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Ribbon Cutting: Tora Dento Martial Arts

In November, Tora Dento Martial Arts opened its new dojo at 629 Meacham Road, offering a variety of martial arts classes for all ages. Programs include pre-karate for kids ages 4–6, karate, Kobudo for ages 13 and up, and Krav Maga for adults 18+.

The studio's owner holds black belts in karate, Kobudo, and Iaido. The name "Tora Dento" reflects the studio's philosophy: "Tora" (tiger) symbolizes strength, courage, discipline, and ferocity, while "Dento" represents the passing of knowledge, traditions, and values from one generation



to the next. Together, the name honors Sensei Gichin Funakoshi's 1922 symbol of the tiger, embodying the spirit and dedication of martial arts. ■



Acquisition Signing Ceremony: Chicago Offset



On November 21, Chicago Offset marked a major milestone with a signing ceremony formalizing its acquisition by Tara USA, establishing the company's first U.S. subsidiary. Our Village's Business Development team was pleased to take part in the event and congratulate this long-time Elk Grove business on its accomplishment.

The transition is expected to support expanded printing capabilities and strengthen production for the North American market, reflecting continued business activity and investment in Elk Grove Village. ■



2025 YEAR IN REVIEW

**CONTINUED
BUSINESS GROWTH**

\$566M

Spent on Development
(Private-Sector)

**“HERD” IT WAS
A BIG YEAR**



Explore Our New
DEVELOPMENTS MAP

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

Elk Grove Ice Arena



Development is underway on a 86,000 square foot indoor facility at 610 Meacham Road that will feature two NHL-sized rinks, a restaurant, physical therapy clinic, and a “grab and go” market.

The Vue Bridge Connection



The Vue pedestrian bridge will provide a safe, non-stop route for pedestrians and cyclists to Busse Woods Forest Preserve and is expected to open in 2026.



New Connections
BEERS & BROKERS EVENT

2025 BY THE NUMBERS



10
Ambassador Visits



14
Ribbon Cuttings



2.2
Miles of Roadway
Resurfaced



\$29M
Invested into Business Park
2020-2025

AWARD-WINNING COMMUNITY



ElkGroveBusiness.org

Won 6 awards across 4 agencies



Top Industrial Park
4 YEARS IN A ROW
Business Facilities Magazine

See what's happening around town! Check out our New Developments Map.



Chicago Northwest Restaurant Week

Chicago Northwest Restaurant Week returns February 27–March 8, 2026, inviting you to eat, drink, and support local. Enjoy specially curated menus and great prices while exploring the diverse flavors of Elk Grove Village restaurants. It's the perfect time to discover a new favorite or revisit a local go-to.

For more information and to view a list of participating restaurants, go to eatchicagonw.com. ■



February 27 - March 8

Grand Opening: Thermal Process Holdings

In December, Village staff attended the grand opening of Thermal Process Holdings, located at 50 Joey Drive.

Thermal processing is the application of extreme heat and cooling to increase the metal's strength, hardness, and internal structure. You can see their service applied in gears, construction steel, and aerospace components, for example.

We are excited to welcome Thermal Process Holdings to Elk Grove Village, joining their existing locations in Rockford, IL, Franklin, WI, and Elkhorn, WI. ■



GOA Holiday Luncheon

On December 5, Village officials attended the GOA Holiday & Volunteer Recognition Luncheon at Belvedere Banquets. Attendees enjoyed a plated lunch, holiday trivia, and live entertainment by the Harper College Jazz Band, highlighting regional community spirit.

The annual event celebrated chamber members and volunteers and supported Toys for Tots through toy donations. The GOA Regional Business Association, representing the Elk Grove Village, Itasca, and Wood Dale chambers, recognized members and volunteers for their continued dedication. ■



Upcoming GOA Events

Multi-Chamber Progressive Networking Breakfast

Friday, February 13, 7:45 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.

Bloomington Golf Club - 181 Glen Ellyn Road

Bloomington, IL 60108

Designed to maximize introductions and conversation, this dynamic format allows attendees to rotate tables throughout the event, ensuring you meet a wide variety of professionals from multiple chambers — all before the workday begins!

Register on the GOA's website by February 6.

Business After Hours

Thursday, February 26, 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Elegante Cuisine Inc. - 2616 South Clearbrook Drive

Arlington Heights, IL 60005

Join the GOA for some relaxed networking with fellow members and guests. Make new connections while enjoying complimentary food & drinks.

For more information about these events, please visit the GOA's website at thegoa.com.

In This Issue

- Celebrating 70 Years of Elk Grove Village
- 2025 Year in Review
- Protect Yourself from Carbon Monoxide Poisoning
- Scam Spotlight: Romance Scam
- Avoid Frozen Pipes This Winter



Elk Grove Village Launches Year-Long 70th Anniversary Celebration

As the nation marks its 250th birthday this year, Elk Grove Village has its own reasons to celebrate. On July 17, Elk Grove Village will celebrate its 70th anniversary and will be doing so not just on one day, but throughout the year with a host of special events, public service initiatives, concerts, and community challenges.

“Over the last 70 years, our community has risen from cornfields and farms to become a place where parents can raise their children in a safe community with great schools. We’re also a place where entrepreneurs, manufacturers, and our entire workforce, can work hard to earn an honest living,” said Mayor Johnson. “This is worth celebrating, so in 2026 we’ll be rolling out many special initiatives to highlight all that is great about Elk Grove Village, past, present and future.”



Highlights of the 70th anniversary celebration include a special birthday concert on July 17, added to the annual Mid-Summer Classics Concert Series, featuring Foreigner and an extraordinary fireworks display, as well as a summer-long community scavenger hunt with a special grand prize.

The Village will also hold community-based events designed to give residents an opportunity to help one another. There will be a “1956 Food Drive Challenge,” an invitation to residents to donate food items to the Elk Grove Food Pantry with the goal of gathering 1,956 items, a nod to the year that the Village was incorporated. Additionally, the Village in partnership with community organizations will co-host four “Roll Up Your Sleeves and Save a Life” blood drives, with the goal of making this the most successful year for donations.

“We want to celebrate our rich history, but we also want to give back. This community is full of good people who look out for one another in so many ways. We want to provide opportunities for everyone to celebrate the best thing about Elk Grove Village – its people”

- Mayor Craig Johnson

On this year’s historic July 4, the Village will honor the nation’s 250th anniversary with the rededication of the Elk Grove Cemetery, recently restored and modernized thanks to a private fundraising effort driven by Mayor Johnson. The cemetery serves as the final resting place to the only two American Revolutionary War veterans buried in all of Cook County.

The day’s celebrations will continue into the evening with the kickoff of the annual Mid-Summer Classics Concert Series, featuring a special free performance by country music star Jake Owen, followed by a spectacular fireworks display.

For more information about all the events, visit the Village’s website at elkgrove.org/70. ■



Public Works installed commemorative banners at major intersections.

Message from the Board

Community Blood Drive

Thank you to those who participated in our 2025 Blood Drives! Together we saved 342 lives.

This year, as we celebrate our 70th anniversary, we're excited to launch our "Roll Up Your Sleeves and Save a Life" campaign and invite our community partners to join us. Our next blood drive will take place on Saturday, February 7 from 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. at Village Hall.

Need more reasons to give? Donate blood and receive:

- Special 70th Anniversary Blood Drive Exclusive - Elk Grove themed dress socks
- \$15 e-gift card*
- Entry into a \$500 e-gift card raffle *

*Incentives are provided by Vitalant. For questions, visit vitalant.org/PromoDetails or contact Vitalant at rewards@vitalant.org or 877-258-4825. Walk-ins are accepted, but appointments are highly recommended. Please schedule an appointment by going to vitalant.org and using code ORD0GR98 or calling 877-258-4825

For more information, please visit elkgrove.org/blooddrive.

Coffee with the Board

Our next Coffee with the Board will take place on Saturday, February 7 from 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. at 75 Turner Avenue.

This event provides an opportunity for residents to meet with Board members in a relaxed atmosphere and discuss any topics or questions.

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).

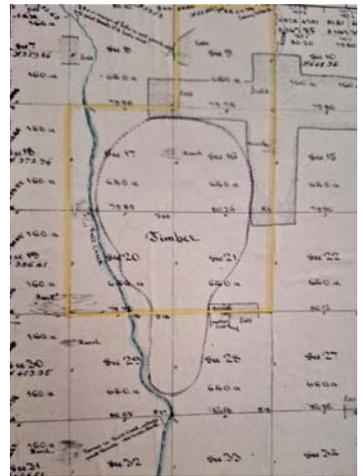


Pictured in the back row from left to right are Trustee Stephen Schmidt, Trustee Joseph Bush, Trustee Keith Lasken, and Trustee Jeffrey Franke. Pictured in the front row from left to right are Trustee Tammy Miller, Mayor Craig Johnson, and Trustee Kathy Jarosch.

Celebrating 70 Years of Elk Grove: An Overview

Happy 70th Anniversary Elk Grove Village! We have 70 years of wonderful history to celebrate, and for this year's issues of the Villager, we will explore the history of Elk Grove Village.

We start at the beginning with how our community got its name. The woods near the area that would become Elk Grove Village was a popular hunting spot with elk that roamed about. This forested area is designated on a map of Elk Grove Township by the word "timber". This map to the right represents the land as it was in 1837-1838.



As we explore the history of our community, we will share photos that illustrate our history and the present day. Photos from the past are provided by the Elk Grove Park District's Farmhouse Museum. A special thank you to Jonathan Sebastian and Jack Murphy for their assistance!

Please join us each month as we highlight the growth and development of Elk Grove Village! Our first installment is on the next page, detailing the early history of the area. ■

This newsletter is published by the Village of Elk Grove Village
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www.elkgrove.org

Village Hall is open 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday for payment of water bills, local fines and general Village information.

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



Pictured is the first Village President (Mayor) of Elk Grove, Charles "Chic" Hodlmair riding in the car with his sons to celebrate the opening of the Illinois Northwest Tollway in 1958.



In the present day, Mayor Craig Johnson was photographed in the newly wrapped Makers Wanted No. 56 Racecar, honoring the Village's incorporation in 1956.

As part of the 70th Anniversary celebrations, we are sharing the history of our beloved community.

BEFORE WE BECAME A VILLAGE: AN EARLY HISTORY OF THE ELK GROVE AREA



Landmeier Farm, 1892

The area that now comprises northeastern Illinois was home to many different people over time. For thousands of years, Native Americans called this place home and by the early nineteenth century, there were several different tribes ranging across this land. These primarily belonged to the Algonquian language group and consisted of the Sauk, Fox, Kickapoo, Miami, Odawa, Ojibwa, and Potawatomi tribes. A series of treaties, beginning with the Treaty of Greenville in 1795 and concluding with the Treaty of Chicago in 1833, compelled the Native Americans to move west of the Mississippi River as the first white immigrants ventured into the region.

The first known residents of Elk Grove Township were the Miner and Skinner families. Originally from Brumfield, Connecticut, Aaron Miner was a Revolutionary War veteran. In 1779, he married Hannah Baldwin. Together, they had five children: three sons and two daughters. They first settled in what would become Vermont but moved West in 1833. The family made their way to northwest Cook County, becoming quite possibly the very first into Elk Grove Township. Fifteen years later, a second veteran of the Revolutionary War made his way to the area with his family. Eli Skinner married Lucinda Nims at the close of the war and together they raised nine children. At age 76, Eli Skinner moved to live with one of his children's families in upstate New York, then joined them as they moved West to Elk Grove Township in 1848. Both Aaron Miner and Eli Skinner are buried in the Elk Grove Cemetery.

While a handful of families came from Vermont and upstate New York, many more families would immigrate from the Kingdom of Hanover, what is now northwestern Germany, in the 1830s and 1840s. These families, including the Busse, Scharringhausen, and Schutte families crossed the Atlantic Ocean and arrived in New York. They often had just enough money to pay for passage by boat all the way to Chicago. From there, these families arrived in the far northeast corner of DuPage County and spread out from the little cluster of buildings called Churchville (now the southwest corner of Bensenville). They turned to farming to make a living, most often supplying those who lived in Chicago. Once railroads were constructed through Dunton (now Arlington Heights) in 1854 and through Bensenville in 1873, farmers were able to sell their produce by train.

Without a railroad through Elk Grove Township, no town organically developed here. The only place providing a tiny sense of town was the E.H. Dieke General Store located at the southeast corner of Rohlwing and Biesterfield Roads. Otherwise, the township remained largely agricultural through as late as the mid-twentieth century until the municipality of Elk Grove Village was established in 1956.



Landmeier Farm, 1900

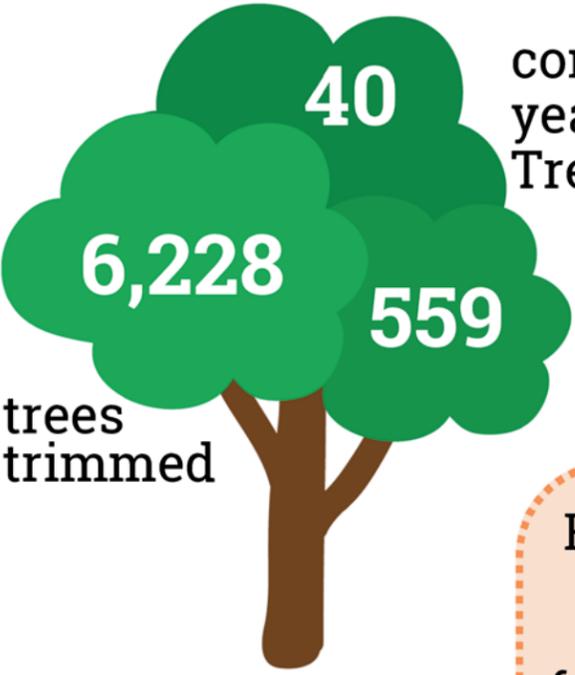


Fire Department responded to **6,109** calls for service

20 Year in Review 25 Elk Grove Village



Police Department responded to **14,489** calls for service



40 consecutive years as a Tree City USA

6,228 trees trimmed

559 trees planted



Fire Department achieved accreditation for a **second** time

Approved **1,888** building and engineering permits



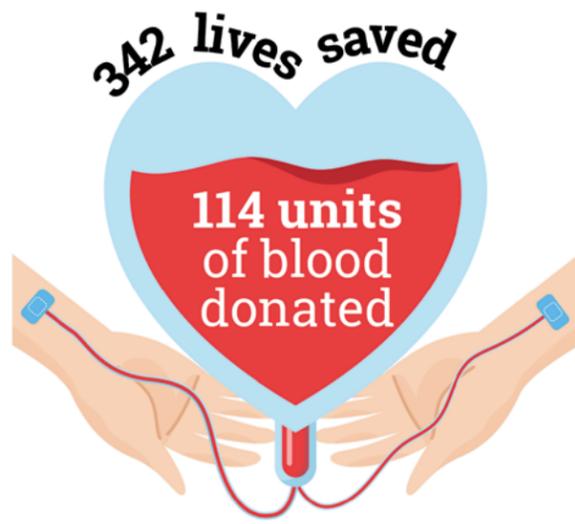
Elk Grove Village Cares, a substance use disorder treatment initiative, won the **ICMA Local Government Excellence Award** in the Community Health & Safety category



made **101** connections to treatment and was awarded **\$145,769** in grant funding

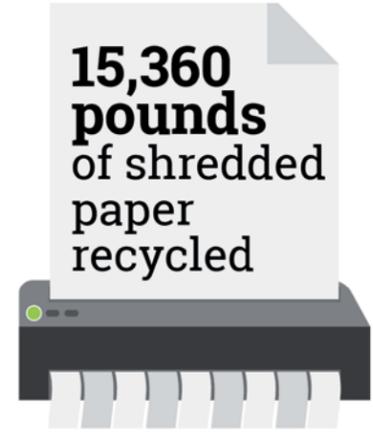



Sent **8,081** leak alerts

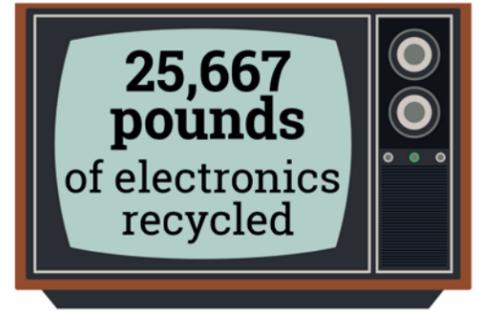


342 lives saved

114 units of blood donated



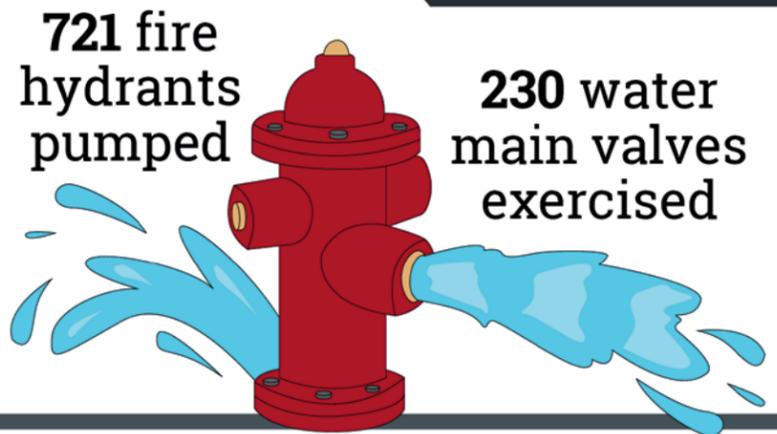
15,360 pounds of shredded paper recycled



25,667 pounds of electronics recycled



Public Works Department won a **Project of the Year** award from the American Public Works Association for the **Clearmont Pedestrian Bridge**



721 fire hydrants pumped

230 water main valves exercised

10.45 miles of street resurfaced

Celebrating Our



Anniversary!

Community Blood Drives

Every two seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood. As part of the 70th Anniversary celebration, we're encouraging the community to **"Roll Up Your Sleeves and Save A Life"**!

At each Community Blood Drive this year, local organizations will be present, and **each blood donor will get to take home an exclusive keepsake!**

Sign-up to donate at elkgrove.org/blooddrive.

Save the Dates!

February 7

May 9

August 1

December 12

Elk Grove Village marks its 70th anniversary in 2026! The Village has prepared a number of special commemorations to take place throughout the year in celebration of our community. Explore the highlights on this page.

Details will be published on the Village website at elkgrove.org/70.

MID-SUMMER CLASSICS CONCERT SERIES

JAKE OWEN

JULY 4 | 8PM
ROTARY GREEN

FIREWORKS AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE CONCERT

An award-winning country music artist known for "Barefoot Blue Jean Night", and "Beachin".

FITZ AND THE TANTRUMS

JULY 16 | 7:30PM
ROTARY GREEN

Indie pop and neo-soul band known for "HandClap" and "Out of My League".

SPECIAL 70TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT

FOREIGNER

JULY 17 | 8PM
ROTARY GREEN

FIREWORKS AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE CONCERT

Rock n' Roll Hall of Famers known for "Feels Like the First Time" and "Cold as Ice".

SMASH MOUTH

JULY 21 | 7:30PM
VILLAGE GREEN

Turn of the century alternative rock band known for "Walkin' On The Sun" and "All-Star".

AIR SUPPLY

JULY 28 | 7:30PM
VILLAGE GREEN

Worldwide soft rock group hits include "Lost in Love" and "All Out of Love".

More information about the Mid-Summer Classics Concert Series is available at elkgrove.org/concerts.

Cemetery Rededication

The Elk Grove Cemetery is a small cemetery that was founded in the early 1800s and is notable for the presence of two graves for veterans of the American Revolutionary War, the only two verified graves for Revolutionary War veterans in all of Cook County.



In honor of the 250th Anniversary of the United States and the 70th anniversary of Elk Grove Village, the Village is restoring its condition to honor the veterans laid to rest there.

The Village will host a rededication ceremony on July 4 to celebrate the completion of this restoration project. More details to come.



EGV Scavenger Hunt

This summer, keep an eye out for clues around town—**collect all the clues and you'll earn a prize and be entered into a drawing for a replica of the Clock Tower made with genuine LEGO bricks!**

More information on how you can participate will be published in an upcoming newsletter.



1956 Food Drive Challenge

We're **challenging the community to donate 1,956 items** to the Elk Grove Township Food Pantry this April!

More information on how you can support your neighbors will be published in the March newsletter.



No. 56 Racecar

The newly wrapped **Makers Wanted No. 56 Racecar**, honoring the Village's incorporation in 1956, **will make special appearances** at a select few special events this year!



Business Appreciation Breakfast

This fall, the Village will host a breakfast to show appreciation for the extensive **business community** in Elk Grove!

A guest speaker and more information will be announced at a later date.



More Ways to Celebrate

We will continue to host our annual special events alongside the 70th Anniversary celebrations, we hope to see you there!

Public Works Open House
Saturday, May 16

Memorial Day Ceremony
Monday, May 25

Play, Picnic & Party
Sunday, July 12

Oktoberfest & Parade
Friday, September 18
Saturday, September 19

Fire Department Open House
Saturday, October 3

Holiday Tree Lighting
Friday, November 27

**Limited-edition 70th anniversary commemorative ornaments and Oktoberfest pins will be available for sale later in the year.*

Scam Spotlight: Romance Scam

Millions of people turn to online dating apps and social networking sites to meet potential partners. However, instead of finding love, many encounter scammers who attempt to deceive them into sending money. These romance scammers establish relationships to build trust and then craft lies to steal their victims' money.

Red Flag Indicators of Romance Scams

You may be the target of a romance scammer if the person:

- Quickly professes their love to you but can't meet you in person. They claim to live, work, or travel abroad, such as working on an oil rig, in the military, or for with an international organization.
- Asks you for money. Once they gain your trust, they'll ask for your help to cover medical expenses, travel costs to visit you, pay for their visa, or assist them in paying fees to get out of trouble.
- Tells you how to pay. Scammers want to get your money quickly and in a way that makes it difficult for you to recover, often through methods such as wire transfers, gift cards, or cryptocurrency.

Protect Yourself from Romance Scams

Here's the bottom line: Never send money to anyone you haven't met in person.

If you suspect a romance scam:

- Stop communicating with the person immediately.
- Talk to someone you trust. Do your friends or family say they're concerned about your new love interest?
- Research their job/story. Search online for the type of job the person has, plus the word "scammer." Have others posted similar stories? For example, search for "oil rig scammer" or "US Army scammer."
- Do a reverse image search of the person's profile picture. Is it associated with another name or with details that don't match up? Those are signs of a scam.

How to Report a Romance Scam

- If you paid a romance scammer with a gift card, wire transfer, credit or debit card, or cryptocurrency, contact the company or your bank right away. Inform them that you paid a scammer and request a refund for your money.
- If you think it's a scam, report it to the FTC at ReportFraud.ftc.gov. Notify the social networking site or app where you met the scammer, too. ■

Avoid Frozen Pipes This Winter

When temperatures dip below freezing, your plumbing pipes can be at risk to potentially freeze or burst. A few simple steps can protect your home:

- Insulate water pipes in basements, crawl spaces, garages, and other unheated areas. Pipe insulation is inexpensive and easy to install.
- When the weather outside is consistently below freezing, open cabinet doors and closet doors where there are pipes. This allows the heat in your home to get to the pipes and reduces the risk of freezing.
- Let faucets drip slightly during extreme cold. A slow trickle of cold water helps keep water moving and reduces the chance of freezing.
- Know the locations of the "shut-off" valves in your home. Many fixtures including toilets, sinks, and hot water heaters have an individual shut-off valve.
- If a pipe freezes, use a hair dryer to help thaw the pipe. Do not use torches or heat guns in any circumstance. ■

Groot observes the following annual holidays:

- New Years Day - Thu. 1/1/26
- Memorial Day - Mon. 5/25/26
- Labor Day - Mon. 9/7/26
- Thanksgiving - Thu. 11/26/26
- Christmas Day - Fri. 12/25/26

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. ■