

Business Matters

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Elk Grove Businesses Awarded Over \$650,000 in Grant Relief

There's great news for the businesses in Elk Grove! The Back 2 Business Grants provided by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) were a crucial lifeline for many businesses adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The allocation of \$657,970 in grant relief to nine eligible Elk Grove businesses and hotels who applied for the opportunity was a significant step in helping them recover and rebuild.



Illinois
Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity
JB Pritzker, Governor

These grants are particularly important for industries like hotels and restaurants, which were among the hardest hit by the pandemic due to lockdowns, restrictions, and reduced consumer confidence in dining out and traveling. These grants can help these businesses cover operating expenses, retain employees, and adapt to the changing business landscape by providing financial relief.

During April and May of 2023, the DCEO offered \$175 million in grant funds to support its local businesses and creative arts. It's essential for businesses to take advantage of such opportunities to help ensure their survival and growth as the economy continues to recover from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Grants like these play a vital role in economic recovery and resilience.

Stay tuned as we continue to collect and share information on upcoming federal, state, and local grant opportunities. If you currently do not receive our business-focused Block Party e-newsletter, please email Sue Dees at sdees@elkgrove.org to be added to the mailing list. This way, you won't miss out on the latest business-related news and opportunities, including additional grant opportunities! ■



New Businesses: Welcome to Elk Grove Village!

AVA Express Inc.

Airways Systems Inc.

American Concrete Institute

American Import Tile

Emlin Cosmetics

F&H Express

GAL Group Inc.

GCR Motor Builders

Glasso Group

HADDAD

HDC Group LLC

HKL Logistics

Hausrack LLC

Ideal Bakery

Lin Industries

Lotus Rug

Midwest Goods Inc.

North American Breaker Company

R.N. International Inc.

Smoke Outlet LLC

Snap Canna

Speed C CHB Inc.

Tekka Sushi

Twenty Four 7 Expedited Inc.

Business Ambassador Visit: Ramrod Distributors

Our Business Ambassador Team recently visited the team from Ramrod Distributors, located at 2401 Delta Lane. Ramrod, a distributor of industrial cleaning supplies since 1947, is a local business focused on finding cleaning solutions for customers' cleaning needs. With over 50,000 items available, Ramrod provides companies and organizations with paper towels, toilet tissue, soaps, cleaning chemicals, and equipment.

Owner Mike Halverson purchased Ramrod just before the pandemic struck Chicagoland in March 2020 and has kept the team together. The prior owner continues to work for the company, and they maintain the same business values and relationships that have made the company successful since 1947. The pandemic presented new challenges and opportunities for Ramrod. They quickly decided to diversify their product offerings to include essential items like hand sanitizer, gloves, and masks. Although the supply chain created new challenges, diversification offset those challenges, and the company was able to thrive during difficult times.

Today, Ramrod serves over 1,000 local businesses, including schools, park districts, churches, industrial companies, auto dealerships, apartment complexes, and hospitals. Ramrod's dedication to customer service and problem-solving is a key factor in their success. Last year, Ramrod celebrated its 75th anniversary, a testament to their longevity and commitment to the Elk Grove community.

Our Ambassador Team enjoyed meeting with the staff at Ramrod Distributors and hearing about their dedication to helping customers solve their industrial cleaning problems. ■

**"We are proud to be part of the Elk Grove business community. Elk Grove's strong business support and 'can-do' attitude match ours."
- Mike Halverson, Owner**



GOA Business at the Ballpark

Elk Grove Village and the Elk Grove Police Department were represented at Business at the Ballpark in September at the Schaumburg Boomers stadium.

As an exhibitor, they were there to build relationships, answer any questions from businesses or residents, and share information about the Village. The event was free to attend, making it accessible to a wide range of businesses and residents.

Events like these are valuable for fostering connections within a community and enhancing the relationship between businesses, local government, and law enforcement agencies. ■



Grand Opening: Yamazen U.S. Headquarters

Mayor Johnson and Village officials attended the grand opening of Yamazen's US headquarters at 111 Northwest Point Boulevard in Elk Grove Village. Yamazen Inc., a subsidiary of Yamazen Corporation in Japan, specializes in the sale and distribution of machine tools, tooling, and automation equipment for manufacturing.

Yamazen is known for machine tool enhancements, branded "FLEX" Automaton Solutions, including custom turnkey systems, and serves customers in the automotive, aerospace, medical, energy, and construction industries. Yamazen specializes in high-performance machine tools from builders such as Brother, Matsuura, Nidec, and Takisawa.

"The Elk Grove Economic Development team has continued to go above and beyond to ensure Yamazen and many other companies find success in Elk Grove."

- James Hansen, Executive Vice President and COO

Yamazen opened their 137,000 square-foot headquarters in late 2020 but delayed the grand opening to welcome international guests from Yamazen Corporation as well as key partners. The event included a traditional Japanese sake barrel ceremony called Kagami-Wari. In this ceremony, performed at celebratory events, the lid of the sake barrel is broken open by a wooden mallet, and the sake is served to everyone present to symbolize good fortune and prosperity. ■



An Important Message from the Fire Department

The Elk Grove Village Fire Department partners with our local businesses to help make Elk Grove Village an exceptionally fire-safe community. Our adopted fire code includes important provisions for businesses to assist us in accomplishing this goal.

KnoxBoxes

A KnoxBox is a key safe that allows Fire Department personnel immediate and secure access to your building in the event of an emergency incident. KnoxBoxes can only be accessed by first responders. This program eliminates the cost of property damage due to forced entry and prevents the need for a business representative to respond with building keys after-hours for a false alarm.

The Elk Grove Village Fire Department requires that a KnoxBox be installed on all buildings having an automatic fire alarm or fire suppression system. We suggest that all businesses install a KnoxBox. The key safe should be located at the front entrance and be installed 5 feet from finished ground. KnoxBoxes can be ordered directly from knoxbox.com.

Emergency Contacts

The Fire Department requires all businesses to submit a list of two (2) emergency contacts that we can reach in the event of an after-hours incident at your property. Please scan the QR code to the right to be directed to the contact form. If you cannot access the form, you can send an email to ISD@elkgrove.org with the required information. Remember to include the property address.

For additional information contact the Inspectional Services Division at (847) 734-8020.



Elk Grove Village Fire Department
Inspectional Services Division
901 Wellington Avenue
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007
(847) 734-8020
ISD@elkgrove.org
www.elkgrove.org



Ribbon Cutting: Tekka Sushi

In October, Village officials attended a ribbon-cutting ceremony for Tekka Sushi, located at 84 Biesterfield Road, in the Elk Crossing Shopping Center. Tekka Sushi is a Japanese restaurant that offers a diverse menu with options that include ramen, teriyaki dinner entrees, sashimi, and a selection of over 60 sushi rolls.

Owner Michelle Chin and her two sisters opened Tekka Sushi to provide fresh and delectable sushi, showing their commitment to offering quality Japanese cuisine. Tekka Sushi is proud to be part of the Elk Grove Village community and excitedly looks forward to serving their customers. ■



Schedule a Business Ambassador Visit!

Elk Grove Village Trustees and staff are committed to fostering strong connections with local businesses through our ongoing Business Ambassador Visits program. Our team will visit your business location to introduce themselves and take a guided tour of your facilities. Simply choose a convenient time for you, and during our visit, we will explore innovative ways to support your business and promote your team's success.

Each Business Ambassador Visit is featured in the Business Matters section of the Villager, highlighting your contributions to our vibrant local economy. To schedule your visit, contact Sue Dees, Director of Business Development and Marketing at 847-357-4005 or at sdees@elkgrove.org ■

Upcoming GOA Events

Holiday & Volunteer Recognition Luncheon

Friday, December 1, 11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Belvedere Banquets - 1170 W. Devon Avenue
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007

Celebrate the holiday season and GOA volunteers with an open bar and a plated lunch. The GOA will be collecting toy donations for Toys for Tots to help make the holidays brighter for children in need.

Chamber Net - Networking Breakfast

Wednesday, December 13, 7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

Garden Terrace - 1000 Wellington Avenue
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007

Enjoy pastries from Jarosch Bakery while networking with fellow GOA members and guests. Everyone will have 15 seconds to introduce themselves and their business to the room.

Young Professionals Holiday Party

Tuesday, December 5, 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Pinot's Palette - 214 N. York Street
Elmhurst, IL 60126

Join the young professionals of GOA at this year's annual Holiday Party. Celebrate the holiday season while enjoying food and beverages and networking with other members of GOA's Young Professionals Group.

Ugly Sweater Business After Hours

Thursday, December 14, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Elk Grove Village Bank & Trust
1145 N. Arlington Heights Road, Itasca, IL 60143

Join the GOA for some relaxed networking. Make new connections while enjoying complimentary food & drinks. Advance reservations to the GOA are appreciated. ■

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

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School Resource Officer Placed at Grove Junior High School

The Village of Elk Grove and the Elk Grove Township Elementary School District 59 have entered an agreement to place an Elk Grove Village Police Officer as a School Resource Officer (SRO) at Grove Junior High School to promote the safety and security of students, staff, and school premises. Youth Investigations Officer Chris Palmese began his assignment as a School Resource Officer on Monday, October 30.

Elk Grove Village Police Officers have already been working as SROs at Elk Grove High School and Mead Junior High School, and the Village is now pleased expand the SRO program to Grove Junior High as well.

Duties and responsibilities of the School Resource Officer include education, mentoring, and security, among others. The SRO will work with the school administration and staff to plan and teach lessons in gang/violence resistance, safety, and drug and alcohol resistance.

School Resource Officers have special training on working with youths, and in Elk Grove Village must have their Juvenile Officer Certification from the State of Illinois. The SRO is expected to maintain daily office hours to meet with students, interact positively with students during lunch and study hall periods, and establish a positive working relationship with behaviorally at-risk students. Together with the teachers and other school staff members, the SRO will serve as a strong, positive role model for students to emulate.

The SRO will also serve in a security capacity. During school entrance and dismissal times and passing periods, the SRO will maintain a high level of visibility to promote safety and security for students and staff. At the request of school administration, the SRO may de-escalate conflict and perform investigations. Having an SRO placed in a school also serves as a direct connection to the Police Department, allowing for faster response times to incidents, should they occur.

“When I started at the Elk Grove Village Police Department nine years ago, I always wanted the opportunity to be able to reach out to the youth,” said Officer Palmese. “I didn’t have a strong father figure growing up but I found them in mentors I met along my journey in life. I hope to be that positive mentor to the kids at Grove Junior High.” ■

Village Board Announces No Change in Tax Levy for the Second Year in a Row

There will be no change in the 2023 property tax levy approved by the Village Board. This is the second year that there is no change in the Village’s tax levy.

The zero change in the 2023 tax levy (payable in 2024) demonstrates the Village’s commitment to providing residents with high quality services at an affordable price. Every year, local taxing bodies (there are approximately 10 in Elk Grove Village) determine the amount of money needed to provide services to residents - this is called a tax levy. A property tax levy is a set dollar amount that the County collects by dividing the property tax levy amongst all the properties in each taxing district including residential, commercial, industrial, and railroad property.

Message from the Board

[Congratulations to the Building Division and the Fire Department on Their Accomplishments!](#)

We would like to congratulate the Community Development Department's Building Division for achieving full accreditation status! They are the first building division in the State of Illinois to reach this achievement. See page 8 for more information.

We would also like to congratulate the Fire Department for earning a Class 1 designation for their fire protection services. This is the best rating a fire department can earn for their services, and puts them among the top 1% of fire departments in the nation. See page 8 for more information.

These achievements are not possible without the hard work and dedication of our Village employees. Their efforts ensure that all Elk Grove Village residents and businesses continue to receive top-notch services, like fire protection and ensuring building safety.

This newsletter is published by the Village of Elk Grove Village
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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.

[Update on Elk Grove Woods Plaza Development](#)

On November 13, a Plan Commission Hearing was held regarding the Elk Grove Woods Plaza Development. The Plan Commission voted to recommend approval of the developer's zoning petitions. The next step in the development is a vote at a Village Board Meeting to approve the petitions.

Updated visual renderings of the proposed development are available at elkgrove.org/gateway.

[Coffee with the Mayor and Board](#)

Thank you to all who attended our Coffee with the Mayor and Board event on November 4.

We host these events on a quarterly basis to meet residents, discuss any concerns, and answer questions over a cup of coffee. The next Coffee with the Mayor and Board is scheduled for Saturday, February 3, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. at Village Hall.

[Village Hall Closed Nov. 23 & 24](#)

Please be aware that Village Hall will be closed on Thursday, November 23 and Friday, November 24 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.

Please see page 10 for the adjusted Fall Leaf Collection schedule during the week of Thanksgiving.



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

[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 Waived for Holiday

The overnight parking restrictions will be waived beginning Wednesday (11/22) at 2:00 a.m. through Monday (11/27) at 5:00 a.m.

Please note that parking on streets is prohibited if there is more than 2 inches of snow on the ground or if the Village is expecting snow. ■



Village Board Announces No Change in Tax Levy for the Second Year in a Row

(continued from page 5)

Although the Village has not changed the amount of its property tax levy in the past two years, residents may see a change in the amount owed to the Village based upon how Cook County assesses the value of residential properties and all other properties in the community. This change is due to how the County assesses the value of your property and all other properties in the community. For more information about the recent property tax bills and in order to appeal your assessed property value, please visit the Elk Grove Township Assessors website at elkgrovetownship.org/assessor or Schaumburg Township Assessors website at schaumburgtownship.org/services.

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 14 had zero change to the Villages 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.

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 maintaining a high standard of fiscal responsibility to keep its portion of the property tax bill low: ■

Budget Area	Portion of Village's 10% Share	Uses of the Property Tax Revenue Received
General Fund	\$185.04 (29%)	Provides for the general operations of the Village, including police and fire services, road maintenance, and snow removal.
Capital Projects Funds	\$60.53 (9%)	Funding established for long-term capital projects such as bridge improvements, road reconstruction, street light enhancements and public building improvements.
Retirement Funds	\$317.55 (50%)	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	\$79.04 (12%)	Covers principle and interest payments on the Village's outstanding bonds issued for major Village construction projects.
Total	\$642.16 (100%)	

"We have always held ourselves to a high standard of fiscal responsibility. That is one reason Elk Grove residents enjoy a lower cost of living compared to our neighbors. We are proud of our efforts to have zero change the Village's tax levy for residents and businesses."

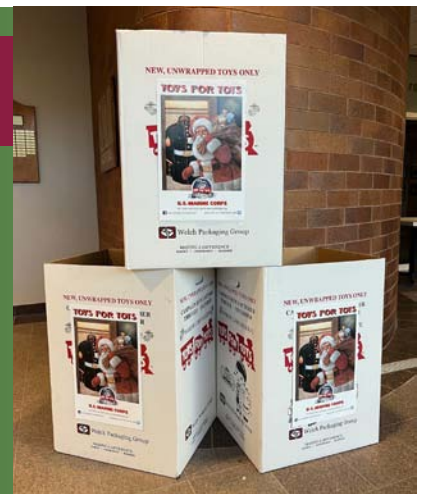
- Mayor Craig Johnson

Toys For Tots Campaign

The Elk Grove Village Police Department is a proud drop-off location for Toys for Tots. This program, run by the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, distributes toys to less fortunate children during the holidays.



You can now drop off new, unwrapped toys in the Village Hall lobby (901 Wellington Ave.) through December 11. ■



Building Division First to Achieve Accreditation in Illinois

The Building Division, including Property Maintenance, within the Community Development Department has accomplished a remarkable achievement in becoming the first building division in the State of Illinois to receive full accreditation from the International Accreditation Service (IAS) and is the 24th in the nation to earn this prestigious status.

To be classified as an accredited agency, a substantial amount of documentation demonstrating compliance with standards and criteria established by the IAS is required. After the initial review of documentation, a thorough four-day onsite evaluation was conducted by the IAS, where the Building Division was comprehensively assessed across more than a dozen categories, such as customer service, technical competence, code interpretation, and fiscal health.



“Achieving the status of an accredited agency can be directly attributed to the emphasis the Department puts on providing the best and most efficient services to the community.”

- Jared Polony, Director of Community Development

Earning accreditation required the establishment of a long-term quality management system and service goals, all with a focus on continuous improvement. Retaining accreditation status requires an assessment 18 months after initial accreditation, followed by an accreditation renewal process every three years.

The Building and Property Maintenance Divisions play an integral role in ensuring that buildings and other structures throughout the community are safe, compliant, and well-maintained. Strong commitment to delivering exceptional service and valuable education to the community remains a top priority. Accreditation is a testament to the Building and Property Maintenance Divisions efforts to continually strive for improvements in efficiency and effectiveness to enhance the customer experience. ■

Fire Department Achieves Highest Rating for Fire Service



The Elk Grove Village Fire Department has received a Class 1 designation from the Insurance Services Offices (ISO), the highest rating for a fire department, placing it among the top 1% of all fire departments in the U.S.!

The ISO Class 1 rating is a testament to the exceptional quality of fire protection provided by the Fire Department. ISO has evaluated the fire protection services of more than 46,000 fire departments across the nation. Only 498 nationwide, including 29 in the state of Illinois, have achieved a Class 1 designation.

The ISO surveys communities on a regular basis to determine the Public Protection Classification for the fire protection services protecting the community. Evaluation is based on factors such as the fire department's training, apparatus, and response capabilities. ISO also assesses water supply, dispatch operations, and fire prevention programs. This Class 1 rating for the Fire Department is an improvement over the Class 2 designation it has held for over 25 years.

Additionally, the Fire Department is now one of just 118 agencies worldwide with both an ISO Class 1 designation and Accreditation status from the Center for Public Safety Excellence. The latter designation is awarded to fire protection agencies that are exceptionally effective in all aspects of firefighting, emergency medical services, hazardous materials handling, training, personnel management, and communication. ■

“We take great pride in the exceptional fire protection services that ensure the safety and well-being of our community. This top rating is a testament to our dedicated Fire Department and their unwavering commitment to serving and protecting our Village.”

- Mayor Craig Johnson



Join the Fire Department Cadet Program!

For a second year, the Fire Department is offering an extended Cadet education program for residents ages 16 to 18 who are interested in exploring a career in the emergency medical and/or fire service. Learning topics and hands-on training include but are not limited to:

- CPR and first aid
- Fire ground tactics
- Search and rescue
- Fire protection systems
- Vehicle extrication
- Live fire training

As a member of the Cadet program, each student will gain an overall understanding of the fire service and see what a firefighter/paramedic may experience daily. This is a structured offering that requires commitment from participants one day per month.

The program is limited to 12 students at any given time and is a program designed to support and educate students through various stages of their development until they reach the age of 19. While the program is currently at full capacity, you can still be a part of this exciting opportunity by joining our waitlist. When there is an opening, waitlisted applicants will be considered on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information, visit elkgrove.org/cadet or contact the Fire Department at 847-734-8000. ■



Are you an Elk Grove Village teen interested in a future career in the fire service?

Police Department Welcomes Public Comment

Anyone wishing to provide comments regarding the Elk Grove Village Police Department's compliance with Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) standards, engagement in the service community, delivery of public safety services, and overall candidacy for accredited status, may provide comments to the CALEA Public Comment Portal at cimrs2.calea.org/371.

These comments can be in the form of commendations or concerns. The overall intent of the accreditation process is to provide the Police Department with information to support continuous improvement, as well as foster the pursuit of professional excellence.

IMPORTANT: CALEA is not an investigatory body and subsequently the public portal should not be used to submit information for such purposes. There will be no response other than acknowledgment of submissions; however, the information will be considered in context to its relevancy to compliance with standards and the tenets of CALEA Accreditation. ■



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.

Drop-off is located at:
Community Development Department
Village Hall, 901 Wellington Ave.
Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Residents can drop off holiday lights and extension cords now through April 30, 2024. The Village cannot accept garland, live greens, wreaths, or other non-recyclable materials. Call **847-357-4220** for more information.

Fall Leaf Collection Continues Until December 1

During the months of October and November, the Public Works Department offers residents convenient disposal of their fall leaves on a weekly basis. The 2023 Fall Leaf Collection program began on Monday, October 2 and will conclude on Friday, December 1.

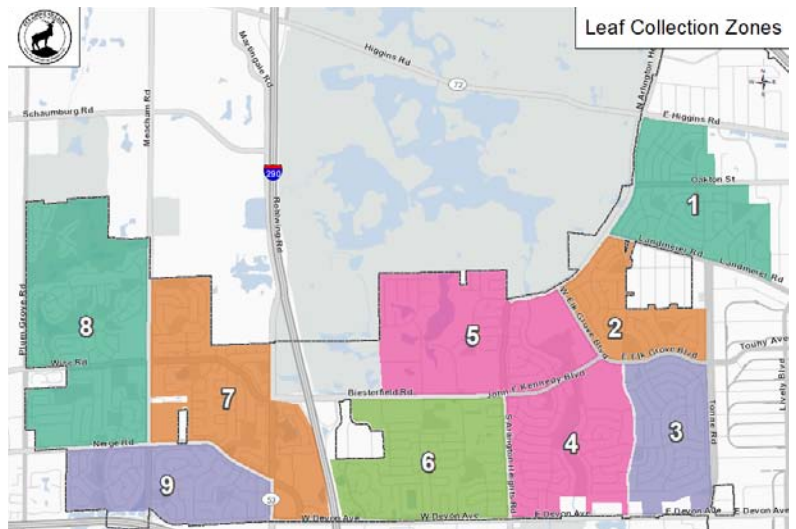
Elk Grove Village is divided into nine (9) collection sections and each section receives nine (9) leaf collection dates. The scheduled collection dates and a map depicting the section numbers are shown below.

During the week of the Thanksgiving, the sections regularly scheduled for Thursday and Friday will be shifted to the first part of the week. Please see the map below for the adjusted schedule.

Important Program Rules:

- Leaves should be raked into the street after 3:00 p.m. the day before collection and before 7:00 a.m. the day of collection.
- Only rake leaves into the street. Grass, branches, and other yard waste are NOT permitted and will damage Village equipment.
- Place leaves in a continuous row on the pavement approximately 2 feet from the curb.
- Do not place leaves on state or county roadways, nor on the following Village streets: Tonne Road, Elk Grove Boulevard, Rev. Morrison Boulevard, J.F. Kennedy Boulevard, Biesterfield Road, and Wise Road. Residents along these streets are asked to place leaves in the parkway.
- In the event of rain, you should still place your leaves in the street. Leaves will be collected as soon as possible.
- Parking in the street will be prohibited on the day of collection from 7:00 a.m. until the leaves are removed.
- In the event of snow, leaf pickup will be rescheduled for another day. Additionally, any leaves that are placed on the street and not picked up by the initial collection will eventually be collected by crews at a later date.

Fall Leaf Collection Schedule		
Area	Regular Schedule	Thanksgiving Week Schedule
1	Thursday	Tuesday
2	Tuesday	Tuesday
3	Wednesday	Wednesday
4	Monday	Monday
5	Monday	Monday
6	Friday	Wednesday
7	Tuesday	Tuesday
8	Thursday	Monday
9	Wednesday	Wednesday



In addition to the curbside leaf collection program, the Village offers two dumpsters for residents to drop off leaves. Through December 15, you can bring your leaves to one of the leaf dumpster locations below:

James Paul 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 bags and no plastic bags will be accepted. Yard waste stickers are not required.

If you have any questions, please call Public Works at (847) 734-8800 Monday through Friday between 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. For more information, visit elkgrove.org/leaves. ■



Holiday House Decorating Contest

The Elk Grove Village Leo and Lions Clubs are holding a Holiday House Decorating Contest for residents in the month of December. Decorated houses, apartments, 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

For questions or to enter the Holiday Decorating Contest, please email your name, address, and phone number to lionbarbara@comcast.net.

All entries must be received by Thursday, December 7, 2023.

Judging will take place between Saturday, December 9 and Sunday, December 17. The judges will select a winner in each category. ■

**Holiday House
Decorating Contest
Enter by December 7!**



Holiday Shopping Safety Tips

With the holiday season just around the corner, it is essential to stay vigilant and informed when it comes to shopping, whether in-person or online. Here are some valuable safety tips to help you have an enjoyable and secure holiday shopping experience!

In-Person Shopping:

- Do not carry large amounts of cash. If you must, keep them 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 children 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 well-lit areas and immediately report any suspicious activity to law enforcement.

Online Shopping:

- Compare products and read the reviews before purchasing.
- Check out the seller to confirm legitimacy.
- Use websites that start with “https” address for secure checkouts. The “s” stands for secure.
- Pay by credit card whenever possible - you can dispute unauthorized charges.
- Keep records of online transactions until you receive your purchases and confirm you got what you ordered.
- Make sure your electronic device has the latest antivirus software updated.
- Read the terms and conditions for your purchase, like refund policies and delivery dates.
- If you spot fraud while shopping online, report it at reportfraud.ftc.gov. ■

Tree Watering Bags - Remove Before Winter!

Thank you to all those who participated in our parkway tree watering program this year! It is recommended that tree watering bags be removed before winter for the tree's health. Leaving the bags on for extended periods of time can trap moisture causing bark to rot, allowing insects and disease into the living tissues of trees.

The bags are yours to keep! Please call the Public Works Department at 847-734-8800 if you have any questions. ■

Letters to the North Pole

On Saturday, November 25, 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 to write him a letter - he promises to write back!

Letters must be received by Sunday, December 17, in order for Santa to respond before Christmas.

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



Presorted STD Mail
U.S. Postage
PAID
Palatine P&DC, IL
Permit No. 11

Village to Retire TIF District

The Village intends to retire a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district, the Midway Court TIF district, which encompasses a nearly five-acre tract of land located north of Midway Court. This is an unprecedented measure for a municipality because the Midway Court TIF district was created only a year ago.

The Village created this TIF district to facilitate high-tech investment in the area. This TIF district was instrumental in facilitating a planned \$1 billion data center campus on the north side of the Village’s Business Park. The goal of TIF districts is to create economic growth and public-private investment that would not have happened otherwise. It seeks to transform under-utilized properties that make them ripe for investment and redevelopment. It also encourages development to increase the value of neighboring properties.

“Quite simply, the TIF helped us achieve our goal of creating economic development opportunities that will benefit our community. It served its purpose and now it’s time to retire it so the property can be returned to the general tax rolls for the benefit of all government agencies,” said Mayor Johnson. “In Elk Grove, we use TIF responsibly and judiciously as a means to spark significant economic development for the long-term benefit of all taxing bodies.” ■

Mayor Johnson Meets With Local Cub Scouts

On Thursday, October 26, Mayor Johnson spoke with Cub Scouts from local Cub Scout Pack 190 to discuss local government. Mayor Johnson discussed the importance of local government and how it affects their daily lives. The Cub Scouts came with great questions for the Mayor, and they were invited to Council Chambers for an opportunity to sit at the dais.



As part of their Cub Scout activities, the young scouts have made Christmas greeting cards for nursing homes, collected donations for various food pantries, and participated in litter clean-ups along the shores of Salt Creek. The Cub Scouts from Pack 190 have exemplified the Cub Scout motto: “Do Your Best”. The community is proud to have excellent young leaders, and wishes them luck in their journey to become Boy Scouts! ■

Be Aware and Park with Care

Please be courteous to your neighbors and refrain from parking on sidewalks, crosswalks, or parkway grass.

Parking on sidewalks and crosswalks impacts safety for pedestrians, especially those with strollers or mobility devices, and bicyclists.

Additionally, parking on parkway grass is not permitted in the Village. Driving upon or across any curb or sidewalk is expressly prohibited by Village Code, unless you are driving onto a driveway.

If you have a temporary need to park your vehicle on the street overnight, please request overnight parking permissions at elkgrove.org/overnightparking. For assistance, please call the Police Information Center at (847) 357-4100. ■

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. ■