

# Business Matters

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- Plastic Products Made Safely in Elk Grove Village at Avient Global
- Strictly Business Podcast
- 2021 Year In Review



## Plastic Products Made Safely in Elk Grove Village at Avient Global

Avient Global is recognized as a leader in a variety of markets with a deep focus on quality, innovation, and customer service. From polymer colorants that are molded onto liquid and solid products to screen printing ink for t-shirts, the company's work also shows up in everyday consumer products like toothbrushes and shaving razors.

In fact, Avient provides a number of solutions for over 35,000 customers. It generates \$3.8 billion in annual revenue

across 115 facilities and has 8,000 employees in 35 countries. Its North American headquarters is in Ohio and the Elk Grove Village location, which was purchased in 1970, now employs 55 people and produces \$35 million annually in local sales.

Locally, the Elk Grove Village facility specializes in coloring, mixing different types of resins with colors and additives for over 1,000 customers in healthcare,

*continued on page 4.*

STRONGER TOGETHER IN

2021

## Strictly Business Podcast

EP 52: 2021 Marked Continued Growth and Support of Businesses and Residents

In the 2021 End of Year 'Strictly Business' podcast episode, Nick stepped in to interview Mayor Craig B. Johnson about the exciting initiatives accomplished during the past year. Mayor Johnson recapped the ways in which the Village helped residents and businesses adjust and adapt to the ongoing pandemic by hosting two vaccination clinics in partnership with Jewel-Osco and two very successful job fairs.

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## STRONGER TOGETHER IN

# 2021

In 2021 the Elk Grove Village Economic Development Team thoughtfully pivoted to better support the business community. Live events such as two job fairs, the Manufacturing Expo, Business Excellence Awards, and in person business ambassador visits prioritized the people and businesses that drive the local economy, create jobs, and invest in the Village.

Listen in as Mayor Craig Johnson discusses Elk Grove's continued growth and support of businesses and residents on the year's final [Strictly Business](#) podcast.

### INDUSTRIAL OCCUPANCY RATE PEAKED AT 97.14% IN 2021

The Village is home to over 62 million square feet of industrial space. The vacancy rate has steadily fallen since 2009 to its current low of 2.86% which translates into an occupancy rate of 97.14%. The decline has been in large part due to expansion in manufacturing, an influx of data centers, and new speculative development.



OCCUPANCY RATE:

# 97.14%

### BUSINESS AMBASSADOR VISITS BUILD STRONG RELATIONSHIPS



In 2021 The Village's Economic Development Team along with Village Trustees toured a number of businesses. Business Ambassador Visits provide an excellent opportunity for local businesses to educate Village Officials on the history of their company, current issues facing the business community, and to discover opportunities for collaboration.

### ELK GROVE VILLAGE SPONSORS 3 USA OLYMPIC TEAMS

Elk Grove Village sponsored three National Governing Body (NGB) Olympic teams competing in Tokyo in 2021. The USA Track & Field, USA Wrestling, and USA Triathlon teams went on to win an impressive 37 medals at the games.



# 37 MEDALS

### SUMMER & FALL JOB FAIRS



In response to the challenging hiring climate, we organized and hosted the first ever Job Fair for Elk Grove Village businesses in July. More than **500 job seekers registered** and **132 local businesses exhibited**, alongside breakout sessions on Perfecting Your Elevator Pitch; Putting Your Best Foot Forward; and Effective Job Search Strategies.

Feedback from the event was so positive, we followed it with a second and equally successful Job Fair in November. The Fall event included an exhibitor networking breakfast and a powerful keynote presentation from Kathleen Canfield (Harper College) on Attracting Top Talent at Job Fairs and Beyond.

***"We're seeing some really good candidates"***

*David Beegle, Sr.  
(Yusen Logistics)*

## THE MANUFACTURING AND TECHNOLOGY EXPO



The Village hosted its eighth annual Made in Elk Grove Manufacturing & Technology Expo on Monday, October 11, 2021 at Elk Grove High School. Over 500 people attended this year's Expo and had the opportunity to interact with 50+ exhibitors representing industries such as; precision machining, plastics, electronics, food manufacturing, aerospace, and industrial services.

The Expo showcases the people and companies that design and manufacture virtually every product we use from common household items to cutting edge high-tech components. Now in its eighth year, the Expo has hosted over 800 exhibitors and over 5,000 attendees.

At the 2021 Expo Olympic Gold Medalist Jackie Joyner-Kersey Joined Mayor Craig Johnson in presenting the Business Excellence Awards at the Exhibitor Luncheon.



### Excellence in Sustainability

Technical Machinery Solutions  
(now [Pregis EverTec](#))



### Excellence in Innovation

[FPE Automation, Inc.](#)



### Industrial Development of the Year

[Duke Realty](#)



### Excellence in Community Support

[Creative Werks](#)

[International Label and Printing](#)

[Mikerphone Brewing](#)

[O&M Enterprise Group](#)

[Pulver Packaging](#)

[Wright Technologies](#)



[FPM Heat Treating](#) (not pictured)

## ELK GROVE VILLAGE SPONSORS THE MAKERS WANTED WORKSHOPS AT ENCLAVE FOR ENTREPRENEURS

The Makers Wanted Workshops are facilitated by Enclave for Entrepreneurs with curated content focusing on building one's business competency plan. The workshops provide business executives with strategies on how to

improve their thinking and build their cognitive skills. The theme of the ten month program is that thinking in new ways supports and grows people and their ventures. Pictured are just some of the 2021 graduates.



## NEXT LEVEL NORTHWEST



In November NLNW, a 501c3 business accelerator co-founded by EGV, held its inaugural gala to celebrate the many successes graduating companies have had.

## EGV DONATED TO ELK GROVE HIGH SCHOOL



EGV donated the third of five \$100,000 grants to Elk Grove High School and High School District 214 in order to improve its fabrication lab.

# Plastic Products Made Safely in Elk Grove Village at Avient Global

(continued from page 1)

packaging, and bottling (e.g. Pepsi, Gatorade). During the pandemic, Avient helped produce Covid-19 testing kits, vaccination kits, ventilators, and masks. To date, 25% of their Elk Grove Village production goes into medical devices.

Other uses in a vast portfolio include impact modifiers that provide strength and reinforce stability in construction, automobile and boating products, as well as special effects features for appliances, bathtubs, and jacuzzis.

## **Great People and Reliable Processes**

Avient's unparalleled portfolio comes together thanks to a strong team of engineers and scientists who provide specialization, operational excellence and work side by side with customers to develop applications. Still, it's the company's on-time delivery and quality that separates and differentiates it from others in the industry. And that makes Elk Grove Village an ideal place to grow.

"Location is critical in our industry and servicing our customers on time is very important," Operations Director Roger Hughey said. "Once we receive an order, we have to bring the material in, make it, and ship it in five days. So, we need to be close to a transportation hub."

## **Making it Safe to Make Plastic Products**

Though Avient makes so much, Hughey is even more proud of how his company makes its employees safe with a best in class safety culture.

"We have a lot of preventative programs like risk reduction analysis in place," Hughey said. "Rather than being reactive, we can video tape and review tasks with workers to discuss

hazards and mitigate risks, then follow through with process and equipment improvements."

Companies across the plastics industry typically average 3.7 to 4.5 injuries per associate, per year. Avient, however, has averaged 0.65 since 2013. And it's not only employees that Avient looks after. The company has donated over one million dollars locally to United Way each year and also launched a charitable campaign in October of 2021.

## **Elk Grove Village Opens Doors for Avient**

Hughey recently had an opportunity to visit with a few local civic leaders, who opened his eyes to a number of opportunities.

"It was great to have a face-to-face interaction with Elk Grove staff to go through our capabilities and identify a few gaps," Hughey said. "They have a lot of unique programs and professional development that I wasn't aware of, but we're going to look into. It's also nice to get onto calls with other businesses to talk about how they're handling labor shortages and supply chain issues."

Elk Grove Village is actively scheduling these business ambassador visits throughout 2022. For more information, email Josh Grodzin at [JGrodzin@elkgrove.org](mailto:JGrodzin@elkgrove.org).

## **Interested In Elk Grove Village?**

If your company is looking to establish or upgrade its working space, we would love to speak with you!

Please email Nick Radcliffe at [nradcliffe@elkgrove.org](mailto:nradcliffe@elkgrove.org) to learn more about our Business Park and all the benefits that come from working here! ■

# Strictly Business Podcast

(continued from page 1)

Mayor Johnson also talked about Elk Grove's support of the young workforce through grants to the local high school as well as its global support for three US Olympics teams that competed in Tokyo. To listen, please visit [www.egvbizhub.com](http://www.egvbizhub.com) or find us on Soundcloud. ■



# Strictly Business Podcast

The Elk Grove Youth Committee, in partnership with the Village of Elk Grove and the Elk Grove Parks Foundation, will be issuing seven (7) \$1,000 college scholarship awards; five (5) by Elk Grove Village and two (2) by the Elk Grove Parks Foundation to recognize High School Seniors for their outstanding leadership, community participation, and service in the community.

**Application Deadline: Friday, May 6, 2022**

Applications are available in high school College & Career Center offices and on the Village website at [www.elkgrove.org/scholarships](http://www.elkgrove.org/scholarships). Completed applications must be submitted to Village Hall (2nd Floor Administration Counter). Winners will be notified by June 6, 2022. Questions? Please call 847-357-4030. ■

## In This Issue

- Elk Grove Village Embarks on New Road Maintenance Strategy to Improve Road Conditions and Cost Efficiencies
- 2021 Year In Review
- Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program
- Don't Let Your Pipes Freeze this Winter
- 2021 Tax Levy Determination
- Elk Grove Youth Committee Scholarships
- Avoiding Styrofoam Helps Our Planet



## Village Seeks New Mixed Use Development at Arlington Heights & Higgins

On December 14, 2021, the Village Board approved a purchase contract for the Elk Grove Bowl property and the Elk Grove Woods shopping center at Arlington Heights and Higgins Roads. The ultimate goal of these purchases is to reinvent that area to serve as a gateway to Elk Grove Village and a true reflection of this exceptional community.

The Village is pursuing this route for two main reasons. Firstly, the current owners were actively pursuing a sale of both properties. Another entity who purchased the properties might be content to just let the shopping center age and deteriorate or install a new use that would detract from, rather than enhance the community image. Secondly, and more importantly, this is an opportunity to create something new that is more aligned with who we are as a community. The vision of the Village Board is to bring a mixed-use, residential and commercial development to this area, with a modern and vibrant design which is inviting to residents and visitors alike. Brand-new luxury apartments would offer new housing options in our community—an opportunity we have not had in some time.

The Village plans to issue a request for proposals in early 2022 to find a developer who can put forth a bold vision to create a gateway to Elk Grove Village. Please note that the RFP process, which will be followed by development planning and permitting process, will take some time. We do not anticipate any disruption to current shopping center operations until 2023.

The goal of the Village Board is to retain as many of the existing businesses as possible. Our plans will include a phased redevelopment to ensure continual operating space for businesses such as Jarosch Bakery and Tensuke Market.

“We are not afraid to take bold steps in pursuing opportunities to improve the Village,” said Mayor Craig Johnson. “We respect the history of this Village. But we also know we have not become the community we are today by sitting on our hands and letting things happen on their own.” ■

## Fraud Prevention at COVID Testing Sites

Due to the spread of the omicron variant and nationwide shortage of COVID-19 tests, people are turning to pop-up testing locations that may be unauthorized and illegitimate. These testing sites are not licensed or regulated by any government agency and the legitimacy of these sites cannot be confirmed. A fraudulent testing site may look real but be operating to collect personally identifiable information that can be used for identity theft.



# Message from the Board

## Happy New Year!

We hope each of you enjoyed a happy and healthy holiday season and are excited about the new year ahead.

As we continue to face the ongoing challenges from the COVID pandemic, we are reminded that a community is more than just a group of people living in an area. A community is a group of people who lean on each other when times are tough—our friends, family, and neighbors who are there for us when we need support. Throughout the past year, we continued to receive stories of kindness and generosity reminding us of the Exceptional Community Elk Grove Village truly is.

While we work to keep residents safe, we look forward to the many exciting programs and events coming up in 2022.

## Wreaths Across America

On December 18, Village, State, and County officials participated in the National Wreaths Across America Day. On this day, participants honor and remember fallen veterans by placing wreaths on the graves of fallen soldiers

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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.

and first responders at the Elk Grove Cemetery.

We would like to thank Wreaths Across America coordinators Jane Gregga and Mary Arvidson for donating a United States of America flag that was previously flown over the United States Capitol. The flag will be placed on display at Village Hall.

## 2021 Holiday House Decorating Contest

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2021 Holiday House Decorating Contest hosted by the Elk Grove Village Leo and Lions Clubs and the Village. This year's holiday decorations were extremely creative and festive! Each year we enjoy viewing the entries and checking out the decorations.

The winning entries will be posted online this month. Check them out on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/elkgrovevillage](http://www.facebook.com/elkgrovevillage).

## National Law Enforcement Day

January 9 is National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day.

We would like to thank all the men and women of the Elk Grove Village



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.

Police Department for their hard work and dedication to serving our community. In Elk Grove Village, we support the blue.

## Coffee with the Mayor & Board

Residents are invited to enjoy a cup of coffee to discuss any questions and concerns with the Mayor & Board on February 5, 2022 from 9-11 a.m. at Village Hall.

## 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)). ■

## Illinois Secretary of State Extension

Illinois driver's licenses, instruction permits and identification cards that have an expiration date between January 1, 2020 and March 31, 2022 have been extended until March 31, 2022.

Expiration dates for commercial driver's licenses (CDLs) and commercial learner's permits (CLPs) have been extended to January 31, 2022. This rule change impacts CDLs and CLPs with expiration dates between November 1, 2021, and January 31, 2022.

For more information and to take advantage of online services, visit [www.ilsos.gov](http://www.ilsos.gov). ■

# Elk Grove Village Embarks on New Road Maintenance Strategy to Improve Road Conditions and Cost Efficiencies

As part of its commitment to strengthen Elk Grove's most vital pieces of infrastructure, the Village is taking a new data-driven approach to maintaining and rehabilitating roadways. The preventative maintenance program will extend the useful life of roadways, keeping them in good condition for longer.

The new strategy is possible due to a commitment from the Village Board to invest in resources that will allow staff to use pavement condition analysis and a multi-pronged maintenance strategy to direct resources where they're needed most in a more cost-efficient way.

The Village first embarked on this effort in 2019 when it hired Engineering Enterprises, Inc. (EEI), an engineering consulting firm, to perform a quality analysis of the 127 miles of streets under the jurisdiction of the Village to determine their overall condition.

The analysis, which looked at every street's surface and structural base, found that:

- 76 percent or 98 miles of the streets in Elk Grove are in "good", "very good" or "excellent" condition.
- 16 percent or just 21 miles of the streets are in fair condition.
- Less than 7 percent of Elk Grove streets are classified as being in "poor" condition.

EEI used the analysis to develop long-term recommendations to the Village about how it can conduct ongoing maintenance and rehabilitation work in a way that is more cost effective and efficient, while also limiting disruptions.

The Village also tasked EEI with evaluating optimal road maintenance strategies for use in the Village, including an exploration of the types of materials used and how road projects are scheduled and prioritized. The analysis showed that implementing regular preventative maintenance measures—such as applying reclamite, crack sealing and

pavement patching—will allow the Village to extend the amount of time that streets remain in "good" or better condition.

The Village's new pavement management program is not a one-off infrastructure project, but a new way of allocating

resources where they're needed most in a cost-efficient and strategic way. The Village will use data from the pavement analysis to prioritize projects in a multi-year plan. The pavement analysis will be repeated every 5 years to ensure that road conditions are aging as expected and that new areas of need can be addressed in a timely manner.

"We're embracing a new approach to ensuring that our streets in both residential and industrial neighborhoods remain in great shape in perpetuity," said Mayor

Johnson. "We are now able to use data analytics to drive decision-making about where and how to deploy road

maintenance resources. This is a more thoughtful, strategic approach that will give us the greatest bang for our buck while also improving the conditions of our roadways for decades to come."

The new approach allows for cost efficiencies by making street improvements in entire neighborhoods instead of taking a patchwork approach by simply repairing the worst roads first, regardless of location. Road improvements will happen equitably across neighborhoods based on need. This proactive planning will also ensure that roads in

the Business Park continue to meet the needs of local businesses.

Data gathered by the engineers indicates that by increasing road, curb and drainage costs just five percent, the Village will be able to extend the lifecycle of the pavement on its streets by 25 percent.

EEI presented its findings and recommendations to the Village Board at a Committee of the Whole meeting last spring. The entire presentation can be viewed on the EGTV on-demand site at [www.elkgrove.org/EEI](http://www.elkgrove.org/EEI). ■

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**"Our community is only as strong as our foundation and the viability of our sidewalks, sewers and drainage systems is essential to our overall health as a community,"** said Elk Grove Village Mayor Craig Johnson.

**"If we're not making smart, long-term decisions about how to invest in our infrastructure then we risk weakening our foundation and falling behind."**

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**YEAR IN REVIEW  
2021  
ELK GROVE VILLAGE**

Elk Grove Village Cares received \$100K grant to help the uninsured access substance abuse treatment



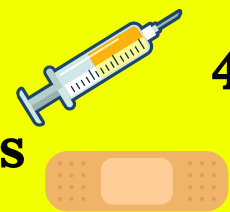
Police Department assisted 24 people into addiction treatment in 2021

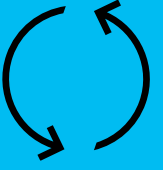


Presidential Visit to Microsoft Data Center Construction Site

11 Butterfly Gardens Planted


**\$2,720,000**  
in COVID-19 Relief for residents through second round of water bill credits

Hosted 4 Vaccine Clinics  4,000 Vaccine Doses Administered

1,350 leak alerts sent to customers via WaterSmart  2,096 customers created Self-Service accounts for Water Bills

Customer Service Enhancements  
Community Development expanded online permit options  
Fire Department launched online permitting portal

6.8 Miles of Streets Resurfaced 

192 Pints of Blood Donated   
576 Lives Saved

1,017 lbs. of unwanted medications collected from Prescription Drug Collection Box

Fire Department responded to 5,853 incidents 

Construction and opening of Dollar Tree, the new clubhouse for Fox Run Golf Links, & Love's gas station



594 Parkway Trees Planted  
1,186 Parkway Trees Trimmed  
Tree City USA Community for 36th Consecutive Year 



## Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program

The Community and Economic Development Association (CEDA) of Cook County has made financial assistance available to eligible Elk Grove residents experiencing difficulties paying their water bill.

The Low Income Household Water Assistance Program helps prevent disconnection of drinking water and wastewater services and reduce outstanding payments owed. The program makes a one-time bill payment up to a maximum of \$1,500 per eligible household for past due balances. Water bill payments are made directly to the Village of Elk Grove by CEDA on behalf of approved eligible Elk Grove households (owners and renters).

To learn more about program eligibility, requirements and registration, visit the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program webpage at [www.elkgrove.org/ceda](http://www.elkgrove.org/ceda) or call a partner intake site at Elk Grove Township 224-265-6111 or Schaumburg Township 847-884-0030. ■

## Avoiding Styrofoam Helps Our Planet

Did you know that in ideal conditions, Styrofoam takes at least 500 years to degrade? Styrofoam is found everywhere, from to-go coffee cups to egg cartons.

The light weight of Styrofoam makes it easy for the foam to blow away and create litter, even when disposed of properly. Styrofoam also breaks into smaller pieces which are very harmful to wildlife because they may mistake it for food. These smaller pieces can cause blockages in animals' digestive systems.

Help keep our planet litter-free and protect wildlife by reducing your use of Styrofoam! Below are some tips on how you can avoid this harmful material:

- Bring your own container to restaurants to package up your leftovers.
- Encourage your favorite restaurants to switch their takeout packaging to compostable plant-based material or recyclable plastic.
- When using disposable dinnerware is absolutely necessary, choose compostable plates or paper plates made from recycled material over foam.
- Avoid buying eggs packaged in foam, choose cardboard egg cartons instead.
- At the deli counter, ask for meat to be wrapped in butcher/freezer paper instead of Styrofoam and plastic wrap.
- Reuse polystyrene packing peanuts. (Some packing peanuts are starch-based and dissolve in water. These starch packing peanuts can be composted or dissolved and poured down the drain). ■



## Don't Let Your Pipes Freeze this Winter

**During the winter season, please be aware of the potential for water pipes to freeze during extremely cold weather. The tips below can help decrease the potential of your pipes freezing, water damage, and costly repairs.**

- **Shut outside vents in crawl spaces. Many homes, especially older ones, have water pipes that pass right next to outside vents, which increases the risk of freezing.**
- **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.**
- **In extremely cold weather, allow a trickle of water to run from your faucets to maintain flow through pipes near exterior walls.**
- **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 leak occurs, turn off the water at the main shut-off.**
- **If a pipe freezes, use a hair dryer to help thaw the pipe. Do not use torches or heat guns in any circumstance.** ■



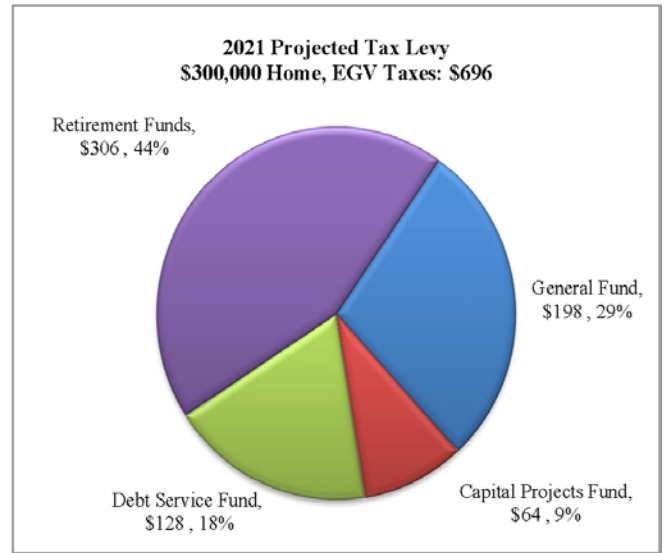
# 2021 Village Tax Levy Determination

The Village of Elk Grove is focused on providing long-term value to deliver the highest quality services for our residents and businesses. Prior to the 2021 tax levy, the tax levy for governmental services remained flat for 15 years in a row. The 2021 property tax levy (taxes payable in 2022) approved by the Village Board increased the Village portion of property tax bills by an average of \$64 per household to assist in funding long-term capital projects, such as road reconstruction, median enhancements, and bridge improvements.

Even with this modest increase to the General Fund Tax Levy—the first in 15 years—the Village will continue to maintain the lowest cost of living compared to comparable communities. Overall, the Village continues to make up a small portion of property tax bills. The Village’s portion represents approximately 10% of a typical resident’s bill, while 65-70% of the bill goes towards school districts.

## How The Village Uses Property Tax Dollars?

The property taxes collected by the Village are used to help fund four primary areas: General Fund, Debt Service Fund, Capital Projects Fund and Retirement Funds such as Police and Fire Pension, Social Security and Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund. The table below illustrates how the 10% portion of a typical property tax bill received by the Village is distributed:



Funds	Village’s 10% Share	Uses of the Property Tax Revenue Received
General Fund	\$198 (29%)	Provides for the general operations of the Village, including police and fire services, road maintenance, and snow removal.
Capital Projects Fund	\$64 (9%)	Funding established for long-term capital projects such as bridge improvements, road reconstruction, street light enhancements and public building improvements.
Retirement Funds	\$306 (44%)	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	\$128 (18%)	Covers principle and interest payments on the Village’s outstanding bonds issued for major Village construction projects.
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$696 (100%)</b>	

We understand that residents and businesses experience numerous economic pressures. Our commitment to the community is to maintain a high standard of fiscal responsibility to continue keeping the Village’s portion of the property tax bill minimal. ■

## Holiday Light Recycling



The Village is accepting unused and non-working holiday string lights and extension cords as part of the SWANCC Holiday Lights Recycling Program. SWANCC and participating communities have partnered with Elgin Recycling Inc. to recycle the lights and cords.

**Community Development Department**  
**Village Hall, 901 Wellington Ave.**  
**Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

Residents can drop off holiday lights and extension cords now thru April 30, 2022. The Village cannot accept garland, live greens, wreaths, or other non-recyclable materials. ■

## Fraud Prevention at COVID Testing Sites

(continued from page 5)

Below are some safety tips to consider when looking for a COVID-19 testing sites:

- Utilize state-sponsored testing sites found on the Illinois Department of Public Health website at [dph.illinois.gov](http://dph.illinois.gov).
- Do not share your personal information, such as your social security number. Legitimate testing sites often ask for insurance information and a state-issued ID. If you're asked for information you are not comfortable providing, ask if you can obtain the test without providing it. If denied, the site may be fraudulent.
- Do not respond to unsolicited text messages, emails or calls regarding COVID-19 testing sites.
- Avoid paying out-of-pocket fees for the tests. If the testing site requests cash out-of-pocket or upfront credit or debit card payments, it is likely a fraudulent site. Legitimate testing sites will not request out-of-pocket payment and will instead bill insurance companies, or seek reimbursement from a federal/state fund if individuals are uninsured.

If you see a testing site that you believe may not be legitimate, report it on the Illinois Attorney General's website at [illinoisattorneygeneral.gov](http://illinoisattorneygeneral.gov). ■

## Report Coyote Sightings

Coyote breeding season begins soon and continues into March. Although coyotes are generally timid and avoid human interaction, please take preventative safety measures to avoid any conflict:



- Never feed coyotes – it only encourages them to return.
- Do not keep or leave pet food outside and secure your trashcan lids.
- Check your backyard before letting your pets outside and do not leave them outside without supervision, especially at night.
- If approached by a coyote, use hazing techniques such as making loud noises, yelling, clapping and waving your arms.

As a friendly reminder, please report coyote sightings at [www.scientificwildlifemanagement.com](http://www.scientificwildlifemanagement.com) to help us understand, monitor and manage the coyote population within the Village. ■

## Chimney Fire Safety

There is nothing quite as nice as a cozy evening by the fireplace when it's cold outside. But how much have you thought about the importance of your chimney? A chimney carries dangerous smoke and gases from your fireplace, wood stove or furnace safely out of your home. If not properly used or maintained, fireplace and chimney systems can cause a serious safety hazard.



Follow these preventive measures to help ensure your home is safe from chimney fires this winter.

- ❄️ Have your chimney cleaned and inspected professionally every year.
- ❄️ Do not overload the fire box in the fireplace with wood.
- ❄️ Burn only dry, well-seasoned firewood, which limits the build-up of creosote, a highly combustible by-product of wood burning. ■