

Chief Walsh also established an adjudication program for local Village violations instead of using an overburdened county court system.

He oversaw a period of labor and management collaboration, successfully negotiating two collective bargaining agreements by working closely and transparently with union representatives.

Most recently, Chief Walsh administered the department-wide rollout of body-worn cameras for police officers and public service officers.

And, his efforts and those of all officers under his supervision led to the Village's distinction by researchers at [backgroundchecks.org](http://backgroundchecks.org) as one of Illinois' safest communities in 2019.

Following his service with the United States Air Force, Walsh joined the Department in 1991 as a Patrol Officer and rose through the ranks having been promoted to Sergeant in 2002 then to Commander in 2007. He was appointed to the rank of Deputy Chief in 2011, where he oversaw criminal investigations, juvenile investigations, evidence section, records section, crime

**“When it comes down to developing and nurturing a thriving community for families and businesses, everything starts with public safety. Chief Walsh and the men and women under his supervision understand that better than anyone. We’re so grateful for his dedication and service to our community. On behalf of the entire Village, we congratulate Chief Walsh and his family for a career spent in service to Elk Grove residents. And, we wish him nothing but the best of luck in future endeavors.”**

**- Mayor Craig Johnson**

prevention, police accreditation, internal affairs, and the Citizen Emergency Response Team.

Chief Walsh, had been in discussions with Village leadership about a potential retirement for the past year. He has decided to retire in order to jump start the next phase of his life.

“It has been an absolute honor to serve the Elk Grove Village community for the past three decades and to lead the men and women who work so hard on behalf of those they serve,” said Chief Walsh. “Elk Grove Village is truly the exceptional community, I have been blessed to have spent a large part of my working life with such wonderful residents, employees, and Village officials. I shall cherish those memories as I begin the next phase of my life.”

“I look forward to working with the Village Manager and Board of Trustees on a thorough search to identify our next Chief of Police,” said Mayor Johnson. “We will be looking for someone with a proven track record of building strong partnerships with residents and businesses, fighting crime and ensuring that the men and women who serve our community so bravely and honorably continue to have all the resources and guidance they need to keep our community as safe as it possibly can be.”

The Village is now planning to follow the same procedure as it did with the transition in leadership with the Fire Department in recent years. The Village will bring in an Interim Chief of Police as it looks for Chief Walsh's permanent replacement. Deputy Chief of Police Dan Burke will serve in the Acting Chief role until an Interim Chief is identified with assistance from the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police. ■

# "UNITY WITHIN THE COMMUNITY" 2023 SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

PRESENTED BY VILLAGE OF ELK GROVE AND ELK GROVE PARK DISTRICT



## KC AND THE SUNSHINE BAND

**TUESDAY, JULY 4 AT 8pm - ROTARY GREEN**

KC and The Sunshine Band sold in excess of 100 million records... "Get Down Tonight", "I'm Your Boogie Man", "That's The Way (I Like It)", "Shake Your Booty", "Keep It Comin' Love", "Boogie Shoes", "Please Don't Go". The #1 disco group of all time!

## THE SPINNERS

**TUESDAY, JULY 11 AT 7:30pm - VILLAGE GREEN**

60 million albums sold...18 Top 40 Hits...8 Top 10's: "Then Came You", "Working My Way Back To You/Forgive Me, Girl", "Cupid / I've Loved You For A Long Time", "The Rubberband Man", "I'll Be Around", "Could It Be I'm Falling In Love", "One Of A Kind (Love Affair)", "It's A Shame" and more!



## ALL-AMERICAN REJECTS

**THURSDAY, JULY 20 AT 7:30pm - ROTARY GREEN**

**ALL ALCOHOL PROCEEDS BENEFIT ROTARY CLUB**

AAR have sold 10 million albums worldwide. They are on the "Hot 100 Artists of the 2000s" list and on the "Billboard 200 Artists of the Decade". Hits include "Swing, Swing", "Dirty Little Secret", "Gives You Hell", "Move Along", "It Ends Tonight", "I Wanna". They have toured with everyone from Blink-182 to Bon Jovi.

## THE OAK RIDGE BOYS

**TUESDAY, JULY 25 AT 7:30pm - VILLAGE GREEN**

Dozens of Country hits, a #1 Pop smash, earned Grammy, Dove, CMA, ACM awards and induction in the Country Music Hall of Fame, Gospel Music Hall of Fame, and Vocal Group Hall of Fame...26 top 10 hits and 15 #1 singles. "Wasted Years", "Bobbie Sue", "Thank God For Kids", "Leaving Louisiana In The Broad Daylight", "ELVIRA".



## ANN WILSON OF HEART

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 1 AT 7:30pm - VILLAGE GREEN**

Regarded as one of the greatest voices in the history of rock 'n' roll, Ann Wilson is a true icon, known far and wide as lead singer and songwriter of rock band, Heart...35 million album sold and induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2013... "Magic Man", "Crazy On You", "Love Alive", "Even It Up", "Barracuda", "Straight On"



# Help The Village Protest Patricia Columbo's Parole

In 1976, Frank DeLuca and Patricia (Patty) Columbo were arrested for the brutal slaying of Columbo's parents and brother in Elk Grove Village. They were both convicted of the murders and were sentenced to 200 to 300 years in prison on each of three counts of murder, along with additional time on conspiracy to commit murder charges. Frank DeLuca passed away earlier this year while at the Dixon Correctional Center.

A parole hearing for Patricia Columbo by the Illinois Prisoner Review Board is coming up on Tuesday, April 25. The Elk Grove Village Police Department will attend the hearing to oppose Patricia Columbo's release. We ask any community member who also wishes to protest her release to email [police@elkgrove.org](mailto:police@elkgrove.org) by Friday, April 21, and the message will be relayed to the Parole Board. ■

## Memorial Day Observance Ceremony

On Monday, May 29, at 10:45 a.m., the Village of Elk Grove will be holding the annual Memorial Day Observance Ceremony at the Park District Pavilion (1000 Wellington Avenue). This service is an important event and a necessary tradition to those that gave their lives for us to have the liberty and freedoms that we enjoy today.

Residents are invited to the Observance, which is hosted by the Village with the support of American Legion Post 216, VFW Post 9284 and its Ladies Auxiliary. The event will include Placing of Wreaths by community organizations, a flag-folding ceremony by the Police and Fire Honor Guard, as well as a gun salute and a performance by the Elk Grove Village Big Band. The event will also be broadcast live on EGTV Channel 6. ■

## The Police Department Wants To Hear From You!

The Police Department is conducting a citizen survey and wants to hear your views regarding the quality of policing in Elk Grove Village.

Please take a few moments to complete a short and confidential survey at [www.elkgrove.org/policesurvey](http://www.elkgrove.org/policesurvey) or scan the QR code by May 31, 2023. ■



Scan for Survey

# PUBLIC WORKS OPEN HOUSE

450 E Devon Avenue

### ACTIVITIES

TOUCH-A-TRUCK  
SWEEPER RIDES  
DEMONSTRATIONS  
INTERACTIVE EXHIBITS  
FACE PAINTING  
BALLOON ARTIST

Popcorn,  
snow cones,  
and more!

**SATURDAY, 5/20/23**  
**9AM - 1PM**

**Enter to win a personalized street name sign!**



For more information, please call 847-734-8800 or visit [www.elkgrove.org](http://www.elkgrove.org)

# Tree Care Tips from the Village Arborist

In honor of Arbor Day, the Village Arborist would like to share the following tree care tips with residents:

## Observe

Trees are living beings and should be cared after as such. Inspect trees from the bottom to the top while looking for:

- Hollowing trunks, which can indicate a dead or dying tree.
- Small holes, decay, cracks, or crumbling bark as this can be a sign of disease or bug infestation.
- Yellow leaves as this could occur from too much water, not enough water, or soil damage.
- Sparse leaves as this is usually a sign of stress, which can be caused by insects, disease, drought, or soil compaction.

## Watering

Watering is very important to the growth and health of any tree. Most established trees do not need additional watering during the summer months except if the tree is less than 4 years old or temperatures are consistently above average.

- If the tree is less than 4 years old or temperatures are consistently above average, the rule of thumb is 10 gallons of water per week for every inch of the tree trunk's diameter.
- If you see puddling under the tree after watering or rain events, this could indicate drainage problems or could be a sign of over watering.
- Keep in mind that you can over water trees, which can cause the tree to decline.



## Pruning

Pruning is important because it is critical to preserving the tree's health, the tree's appearance, and the community's safety. While pruning usually occurs in the fall, winter, and spring, pruning can be done in the summer if necessary. When pruning trees on your property, it is important to:

- Prune dead branches to remove any dead and decaying wood.
- Prune fruit trees in late winter or early spring to avoid tree stress.
- Prune trees that flower in the spring after they finish blooming.

Please keep in mind that parkway trees, trees located between the sidewalk and street, are pruned by the Elk Grove Village Public Works Department. Please submit a service request or call 847-734-8800 if you believe that your parkway tree needs to be trimmed.

## Mulching

Mulching is important because it helps retain moisture, controls soil temperature, and cuts down on weeds and fungi. When mulching, it is important to:

- Create a donut around the base while leaving at least 6 inches of soil directly around the trunk.
- Disperse mulch so that the depth is approximately 3 inches deep and no deeper than 4 inches.
- Pull mulch away from the base of the tree trunk, so it does not pile up against the trunk.

## Fertilizing

Trees and shrubs do not require fertilizer, but it does help to support health and growth. When fertilizing trees, it is important to:

- Fertilize prior to the growth season.
- Use slow release fertilizers as they are better for the environment.
- Avoid fertilizing trees stressed by drought during the summer months. ■



## Green Grove: Tree City USA

Every year since 1984, the Arbor Day Foundation has recognized Elk Grove Village as a “Tree City USA”. To receive this recognition, the Village must meet four core standards established by the Arbor Day Foundation and the National Association of State Foresters.



One of these standards is a tree board or department. The Public Works Department houses the Forestry Division, which is dedicated to the health and maintenance of parkway trees throughout the Village. Each year, the Forestry Division plants trees from a variety of species to protect Village trees from widespread disease or pest infestation. The Forestry Division also regularly evaluates tree species of concern such as ash and silver maple trees, even earning the prestigious Tree City USA Growth Award in 2021!

Visit [www.elkgrove.org/sustain](http://www.elkgrove.org/sustain) for more information. ■

## Elk Grove Library Earth Fair

The Elk Grove Village Public Library is hosting an Earth Fair event on Saturday, April 22 in honor of Earth Day! This event runs from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. with fun activities for all ages. Activities include various upcycled crafts and face painting! Featured presentation topics include but are not limited to saving monarch butterflies, composting, and bicycling for everyday trips. Village staff will be present to answer questions about recycling. For more information, visit [www.egvpl.org](http://www.egvpl.org) or call Nancy Broten-Munson at 847-725-2159. ■



## Salt Creek Cleanup Event

The Salt Creek Watershed Network and Friends of Critters & Salt Creek are holding a Salt Creek Clean Up on Saturday, June 3, 2023 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Volunteers are needed to help restore Salt Creek to its natural state and keep this precious natural resource clean and attractive.

Over the past 29 years, this program has cleaned up 84 cubic yards of garbage from the creek, including bicycle and car parts, construction material and other debris. Volunteers can meet at the Elk Grove High School parking lot at 9:00 a.m. For information, please contact Nick Nikola by email at [creekguy@att.net](mailto:creekguy@att.net) or by phone at 847-828-1141. ■

## Paper Cups Now Accepted In Curbside Recycling!

Remember to:

- Empty the cup
- And remove any plastic lid!



## Recycle Or Toss: Pizza Boxes



**Toss** ❌

This pizza box is saturated with grease and contains food. It should go in the garbage.

**Recycle** ✅

This pizza box has minimal grease and has no leftover food. It is acceptable for curbside recycling.



## National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day on April 22

The Elk Grove Village Police Department invites the public to participate in the 24th National Drug Take-Back Day on Saturday, April 22 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Police Department lobby (901 Wellington Ave).

As part of this event, the public can anonymously turn in their expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs at no cost. Needles, sharps or liquids will not be accepted. Please note that prescription drugs are also accepted anytime through the drug drop-off box in the Police Department lobby. ■

## Apply For Permits Online

Preparing to update your deck, add a new fence or planning other spring improvements? Apply for your permit quickly and easily using our online permitting portal! The online portal is available at [www.elkgrove.org/permits](http://www.elkgrove.org/permits) or by scanning the QR code below to:

- Create an account
- Submit an application
- Receive email notifications on the status of your application
- Upload additional documents
- Pay permit fees
- Download the approved permit



Questions about applying online? Call the Community Development Department at 847-357-4220 for assistance with your registration and application, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m..

If your specific project is not listed on the website, contact the Community Development Department to verify if a permit is necessary. ■

## Yard Waste Sticker Reminder

Yard waste stickers are available for purchase from the Finance Department front counter. The Finance Department front counter is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Yard waste stickers are also available at Jewel-Osco (20 W. Biesterfield Rd), Ace Hardware (821 Nerge Rd), and Miller Industrial Hardware (621 E. Devon Ave).

Each sticker costs \$3.00 and will remain at that price through the remainder of the current contract period.

Please affix one yard waste sticker to each paper bag or yard waste collection bin. Leaves, grass clippings, garden waste, and tree and brush trimmings are accepted. Yard Waste Collection will continue until December 15.

For more information please visit [www.elkgrove.org/recycling](http://www.elkgrove.org/recycling). ■



### Groot observes the following annual holidays:

- New Years Day – Sun. 1/1/23
- Memorial Day - Mon. 5/29/23
- Fourth of July - Tues. 7/4/23
- Labor Day - Mon. 9/4/23
- Thanksgiving - Thurs. 11/23/23
- Christmas Day - Mon. 12/25/23

If these holidays fall on a weekday on or before your scheduled collection, service will be delayed by one day for the remainder of the holiday week. If the holiday falls on a Sunday, it will be observed on Monday. ■