ELK GROVE Villager

November 2025

In This Issue

- Wreaths Across America
- Holiday House Decorating Contest
- Behind the Village's Holiday Tree Tradition
- Toys For Tots Campaign
- Letters to the North Pole
- Parkway Tree Trimming Schedule
- Arlington Heights Road Pedestrian Bridge Update
- Leaf Dumpsters Available Until December 12

EGV Cares Earns Excellence Award from Leading Municipal Management Association

Elk Grove Village Cares, the groundbreaking initiative that has removed barriers to substance use disorder treatment for hundreds of Chicago-area residents, was awarded a Local Government Excellence Award in the "Program Excellence" category by the International City/County Management Association (ICMA). The ICMA is the world's leading association of professional city and county managers and other local government employees.

The Local Government Excellence Award "recognizes influential contributions to local government management and demonstrates how the profession enhances the quality of life in our cities, towns, and counties," according to the ICMA.

The Village of Elk Grove launched the program in 2018 and is the first of its kind in the Chicago area that provides a wide array of services to those seeking treatment for opioid, narcotics, and alcohol addiction.

Elk Grove Village Cares puts compassion first. The program aims to divert individuals with addiction challenges away from the traditional criminal justice system and into treatment and support services. Under the program, anyone seeking to enter an addiction recovery program can contact the Elk Grove Village Police Department, which will then connect them to one of several partner organizations that provide substance abuse recovery services.

The program, which is funded almost entirely by state and federal grants, is accessible to anyone, regardless of their ability to pay for treatment.

"We're hopeful that as awareness of Elk Grove Village Cares increases, more local governments will take on this very stubborn challenge in the name of helping people and making communities safer and healthier"
- Mayor Craig Johnson

Since its inception in 2018, there have been nearly 470 connections to addiction treatment through the Elk Grove Village Cares program. Nearly 90 individuals reached out to Elk Grove Village Cares in 2025.

The program also provides free Narcan, an overdose-reversing medication, via vending machine in the Police Department lobby at Village Hall. Anyone who thinks they need to have Narcan nasal sprays on hand can retrieve them any time of day from the machine. Since the machine was installed in 2023, more than 700 units of Narcan have been dispensed.

Elk Grove Village Cares, according to the ICMA, "brought together numerous stakeholders, and the police department has been able to build and maintain these strong relationships to keep the program in operation. Acting quickly when someone needs help is key to success, and having trusted, reliable treatment partners allows this to happen easily. The program's success has been recognized by multiple state and federal agencies and showcases the importance of local government managers in community health and safety. Ultimately, the availability of these resources leads to a safer, healthier community for all."

Additional information about the Elk Grove Village Cares program is available on the Village website at elkgrove.org/egvcares.

Message from the Board

Congratulating Village Attorney George Knickerbocker on 54 years of service

We would like to congratulate Village Attorney George Knickerbocker on his retirement and extend our gratitude for his 54 years of service as the Village's legal counsel.

Over the course of more than five decades of service, George wrote thousands of ordinances and attended countless Village Board Meetings and court hearings. He has worked with four of our Village Managers and three of our Mayors.

Thank you to George for your many years of service and wisdom, and we wish you well in your retirement!

Coffee with the Board

Thank you to all the residents who participated in Coffee with the Board on November 1!

Join us for the next Coffee with the Board on Saturday, February 7 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at 75 Turner Avenue.

Coffee with the Board is held on a quarterly basis and provides an opportunity for residents to meet with Board members in a relaxed atmosphere to discuss community matters.

Sign Restrictions

If you are planning a garage sale, or looking to promote or share information, please remember that signs are only allowed to be posted on private property. You can post signs on your property or on other private property with the consent of the owner.

Signs are not permitted on utility poles or in parkways (area between the sidewalk and the street). Signs posted contrary to Village ordinance will be subject to removal.

If you have any questions regarding posting signs, please contact the Community Development Department at 847-357-4220.

Oktoberfest Parade Awards

At the October 28 Village Board meeting, winners from the 2025 Oktoberfest Parade were presented with their awards:

- Best Spirit – The Patriots, West Suburban Home School Band
- Most Creative – Elk Grove Public Library
- Best Float – Girl Scout Troop 47445

Contact Us Any Time!

Residents are always invited to share thoughts, concerns, or questions by clicking "Contact Us" on the Village website (www.elkgrove.org). ■

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

This newsletter is published by
the Village of Elk Grove Village
901 Wellington Avenue
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007
Telephone 847-357-4000
TDD 847-357-4088
www.elkgrove.org

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

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

Overnight Parking Allowed for Thanksgiving

The overnight parking restrictions will be waived beginning Wednesday, November 26 at 2 a.m. through Monday, December 1 at 5 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. ■

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/Condo
- Best Overall Holiday Decorations Used on a House

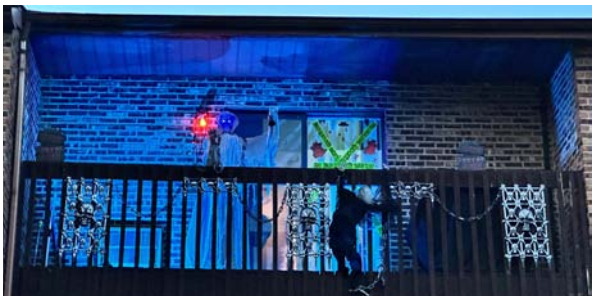
For questions or to enter the Holiday Decorating Contest, please email your name, address, and phone number to lionbarbara@comcast.net. All entries must be received by Saturday, December 6. The judges will select a winner in each category. Voting will take place December 12-20 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Halloween House Decorating Contest

At the November 18 Village Board meeting, winners from the 2025 Halloween House Decorating contest were presented with their awards. Congratulations to all the winners, and we hope to see everyone participate again next year!

Outstanding Overall Halloween Theme —629 Vine Lane

Outstanding Use of Decorations on a Condo/Apartment — 430 Perrie Drive #302



Outstanding Scariest Display — 91 Shelley Court

Outstanding Child Friendly Display — 1197 Leicester Road

Behind the Village's Holiday Tree Tradition

Curious to know how the Village's Holiday Tree makes its way to the heart of Village Green each year? We've answered some FAQs about the Holiday Tree tradition below!

Q: Where does the Village get its Holiday Tree?

A: Since the late 1990s, the Village's Holiday Tree has come from the generous donations of our very own residents! Each year, residents with towering, majestic trees in their yards contact the Village, offering to share their trees with the community. In late summer, the Public Works Department carefully inspects each tree. Once all candidates have been reviewed, Village officials select the perfect one to bring holiday cheer to Village Green.

Q: What does the Village look for when selecting the Holiday Tree?

A: We're always on the lookout for a tree that's just right for the heart of our holiday celebrations! The ideal tree should be:

- **Tall:** Our recent Holiday Trees have been over 25 feet high, standing proudly as the centerpiece of the Village's festivities.
- **Full and Lush:** We seek a tree that has a beautiful, symmetrical shape with plenty of branches to twinkle under the holiday lights.
- **Strong and Sturdy:** The tree must have a single, solid trunk. Trees with two main growing stems are not suitable because they do not have the strength and shape needed.
- **Easily Accessible:** We love all the wonderful trees offered by our residents, but some are in locations that make them difficult to remove in one piece. Ideally, the tree should be in a spot that allows for easy transport.

Q: How does the Village transport the tree to the Village Green?

A: Moving such a grand tree is no small feat! Since 2019, the Village has used a crane and flatbed truck to safely transport our Holiday Tree. The process is similar to putting up a live tree in your home, but on a much larger scale.

First, the tree is secured with a crane before it's cut. Then, the crane carefully lifts it onto a flatbed truck, which carries the tree from its original location to the Village Green—where it stands tall to spread holiday joy!

Visit the Village website to view a video of the process at elkgrove.org/treedonation.

Q: How can I offer my tree for donation?

A: If you have a tree that you think could be the Village's next Holiday Tree, we'd love to hear from you! Simply contact the Public Works Department at 847-734-8800. We're always on the lookout for the perfect tree to light up Village Green for the holidays. ■

This year's Holiday Tree was donated by the Meier Family! Shown above is Kirk Meier first planting a 2-foot-tall Blue Spruce tree in his front yard in 1996 and with the same tree earlier this month.

Earlier this month, the now 34-foot-tall, 4,000-pound tree was carefully cut and transported to Village Green for the whole community to enjoy. ■

Tree Watering Bags – Remove Before Winter

Thank you to all those who participated in the parkway tree watering program this year!

If you have not done so already, it is recommended that tree watering bags be removed before winter for the health of the tree. Leaving the bags on for extended periods of time can trap moisture causing bark to rot, allowing insects and diseases 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. ■

Get Your Home Winter-Ready!

As the days get shorter and the air gets cooler, it's time to prepare our homes for the cold months ahead. A few small steps now can help prevent challenges later.

- **Disconnect all garden hoses and sump discharge extensions.** Drain any remaining water to prevent freezing which can lead to broken pipes.
- **Seal windows and doors.** Preventing heat loss will assist in keeping energy costs low.
- **Inspect and clean your fireplace.** Proper fireplace maintenance can help ensure a safe interior environment.
- **Test smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.** These devices are especially important during winter months to notify occupants of any hazardous conditions.
- **Check your furnace and replace the filter.** Furnace tune ups and filter replacement are recommended to ensure your heating system is functioning efficiently. ■

Toys For Tots Campaign

Elk Grove Village Hall 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 collection boxes at Village Hall (901 Wellington Ave.) through December 11.

Your generosity will ensure that countless children in need will have a special gift to unwrap this holiday season. ■

Santa's elves have installed a mailbox for letters addressed to the North Pole, next to the Holiday Tree on Village Green.

Santa encourages little boys and girls in Elk Grove Village to write him a letter—he promises to write back!

Letters must be dropped off in the mailbox by Tuesday, December 16, in order for Santa to respond before Christmas Day.

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

Letters to
Santa Claus
123 Holly Jolly Lane
North Pole

Upcoming Community Blood Drive

Saturday, December 13
8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Village Hall (901 Wellington Ave.)
To make an appointment, call Vitalant at **877-258-4825** or visit **vitalant.org**. Walk-ins are also welcome.

Parkway Tree Trimming Schedule

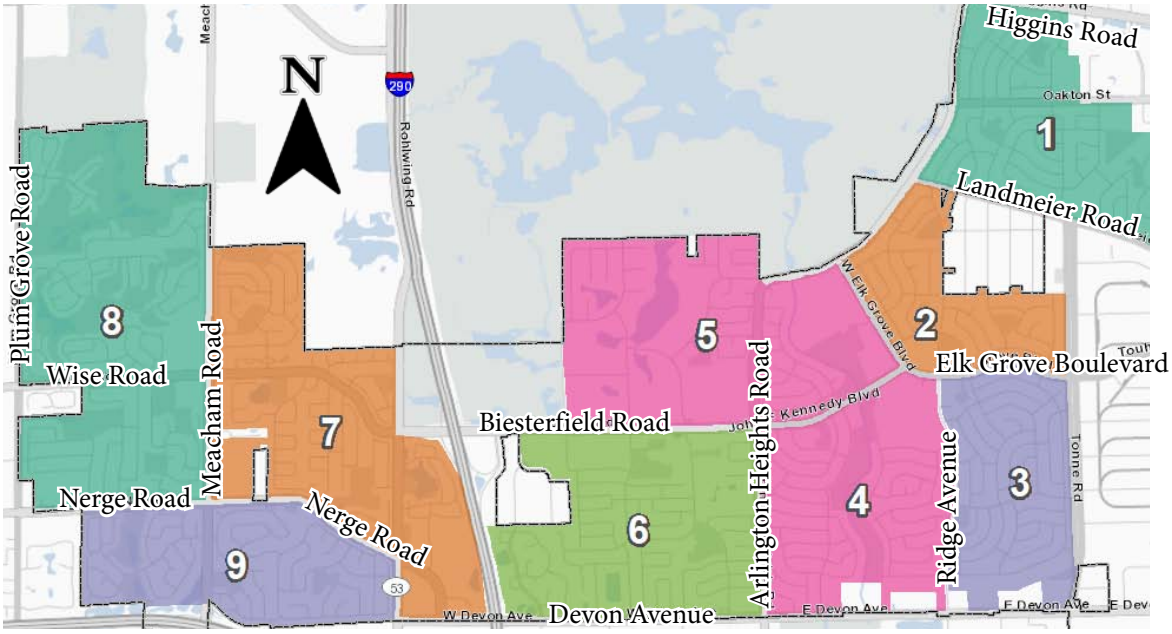
Each winter, the Public Works Department begins the parkway tree trimming program. Currently, the Village has a contract with Homer Tree Care to trim parkway tree branches. Public Works uses the same zone system for tree trimming as the Leaf Collection Program.

Public Works trims trees typically on a 3-year cycle. This is the current schedule for parkway tree trimming work over the next three winter seasons:

Winter	Sections
2025-2026	7, 8, and 9
2026-2027	1, 2, and 3
2027-2028	4, 5, and 6

To view a map and progress of this season's tree trimming, visit elkgrove.org/pruning.

If at any time a branch is blocking a sign, hitting cars, or preventing mowing, call Public Works at 847-734-8800 or report the branch on the MyEGV app.



Lawn Sprinkler Winterization

It's time to winterize your lawn sprinkler systems if you have one! If your backflow preventer is located outdoors, remember to remove and store it someplace warm for the winter. You may cover it outside with a blanket, towels, insulation, and/or heat tape temporarily until it is removed, but these methods would be insufficient protection for the winter. Allowing it to freeze can be a costly mistake!

Once the backflow preventer is removed, remember where you stored it because you will need to give the backflow preventer to your lawn irrigation contractor or plumber next spring to re-install. Keep in mind that the Plumbing Code requires that your backflow preventer be tested upon re-installation every season by a certified tester.

Residential backflow preventers may be found on lawn irrigation systems, wet fire protection systems, hot water heating (boiler) systems, swimming pool fills, or other water features.

We ask for your cooperation with any requests for information that come from Aqua Backflow or from Public Works staff regarding your backflow preventer.

Questions regarding cross-connections between drinking supply and non-drinking water can be directed to Aqua Backflow at info@aquabackflow.com or by calling 847-742-2296.

Residents can drop off holiday lights and extension cords for recycling from **November 1, 2025 through April 30, 2026**.

The Village cannot accept garland, live greens, wreaths, or other non-recyclable materials.

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

The Village accepts 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. for this program. Call **847-357-4220** for more information.

Arlington Heights Road Pedestrian Bridge Update

The new Arlington Heights Road Pedestrian Bridge is coming to life! During a brief road closure in mid-October, our contractor placed the structural steel over the road using a crane. Since then, more of the bridge structure has been constructed.

Once complete, this pedestrian bridge will connect The Vue housing and shopping development area to the Busse Woods Forest Preserve and allow for safe, convenient, and nonstop passage across Arlington Heights Road for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Please visit elkgrove.org/construction for information about this and other construction projects.

Leaf Dumpsters Available

In addition to the curbside leaf collection program, the Village offers two dumpsters for residents to drop off leaves. You can bring your leaves to one of the leaf dumpster locations below until December 12:

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

Public Works Biesterfield Facility
1635 Biesterfield Road

The dumpsters are for leaves only. Other yard waste and garbage is not permitted. Leaves should be placed in yard waste bags and no plastic bags will be accepted. Yard waste stickers are not required. For more information, please visit elkgrove.org/leaves or call Public Works at 847- 734-8800 Monday-Friday from 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

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!

Black Friday Shopping Safety Tips:

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

Cyber Monday Online Shopping Safety Tips:

- Compare products and read the reviews before purchasing.
- Check out the seller to confirm legitimacy.

- Pay by credit card whenever possible - you can dispute unauthorized charges.
- Use websites that start with “https” address for secure checkouts. The “s” stands for secure.
- Keep records of online transactions until you receive your purchases and confirm you received what you ordered.
- Make sure your electronic device has the latest antivirus software updated.
- Read the terms and conditions of the purchase, like refund policies and delivery dates.

Early Sunsets, Extra Caution: Tips for Safer Driving

As the days grow shorter and sunsets arrive earlier, it's a good time to review some important safety reminders. Whether you're driving or simply parking for the night, taking a few extra precautions can help keep you, your passengers, and your belongings safe.

Driving Safely

- Inspect your vehicle to make sure your brakes, lights, and tires are in good condition.
- Keep your windshield and windows clean for clear visibility.
- Allow extra travel time and maintain a safe following distance.
- Obey posted speed limits and adjust your speed for weather and road conditions.
- Watch for pedestrians and cyclists at intersections and crosswalks, and check mirrors carefully before turning.
- Avoid distracted driving & keep your focus on the road.
- Make sure you're well-rested to prevent drowsy driving.

Vehicle Security

- Never leave your vehicle running while it's unlocked or unattended.
- Always lock your vehicle and take the keys with you, even at home or inside a garage.
- Do not leave valuables in plain sight, including your garage door opener.
- Close all windows completely before locking your vehicle.
- Park in well-lit areas whenever possible.
- Report any suspicious activity immediately by calling 9-1-1.

Holiday Fire Safety Reminders

The holidays are a time for joy, gatherings, and festive decorations—but also a time to stay mindful of safety! To help keep your celebrations merry and bright, the Fire Department has shared a few quick reminders to ensure a safe holiday season.

- Water your tree regularly to prevent it from drying out and becoming a fire hazard.
- Inspect holiday lights before use and replace any damaged cords or bulbs.
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking, especially when frying or baking.
- Blow out candles before leaving a room or going to bed. Also consider flameless alternatives!

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 - Mon. 1/1/25~~
- ~~Memorial Day - Mon. 5/26/25~~
- ~~Fourth of July - Fri. 7/4/25~~
- ~~Labor Day - Mon. 9/1/25~~
- Thanksgiving - Thu. 11/27/25
- Christmas Day - Thu. 12/25/25

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.

ELK GROVE Business Matters

November 2025

In This Issue

- Business Ambassador Visits
- Groundbreakings & Ribbon Cuttings
- Makers Bus Tour
- Elk Grove Village Businesses Awarded $100,000 Grant

Elk Grove Economic Development Website Wins Three Top Awards

Launched in January 2025, ElkGroveBusiness.org replaced the former EGVBizHub website with a modern, user-friendly design aimed at enhancing economic development efforts. The new site offers streamlined access to resources and tools for businesses looking to grow and invest in Elk Grove Village.

The new website recently earned three top national awards. The IEDC Gold Award for Excellence in Economic Development, a Web Excellence Award, and a w3 Award recognizing innovation, user experience, and digital creativity. These honors reflect the Village's commitment to providing cutting-edge digital solutions that promote business success and community prosperity.

Scan the QR code to visit our website!

Elk Grove Business Park Ranked Among Top 10 in North America

For the fourth consecutive year, the Elk Grove Business Park has been recognized among the top 10 business parks in North America by Business Facilities Magazine.

Business Facilities Magazine focuses on estimated annual economic impact, and evaluates business parks on their capital investments, on-site logistics and utility capabilities, and amenities for employees in the area.

This continued recognition underscores Elk Grove's strong business climate, thriving industrial community, and reputation as a premier destination for industry and innovation.

Business Ambassador Visit: Forest Packaging

In August, Village officials visited Forest Packaging located at 1955 Estes Avenue through the Business Ambassador program. The team was welcomed by President John Kula, Account Executive Jeff Kula, and Account Manager Andy Dickman for an inside look at the company's history, products, and plans for growth.

Forest Packaging was founded over 50 years ago and relocated to Elk Grove Village in 1996. The company designs and manufactures custom corrugated packaging solutions. From industrial brown box to high end retail displays, they help businesses protect and promote their products.

Employing a cast of industry veterans, many serving for decades at Forest, the company is known for its loyalty, quality, and sustainable products made from domestically sourced materials. You can find their work both in many Chicagoland businesses and in many box stores and retail chains throughout the country.

The visit concluded with a tour of the production floor, giving the team a firsthand look at how designs are transformed from raw materials into finished products. ■

"The Village's strong sense of community has allowed us to build lasting partnerships with local businesses and organizations, while also giving us opportunities to give back through outreach and events."
- Jeff Kula, Account Executive

Business Ambassador Visit: Jersey Jack's Pinball

In September, Village officials visited Jersey Jack Pinball, located at 1850 Greenleaf Avenue, as part of the Business Ambassador program. Founded in 2011 by Jack Guarnieri in New Jersey, Jersey Jack Pinball was born out of a love for pinball and a vision to elevate the game. The company takes a unique approach by producing only one new pinball machine each year—each designed with all the bells and whistles included.

To date, Jersey Jack has released 11 different machines, with The Wizard of Oz remaining its most popular. Other notable games include Toy Story 4, The Godfather, Elton John, and Avatar. Their 2025 game release is a Harry Potter-themed machine, featuring content from all eight films, including actual movie scenes.

In its 14-year history, Jersey Jack Pinball continues to push the boundaries of what's possible while staying true to the game's roots. ■

"What I enjoy most about what we create is watching a person play our game for the first time. When you see them smile and truly enjoy it, knowing you were able to make them happy makes all the hard work worth it."
- Tom Kopera, COO

Groundbreaking: ComEd Substation

Village officials gathered for the groundbreaking of the new ComEd substation at the Stream Data Center Campus, located off Landmeier Road and Dierking Terrace. This substation will support Stream's new 35+ acre hyperscale data center campus, consisting of 3 two-story data centers, with 934,000 square feet of data center space. Stream is investing over $588 million in the project.

"This facility represents a significant investment in our community's digital infrastructure. The new Stream data center campus will help foster innovation and economic growth while reinforcing our commitment to the tech community and the broader goal of fostering a welcoming business environment" - Mayor Craig Johnson

Small Business Webinars Recap: Google Analytics & SEO

In September, Elk Grove Village hosted a free Google Analytics & SEO 101 webinar designed to help local retail and service businesses strengthen their online presence. The one-hour session featured Courtney Stringer, former Grow with Google Digital Coach with over 20 years of experience, who guided 25 participants through practical strategies to boost visibility and understand key website metrics. Attendees gained valuable tools to enhance their digital marketing efforts—supporting continued growth and success for local businesses in Elk Grove Village.

Makers Bus Tour

Elk Grove Village proudly celebrated Manufacturing Day on October 3 alongside the Illinois Manufacturing Association (IMA) and the Illinois Manufacturing Excellence Center (IMEC) with the return of the Makers on the Move bus tour.

This year's tour highlighted the people, products, and innovation that power Illinois manufacturing. Participants visited three Elk Grove Village manufacturers—Arc-Tronics, Mothers' Milk Bank, and FPE Automation—each showcasing how they are advancing technology, craftsmanship, and community impact.

Beers & Brokers: Cheers to Connections!

Elk Grove Village hosted its first-ever Beers & Brokers event in October bringing together commercial real estate brokers, developers, and professionals from related industries for an evening of networking at Mikerphone Brewery. Guests enjoyed local craft brews, great company, and the brewery's signature theme surrounding music and pinball.

The event also provided opportunities to connect with members of the Village's Business Development and Community Development teams and hear updates on ongoing and future development projects happening in the Village. It was an engaging evening celebrating collaboration and growth within the Elk Grove Village business community.

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

Ribbon Cutting: Moqa Café

On Thursday, October 16, Village officials welcomed Moqa Cafe with a ribbon cutting located at 1551 Busse Road.

The modern brunch spot is known for its all-day breakfast, Neapolitan-style pizza, pasta, and freshly brewed coffee, served in a cozy and aesthetic setting.

Moqa Cafe offers a new destination for breakfast favorites and casual dining in Elk Grove Village.

Elk Grove Village Businesses Awarded $100,000 Grant

Two Elk Grove Village businesses—Atomic Industrial Machine and Mothers' Milk Bank—were each awarded a $100,000 Made in Illinois grant to support innovation and growth in Illinois manufacturing.

The companies accepted their checks this month on behalf of the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) and the Illinois Manufacturing Excellence Center (IMEC).

New Businesses: Welcome to Elk Grove Village!

Ezee Fiber
IGT Service
Jett Express
Max-Kar Inc.
New Era Wall Panels LLC
Super Electric Construction Co.
YD PrintPros Inc.