

Civic Connection

. . . A message from your City

City of Elkhorn
 P.O. Box 920
 9 S. Broad Street
 Elkhorn, WI 53121

City Hall	723-2219
Public Works Dept.	723-2223
Parks & Rec. Dept.	723-2223
Light & Water	723-2910
Building Inspection	741-5115
Assessor	1-800-770-3927
Police Department	723-2210
Municipal Court	723-2340
Library	723-2678

Elected Officials

Mayor: Michael Roberts

City Council Districts:

One: Howie Reynolds
 Two: John Karcher
 Three: Doug Gallagher
 Four: John Giese
 Five: Charles Van Dyke
 Six: Julie Taylor

Staff:

City Administrator: Sam Tapson
 City Clerk: Nancy Jacobson
 City Treasurer: Mary Hinske
 Public Works: Terry Weter
 Parks & Recreation: Jeff Simon
 Electric Utility: Art Schmitz*
 *May 1, 2003

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Brush Collection Program

Spring has finally arrived. Most of you are looking at your yards and thinking "clean-up time". Beginning Tuesday, April 8, the City will launch a revised Brush Collection Service.

In order to capture enhanced operating efficiency, while also maintaining a high level of service to residents, the Brush Collection Service will now be offered on a scheduled basis four (4) times throughout the year.

When will brush be collected?

Brush will be picked up Tuesday during the months of April, May, October and November. The following neighborhood collection schedule will be instituted:

1) 1st Week: (April 7th-10th; May

5th-9th, Oct. 6th-10th; Nov. 3rd-7th) - Area east of N. Wisconsin St. and north of E. Walworth St., including both sides of N. Wisconsin St. and E. Walworth St.

2) 2nd Week: (April 14th-17th; May 12th-16th, Oct. 13th-17th; Nov. 10th -14th) - Area east of S. Wisconsin St. and south of E. Walworth St., including both sides of N. Wisconsin St. and E. Walworth St.

3) 3rd Week: (April 21st -25th; May 19th -23rd, Oct. 20th -24th; Nov. 17th-21st) - Area west of S. Wisconsin and south of W. Walworth St., including both sides of W. Walworth St.

4) 4th Week: (April 28th- May 2nd; May 26th-30th, Oct. 27th-31st; Nov. 24th -28th) - Area west of N. Wisconsin St. and north of W. Walworth St., but not including N.

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Record Retention Program completed

A great load as been taken off City Hall. Approximately 33,000 pounds worth of paper, binders and boxes gathered over a multitude of years was stored in the upper auditorium of the building. In about six hours on January 6, the mountains of paper became fodder for recycling.

Shred-It, New Berlin, parked two trucks at the curb of City Hall to shred City records on site to maintain confidentiality.

The process of shredding City records was not taken lightly. Many hours taking inventory, choosing what must and should stay, and organizing what would be destroyed occurred before Jan. 6. Consultant Karen MacFarland Payne, Precision Organizing & Records Management, assisted the City Clerk in this massive undertaking. Payne created retention schedules for the records with official dates of destruction or determination of permanent status. The schedules were submitted to the State Public Records Board for approval, which is required by law. Once the Records Retention Ordinance was passed, shredding took place.



Employee spotlight

Jeff Simons
Parks & Rec. Director

Jeff Simons has come home. Born and raised in Delavan, Jeff is excited about being close to family and working in Elkhorn. The UW-La

Crosse graduate has 8 years of Parks and Recreation experience working in Sparta. Five of those years were as coordinator for Parks and Recreations and later he became Director.

Jeff wants to see how the spring and summer activities run before making changes or incorporating new ones.

His first summer won't be just filled with baseball, softball, and all the other activities planned by the City. Jeff faces three major projects – the bike trail, pool house and recreation center. The pool house will have a major face-lift come September. He is also working with the Recreation Advisory Board in developing a comprehensive plan for parks and recreation.

Jeff and his wife, Traci, are expecting their first child in June.



Jeff is excited about being close to family and working in Elkhorn. The UW-La

PROMOTION

Patrolman Matt Malvitz was promoted to Detective.

Summer Recreation

Mass registration is set for Saturday, April 26, from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at City



Fire Dept. Dance

The "Class of 62" will perform at the annual Firefighter's Dance June 21, from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. located at S. Broad Street, at the Fire Station.



FROM THE EDITOR . . .

In my past profession and as City Clerk, I have tried never to lose sight of keeping the City's history intact. During the records retention project, I was reminded of how important our history is today and in the future. As I joined my consultant going through records, we made some exciting discoveries.

Did you know a black list from the 1800s banishing individuals from certain establishments for their slight indiscretions? When I have mentioned our findings to some long time residents, a few have asked me if any of their family names caught my attention. I didn't seem to recall any, but they are still available for further research.

The most memorable discovery was minutes dating back to 1846. The first minute book began with the Town of Elk Horn written in beautiful script. It told a story of a fledgling town becoming a village and eventually a city. To say the least, the State Historical Society was ecstatic about our find and were happy to be the caretakers.

The books are now being microfilmed with a copy going to the City. The original books will go to UW -Whitewater to be placed in a regional depository for historical records. Other less notable but just as important historical records will be at the Walworth County Historical Society. I believe in the public having access to our City's history, rather than just sitting on a shelf gathering dust. I hope you all agree.

Have a great spring and summer!

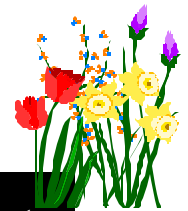
Spring: Time to Clean up

With spring around the corner, so too comes spring-cleaning. This year the Elkhorn Police Department will be working on some spring-cleaning of its own, that being the removal of junked/abandoned vehicles from City streets, parking lots, and private property. "Junked Motor Vehicle," is defined as any motor vehicle which is in such physical or mechanical state as to be incapable of self-propulsion. In addition, unlicensed

motor vehicles stored outside of any building are also prohibited.

Abandoned vehicles with negative influences on neighborhoods. They are health hazards, traffic hazards, and may lower property values. Residents are encouraged to report junked/abandoned vehicles to the Police Department by either stopping at the Police Department or calling 723-2210.

Residents may remain



Special Events

Residents are asked to provide an address or detailed description of where the abandoned vehicle is located along with a description of the abandoned vehicle.

HWY. 67 SOUTH DETOURS SET.

April marks the beginning of a major reconstruction project—STH 67 South.

The project includes Lincoln Street from I-43, Geneva Street, and the downtown block of S. Wisconsin Street. Signals will be added at the intersection of Lincoln and Geneva streets, and a 4-way stop at the intersection of Geneva and Wisconsin streets is also on the agenda.

During Stage One—traffic detour is Deere Road to Nathan Lane and back to Wisconsin Street. Two-way traffic will be accommodated on the STH 67 South southbound lanes from the beginning of the project (I-43) to Deere Road.

Stage Two— traffic is open to the new STH 67 northbound lanes while the southbound are being constructed. Geneva Street is closed from Washington to Wisconsin and Wisconsin is closed to Walworth. Traffic is detoured to Lincoln, STH 11 and back onto STH 67.

All construction on Lincoln is expected to be completed between Deere Road and Geneva prior to the Walworth County Fair.

Yard waste collection to be offered

The recent closing of the compost transfer site leaves many residents without a place to get rid of their yard waste, including grass clippings.



As a result, the City will offer a yard waste collection service beginning in May. Onyx Services, the City's current refuse/recycling hauler, has been contracted to provide a twice monthly collection service.

When is pick-up?

Collection will be provided on Fridays from May through October. The following service schedule will be observed:

- **1st and 3rd Friday:** Households whose regular refuse pickup is Tuesday and Wednesday.

- **2nd and 4th Friday:** Households whose regular refuse pickup is Thursday and Friday.

What is considered to be yard waste?

- Leaves and grass clippings

- Yard/garden debris and brush – including clean, woody vegetative material no greater than three (3) inches in diameter;

- Stumps, vegetables, roots or shrubs with intact root balls are **not** yard waste.

What do I need to do?

- Place yard waste at or within 5 feet of the curb and visually separated from refuse and recyclables.

- Must be placed in containers (30 gallon paper bags; dry cardboard boxes not larger than 3 by 3 feet; metal or plastic garbage cans not to exceed 33 gallons in size; or other easy-to-handle containers no larger than 3 by 3 feet)

- No container shall weigh more than 60 pounds.

- Tightly bundle brush not to exceed 60 pounds and 4 feet in length

- Tightly bundle tree limbs and branches no greater than 3 inches in diameter and 4 feet in length, not to exceed 60 pounds, and bundled with twine (**not** wire or nylon)

- **Plastic bags are prohibited.**

Call Onyx Wastes Services at (800) 248-2373 for questions concerning the yard waste program.

- BRUSH COLLECTION (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Wisconsin St. or W. Walworth St. Residents are asked to observe this schedule and to refrain from placing brush collections at times other than as indicated. Special pickups may be arranged on a "call-in" basis.

Do I have Rules to follow?

- Brush must be brought to curbside by 7 a.m. on scheduled Tuesday but no earlier than the preceding Saturday;
- Cut ends facing the direction that traffic is traveling on the street;
- Must be a minimum diameter of ¾ inches and a maximum of 6 inches;
- Must be a minimum of 4 feet in length with a maximum of 12 feet;
- No vines, rakings or roots.

Is it going to cost me?

- Brush placed at the curbside according to the scheduled program and rules will be collected and chipped without charge.

- If brush is not at curbside by the scheduled time or if the amount is determined excessive a charge will be applied.

First 10 minutes of chipping—\$30

After the first 10 minutes—\$50 per 10 minute increments up to 1 hour

- Residents may call the Public Works office at 723-2223 to schedule an appointment for a special brush collection. The fee is as follows:

First 10 minutes of chipping—\$30

Any chipping after—\$50 per 10 minute increments up to 1 hour

- Major storm damage brush collection will be done at no charge.

Elkhorn Library Open During Construction

The parking lot might be closed, but Matheson Memorial Library is still open! Library users may enter at the old library entrance on Wisconsin Street. Library and public parking patrons will need to find parking in the general downtown area. Library hours are Mon.-Thurs. 9-8, Fri.-Sat. 9-5.

Mini Library at City Hall

The library is staffing a Satellite Library at City Hall to help accommodate users during construction. Patrons may call the library at 723-2678 and ask for materials to be held for them. The patron can then pick up their materials at City Hall on Tuesdays from 3-5 p.m. or Fridays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. A selection of items will be available for drop-in browsing, as well.

Special Day for

On Saturday, June 7, 2003 this year the Police Department will join the White River Cycle Club to celebrate the grand opening of the White River Trail.

The event includes participation in either a 3, 5, or 10-mile bicycle ride, a cookout hosted by the Police Department, and a raffle.

Participants are again asked to donate one non-perishable food item per person and one item per family to benefit the Lakeland Animal Shelter. Registration begins May 1 at the Elkhorn PD Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. until 10 p.m.





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Special Events

Assessor begins work

The City continues its full value assessments to keep the assessed values at 100% annually.

Accurate Appraisal, the City Assessor, is physically inspects 25% of properties over a four-year period. The Assessor also evaluates all other properties through a market value analysis, checks on all sales, major building permits and new construction in 2002. The necessary adjustments are made to keep the assessed values in line with current market values. Property owners will be notified of changes.

Open Book with the assessor is scheduled for Thursday, May 22, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday, May 23, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 9 S. Broad St. Closer to the dates for Open Book, property owners may make an appointment by calling City Hall.

State Budget Deficit: How will it affect Elkhorn?

The State's financial problems have been well-documented over the past 12 months. By most estimates, State government is facing a deficit of more than \$3 billion by mid-2005. Among the many cost reduction measures advanced by the Governor is a 7% reduction in the Shared Revenue Program.



Distributions to local government would be decreased by an estimated \$17.28 per capita. For Elkhorn this would mean the loss of approximately \$130,000—\$140,000 of general operating revenue in 2004. The legislature is just beginning its deliberation on the budget, a process that may yield even deeper cuts in the Shared Revenue Program. So, while the final State budget is months away, it seems clear that local governments throughout the State will be faced with fewer operating dollars in 2004.

This impending revenue loss leads many individuals to conclude that property taxes will be increased to offset shared revenue reductions. Whether or not increased property taxes will result depends on the level of shared revenue reductions contained in the approved State budget. At the level proposed by Gov. Doyle it is unlikely that a tax increase would be necessary. If substantially deeper cuts are made then property taxes are more likely to increase. Regardless of the final outcome in the State budget, some degree of change in City services may be expected. Every effort will be made to maintain service levels while also minimizing the impact on property taxes.