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Kick off Your Weekend in Downtown Elgin

Come for the Market. Stay to Explore.

Column written by Jennifer Arndt, Marketing Coordinator for the Downtown Neighborhood Association of Elgin

Downtown Elgin offers a wealth of options for dining, entertainment and family fun along the beautiful Fox River. To kick off your weekend, start by attending the Downtown Elgin Farmers Market. Hosted by the Downtown Neighborhood Association (DNA) of Elgin, the market is open every Friday through mid-October from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. on Spring Street. Shoppers can find a wide variety of vendors offering fresh fruits and vegetables, eggs, meat, honey, breads, sweets and more. It's always a fun time with live entertainment and enjoyment for the whole family. DNA encourages market shoppers to also support local businesses through a special Loyalty Program.

Save your receipts! If you spend \$100 at Downtown Elgin businesses in any given week you can earn a \$5 Farmers Market token. Simply show your valid receipts at the market information booth. It's DNA's way of saying "thank you" for supporting local businesses.

Support Local Businesses in Downtown Elgin

Grab a healthy smoothie from Goose's Natural Juices or treat yourself to some gourmet popcorn at Mama Lee's. Stay for dinner at one of our wonderful local restaurants such as Al's Café, Elgin Public House, Kubo Sushi or BeaUnique Latin Kitchen. Enjoy a cocktail at Martini Room, Vern's Tavern or Lounge 51 inside the Dream Hall. The ever-evolving Dream Hall is a happening place, home to Viator Coffee, Lounge 51, Peru Caters, Mr. Hibachi Express & Sushi, Breakfast Urbano and unique pop-ups almost every weekend.

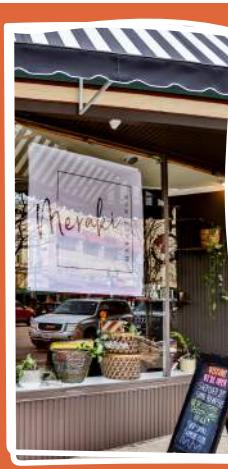
Shoppers will want to take some extra time to stroll around town and visit the unique retail shops including ABLE Shoppe, Meraki Market Hub, Rediscover Records, Elgin Knit Works, Elgin Antiques & Uniques plus Whatnots & Whimsies. Children will also enjoy the experience of going "downtown," especially after a stop at Cook's Sweet Boutique! Parents will want to visit Side Street Studio Arts in the market zone to inquire about their wonderful art programs for all ages. Be sure to spend some time playing at Festival Park and make a stop at the Gail Borden Public Library to check out books for the weekend, and to grab an afternoon treat from Roll N Donuts!

The farmers market extends to 7pm allowing for an easy transition into enjoying a little nightlife. Head to Danny's on Douglas for live music or visit the Martini Room for their award-winning cocktails. If you're feeling lucky, visit the Grand Victoria Casino and if you're up for adventure, try an escape room at Escapade 360.

If local history is more your style, plan to visit the Elgin History Museum where you can learn about Elgin's rich heritage through an impressive collection of permanent and rotating exhibits. Another great way to get to know Elgin is by walking through some of the surrounding neighborhoods. For an interactive map and guides to get you started, visit downtownelgin.com/ElginWalks. While you're walking be sure to check out the public art. There are dozens of different sculptures and murals scattered around downtown.

Whether you do some shopping, go out for dinner or take a walk to see the sights, Downtown Elgin is a destination where our community can come together. Support local businesses, experience new adventures and to enjoy our vibrant downtown.

To learn more about the market, local businesses and find out everything happening weekly in Downtown Elgin, sign up to receive the weekly "Spotlight" email from the DNA. Find more information at DowntownElgin.com and follow the DNA on Facebook at [Facebook.com/DowntownElgin](https://www.facebook.com/DowntownElgin).





September Events

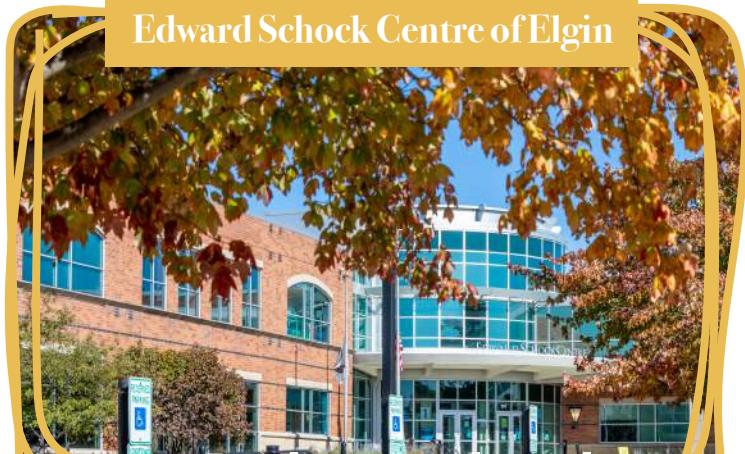
- 2 Ira Marcus – “Capturing History Through the Photographer’s Lens,” Elgin History Museum
- 3-12 Elgin Fringe Festival, various locations, elginfringefestival.com
- 3 Downtown Elgin Farmers Market, Spring Street (Chicago to Fulton)
- 3 Greenroom Productions presents First Friday Improv, Hemmens Cultural Center
- 7 Jim Gibbons – “A Date We Will Always Remember: 9/11/2001,” Elgin History Museum
- 11 September 11 Remembrance Ceremony, find location at cityofelgin.org/events
- 10 Downtown Elgin Farmers Market, Spring Street (Chicago to Fulton)
- 11 Second Saturday Kids Day: Owls, Elgin Public Museum
- 17 Downtown Elgin Farmers Market, Spring Street (Chicago to Fulton)
- 18 Tours in Spanish, Elgin History Museum
- 18 Elgin Short Film Festival, Hemmens Cultural Center
- 24 Downtown Elgin Farmers Market, Spring Street (Chicago to Fulton)
- 25 Meet the Bison!, Lords Park Zoo (by reservation only, email Sharry at blazier_s@cityofelgin.org)
- 25,26 Elgin History Museum presents the 34th annual Cemetery Walk, Bluff City Cemetery

October Events

- 1 Downtown Elgin Farmers Market, Spring Street (Chicago to Fulton)
- 1 Greenroom Productions presents First Friday Improv, Hemmens Cultural Center
- 2 Elgin Fire Department Open House, Station 2
- 2 Kim Sigafus: Journeying through the American Indian way of life, Elgin Public Museum
- 2,3 Elgin Symphony Orchestra presents Pines of Rome, Hemmens Cultural Center
- 3 Buggy Barn Open House, contact Elgin History Museum for registration to tour this private collection
- 8 Downtown Elgin Farmers Market, Spring Street (Chicago to Fulton)
- 9 Second Saturday Kids Day: Bison, Elgin Public Museum
- 10 Annual Meeting - William Pack – “The Essential Great Chicago Fire” – 150th anniversary, Elgin History Museum
- 15 Downtown Elgin Farmers Market, Spring Street (Chicago to Fulton)
- 15 The Edward Twins from Las Vegas present Cher, Elton, Dolly, Streisand, Hemmens Cultural Center
- 16 Atusa Freyer Book Event: Mommy, am I?, Elgin Public Museum
- 16 Tours in Spanish, Elgin History Museum
- 16,17 Elgin Symphony Orchestra presents Rocky Horror Picture Show Tribute, Hemmens Cultural Center
- 21-24 Little Park of Horrors, Wing Park
- 28-31 Little Park of Horrors, Wing Park
- 30 Henry Cervantes: Aztec Dance - Xochitl-Quentzal - Mexico’s Ancient Culture and Living Tradition, Elgin Public Museum
- 30 Meet the Bison!, Lords Park Zoo (by reservation only, email Sharry at blazier_s@cityofelgin.org)
- 30 Art Harvest, DuPage Court

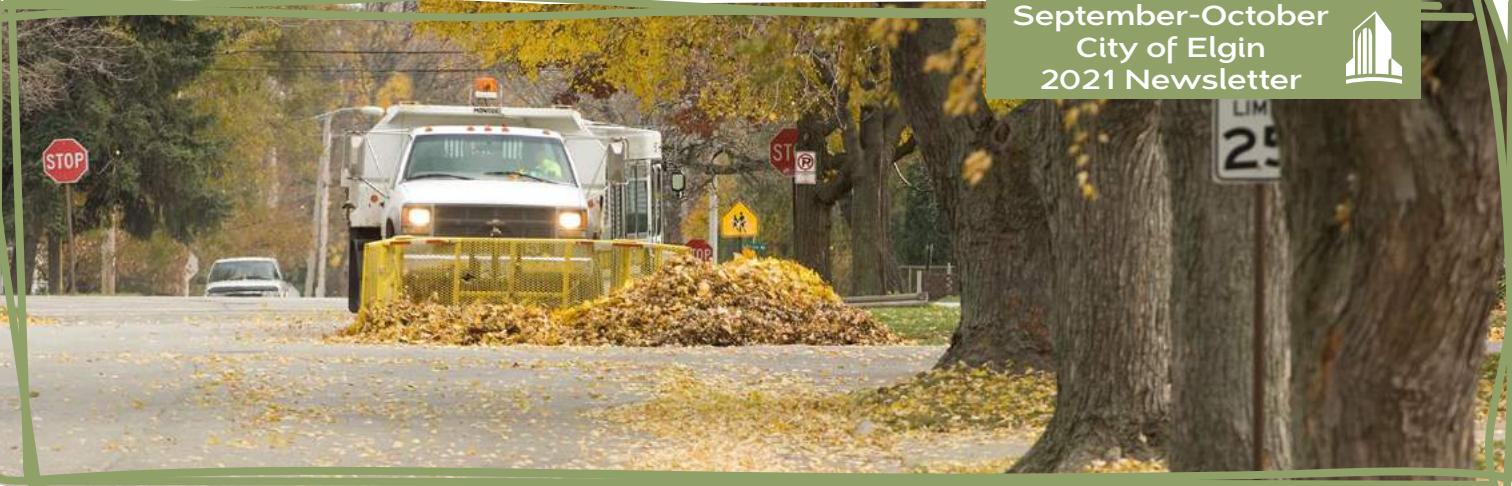
Find more information on all City events at cityofelgin.org/events. For more community events and things to do, visit ExploreElginArea.com.

Edward Schock Centre of Elgin



The Centre is home to a fitness center, track, racquetball and basketball courts, three swimming pools, a rock climbing wall, banquet facility, preschool center, ceramics studio and birthday party rooms. With programming options available to people of all ages and interests, the facility receives over 800,000 visitors each year.

Learn more at centreofelgin.org.



Fall Leaf Collection Programs Begin in October and Run Through December 3

Free Yard Waste Bag Collection

Beginning October 1, Waste Management will not require stickers for yard waste bags as part of the fall leaf collection program. Bagged leaves are collected weekly on residents' regular garbage pickup day.

State law prohibits the disposal of leaves and other yard waste in landfills; therefore, these materials cannot be placed in plastic garbage bags or mixed with normal garbage. Leaf burning is also prohibited in Elgin.

Yard waste includes materials such as leaves, brush, branches, grass clippings, plants, weeds and other similar waste. Yard waste must be placed in biodegradable paper bags (maximum 33 gallons and 45 pounds) for collection. Yard waste placed in plastic bags will not be collected.

On-Street Leaf Collection

Beginning Monday, November 1, weather permitting, the City of Elgin will collect leaves raked out into the street in designated areas. Leaves should be raked along the curb by 6:00 a.m. on the special collection day for the designated area, shown on the map to the right. Leaves placed in the street after the crews have passed will not be collected until the next scheduled date. *Note: The on-street collection day may differ from your bagged leaf collection day.

Please do not mix trash, branches or other yard waste with leaf piles. Also, avoid parking on the street on scheduled leaf collection days; leaf piles blocked by cars will not be collected.

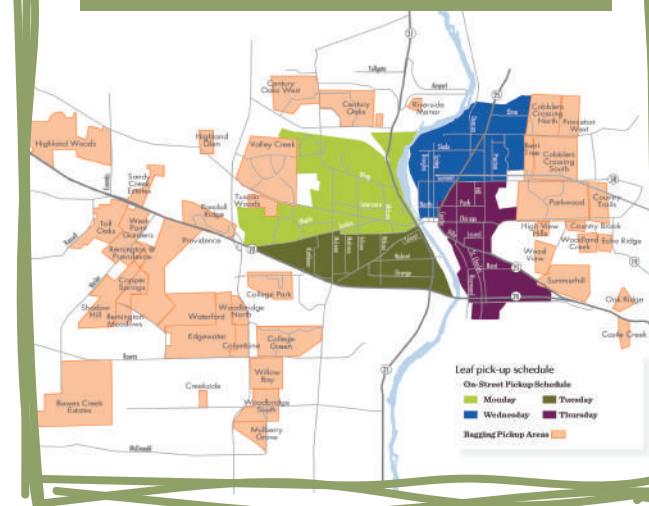
Residents living in the on-street collection areas may also place leaves in yard waste bags for free collection by Waste Management as described above.

Why the later start this year? The City continues to make data driven decisions to best and most efficiently serve the community. Collecting leaves on the street in designated areas is a core service that the public works department delivers, along with snow and ice control and summer construction work. Data is analyzed to ensure practices make the best use of resources, reducing any idle time and increasing productivity. Data collected over recent years suggests that earlier starts to on-street leaf collection does not affect the overall program delivery or total collection volumes. So don't worry, public works will still collect all your leaves. The additional week in October, previously programmed to collect leaves, will now provide extra time for construction efforts, such as streets maintenance.

Key Dates & Information

- October 1- No stickers required for yard waste bags begins, citywide.
- November 1- On-street leaf collection begins in designated areas.
- December 3- Last day of collection for both programs, weather permitting.
- All yard waste bag pickups occur on residents' regular garbage collection day. See map below for on-street leaf collections days based on designated area.
- Avoid parking on streets on scheduled leaf collection days. Piles blocked by cars will not be collected.

Find this map at cityofelgin.org/yardwaste.



Don't Care to Rake? Recycle Your Leaves.

As part of Elgin's sustainability efforts, residents are encouraged to compost or mulch leaves into their lawn with a lawnmower. Mulching controls weeds, uses less fertilizer, enables better water infiltration, reduces thatch and improves soil quality.



Conservation@Home

Conservation@Home is the ultimate everyone-can-do-something program offered by The Conservation Foundation. It starts with you making some earth-conscious choices in your home landscaping. Replace some turf grass with beautiful and drought-resistant native plants, maybe install a rain barrel or two and reduce or eliminate your chemical use. Whether you are starting from a grass lawn or have existing natural areas on your property, the Conservation@Home program can help you make your yard more attractive to wildlife and retain precious rainwater. Steps you can take include planting native plants that support butterflies and other pollinators, installing a rain garden and removing plants introduced from Europe and Asia. Not only will you be contributing to a healthier environment, you can spend valuable outdoor time as a family, and you'll get to enjoy nature's ever-changing cast of characters right outside your window.

Beautifying your yard while conserving water and creating a habitat for wildlife can be easy and rewarding! Adding native plants can help you save money, mow less, see more birds and butterflies and enjoy a functioning yard with fewer problems and less effort.

The Conservation Foundation is happy to offer some advice along the way, free of charge. With the right selections, you can easily incorporate native plants into existing or new gardens.

Once you've created an attractive and functional yard that conserves water and provides habitat for birds, butterflies and other beneficial wildlife, you deserve some recognition for your efforts! The Conservation Foundation can certify your yard as an environmentally-friendly landscape with a Conservation@Home sign. Then your neighbors may get curious and want to know learn about the program. Before you know it, yard by yard, you've brought more nature to your neighborhood. If you are interested in making your property a Conservation@Home certified landscape, visit theconservationfoundation.org/conservation-home/.



Why Natives?

At the core of environmentally friendly landscapes is the use of native plants, the absence of fertilizers or pesticides and smart water use. Native plants are those species that were thriving locally when the first settlers arrived. These plants have evolved over thousands of years to survive the soils and seasonal conditions of cold, rain and drought of our northern Illinois climate.

As the country was settled, more and more land was converted from native landscape to farm fields, cities, roads and suburban development. Plants that have historically been planted as replacements have been introduced from outside our local region – usually from Europe or the Far East. This has broken the dependent relationships that evolved over thousands of years between native plants and the birds and animals that are dependent on them directly or indirectly for their survival. The decline of many species of birds and fewer butterflies in our gardens is linked to these changes.

Loss of open space and wildlife habitat, degradation of what remains, and dirty stormwater runoff are the leading causes of environmental problems in our developed areas. By replacing some of this lost habitat in our yards and conserving rain water before it runs into our roads, we can reduce some of the negative impacts of development, have cleaner water in our neighborhoods and enjoy a better quality of life. These actions also restore the food sources (in the form of native plants) that have been lost to our pollinators as land has been developed over the years. Adding native plants – including trees and shrubs – to our gardens will significantly help make our gardens productive and full of life!

