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Explore Elgin's Architecture Like a Visitor

Column written by Madison Bishop, Marketing & Experience Specialist for the Explore Elgin Area tourism bureau.

Every year, visitors come to Elgin for tournaments at the Elgin Sports Complex, weddings at the unique venues around town and to enjoy all of the natural amenities Elgin has to offer. Whatever the reason is for the visit, they may find themselves exploring the diverse housing stock that has attracted residents from near and far to call Elgin home. You too can spend your weekend getting to know your city from the visitors' point of view, and summer is the perfect time.

Start your adventure by heading to the Elgin History Museum, located in Old Main—an 1856 landmark building. The museum has interactive exhibits that will have the whole family learning how Elgin became the city we all know and love. Residents can learn why some houses have stones lining their front walls or why some neighborhoods were developed with similar homes. Once you gain knowledge of how and why various homes and buildings were built, grab a map and start your self-guided tour.

Spend the afternoon exploring the Sears kit homes, award-winning painted ladies in the historic districts and even some downtown

buildings with a unique story. Most of these architectural treasures are within walking distance of the museum and can be enjoyed with a comfortable pair of walking shoes.

After touring neighborhoods, make sure to end your day in downtown Elgin, where its historic commercial district is full of architecture dating back to the 1800's. Situated on the scenic Fox River, a tour of downtown around sunset is makes for the perfect backdrop for photos.

Downtown Elgin also has a plethora of unique shops that you can step into while taking the tour. You can also grab a refreshment or meal at one of the many local restaurants. Consider planning your adventure on a Friday afternoon so you can catch the Downtown Elgin Farmers Market (see below).

Get started on planning your hometown exploration today at ExploreElginArea.com.



Downtown Elgin Farmers Market

The Downtown Neighborhood Association of Elgin hosts the Downtown Elgin Farmers Market every Friday from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. through mid-October on Spring Street between Chicago Street and Fulton Street. You can shop a wide variety of vendors offering fresh fruits and vegetables, eggs, meats, honey, herbs, spices, gourmet olives and nuts, sweets, breads, handmade goods, body care products and more. For complete details about vendors, live entertainment, market activities and how to explore around town, please visit DowntownElgin.com. Come for the market, stay for a meal and enjoy all the wonderful local businesses that make up Downtown Elgin!





Fourth of July Fireworks Sunday, July 4 at Festival Park

The fireworks display is scheduled to begin between 9:15-9:30 p.m. and will be lasting 20-30 minutes.

July Events

2 Downtown Elgin Farmers Market, Spring Street (Chicago to Fulton)
4 Fireworks Display, Festival Park
6 Adventures in the Zoo - Follow That Critter!, Lords Park Zoo
6 Free Concert in the Park - Grand Groove Hotel, Wing Park Bandshell
9 PAWS on the Porch storytime - What is a Raccoon?, Lords Park Zoo
9 Downtown Elgin Farmers Market, Spring Street (Chicago to Fulton)
9 Free Movie in the Park, find movie and location information at cityofelgin.org/movies
10 Uncaged in the Zoo: Lance the Milk Snake + Toby the Turtle, Lords Park Zoo
11 Classic Car Show, Elgin History Museum
13 Free Concert in the Park - Saturday June Band, Wing Park Bandshell
15 Brown Bag Lunch: "The Story of the Murder at Bloody Gulch Road," Elgin History Museum
16 PAWS on the Porch storytime - What is a Sloth?, Lords Park Zoo
16 Downtown Elgin Farmers Market, Spring Street (Chicago to Fulton)
16 Free Movie in the Park, find movie and location information at cityofelgin.org/movies
17 Uncaged in the Zoo - Scales & Tales Traveling Zoo, Lords Park Zoo
20 Adventures in the Zoo - Birds of Prey, Lords Park Zoo
20 Free Concert in the Park - Crawford's Daughter, Wing Park Bandshell
23 PAWS on the Porch storytime - What is an Owl?, Lords Park Zoo
23 Downtown Elgin Farmers Market, Spring Street (Chicago to Fulton)
23 Free Movie in the Park, find movie information at cityofelgin.org/movies, Festival Park
24 Trash Drop Off Event, Waste Management Transfer Station
24 Uncaged in the Zoo - Wings & Talons Raptors, Lords Park Zoo
27 Adventures in the Zoo - Know Your Dinos!, Lords Park Zoo
27 Free Concert in the Park - Projecto 7, Wing Park Bandshell
30 PAWS on the Porch storytime - What is a Dinosaur?, Lords Park Zoo
30 Downtown Elgin Farmers Market, Spring Street (Chicago to Fulton)
30 Free Movie in the Park, find movie information at cityofelgin.org/movies, Festival Park

August Events

3 Adventures in the Zoo - Rocks Rock!, Lords Park Zoo
3 National Night Out, various locations, find information at cityofelgin.org/police
6 Free Movie in the Park, find movie information at cityofelgin.org/movies, Festival Park
7 "Dog Days" with Elgin Police Department K-9 Unit, Lords Park Zoo
8 Pool closes for the season, Wing Park
13 Farm Zoo closes for the season, Lords Park
15 Annette Baldwin presents "Carnegie Libraries in Illinois," Elgin History Museum
19 Brown Bag Lunch: Miss Elgin of 1925 with Jerry Turnquist, Elgin History Museum
21 Elgin National Road Race Car Show, Elgin History Museum
28 Meet the Bison (by reservation only, email Sharry at blazier_s@cityofelgin.org)

Find more information on all City events at cityofelgin.org/events.

For more community events and things to do, visit ExploreElginArea.com.

Hemmens Cultural Center



Check for event updates at hemmens.org.



July is Parks and Recreation Month:
cityofelgin.org/parks





Habitat for Humanity Programs are Great Resources for Those Needing Assistance with Home Maintenance



A Brush with Kindness (ABWK) and Critical Home Repair (CHR) provide minor and major, interior and exterior, repair services to:

- Prevent houses from deteriorating
- Address health, life and safety issues or code violations
- Prevent families from being displaced
- Protect affordable housing stock in our communities
- Ensure families live in safe, healthy and well-maintained homes

Both ABWK and CHR serve homeowners in the Northern Fox Valley service area who:

- Have household incomes at or below 60% of HUD median income
- Own (name on title) and live in the home as their primary residence
- Have paid their property taxes in full
- Have a fair cash value or property value less than \$200,000 (see tax bill)
- Have homeowner's insurance
- Are not in danger of foreclosure of their home and are not planning on selling their home in the next 24 months

Applications are available at habitatnfv.org, or can be mailed to you by calling 847-836-1432.



A Brush with Kindness (ABWK)

ABWK is an exterior home preservation service that offers painting, landscaping and minor exterior repair services for low-income homeowners. Work is completed by groups of 10-20 volunteers under the supervision of Habitat for Humanity staff.



Cost recovery: As the scope of ABWK projects is limited (painting and landscaping), a flat \$100 is repaid by the homeowner upon completion of the work.

Critical Home Repair (CHR)

Habitat for Humanity's CHR program is designed to serve low-income homeowners requiring assistance with health, safety or code violation issues on the interior or exterior of their homes. Examples of potential repair projects include: roofing repairs, accessibility decks or ramps or mechanical equipment replacement such as furnaces and water heaters. Work will be completed by volunteers when appropriate, with subcontractors when repairs are more technical or require a licensed professional.

Cost recovery: As the scope of CHR projects is more extensive, a percentage - approximately 25% - of the repair cost is repaid by the homeowner. For example, if the repair cost is \$3,000, the homeowner will pay \$750 + 100% of the cost for permits. Homeowners will be informed of the repayment amount prior to the work starting and will have the opportunity to decide whether or not to move forward with the project. If work is authorized by the homeowner, one half of the homeowner's portion will be due before the work is started, with the balance due upon the satisfactory completion of the work.



Volunteer

Habitat for Humanity of Northern Fox Valley uses volunteers to assist with the ABWK and CHR programs as well as others. Interested in helping? Register to volunteer at volunteerhabitatnfv.org.



Donate to ReStore

Habitat for Humanity ReStore takes donations of building materials, furniture and appliances. Habitat for Humanity is a 501(c)3 charity, so donations are tax deductible.

To schedule a pick-up for ReStore Elgin, email donate@restoreelgin.org with your name, address, phone number and photos of the item(s) you wish to donate.

Find more information, including a list of what items ReStore can and cannot accept, visit habitatnfv.org/restore/donate-to-restore.





Sustainable Elgin Community Grant

The City of Elgin Sustainability Commission (ESC) has a new grant program—the Sustainable Elgin Community Grant Program—to provide individuals and groups reimbursement grants on projects that work to achieve a more sustainable community and involve community engagement and/or education. Awardees will receive up to \$1500 for their projects, and applications will be accepted through October 31, 2021.

Any group of individuals located within the Elgin corporate limits is eligible to apply. Funds are available on a first-come, first-served basis this year.

The ESC will review and evaluate each application. The ESC will not fund more than 50% of a proposed project. Approved projects are awarded grants in the form of a reimbursement payment. Recipients will be required to complete a project report before receiving their final grant reimbursement to highlight the impact of the project.

The grant application and more information including grant guidelines, eligibility restrictions, scoring criteria and reimbursement methods are available at cityofelgin.org/sustainabilitygrant.



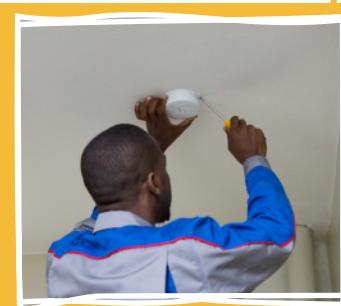
Smoke Detector Program

Properly installed and maintained smoke detectors are the first line of defense during a fire event, notifying occupants of a fire while the incident is in its beginning stages and allowing people to safely evacuate the home or building. Working smoke detectors are not only extremely beneficial, but they are also required by state law.

Residents can now request Elgin Fire Department staff come out and install a smoke detector in their home. The fire department will install one 10-year, battery-operated smoke detector in a home that is owner occupied. To request a smoke detector installation, complete the form at cityofelgin.org/requestsmokedetector.

Additional information on smoke detectors and the maintenance of them can be found at cityofelgin.org/smokedetector.

*Note: The fire department does not install hardwired smoke detectors. If you are looking for a detector to install on your own, please call 847-931-6175 to see if any detectors are available for pickup.



Fall Tree Planting Program

Elgin's tree planting program was developed to sustain our neighborhood forests and provide value to properties. Planting typically occurs twice per year, once in the spring and once in the fall.

Residents can request a new tree be planted by the City of Elgin in the tree bank, the area between the curb and sidewalk on most streets. Those interested can view the recommended species list and fill out the tree bank request and tree selection forms, both available at cityofelgin.org/treplanting. The application deadline for the fall planting is August 15.