



ELGIN

THE CITY IN THE SUBURBS

January-February
City of Elgin
2022 Newsletter

Boletín en Español: Cada edición del boletín está disponible en español en línea en cityofelgin.org/boletin.



Winter storms and cold weather reminders

Winter storms create a higher risk of car accidents, hypothermia, frostbite, carbon monoxide poisoning and heart attacks from overexertion. Winter storms including blizzards can bring extreme cold, freezing rain, snow, ice and high winds.

A winter storm can last a few hours or several days, cut off heat, power and communication services, and put older adults, children, sick individuals and pets at greater risk.

Play it safe and take precautions when extremely cold temperatures are anticipated. Dress for the outdoors by layering clothing and wearing a hat. To ensure hands and feet are kept warm, lined gloves or mittens on hands as well as boots on feet are recommended. During extreme cold, stay indoors if at all possible. Check on friends and relatives to ensure that they are prepared, especially the elderly who may live alone.

If you, or someone you know, need a place to stay warm, there are several warming centers and shelters in the area. Information regarding shelters, resources and other cold weather considerations can be found at cityofelgin.org/coldweather.

Prevent cold weather water problems

During extreme cold, water pipes in unheated areas, or pipes located in areas exposed to drafts or open windows, will often freeze. Residents can help prevent freezing pipes by making minor repairs to prevent drafts, or heat or insulate exposed water pipes. If a pipe freezes, the problem can be resolved by gradually heating the frozen section of pipe with a fan or hair dryer. Do not use an open flame to thaw frozen pipes, as this creates a potential fire hazard.

During long durations of cold weather, a more critical water issue can occur. When frost is driven deeper into the ground, service lines carrying water to homes and buildings can become frozen. Residents with this problem should contact 311, as service lines can only be thawed by a professional using electric welders.

Help prevent this issue by running a small stream of water in a sink, allowing movement in the service line during those durations of extreme cold.



Keep your furry friends safe from the elements

Burr, it's cold! Your pets get cold too. Here are some tips to keep them safe during cold weather:

- Limit time outdoors or keep pets inside. Shivering is a clear sign your pet is cold.
- Bundle up! Coats, sweaters and even booties can help keep your pet warm.
- Wipe snow and ice from the belly and legs of pets with a moist rag to remove any salt.
- Prep paws: Clip long fur between toes and foot pads to prevent ice balls.
- Never leave pets alone in a car.
- Outdoor cats seek heat from vehicles. Consider making noise by banging on the hood or honking the horn before turning on and moving car.

In addition to a City ordinance, the State of Illinois also has an animal welfare law stating, "No owner of a dog or cat may expose the dog or cat in a manner that places the dog or cat in a life-threatening situation for a prolonged period of time in extreme heat or cold conditions."

If you are concerned about the welfare of an animal, please call the Elgin Police Department's non-emergency line at 847-289-2700, while the issue is in progress.

For seasonal pet care tips, visit cityofelgin.org/petcare.





When the flakes begin to fall, Snow Command makes the call

Every snow event is different. The duration and rate of snowfall, type of snow, temperature of the ground versus air, humidity and forecasted weather in the hours and days after the snow stops are some of the factors that come into play when developing a treatment plan for a snow or ice event. The City strives to keep the community informed of what to expect for each event.

Why is snow piled at the end of my driveway?

The primary goal of plowing is to remove snow from streets so that the road is passable for vehicles. Plowing pushes snow to the side from the middle of the street and in doing so, it naturally and unfortunately results in snow piling up in front of driveways. It is difficult to avoid this, and drivers cannot stop or raise the plow at each driveway. Residents are advised to wait until the plow has been through their road prior to cleaning their driveway and mailbox area. If drifting or more snow occurs, the plows may have to make multiple passes at a later time to keep the road clear.

When will the plow clear my cul-de-sac or alley?

In effort to get the most efficient use of time with City plows, their routes are restricted to streets. Cul-de-sacs, alleys and parking lots are cleared by a contracted private company that responds to calls from the City's Snow Command team, typically after two inches of snow has accumulated, and sometimes not until hours after an event began.

When does snow route parking enforcement go into effect?

Elgin's emergency snow routes are marked with posted signs, and vehicles are prohibited from parking on those designated streets anytime two or more inches of snow accumulates. Vehicles are not to park back on the street until 24 hours after the accumulating snow event has stopped. Avoid a ticket or tow by planning ahead for alternative parking options.

Why do I measure more/less snow than the City has announced?

As the official National Weather Service reporting station for Elgin, the Leo Nelson Riverside Water Plant is where measurements are taken. Variances in snow totals may be caused by many factors including blowing, drifting or even the fact that various parts of the city can have different snow totals.

Is trash collection impacted by the snow events?

If conditions impact Waste Management's ability to service residences, the City will post notices to its website and social media channels as soon as possible. You can always contact Elgin 311 if you aren't sure.

Is the City of Elgin closing school today?

Closing school is not a City decision. Please refer to your school district.

Wanted: Sidewalk Heroes

NOT ALL HEROES WEAR CAPES.

Some are geared up in layers of winter wear and armed with a trusty shovel or snowblower.

Will you be the Sidewalk Hero your neighborhood needs this winter? Some are not physically able to shovel. People with disabilities, the elderly, meter readers and mail carriers all need your help to keep the sidewalks clear of snow and ice this winter.

SIDEWALK HEROES



Requirements:



Have a big heart



Own a shovel
or snow blower



Own snow gear
*Cape + mask optional



Ability to lift upwards
of 40 pounds
*Snow can be heavy



Share your good deeds and find others like you. Upload your photos on social media with #SidewalkHeroes. The City may share your photo or offer you a prize! For more information, visit cityofelgin.org/sidewalkheroes.



Recycle often. Recycle right.

Packaging and other materials have changed significantly in recent years, complicating the world of recycling. In addition, the recycling industry has changed and only materials **free of contaminants** are recyclable.

Elgin residents have significantly improved their recycling through the Recycle Often. Recycle Right. program. You can help Elgin to continue to reduce recycling contamination by following these three simple rules below. Knowing these rules and putting them into practice will help you recycle more efficiently. And it will help to ensure everything that makes it into your bin finds a second life.



Recycle all my empty bottles, cans, paper and cardboard.



No foods and liquids.
*This means no greasy pizza boxes!



Empty recyclables directly into your cart. NO loose plastic bags or bagged recyclables.

Learn more and find a recycling guide and common recycling myths at [RecycleOftenRecycleRight.com](https://www.recycleoftenrecycleright.com).

Sign up now to participate in the curbside composting program!

Now is the time to purchase a subscription to participate in Elgin's curbside organics collection program. Weekly collections run during the months of April through November, in conjunction with the yard waste service.



Residents can combine acceptable organic food waste in a designated bin along with yard waste to reduce the amount of compostable waste in the landfill, and potentially save money on yard waste bags and stickers. An annual fee is billed separately through Waste Management for this service. Residents have three cart size options at different subscription rates:

- 96-gallon cart: \$141/season
- 64-gallon cart: \$131/season
- 35-gallon cart: \$121/season

Any additional containers outside of the organics cart will require a sticker to be serviced.

To sign up for the organics collection subscription service, please contact Waste Management at 800-964-8988.

Did you know?

Recycling is unlimited.

If you have more recycling than can fit in your cart, additional containers can be used as long as they have handles, are 32-gallons or less and are clearly labeled "Recycling." Plastic bags and cardboard boxes are not acceptable collection containers.

Elgin residents who live in multifamily units without recycling service can still recycle.

The Waste Management Transfer Station has a designated container for recyclables. No need to sort your recycling—it's a single stream container. Acceptable recycle material is that which is collected curbside in Elgin (refer to the "Recycle often. Recycle right." section above). Just drive up and drop off.



Residents can bring recyclables to the Waste Management Transfer Station, located at 1225 Gifford Road, anytime between 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday.



January Events

- 2-17 Martin Luther King Jr. Community Food Drive, find various drop-off locations at cityofelgin.org/mlk
- 5 Elgin Police Department sponsors Three Kings Day, Senior Services Associates of Elgin
*Open to seniors of all ages and backgrounds
- 7 First Friday Improv, Hemmens Cultural Center
- 8-9 Elgin Symphony Orchestra presents Brahms Symphony No. 2, Hemmens Cultural Center
- 15 BritBeat presents A Tribute to the Beatles, Hemmens Cultural Center
- 15 Martin Luther King Jr. Prayer Breakfast, Elgin Community College
- 22 LaSalle Expedition II: Re-explored at 45, Elgin Public Museum
- 22 Preschool Open House, Edward Schock Centre of Elgin
- 29 Elgin Fringe Festival presents Winter Mini Fringe, Elgin Public House; details at elginfringefestival.com

February Events

- 2 Preschool Open House, Edward Schock Centre of Elgin
- 4 First Friday Improv, Hemmens Cultural Center
- 5-6 Elgin Symphony Orchestra presents Beethoven's Eroica, Hemmens Cultural Center
- 12 Julianna Rubio Slager presents the 2021 World Premiere of "Reckless," Hemmens Cultural Center
- 19-20 Elgin Symphony Orchestra presents Sergeant Pepper, Hemmens Cultural Center
- 20 Dr. Felicia La Boy presents "Significant Black Women of the Reconstruction Era and Beyond," Elgin History Museum
- 25-26 Daddy-Daughter Dance, Edward Schock Centre of Elgin - Heritage Ballroom

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

37th annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration

"The time is always right to do what is right."
-Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Each year, the City of Elgin Human Relations Commission takes great pride in presenting a weekend of activities celebrating the life of one of our country's greatest civil rights leaders, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This year's theme is "The time is always right to do what is right." A branch of the commission, the Martin Luther King Committee, organizes several programs to carry on the legacy of Dr. King, including a youth scholarship program, food drive, youth day of service and prayer breakfast. Some of these events may be altered from their traditional formats due to the pandemic, so the most updated information and announcements can be found at cityofelgin.org/mlk.

2022 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship

The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship is awarded annually to students who have demonstrated an active interest and meaningful involvement in the areas of human rights, civil rights, social justice and/or world peace. Scholarships may also be awarded to students whose activities are exemplary and reflect the ideals and life of Dr. King. Donations help provide very deserving young people the ability to attend college and become successful, contributing leaders of our community. Donations can be made anytime at cityofelgin.org/mlkyouthdonation.

11th Annual Dr. King Food Drive

For the past ten years, the Dr. King Food Drive has collected thousands of pounds of food for the less fortunate in our community. In addition to collecting food for local food pantries, cash donations are also encouraged. Every \$1.00 donation collected equals eight pounds of food. Donate today at cityofelgin.org/mlkfooddonation.



The Elgin Parks and Recreation Department is celebrating 20 years serving the city through the Edward Schock Centre of Elgin. All residents are invited to join the year long promotion to get to know all of the different divisions that truly make the parks and recreation department the heart of the community. All details can be found at www.CentreofElgin.org.

