



ELGIN

THE CITY IN THE SUBURBS

May-June
City of Elgin
2022 Newsletter

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



Join the Elgin Litter League

You can make a difference in our community, one bag at a time:
Join the Elgin Litter League!

It's really quite simple. You can collect litter by yourself, or with a group—family, friends or other volunteers. Take a walk around your neighborhood and collect litter. If you are able to, bring two separate trash bags (it can be as simple as small grocery/retail bags) so that you can keep trash and recyclables separate.



Organizing a large cleanup effort?

The City of Elgin can provide waste bags and grabber reachers (litter pickup tools) to help with your efforts. Depending on the need and availability, you may also request assistance from the Elgin Allies—volunteers who work on projects to enhance the community. Contact Elgin 311 with these requests.

Share your good deeds:

Upload photos of your efforts on social media with #LitterLeague (make sure the post's privacy setting is set to "public"). The City may share your photo or offer you a T-shirt, like those pictured on the young stewards below.



Collect litter by the bag and you can score some swag!



Harvest water for your garden with a rain barrel



To create a more sustainable community, the City of Elgin has partnered with The Conservation Foundation and Upcycle Products, Inc. to sell rain barrels to residents. Rain barrels work by capturing rain water at the end of a downspout. Collected water can be used for house plants, gardens, lawns and more.

It is estimated that during the summer months, the average homeowner uses 40% of the household water in the yard. Collecting rainwater reduces demand for tap water and water use. Also "recycling" the rainwater results in less runoff that leads to erosion and flooding of stream banks, meaning fewer pesticides and fertilizer end up in our rivers and streams!

How can you get yours?

There's two options, and the first requires you to act fast.

Option 1: Pre-order for the Rain Barrel Pickup Event (and avoid delivery fees).

Visit cityofelgin.org/rainbarrel and place your order by May 4, and you can pick it up on Friday, May 6 at Hawthorne Hill Nature Center, located at 28 Brookside Drive.

Option 2: Order anytime at cityofelgin.org/rainbarrel to have a rain barrel delivered to you.

Upcycle Products, Inc. also sells other garden accessories, like rain barrel pedestals, composters (stationary and tumbling), hoses and more.

No roof. No problem.

Receive guaranteed savings on your electric bill and support solar development in Illinois by enrolling in the City-sponsored Community Solar Program.

Residents can reduce their monthly electric bills without installing solar panels on their homes, and instead, enrolling in Elgin's Community Solar Program. Those who subscribe to the program receive credits on their ComEd accounts for renewable energy generated on a solar farm in Illinois, and these credits reduce the energy supply charges on monthly energy bills.

Community solar benefits:



No solar panels on your home or upfront investment.



No change to your utility company.



Support solar development in Illinois, and the local economic and workforce development it brings.



Help lower our carbon footprint.

Why enroll?



Guaranteed savings on your energy bill.

The average Elgin resident can save \$100 per year.



No cost to sign up, no termination fees and no credit checks.



Signing up

To enroll in the program, visit cityofelgin.org/communitysolar, and join the "reservation list." You will be notified by the program administrator, MC Squared Energy Services (mc²), with an opportunity to enroll in the program and begin receiving credits on your monthly ComEd electric utility bill.

A list of frequently asked questions is available at cityofelgin.org/communitysolar.

You may also contact the program administrator, mc², with questions:



833-970-3552



solar@mc2energyservices.com

How community solar works

1

Elgin resident or small business signs up for the program and is subscribed to a solar farm located within the region.

2

Electricity generated from solar flows into the grid, blending with electrons generated from all energy sources (wind, fossil fuel, nuclear, etc.) to power homes and businesses.

3

Subscribers receive credits on their ComEd accounts, reducing the energy supply charges on their monthly electric bills.
About \$100 in savings per year on average!

How else can you reduce your energy bill?

You can save energy and money by taking advantage of ComEd's offerings and tools for your home:

- ⚡ Get a FREE assessment with FREE and discounted energy-saving products and personalized energy efficiency recommendations. ComEd offers both in-home and virtual home energy assessments.
- ⚡ Receive rebates on select appliances, smart thermostats and qualifying high-efficiency equipment and services. Get instant in-store discounts on LEDs and select home products. Find energy-saving offerings specially designed for income eligible customers to easily improve home and building energy efficiency.
- ⚡ Explore programs that let you earn a bill credit or save money by shifting your energy use to times when demand is lower.

For more details, visit ComEd Energy's website at comed.com/waystosave.





Severe weather safety

Severe weather can strike at anytime. Ensure you have weather safety procedures at home, work, school, place of worship, on the road and elsewhere.

Have a severe weather safety plan for your family. Pick a spot to shelter in the home, such as a basement or interior room. Know how to reach each other, and have a meeting spot if you get separated.

To stay informed during a severe weather event, it's recommended to have multiple ways to receive alerts. Make sure you have wireless emergency alerts enabled on your smartphone, a battery-powered radio, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radio, TV and/or internet.

Know the difference between a "Watch" and a "Warning" and what to do during each scenario.



Watch: *Be prepared!* Severe storms or tornadoes are possible in your area. Be alert and monitor information. Review and discuss your emergency plans and check supplies and your safe room. Be ready to act quickly if a warning is issued. Acting early helps to save lives.



Warning: *Take action!* Severe weather has been sighted or indicated by radar. There is imminent danger to life and property. Move to an interior room or the lowest level of a sturdy building. Avoid windows. If in a mobile home, a vehicle or outdoors, move to the closest substantial shelter and protect yourself from flying debris.

Power Outages

Severe weather can take down limbs and power lines, leaving you without power. It's important to be prepared for such a situation. Those with special needs, such as those who may be elderly, disabled or dependent on electricity for medical equipment, should have alternate arrangements in place should they experience an extended power outage. See a list of reporting options to the right. Check for outages in your area and their status at comed.com/outagemap.

Five ways to report a power outage to ComEd

- Mobile app: [ComEd.com/App](https://comed.com/App)
- Text OUT to 26633
- Visit [ComEd.com/Outage](https://comed.com/Outage)
- Call 1-800-EDISON1 (1-800-334-7661)
- Report on social media: Tweet #OUT to @ComEd or report your outage directly from ComEd's Facebook Outage App at facebook.com/comed

Have the following items on hand in case of a power outage:

- Flashlights, not candles.
- Fresh batteries.
- Battery-operated clock radio.
- Fully-charged cell phone.
- Non-perishable foods.
- Water: one gallon/person/day without electric service.
- Blankets.
- A list of emergency phone numbers.

Following severe weather, it's common to see downed branches and trees. Here's what to do depending on the situation:

- Call the Elgin Police Department if there is an immediate danger involving power lines, limbs over houses or if the tree is blocking a street or driveway (847-289-2700 or 911).
- Generally speaking, trees that are between the sidewalk and street, or ones that are located at City-owned properties, are considered public trees. If one of these has fallen, then please call 311 or email elgin311@cityofelgin.org, noting the location (nearest address or intersection) of the tree or limb.
- Trees growing on private property are the responsibility of the property owner. If a tree or large limb growing from private property falls, contact a professional tree service for assistance in removal. If it's a small amount, remember you can always bundle branches for free collection by Waste Management. Just make sure bundles are tied, no longer than 5 feet, branches are less than 2 inches in diameter and bundles weight less than 45 pounds each.



Summer Camps

Attending summer camp is a tradition for many young Elginites. The Elgin Parks and Recreation Department offers a variety of options based on age, interest, location and duration.

Youth Summer Camps

- Centre Camp
- Centre Sports Camp
- Camp Prairie View

Specialty Camps

- Snapology Camps
- Elgin Youth Choir Camp
- Summer Horse Camp

Learn more and register today:

centrefelgin.org/programs/camps

Preschool Camps

- Discovery Preschool Camp
- Safety Town Camp



Elgin celebrates Preservation Month in May

Historic preservation in Elgin has been making advances for over 40 years. Efforts began in the early 1980s as a grassroots movement by residents. The City of Elgin, in partnership with the Elgin Heritage Commission and the National Trust for Historic Preservation, celebrates its heritage with a series of events in May—Preservation Month.

Find more information at cityofelgin.org/preservation.

Signature event:

Mayor's Awards
for Preservation,
Tuesday, May 3



May Events

- 1 Elgin Symphony Orchestra presents Mariachi!, Hemmens Cultural Center
- 6 Elgin Symphony League Exhibit Opening Reception, Elgin History Museum
- 6,7 Independent Players presents Government Inspector, Elgin Art Showcase
- 7 Brian "Fox" Ellis presents Black Hawk's View of Illinois History, Elgin Public Museum
- 10 Elgin History Museum presents Lords Park Historic Walk with Jerry Turnquist, Lords Park
- 13 GreenRoom Productions presents First Friday Improv (on the second Friday!), Hemmens Cultural Center
- 13-15 Elgin Theatre Company presents The Tin Woman, Elgin Art Showcase
- 14 Future Masters Scramble, Wing Park Golf Course
- 14 Museum Tours, Elgin Public Museum
- 14 Elgin History Museum presents Hilltop Cemetery Tour with Bill Briska, Hilltop Cemetery
- 19 Brown Bag Lunch: 'Elgin Memorial Days Through the Years' with Jerry Turnquist, Elgin History Museum
- 20-22 Elgin Theatre Company presents The Tin Woman, Elgin Art Showcase
- 20, 21 Elgin Symphony Orchestra presents Scheherazade, Hemmens Cultural Center
- 21 'Art & Architecture in Elgin' Photography by Carolyn Buhrow Exhibit Opening, Elgin History Museum
- 22 Midwest Philharmonic Orchestra presents Spring Concert, Hemmens Cultural Center
- 27-29 Elgin Theatre Company presents The Tin Woman, Elgin Art Showcase
- 28 Butterfly Garden Planting, Edward Schock Centre of Elgin
- 28 Meet the Bison, Lords Park Zoo. *Reservations required: email blazier_s@cityofelgin.org or call 847-741-6655.
- 30 Memorial Day Programs, visit elginmemorialday.org for times, locations and other details.

June Events

- 3 GreenRoom Productions presents First Friday Improv, Hemmens Cultural Center
- 4 Pool opens for the season, Wing Park Family Aquatic Center
- 4 Fitness in the Park: Zumba, Lords Park
- 4 Lords Park Zoo opens for the season with Tefft's Farm Dedication, Lords Park Zoo
- 4 Uncaged in the Zoo presentation by JG's Reptile Road Show, Lords Park Zoo
- 4 IKE's Fish for Fun, Rolling Knolls Forest Preserve
- 5 Elgin Valley Fox Trot, North of Downtown Elgin
- 7 Adventures in the Zoo: Rocks Rock!, Lords Park Zoo
- 11 Light Up the Night Family Pool Party, Wing Park Family Aquatic Center
- 14 Adventures in the Zoo: All About Dinosaurs, Lords Park Zoo
- 16 Brown Bag Lunch: 'Elgin Community College Founding Fathers' with Ann Chipman & Richard Renner, Elgin History Museum
- 17 PAWS on the Porch: What is a Dinosaur?, Lords Park Zoo
- 18 Fitness in the Park: Bootcamp, Lords Park
- 21 Adventures in the Zoo: Goin' Squirrely!, Lords Park Zoo
- 21 Concert in the Park, Wing Park
- 24 PAWS on the Porch: What is a Hedgehog?, Lords Park Zoo
- 25 Walk in the Wild, Hawthorne Hill Nature Center
- 25 Uncaged in the Zoo: Chi-Town Exotics, Lords Park Zoo
- 25 Meet the Bison, Lords Park Zoo. *Reservations required: email blazier_s@cityofelgin.org or call 847-741-6655.
- 28 Adventure in the Zoo: Hibernation & Brumation, Lords Park Zoo
- 28 Concert in the Park, Wing Park



Find more information on all City events at cityofelgin.org/events. For more community events and things to do, visit ExploreElginArea.com or search #ExploreElgin on social media.