City Welcomes Clerk Haddad-Tamer! Mayor Morley recently appointed Jackie Haddad-Tamer as City Clerk. Jackie has been designated by the Mayor as the appointee who now fills the City’s vacant seat following the passing of longtime City Clerk, Patty Spencer. Jackie will serve as Elmhurst City Clerk through the end of Clerk Spencer’s term, after which the individual elected in the Spring 2021 election will assume the position.

Jackie, who was born and raised in Elmhurst, has followed her parent’s footsteps with her dedicated volunteer service to the City for many years. She has been involved with the Elmhurst Juniors Club and Focus 205 Committee and currently serves as the Chair of the Elmhurst Commission on Youth.

Jackie’s responsibilities as City Clerk include being the official keeper of the City’s records and secretary to the City Council. The Office of the City Clerk also oversees Senior Transportation Programs, Voter Registration, Freedom of Information Act Requests, and a large variety of permits. Clerk Haddad-Tamer also now serves as the Local Election Official and the Open Meetings Act Officer for the City, ensuring that all required staff, Elected Officials, and volunteer Commissioners complete the State mandated training.

National Arbor Day is April 24th. It is a day to celebrate the importance of trees. Elmhurst is known for its tree lined streets, and we appreciate all that our Forestry Division does to keep those trees healthy and vibrant! Elmhurst has 30 different varieties of trees throughout the City. The Department plants around 650 trees each year and has an ongoing tree-trimming schedule with a goal to touch every tree in Elmhurst at least once every eight years.

When it comes to the health of trees, dangers can include incorrect mulching and dealing with Emerald Ash Borer and Dutch Elm Disease. Forestry can be a dangerous job and safety is a primary concern when it comes to staff. Residents are urged to call professionals rather than try to trim trees themselves. It is a job that requires experience.

Events not to be missed this Spring!

Elmhurst St. Pats Day Parade, March 7 This fun filled parade will begin at noon at the intersection of Wilson Street and Spring Road and continue north on Spring Road.

Art in Wilder Park, May 2-3 A juried show of art, craft, and design in Elmhurst. Art in Wilder Park features over 100 artists, throughout the Midwest, kids activities and food vendors.

Memorial Day Parade, May 25 The parade begins at 9:30 a.m. at Elmhurst City Centre at Third and York. From there, marchers will make their way to the Elmhurst Veterans Memorial in Wilder Park for a special ceremony.
Have you signed up for Watersmart? WaterSmart provides a secure, web-based portal with your hourly and historical water usage, as well as leak notices. You can also set water-use alerts, based on your preferences, at any time. This service is part of our commitment to provide you with the best tools to manage your water use and bill. Avoid wasting water and money this spring by signing up for the City’s WaterSmart program. By joining WaterSmart, you can be alerted instantly when water is being wasted in your home. Join your neighbors who participated in the program and detected over 25,000 leaks in 2019 alone. Signing up is easy, start by visiting cityofelmhurst.watersmart.com Do something good for our planet and your checkbook!

We hear you Elmhurst! Each week on Elmhurst.org and the City of Elmhurst facebook page, we will feature a frequently asked question that we hear from our residents. We hope that you find this information useful and it provides facts on topics that may cause confusion. To submit a questions, please email communications@elmhurst.org.

City of Elmhurst
209 N. York St., Elmhurst, IL 60126
(630) 530-3000 • Website: www.elmhurst.org

To learn about job opportunities through the City of Elmhurst, please visit www.elmhurst.org.

City Hall Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Steven M. Morley, Mayor
Jackie Haddad-Tamer, City Clerk
Elaine Libovicz, City Treasurer

City Manager..........................630-530-3010
Community Development .......630-530-3030
Police (non-emergency) ........630-530-3050
Fire (non-emergency) ............630-530-3090
Elmhurst History Museum.......630-833-1457
Elmhurst Public Library .........630-279-8696
Request for Public Records - foia@elmhurst.org
EMERGENCY 9-1-1

Aldermen
1st Ward - Marti Deuter, Mark Sabatino
2nd Ward - Norman Leader, Bob Dunn
3rd Ward - Michael J. Bram, D anne Polomsky
4th Ward - Kevin L. York, Noel Talluto
5th Ward - Tina Park, Scott M. Levin
6th Ward - Jim Kennedy, Michael Honquest
7th Ward - Michael Brennan, Mark A. Mulliner

Mayor’s Message

This past January, I was honored to give an update of the state of our City, where I shared some of our City’s accomplishments and reviewed what’s ahead. You can view the video by visiting elmhursttv.com. Below are just a few topics covered on the City’s finances and development. I encourage you to watch the video for the full overview.

In a state that has its financial challenges, Elmhurst is in fantastic shape. Our general fund is around $6 million which is above our fund balance goal policy. The working cash fund is at $1 million which is at the upper limit of its fund balance policy. The City achieved a AAA bond rating for the 6th consecutive year which played a role in the issuance of a low 2.2% interest rate bond for capital improvement projects. We have been able to keep property taxes flat with the exception of a slight increase for police and fire pensions in order to fulfill our commitment and obligation to the public safety officers who put their lives on the line for the residents of Elmhurst.

In 2019, home values increased almost 6% over the previous year and 40% over the last 5 years. Our building department issued permits for 90 new homes in 2019. From 2013-2018, there have been anywhere between 90-150 new homes built in Elmhurst each year. This is an important statistic when it comes to lessening the tax burden. When homes become obsolete, it’s important for our community that builders and prospective residents want to build in Elmhurst. The average EAV of a new home is 400% more than the home it replaces. When the City’s taxing bodies levy for property taxes each year, the county divides the aggregate amount of home values by the individual levy amounts. When home values in Elmhurst increase, there is a larger pie to divide the property taxes, allowing the City to keep taxes flat.

Development continues in downtown Elmhurst as we continue to benefit from transit oriented development with high density housing in our downtown area. The Marke introduced 165 luxury apartments in downtown Elmhurst. The Lennar LMC Group will soon follow with 212 luxury apartments expected to be online in late 2020. There are 2 condominium projects scheduled to be available in Spring of 2020. It is important to understand that high density housing development increases our market capacity while expanding our tax pool, which again shares the tax burden. This type of housing provides alternatives for residents who want to live in Elmhurst without the commitment or upkeep of a residential home. These housing communities assist in keeping our downtown vibrant with attractive businesses. In 2019, 60 new businesses officially made Elmhurst their home.

The Elmhurst Metra Station was last renovated in the 1980s. Elmhurst is the busiest stop on the Union Pacific West Metra line. The City gains much of its exposure through the Metra line. In 2022, we will begin construction of a new station from the ground up. The project will include a new accessible open air pedestrian underpass and improvements to the surrounding platforms. The estimated cost of this project is $24 million. City staff has secured over $20 million in grant funding. Phase 2 of design will start in 2020 and will include open house events with public input.

Stormwater continues to be a focus. To date, we have completed 11 projects which equal 112 acre-feet of stormwater storage. We have come to an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with Elmhurst School District 205 which will allow us to continue with several other stormwater mitigation projects. In total, once these projects are complete, the City will have 129 acre-feet of flood controlled storage. Personally I would like to thank all of the school board members who supported the IGA. Elmhurst used to be a town that was known for flooding, and now we are known as the town that addressed flooding.

I often receive compliments on the great work that has taken place in our City, and I immediately say that it is truly a team effort. I am fortunately the one who gets to deliver the good news. Thank you to everyone who has dedicated their time and talents to the City of Elmhurst. It is my honor and privilege to serve the residents and the City of Elmhurst.

Sincerely,
Steven M. Morley, Mayor
Think ahead for Summer Permits Thinking of installing a patio, pool, driveway or fence this Summer? Think ahead and get your permit request to the City this Spring. Please plan accordingly for a 6-8 week permit approval process.

Spring clean-up dates The City of Elmhurst is offering residents an annual Spring clean-up refuse pick up!

- If your normal collection date is Friday, your Spring Clean-Up will be on Saturday, April 25th.
- If your normal collection date is Thursday, your Spring Clean-Up will be on Saturday, May 2nd.
- If your normal collection date is Wednesday, your Spring Clean-Up will be on Saturday, May 9th.

Yard waste is not included in the Spring Clean-Up, but will be collected if properly prepared, stickered, and set out on your regular collection day. Please do not put material at the curb for Spring Clean-Up until the day prior to the event. Reminder: It is illegal to put electronics at the curb for pick-up at any time, including Spring Clean-Up. For additional information and a list of acceptable items, please visit elmhurst.org, call the Public Works Department at (630) 530-3020 or Republic Services at (708) 345-7050.

2020 Electronic recycling events The City will host a series of Electronic Recycling events at the Public Works Facility (986 S Riverside Drive). These quarterly events will be held in cooperation with DuPage County. The remaining event dates in 2020 are April 25, July 25, and October 24 from 8am - noon. For a list of acceptable items, please visit elmhurst.org/electronicrecycling.

Annual Hydrant Flushing The City’s water distribution crews will be conducting their annual fire hydrant flushing program starting in April. Crews will flush and inspect nearly 2,400 City owned fire hydrants during the course of this program. The process is divided into 5 sections, south to north. The hydrant flushing process takes five weeks and will be completed by the end of May. Hydrant flushing could cause a temporary discoloration of the water as water mains are scoured by high velocity water. It is recommended not to do laundry during the days when the flushing is occurring in your area. Normal flushing will occur between the hours of 6am - 6pm Monday through Friday during this project. Hydrant flushing is necessary for preventive maintenance activity designed to improve the quality and potability of water carried through the City’s water distribution system. The hydrants are tested during this time to make sure they are in working order for firefighting purpose, to test for adequate flow and pressure. Flushing is also done to remove sediment from the pipes in order to maintain water clarity and quality in the distribution pipes. For more information, visit elmhurst.org.

Severe Weather Warnings Spring weather can bring severe storms to the area. When severe weather, such as a tornado threatens the community, Outdoor Warning Sirens will be activated. If severe weather is approaching Elmhurst, and the warning sirens are heard, seek shelter immediately and monitor a television or radio for further instructions. The City activates a monthly scheduled test of the City’s emergency warning siren system at 10 a.m. on the first Tuesday of every month. If you hear the alarm at this time, please be reminded that it is only a test. Sign up at weather.com to get notifications of severe weather conditions.

Prescription Drug Take Back The Elmhurst Police Department will hold a “Prescription Drug “Take Back” in conjunction with the Elmhurst College Recycling Extravaganza on Sat Apr 18th 9:00am - 12:00pm. This opportunity allows residents to take advantage of “drive through drop-off”. The Elmhurst College Recycling Extravaganza takes place from 9:00 a.m. to noon in the Alexander Street parking lot of Elmhurst College. For more information, visit elmhurst.org.

Now hiring! The City Of Elmhurst is NOW hiring for the following positions: Part-Time Police Officers, Civil Engineering Interns, Temporary Summer Seasonal Public Works Labor. Please visit elmhurst.org to apply.

What are the green dots on trees? Forestry puts green dots on trees to indicate trees selected and measured for area-wide trimming. Trimming normally takes place November 1 to April 1 dependent on weather. Forestry uses a white “X” to indicate trees for removal. Tree removals are done year-round.
Census 2020 is coming to your mailbox in March 2020!

Please join us in being counted, Elmhurst!

Here is what you need to know:

The Decennial (10-year) U.S. Census, mandated by the U.S. Constitution, provides for state, county and local funding. Approximately $675 billion in federal funding is distributed each year based on population counts. Additionally, the number of seats of the Illinois Congressional Delegation is determined by the 2020 Census results. The list of how the 2020 U.S. Census results are used is extensive. A successful count in the community leads to accurate political representation, federal dollars that help Elmhurst deliver high quality services, and data that helps Elmhurst continue to attract new development and businesses.

Census data is used all around you
Residents use the census to support community initiatives involving legislation, quality-of-life and consumer advocacy. Local governments use the census for public safety and emergency preparedness. Businesses use census data to decide where to build factories, offices and stores, which create jobs. Real estate developers use the census to build new homes and revitalize old neighborhoods.

Everyone Counts.
The census counts every person living in the U.S. once, only once, and in the right place.

It's in the Constitution
The U.S. Constitution requires a census every 10 years. The census covers the entire country and everyone living here. The first census was in 1790.

It's about fair representation
Every 10 years, the results of the census are used to reapportion the House of Representatives, determining how many seats each state gets.

Taking part is your civic duty.
Completing the census is required: it's a way to participate in our democracy and say “I COUNT!”

It means $675 billion
Participation is critical for your community. When you respond to the census, you help Elmhurst get its fair share of the more than $675 billion per year in federal funds spent on schools, hospitals, roads, public works, and other vital programs. Federal funds, grants, and support to states, counties, and communities are based on population totals and breakdowns by sex, age, race, and other factors. The community benefits most when the census counts everyone. Everyone counts!

ELMHURST.ORG/CENSUS2020
Community Safety

Traffic Safety The Elmhurst Police Department is dedicated to provide the safest environment possible concerning traffic safety. Please do your part in keeping our community safe by being alert while driving, obeying the speed limits and traffic signals and coming to a complete stop at stop signs.

Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan The new City of Elmhurst Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan will guide the improvement of walking and biking in the community. It will determine where and how the City will create and improve infrastructure to make biking and walking safe, convenient and comfortable for all residents of Elmhurst. The website, bikewalkelmhurst.com, has been created to help keep the public informed and gather input for the plan.

CodeRed Feel safe, stay in the know! The City of Elmhurst invites you to sign up for CodeRED, an important tool used by the City to notify the community during situations that impact safety. Please visit elmhurst.org to register.

Video Sharing Partnership In an effort to reduce crime by identifying and apprehending individuals involved in criminal activity, the Elmhurst Police Department is proposing a Video-Sharing Partnership with the Elmhurst community. Residents and business owners with private video surveillance cameras taking footage of public areas such as streets, sidewalks, parking lots, etc., are being asked to register the location and direction of their surveillance cameras online for purposes of possibly providing assistance to police in criminal investigations. A form to sign up for this can be found at elmhurst.org.

Spring Fire Safety Tips:

Smoke Alarm Installation Program Is your home equipped with smoke alarms? Is your smoke alarm yellowed? Does it still have removable batteries? Is your smoke alarm over 7 years old? Call the Elmhurst Fire Department at 630.530.3090 to schedule an appointment for free residential smoke alarm installation.

Clean your chimney Please consider having your chimney inspected as part of your Spring cleaning effort. The NFPA recommends having a chimney inspected and cleaned at least once a year. Getting it out of the way this time of year often means ridding it of buildup that could cause more damage if neglected until the Fall. Plus, chimney technicians will be more likely to have flexible schedules in the springtime.

Clean your dryer The leading cause of clothes dryer-related fires is a failure to keep them clean. Scooping out the lint basket takes all of about 12 seconds, so be sure to clear it out every time you throw a load in. The NFPA also recommends cleaning out the vent pipe at least once a year.

Get rid of clutter Dispose of clutter, including any old papers. Clean your garage of stored newspapers or other rubbish that can fuel a fire.

Clean your grill Make sure your outdoor grill is clean—failing to clean the grill before and after use is a contributing factor in nearly 20% of all grill structure fires. Make sure the grill is set up in an open, outdoor area with nothing flammable (plants, paper products, etc.) nearby.

Outdoor fire place safety The necessary safety precautions for an outdoor fire pit are much the same as for a grill, plus a few others: (1) Never leave young children unattended near a fire pit. (2) Fill a bucket with water and set it next to the pit before you even begin building the fire. (3) Avoid throwing leaves, pine cones, pine needles and paper into the fire. They catch fire quickly and can result in dangerous floating embers. (4) Unless there’s an emergency, avoid dumping the entire bucket of water on the fire to put it out. Instead, spread the pieces of fuel as far apart as possible and gently sprinkle water over them until there are no more glowing embers. This prevents the scatter of embers and a thick cloud of smoke. (5) All fire pits should be registered with the Elmhurst Fire Department.
Historic Preservation Commission Stay tuned! The Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) is an advisory Commission that functions to review potential landmarks, conduct surveys of areas with historical and architectural significance and provide information on the historic and architectural heritage of the City. The HPC is planning events to celebrate Historic Preservation Month in May. Check elmhurst.org for updates!

Pull to the right for sirens and flashing lights The City of Elmhurst urges all motorists to obey the rules of the road and stay focused when driving. Scott’s Law mandates that when approaching a stationary authorized emergency vehicle, when the authorized emergency vehicle is giving a signal by displaying alternately flashing red and blue lights or amber or yellow warning lights, a person who drives an approaching vehicle is to proceed with due caution, yield the right-of-way by making a lane change into a lane not adjacent to that of the authorized emergency vehicle. Proceed with due caution, reduce the speed of the vehicle, maintain a safe speed for road conditions, if changing lanes would be impossible or unsafe. An increase in reckless driving on residential streets has been brought to the attention of City Officials. Please SLOW DOWN and DRIVE WITH CAUTION. Safety is a priority; everything else can wait.

Vehicle Sticker Reminder City vehicle stickers must be purchased and displayed by May 1st on all vehicles registered or garaged within City limits. Stickers are sold at a discount from March through April. Applications have been mailed to residents, and are available to download at elmhurst.org. Stickers can be purchased in person, online or by mail and should be displayed immediately. Money collected through the sale of vehicle stickers goes into the City’s General Fund and is used for roadway maintenance and construction.

Elmhurst TV Have you visited the ElmhurstTV Channel on YouTube? ElmhurstTV provides residents of Elmhurst with information about their government, community and quality of life. Videos include special events and attractions and important messages from the City of Elmhurst. Additionally, watch Elmhurst City Council Meetings live. Regular City Council Meetings typically take place on the first and third Monday of each month at 7:30pm unless the Monday falls on a holiday. Please check the City’s website for meeting dates and agenda items.

Code Enforcement Reminders:

- **Exterior Surfaces** - Maintaining exterior surfaces City code requires all exterior surfaces of your home including but not limited to, doors, door and window frames, porches, trim, decks and fences be maintained in good condition. Exterior wood shall be protected from the elements by paint or other protective covering or treatment. Peeling or chipping paint on any exterior wood surfaces must be removed and the surface repainted. All exterior metal surfaces must be maintained and kept free of rust or corrosion.

- **House Addresses** - Address numbers must be installed on the front of all buildings. Municipal code states that the address numbers shall be a minimum of 4 inches tall and ½ inch wide, of a contrasting color, facing the street and readily visible for emergency vehicles.

Report a coyote sighting To expedite a proactive response to residential concerns of coyotes in Elmhurst, the City has reached out to an Urban Coyote Specialist with a strong record of positive results in other metro-area communities. To help the specialist better understand our coyote population and patterns, the community is being asked for their assistance. Residents who observe a coyote in their neighborhood are asked to go to http://scientificwildlifemanagement.com/report-a-sighting and report the sighting and condition of the animal. Residents who have questions about the online reporting process can contact the Elmhurst Police Department at 630-530-3050. As coyotes are wild animals, residents should never actively seek out or search for them.

Residential Knox Box Program The residential Knox Box program is available to residents with special needs. A Knox Box is a rapid-entry system designed to provide secure emergency access to a home or property to those living alone or with a history or medical or mobility issues. When a fire breaks out or there is a medical emergency, a Knox Box allows the Fire Department to gain immediate access to the home without forced entry damage or delay. The boxes are a metal with a door hanger attached and are meant to be placed over the top of the resident’s front entry door. Inside the box, a key to the residence is securely placed for access by the Elmhurst Fire Department only. For information on obtaining a Knox Box, please call 630.530.3090
New Exhibit Celebrates the Joy of Vintage Playgrounds
For more than a century, playgrounds have been a prominent part of childhood, a source of joyful memories for millions of Americans. The classic metal and wood structures that populated 20th century playgrounds—towering metal slides, giant jungle gyms, whirling merry-go-rounds, bouncing seesaws—are beloved artifacts of growing up.

Elmhurst History Museum’s exhibit, *Once Upon a Playground*, offers a visual tribute to these vanishing playgrounds of the past, celebrating their place in American culture and the collective memories of generations. The exhibit, which commemorates the Elmhurst Park District’s 100th year, combines contemporary photographs of classic equipment, vintage images of playground scenes, and photos from the EHM collection. This national traveling exhibit from ExhibitsUSA is open from April 17 to May 24, 2020.

Last Call for *On the Right Track* Exhibit
Just as all train rides eventually come to an end, so too will our exhibit, *On the Right Track: By Rail to Chicago & Beyond*. The exhibit takes visitors on a journey through 170 years of railroading history to learn how railroads carved out the suburban landscape as we know it today, and how people in the Chicago area experienced the railroad as both passengers and employees. This popular exhibit closes on March 29, so be sure to stop by soon before it departs from our gallery.

Spring Break Railway Days
EHM has planned a week of free train-related activities for families during Spring Break from March 23-27 to connect with our On the Right Track exhibit in its final week. Visit [elmhursthistory.org](http://elmhursthistory.org) (Family Programs section) for the complete schedule, and come join in the fun.

Elmhurst Park District Scavenger Hunt
The Museum invites residents to explore Elmhurst parks during a fun scavenger hunt from April 17 to May 24. Participants can stop by the EHM gift shop for a location/answer sheet or download it at [elmhursthistory.org](http://elmhursthistory.org) (Family Programs section). Visit three of the five Elmhurst parks listed, enjoy the playgrounds, and answer the questions. When finished, return your answer sheet to the museum, view the exhibit, and collect a prize. The Scavenger Hunt is an outdoor connection to the new *Once Upon a Playground* exhibit.

Museum Day 2020 is May 17
Save the date for our annual Elmhurst Museum Day celebration! Ride the Explore Elmhurst trolley to free family-friendly activities at three Elmhurst locations: Elmhurst History Museum, Elmhurst Art Museum and Wilder Park Conservatory. More info at: [elmhursthistory.org](http://elmhursthistory.org) (Special Events section).

Register Kids for Back in the Day Camp
Get ready for our exciting retro summer camp for kids entering 2nd-5th grades! Our Back in the Day Camp is a throwback to the 1950s-1990s with an engaging mix of activities exploring the culture, history, music, art, movies and more of each decade. Phone registration begins March 2 at 9:00 a.m. More info: [elmhursthistory.org](http://elmhursthistory.org)/398/Camps or call Jessie at 630-530-6879.

Sustainable Elmhurst
Get ready for spring by preparing to recycle organic waste and food scraps. In April, residents can participate in the curb side recycling program which composts organic waste or food scraps in order to minimize landfill waste. Elmhurst recycled 2,044 tons of organic waste in 2019. Residents are encouraged to call Republic Services or visit City Hall to sign up for a 65-gallon organic waste toter, or they may use appropriate containers with a yard waste sticker. For a complete list of acceptable and unacceptable materials, visit sustainableelmhurst.org
Stormwater Project Update  The City of Elmhurst, in a continuation of its on-going citywide flood-mitigation effort, has begun engineering design for two additional major stormwater improvement projects that will be built in 2020 and 2021. The first project is located in the Saylor/Swain/Vallette neighborhood in the City’s southwest side. Recently the City has purchased five homes in this area where the City is planning to use new underground storage to reduce flooding. Construction is expected to begin late summer of 2020. The second project is located in the College view neighborhood; directly west and north of York High School. The City entered into an Intergovernmental agreement with School District 205 in 2019 that will allow the City to use the open grass field location directly south of the school for underground storage to reduce adjacent neighborhood flooding. These two construction projects will significantly reduce structural overland flooding for 110 homes and will create an additional 17 ac-ft of new detention storage.

When these projects are complete, the City will have in total completed 13 stormwater improvement projects aimed to reduce and eliminate structural overland flooding for 463 homes. These projects have created 129 ac-ft capacity of stormwater detention storage which is the equivalent to nearly 100 football fields covered with 1 foot of water.

Meet Ozy!  The Elmhurst Police Department is proud to introduce its new K9, a 2 year old German Shepherd named Ozy. Officer Brandt Cappitelli and his K9 partner Ozy recently completed the Northern Michigan Police Canine training program and the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board State Canine Certification. Ozy assists police each day by tracking fleeing suspects, locating missing people, detecting drugs, finding crime scene evidence and protecting officers. Ozy is well-trained to obey his handler’s commands. Stay tuned for Ozy’s monthly announcements with crime prevention tips!