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## Village Supports Growth of Manufacturing Education Programs with \$100,000 Grant



During the Made in Elk Grove Manufacturing and Technology Expo on October 17, Elk Grove Village and Elk Grove High School officials announced that the Village has provided a fourth \$100,000 grant to the District 214 Education Foundation. The grant will assist in the continued modernization of Elk Grove High School's manufacturing curriculum, which introduces students to rewarding and challenging career opportunities within the manufacturing sector.

The annual \$100,000 grants provided to the school over the last three years jump-started efforts to modernize an advanced

manufacturing lab and purchase high tech manufacturing equipment, such as lathes and mills, which students can use to learn how to work with metal, wood, and other materials. In addition to giving students opportunities to become proficient in the use of modern manufacturing equipment, the grant supports the school's "manufacturing career pathway", a broader effort to expose students to careers in manufacturing.

Village officials say the grant demonstrates the Village's commitment to partnering with Elk Grove High School to strengthen the local workforce through technical and vocational education. ■

**"This grant is a tangible illustration that we're backing up our commitment to do everything we can to provide Elk Grove students with practical, career-based learning opportunities (...)"**  
-Mayor Craig Johnson

## After 75 Years, Personal Relationships and Customer Service Still Drive Ramrod Distributors' Growth and Success

Ramrod Distributors is an Elk Grove Village janitorial sanitation solution for cleaning supplies, industrial supplies, and equipment sales and repair. Among the over 1,000 local businesses it serves, customers include schools, park districts, churches, industrial companies, auto dealerships, condo associations, apartment complexes, and long-term health care facilities ranging in size from independent contract cleaning companies to Northwestern Hospital.

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# Elk Grove Manufacturers Bring Innovation Forward at Manufacturing & Technology Expo

The Village hosted its ninth annual Made in Elk Grove Manufacturing & Technology Expo on Monday, October 17 at Elk Grove High School. Attendees had the opportunity to network and interact with over fifty exhibits representing industries such as precision machining, plastics, electronics, food manufacturing, aerospace, and industrial services.

Each year, Elk Grove Village recognizes business leaders for excellence in sustainability, innovation, community support, and industrial development. At the Expo, Mayor Craig Johnson was joined by special guest Brad Keselowski, NASCAR driver and owner of KAM (Keselowski Advanced Manufacturing) for the award presentation. ■



**Excellence in Sustainability**  
Creative Werks LLC



**Excellence in Innovation**  
Broetje Automation - USA



**Industrial Development of the Year**  
Steiner Electric



**Excellence in Community Support**  
Acme Industries



# After 75 Years, Personal Relationships and Customer Service Still Drive Ramrod Distributors' Growth and Success

(continued from page 1)



As it turns out, Ramrod, which is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year, approaches its customers the same way Elk Grove Village works with local businesses every day. Ramrod President Mike Halverson and previous owner Mar Shulman explained exactly how important the relationship is between a village and its business community.

"Elk Grove is a business supporter," Halverson said. "Josh [Grodzin] and his team are very instrumental in growing the Village and growing the business community within the village to do that. They're here to help you connect with others in the Village and to communicate your message into the marketplace. As a business owner, that's what you want."

Anyone who buys a company (like Halverson bought Ramrod in 2019) would be well-suited to understand what made it successful in the past. In Ramrod's case, it's not what, but who. Led by Shulman, the Ramrod team had decades of industry knowledge, a seasoned sales force, an experienced equipment repair team, and a very capable customer service team. Halverson was attracted to Ramrod's service quality and intends to keep the team intact and continue building upon the efforts Shulman established.

With deep industry knowledge, the Ramrod team has seen and solved nearly every cleaning-related challenge customers will face, from improperly cured floor finish to mold in schools, and beyond. That expertise helps customers understand what caused their problems, how to address them, and ultimately how to ensure they don't have a similar problem in the future. When those customers have a problem, they pick up the phone because they know they will get reliable solutions, not just products.

It's that human connection and a deep understanding of nearly any cleaning-related problem that positions Ramrod as a consultative partner, rather than a vendor, an order-taker, or simply a distributor of commercialized products. "At the end of the day, what really matters is whether you're helping solve customer problems or not," Halverson said. "All of our effort goes into being helpful." In that sense, Ramrod is the perfect reflection of what Elk Grove Village means by being Beyond Business Friendly. ■



## Showcase Your Business with a Visit from the Village

Elk Grove Village Trustees and staff are continuing Business Ambassador Visits! We make it easy to connect with the Village leadership by coming to your location for an introduction and tour. Pick a time that works for you, and together, we will discover new ways to support your business and help your team thrive!

To schedule your visit, contact Josh Grodzin, Director of Business Development and Marketing at 847-357-4005 or at [jgrodzin@elkgrove.org](mailto:jgrodzin@elkgrove.org). ■



## Hydrant Band Color Coded System

The Village will be adopting the NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) recommended standard for fire hydrant marking. This entails a color-coded system to visually identify the available fire flow capacity of each hydrant. A firefighter must know how many gallons of water per minute can be produced from a hydrant. Each Village-owned hydrant is flow-tested once every four years. The results of each test determine the flow rate of each hydrant. The color of the band indicates the test results or flow rate.



In the coming months, Village staff will be installing reflective bands on each hydrant to correspond with the flow data results of the hydrant flow tests. A hydrant that has a band will also indicate that the Village owns the hydrant. We do not test private hydrants. For more information, please visit [elkgrove.org/flowrate](http://elkgrove.org/flowrate). ■

## Meet Your Elk Grove Economic Development Point-Person!



### Josh Grodzin, CEcD

Director Business Development and Marketing

With over 20 years of experience in economic development, Josh Grodzin is Elk Grove's leader of business development and marketing. He works side-by-side with businesses looking to expand in, or relocate to, the Village.

Contact Josh at 847-357-4005 or [jgrodzin@elkgrove.org](mailto:jgrodzin@elkgrove.org). ■

## Upcoming GOA Events

### Virtual Multi-Chamber Progressive Networking December 13, 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.

Join us to virtually network with members from more than 17 chambers! During the event, you will be assigned to three breakout rooms with 7 other business professionals. Once in the room, each person will have two minutes to introduce themselves and their business. This is a great way to meet a lot of people while getting to know them beyond just an introduction. Space is limited so make your reservation early to guarantee your spot by visiting [thegoa.com/events](http://thegoa.com/events).



### Ugly Sweater Business After Hours December 15, 4 - 6:00 p.m. Sonesta O'Hare Airport

Join us for some relaxed networking with fellow members and guests. Make new connections while enjoying complimentary food & drinks. Appetizers and beverages will be provided by the host. Advance reservations are appreciated.

Bring plenty of business cards for GOA's very own Business Card Blitz! ■

# Business After Hours

## In This Issue

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- Village Partners with RFK Racing for Chicago Street Race
- Dedication of Newly Renovated Veterans Memorial Park Highlights Veterans Day
- 2023 Mid-Summer Classics Concert Series Lineup
- Fire Department Introduces New Cadet Program

## Village Board Approves Tax Levy Reduction

Elk Grove Village residents will see a 1.6% reduction in the Village’s tax levy when their property tax bill arrives next year.

The reduction in the 2022 tax levy (payable in 2023) demonstrates the Village’s commitment to providing residents with high quality services at an affordable price. Earlier this year, the Village was rated one of the most affordable communities in America, and the Village continues to maintain the lowest combined property tax rate in the area.

Property taxes collected by the Village are used to help fund four primary areas: General

Fund, Debt Service, Capital Projects, and Retirement Funds (including Police and Fire Pension, Social Security, and the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund). The tax levy approved by the Village Board on November 15 provided for a 1.6% reduction in the Village’s overall property taxes for residents and businesses.

The Village continues to make up a small portion of property tax bills. The Village’s portion represents approximately ten percent of a typical resident’s bill, while 65-70% of the bill goes towards school districts.

This reduction in the 2022 tax levy (payable in 2023) reduces the Village’s share of taxes by approximately \$13 for a home valued at \$300,000.

**"We have always held ourselves to a high standard of fiscal responsibility. That is one reason Elk Grove Village residents enjoy a lower cost of living compared to our neighbors. We are proud of our efforts to reduce the Village’s overall property taxes for residents and businesses."**  
-Mayor Craig Johnson

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## Village Partners with RFK Racing for Chicago Street Race

Elk Grove Village’s Makers Wanted brand will be on full display at NASCAR’s Chicago Street Race Course races thanks to a new partnership between the Village and Roush Fenway Keselowski Racing (RFK Racing).

Last month, NASCAR driver and team owner Brad Keselowski represented RFK Racing at the Made in Elk Grove Manufacturing and Technology Expo to announce the multi-year partnership highlighting the largest contiguous industrial park in the United States. Elk Grove Village was named the 2022 Municipality of the Year and will showcase its business slogan “Makers Wanted” on the No. 6 Ford Mustang.

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# Message from the Board

## Veterans Day Re-dedication Ceremony

On November 11, Village officials honored all those who have served in the United States military through a re-dedication ceremony of the newly renovated Veterans Memorial Park.

We would like to thank the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9284, veterans, and guests who attended this ceremony of honor and remembrance.

## RFP Open House

On November 9, we hosted an open house event for residents to review and provide feedback on four proposals for the Elk Grove Woods Plaza redevelopment.

Over 260 residents reviewed and provided comments on site plans, renderings, and narrative descriptions for each of the four developers' visions to re-imagine the shopping center into a vibrant, mixed-use development that will serve as a gateway to the community.

For more information on the request for proposals, please visit [elkgrove.org/gateway](http://elkgrove.org/gateway).

## Coffee with the Mayor & Board

Thank you to the residents who attended with our Coffee with the Mayor & Board event on November 5. We host these events on a quarterly basis to meet residents, discuss any concerns, and answer questions over a cup of coffee.

## October 13 Town Hall Meeting

We would like to thank all of the dedicated residents who attended and participated in the Town Hall Meeting on October 13. The event was well-attended and residents were able to receive responses to questions and concerns.

## Leaf Collection Continues through December 2

While winter weather has arrived, don't forget that the Fall Leaf Collection Program is continuing through December 2! This year's collection program features a new weekly pickup schedule. For more information on leaf collection, please see page 10.

## Community Blood Drive Results

On November 12, the Village hosted a community blood drive. We are so happy to share that 49 collections were donated, which will help save the lives of 149 people.

The community blood drives are held at Village Hall on a quarterly basis.



Pictured in front row from left to right are Trustee Tammy Miller, 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.

## Mid-Summer Classics Concert Series Lineup Announced

At the November 15 Village Board Meeting, Mayor Johnson announced the lineup for the 2023 "Unity within the Community" Mid-Summer Classics Concert Series! Check out page 9 for the artist lineup and schedule.

## 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)). ■

This newsletter is published by the Village of Elk Grove Village  
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Elk Grove Village, IL 60007  
Telephone 847.357.4000  
TDD 847.357.4088  
[www.elkgrove.org](http://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 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.

## Overnight Parking Restrictions Waived for Thanksgiving

Overnight parking restrictions will be waived beginning Wednesday, November 23 at 2:00 a.m. through Monday, November 28 at 5:00 a.m.

Please note that parking on Village streets is prohibited if there are more than two inches of snow on the ground or if the Village is expecting snow. ■

# Village Partners with RFK Racing for Chicago Street Race

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The partnership is a perfect match for Keselowski, who is the owner and founder of Keselowski Advanced Manufacturing (KAM), a hybrid manufacturing company based in Statesville, North Carolina, which specializes in additive metal technologies as well as CNC machining. “Partnering with RFK for a marquee race allows us to reach a huge audience with a partner that shares a passion in American business and manufacturing” stated Mayor Craig Johnson.

The Chicago Street Race event next season, held on the weekend of July 4, will be the first of its kind in the NASCAR Cup Series. Downtown Chicago will serve as the host of the temporary street course, a 12-turn, 2.2 mile course that will run against the backdrop of landmarks like Grant Park and Lake Michigan.

The start/finish line and pit road will be located along South Columbus Drive, directly in front of Buckingham Fountain. The course will also be near the northern edge of Soldier Field, which is the site of the only other Cup Series race to take place in downtown Chicago in 1956.



The sponsorship of RFK Racing is the latest innovative sports marketing initiative undertaken by the Village. The Village of Elk Grove became the first municipality to sponsor a college football bowl game when it became the title sponsor of the Makers Wanted Bahamas Bowl in 2019 and 2020. Elk Grove Village also sponsored USA Track and Field, USA Wrestling, and USA Triathlon in the 2020 Summer Games.

For more information on the “Makers Wanted” campaign, please visit [makerswanted.org](http://makerswanted.org). ■

# Village Board Approves Tax Levy Reduction

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The table below illustrates how the 10% portion of a typical property tax bill received by the Village is distributed. The Village is committed to maintain a high standard of fiscal responsibility to keep its portion of the property tax bill low. ■

Area	Village's 10% Share	Uses of the Property Tax Revenue Received
General Fund	\$222 (29%)	Provides for the general operations of the Village, including police and fire services, road maintenance, and snow removal.
Capital Projects Funds	\$72 (9%)	Funding established for long-term capital projects such as bridge improvements, road reconstruction, street light enhancements and public building improvements.
Retirement Funds	\$379 (49%)	Mandated and regulated by the State of Illinois, Police and Fire pension funds provide retirement benefits to police and fire personnel. The Village's share of Social Security taxes and non-union pension costs are also provided.
Debt Service Fund	\$95 (13%)	Covers principle and interest payments on the Village's outstanding bonds issued for major Village construction projects.
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$768 (100%)</b>	

# Dedication of Newly Renovated Veterans Memorial Park Highlights Veterans Day

Members of the armed services, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9284, veterans, residents, and Village officials gathered on Veterans Day to honor all those who have served in the United States military and to dedicate the newly renovated Veterans Memorial Park in Elk Grove Village.

The renovations of the modernized Veterans Memorial Park located at the northeast corner of Wellington Avenue and Biesterfield Road include a memorial wall proudly displaying insignias from each of the branches of the U.S. Armed Forces (including the recently established U.S. Space Force), a waterfall, a redesigned garden, and a more distinct and secluded space for reflection and remembrance. The renovation also included the addition of parking spaces to improve accessibility. The dedication ceremony included remarks from Alexander Brenke, Post Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars

Post 9284, Ken Hoving, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9284 Chaplain, and United States Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Gina Stramaglio. Following the ceremony, the Village hosted a luncheon for members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9284 and other veterans who have served in the military. ■



*As part of the renovation, the Fallen Soldier Memorial Statue, dedicated in 2005 to the memory of four young soldiers who died fighting the War on Terror, has been relocated from Village Green to a place of honor within Veterans Memorial Park.*

## Fire Department Introduces New Cadet Program

The Elk Grove Village Fire Department is offering a Cadet Program for residents ages 16 to 18 who are interested in exploring a career in the emergency medical and/or fire service. Learning topics include CPR and first aid, fire ground tactics, search and rescue, fire protection systems, and more. Hands-on experiences include vehicle extrication, live fire training inside our training tower, and the chance to eventually ride along on shift for part of the day.

As members of the EGVFD Cadet Program, students will gain an overall understanding of the field and experience a taste of the day-to-day life of a firefighter/paramedic. This is a structured offering that requires a commitment from participants one day per month. In exchange, we offer a program with a limit of 10 participants at any given time to ensure that our cadets are provided with the proper attention and integration. Cadets are provided with a uniform and are assigned a mentor as they navigate through the curriculum.

The inaugural Elk Grove Village Fire Department Cadet Program begins in January 2023. An application and permission from a parent or guardian is required. Visit [elkgrove.org/cadet](http://elkgrove.org/cadet) for more information or contact the Fire Department at 847-734-8000. ■





# Holiday House Decorating Contest

The Elk Grove Village Leo and Lions Club are holding a Holiday House Decorating Contest for residents in the month of December. Decorated houses, townhouses, and condos will be judged in one of four categories:



- Best Creative Use of Decorations;
- Best Theme Display;
- Best Overall Holiday Decorations Used on an Apartment or Condo; and
- Best Overall Holiday Decorations Used on a House.

The Leo and Lions Club will be looking for the best use of creativity, color, lights, originality, and theme. All entries will be judged for each category.

For questions, or to enter the Holiday House Decorating Contest, please email your name, address, phone number, and category to [lionbarbara@comcast.net](mailto:lionbarbara@comcast.net). The deadline to enter is Thursday, December 8.

Judging will take place between Saturday, December 10, and Sunday, December 18. The four winners will be recognized during an upcoming Village Board meeting. ■

# Letters to the North Pole

On Saturday, November 26, Santa's elves will be installing a mailbox for letters addressed to the North Pole on the Village Green, next to our Holiday Tree. Santa encourages little boys and girls in Elk Grove Village to write him a letter - he promises to write back!

Letters must be received by Sunday, December 18, in order for Santa to respond before Christmas.

Parents, please make sure to include your return address on your letter! ■

# 2023 Mid-Summer Classics Concert Series Lineup

The Village is pleased to share the lineup for the 2023 "Unity within the Community" Mid-Summer Classics Concert Series! This year, we have included a special fifth concert taking place on Tuesday, August 1!

- Tuesday, July 4: KC and the Sunshine Band (Rotary Green, 164 Lions Drive)
- Tuesday, July 11: The Spinners (Village Green, 901 Wellington Avenue)
- Thursday, July 20: The All-American Rejects (Rotary Green, 164 Lions Drive)
- Tuesday, July 25: The Oak Ridge Boys (Village Green, 901 Wellington Avenue);
- Tuesday, August 1: Ann Wilson of Heart (Village Green, 901 Wellington Avenue)

More information will be announced as it becomes available through all of the Village's communications platforms. ■

# 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 through April 30, 2023. The Village cannot accept garland, live greens, wreaths, or other non-recyclable materials. Call 847-357-4220 for more information. ■

# Toys For Tots Campaign Runs Now Through 12/16

The 2022 holiday season marks the 75th anniversary of the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program, which distributes toys to less fortunate children during the holidays.

The Elk Grove Village Police Department is a proud drop-off location for Toys for Tots. You can drop off new, unwrapped toys in the Village Hall lobby (901 Wellington Ave.) now through December 16. ■



# Village Introduces Sustainability Report and Action Plan

The Village has published a 2022 Sustainability Report which summarizes current Village programs and activities that contribute to improving the environmental, economic, and community health of Elk Grove Village. The report uses objectives defined in the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Greenest Region Compact as a framework to evaluate the progress Elk Grove Village has made towards sustainability.

Sustainable actions are grouped into ten categories:

- Climate
- Economic Development
- Energy
- Land
- Leadership
- Mobility
- Municipal Operations
- Sustainable Communities
- Waste & Recycling
- Water

In addition to the Sustainability Report, the Village is currently working on developing a Sustainability Action Plan. The Sustainability Action Plan will serve as a menu of potential actions to guide our future efforts toward sustainability.

To view the 2022 Sustainability Report and submit comments or suggestions for the Sustainability Action Plan, please visit [elkgrove.org/sustain](http://elkgrove.org/sustain).



# Leaf Collection Continues through December 2

The Fall Leaf Collection Program is ongoing through December 2. This year, the Village began a new weekly pickup schedule to increase the level of service for residents. In addition to the curbside leaf collection program, the Village offers two dumpsters for residents to drop off leaves. Residents are welcome to bring leaves to one of the leaf dumpster locations below by December 15:

James P. Petri - Public Works Facility  
450 E. Devon Avenue

Public Works Biesterfield Facility  
1635 Biesterfield Road

The dumpsters are for leaves only; yard waste and garbage is not permitted. Leaves should be placed in a yard waste bag. Yard waste stickers are not required and plastic bags will not be accepted.

For more information on curbside leaf pickup and the dumpster drop-off locations, please visit [elkgrove.org/leaves](http://elkgrove.org/leaves) or call the Public Works Department at 847-734-8800 Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.



# 2022 Hometown Parade Winners Recognized

At the Village Board meeting on October 25, winners from the 2022 Hometown Parade "Falling into Oktoberfest" were presented with their awards. Thank you to everyone who participated for your creativity and enthusiasm! ■

**Best Theme:**  
Stellar Plumbing



**Best Originality:**  
Elk Grove Public Library



**Best Spirit:**  
Elk Grove Eagles Football & Cheer



## Black Friday Shopping Safety Tips

- Don't carry large amounts of cash when you are shopping. If you must, keep cash secure and out of plain sight.
- Never leave personal valuables in plain sight in your vehicle; store them in the trunk instead.
- If shopping with children, select a central location to meet in case you are separated. Teach kids to ask a security guard or employee for help if lost.
- Beware of strangers approaching you for no apparent reason. Con artists may try to distract you with the intention of taking your money or belongings.
- Park your vehicle in a well-lit area and immediately report any suspicious activity to law enforcement. ■

## Cyber Monday Shopping Safety Tips

- Compare products and read the reviews before purchasing.
- Research the seller to confirm legitimacy.
- Pay by credit card whenever possible because you are able to dispute credit card charges, if necessary.
- Use websites that start with "https" address for secure checkouts. The "s" in "https" stands for secure.
- Keep records of online transactions until you receive your purchases and can confirm that you received the item you ordered, as described.
  - Make sure your electronic device has the latest antivirus software installed.
  - Read the terms and conditions of the purchase, such as refund policies and delivery dates.
  - If you spot fraud while shopping online, report it to [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.ftc.gov/report-fraud). ■



## Permits Required for HVAC Installations

The cost of a new or replacement furnace can be expensive. Protect your investment by ensuring that your contractor obtains the required permit from the Community Development Department. After the HVAC installation is complete, our building inspectors will perform an inspection for code compliance.

To view furnace permit submittal requirements, scan the QR code below.



To apply for a permit or check the status of a permit, scan the QR code below.



For assistance with the permitting process, please contact the Community Development Department at 847-357-4220. ■

### Groot observes the following annual holidays:

- New Years Day - 1/1/22
- Memorial Day - 5/30/22
- Fourth of July - 7/4/22
- Labor Day - 9/5/22
- Thanksgiving - 11/24/22
- Christmas - 12/25/22

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.

## National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day Results



The 23rd National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day took place on October 29. This event provided residents with the opportunity to dispose of expired, unused, or unwanted prescription drugs anonymously and at no charge.

In partnership with the Kenneth Young Center, the Elk Grove Village Police Department took in 34.1 pounds of unwanted prescription drugs. The drugs will be turned over to the Drug Enforcement Administration for destruction.

If you were unable to participate in the event, prescription drugs can be dropped off anytime through the drug drop-off box located in the Police Department lobby (901 Wellington Avenue). ■