
**THE
COURIER-NEWS**

SECTIONS

ADVERTISEMENT

FEEDBACK

ELGIN COURIER-NEWS

SUBURBS

Up to 300 more chickens could call Elgin home

By MIKE DANAHEY
AUG 24, 2017 AT 12:53 PM



Subscribers, get Chicago's top newsletter

Sign up for Daywatch

Peter Mangan, part of the original group to keep backyard chickens in Elgin, kept this chick under a heat lamp in the basement of his family's home until it was ready to live outside in a backyard coop. (Mike Danahey / The Courier-News)

Up to 300 more chickens eventually could be living legally within Elgin backyards, as the City Council moved along an amendment to an existing ordinance Wednesday night.

By a 9-0 vote, the Council agreed to expand the number of households able to obtain the required licensing for keeping up to four chickens living in coops that must also be permitted and set up under certain parameters in backyards. The council could vote on the matter Sept. 13.

FEEDBACK

ADVERTISING

Council member Tish Powell noted that the trial chicken-keeping program Elgin launched in 2015 was controversial at the time, but, despite not having any pets herself, she supported.

"This is for people who are serious about keeping chickens and for doing it the right way," Powell said.

Subscribers, get Chicago's top newsletter

Sign up for Daywatch

Council member Terry Gavin said he had been in favor of having the trial program until he heard from many residents who were against allowing such. But there have been no complaints received by the city about the legally kept fowl and the program has not been a burden on staff.

[\[Most read\] Remembering the Standard Club, which lived large, then passed quietly »](#)

"It's worked out well," Gavin said.

Council member Carol Rauschenberger and Gavin agreed that allowing limited chicken-keeping provided people opportunity for "taking control of their own food system," as Rauschenberger put it.

Rauschenberger recalled that the trial grew out of an appeal from 15 residents to the city's Sustainability Commission in 2014.

The program was modified to allow chicks to be kept indoors until big enough to live safely outside in cooped enclosures, and grew from 15 homes to 25 homes for 2016 with a wait list created.

[Subscribers, get Chicago's top newsletter](#)

[Sign up for Daywatch](#)

Elgin Communications Specialist Molly Center, who also serves as the Sustainability Coordinator, told the Council that the wait list stood at eight homes at the end of last year but has grown to 34 during 2017. Responding to a question from Council member Corey Dixon, Center said people have been on the list for as long as 18 months.

[\[Most read\] Five reputed gang members charged in RICO conspiracy that includes brazen fatal shooting of Chicago rapper FBG Duck »](#)

Center said the expansion to 100 households permitted to have chickens allows all those now on the wait list to participate while providing a manageable number of sections

Jumble Daily & Crossword
Play Now

"This limit prevents the program from expanding too rapidly and allows for more effective enforcement for those households not in the program," according to a memo for the meeting.

FEEDBACK

Subscribers, get Chicago's top newsletter

[Sign up for Daywatch](#)

FEEDBACK



Elgin Communications Specialist and Sustainability Coordinator Molly Center looks over a photo of an Elgin home that has a backyard chicken coop at the Elgin City Council meeting Wednesday night. (Mike Danahey / The Courier-News)

The meeting material also notes that Batavia, Downers Grove, Evanston, Naperville, St. Charles and West Dundee don't limit the number of chicken-keeping permits they issue, while Decatur and Chicago require no permits to build chicken coops.

At least two people at the meeting were happy with the Council's decision.

Audrey Hinchley said she and her family decided to move from Streamwood to Elgin's west side in part because Elgin permits having backyard chickens. Hinchley was at the Wednesday meeting with her 7-year-old daughter, Claire, and saw having backyard chickens as a way to provide eggs as well as a learning experience for her family.

Subscribers, get Chicago's top newsletter

Sign up for Daywatch

She asked Center to add her name to the list of the people interested in being among the next Elgin residents to keep the birds.

mdanahey@tribpub.com

Topics: Elgin

FEEDBACK

Request A Consultation With One Of Our Specialists

Hunter Douglas | Sponsored

Dr. Kellyann: Weight Loss After 50 Comes Down To This One Thing

Dr. Kellyann | Sponsorizzato

What Are the Best Travel Credit Cards of 2021? Find Out.

NerdWallet | Sponsorizzato

Discover Hunter Douglas Blinds With One Of Our Experts

Hunter Douglas | Sponsored

25 Best Small Lake Towns in the U.S.

Far & Wide | Sponsorizzato

Dr. Kellyann: "Weight Loss After 50 Comes Down To This One Thing"

Dr. Kellyann | Sponsorizzato

This is the One Technology People with Diabetes Need

Dexcom | Sponsored

Subscribers, get Chicago's top newsletter

[Sign up for Daywatch](#)

Chicago White Sox reliever Mike Wright Jr. is suspended for 3 games manager Tony La Russa will serve an automatic 1-game ban

Chicago White Sox pitcher Mike Wright Jr. received a three-game suspension and a fine for intentionally throwing at Los Angeles Angels designated hitter Shohei Ohtani, Major League ...

Chicago Tribune

Ex-wife of Chicago Bulls great Michael Jordan sells River North mansion for \$4.5M

The mansion has six full bathrooms, three half-bathrooms, four fireplaces and a five-stop elevator.

Chicago Tribune

Which Travel Card Can Earn You Points Towards Your Dream Getaway?

NerdWallet | Sponsored

Pierce Brosnan's Wife Lost 120 Pounds - This Is Her Now

Noteabley | Sponsorizzato

Portugal has nearly run out of people to vaccinate

Washington Post | Sponsorizzato

Defy city vaccine deadline, Chicago police union boss tells officers. Mayor responds to threat of FOP lawsuit: 'Bring it'

Chicago Tribune

Five reputed gang members charged in RICO conspiracy that includes slaying of Chicago rapper FBG Duck

Chicago Tribune

15 Most Gorgeous Mountain Towns in America

Thrillist | Sponsored

Subscribers, get Chicago's top newsletter

[Sign up for Daywatch](#)

You May Like

Sponsored Links

Skip the Doctor and Upgrade to the World's Smartest CPAP

Easy Breathe CPAP Company

Carhartts New Line Of Gear is Tremendous

All Things Apparel | Search Ads

No Offense, But These 2 Big Retailers Aren't The Cheapest Places To Shop

MoneyWise.com

Elgin: Startup Is Changing the Way People Retire

SmartAsset

by Taboola

ADVERTISEMENT

CONNECT



TRIBUNE PUBLISHING

New York Daily News

The Baltimore Sun

Orlando Sentinel

Sun Sentinel of Fla.

The Morning Call of Pa.

Hartford Courant

Subscribers, get Chicago's top newsletter

Sign up for Daywatch

[The Daily Meal](#)[Studio 1847](#)**COMPANY INFO**[Careers](#)[About us](#)[Help Center](#)[Privacy Policy](#)[Terms of Service](#)[Archives](#)[Contact us](#)[Local print ads](#)[Manage Web Notifications](#)[Chicago Tribune Store](#)[Media kit](#)

Copyright © 2021, Chicago Tribune

[Subscribers, get Chicago's top newsletter](#)[Sign up for Daywatch](#)