



DECENNIAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, April 24, 2024

Ela Town Hall
1155 E. IL Route 22, Lake Zurich

**ELA TOWNSHIP REPORT FOR COMPLIANCE WITH DECENNIAL COMMITTEES
ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY ACT
(For Townships and Road District JOINT REPORT Only)**

NAME OF TOWNSHIP: **ELA TOWNSHIP**

Note: Any local government that levies a tax, other than a municipality or county must file this report. For Road Districts in counties with populations of less than 400,000 the highway commissioner may form a joint committee to prepare one combined report. See 50 ILCS 70/10(b-5).

I. Information about Our Committee

A. Committee Members:

Township Supervisor Gloria Palmblad
Township Trustee Larry Bowman
Township Trustee Doug Samz (appointed June 2023)
Township Trustee Joel Sikes (resigned May 2023)
Township Trustee Tosi Ufodike
Township Trustee Wilhoit
Township Resident (Supervisor Appointment) Susan Dillon
Township Resident (Supervisor Appointment) Sara Marx

Note: Per 50 ILCS 70/10(b), the committee membership must include all the elected or appointed members of the township board (Supervisor and Trustees) and two residents appointed by the Supervisor. The residents can be the Assessor, Clerk or Collector, if you have one, or other residents of the Township, but these officials are not required to be on this Committee. The Supervisor may appoint more than two residents if deemed appropriate.

II. Information about our Township

- A. Ela Township is located in Lake County which consists of a total of 18 townships.
- B. The population of our Township is 45,164 as of the 2020 census.
- C. We have forty + fulltime, part time, and seasonal employees at the Township, not including elected officials.
- D. Our Township's equalized assessed valuation for 2023 is \$2,636,848,738 and consists of 18,700 number of parcels.
- E. Ela Township's thirty-six square miles consists entirely of or a portion of the following municipalities -
Village of Lake Zurich, Village of Hawthorn Woods, Village of Deer Park, Village of Kildeer, Village of Long Grove, Village of North Barrington, and a very small portion of Mundelein which makes up our 36 square miles.
- F. Our annual budget for FY ending March 31, 2024 is approximately \$5,000,000.

- G. Township government is one of the oldest forms of government in Illinois and are required to perform three mandatory functions:
1. Administer a general assistance program to qualifying residents
 2. Maintain Township roads and bridges and
 3. Appraise property values

However, Ela Township does so much more than that! Below is a list of where all the resources are used with an in-depth description of their programs and services attached.

Ela Township utilizes their resources for the following departments and services:

1. Administration
2. Health & Wellness (Social Services)
3. Community Center (Youth & Seniors)
4. Assessor
5. Transportation
6. General Assistance
7. Highway
8. Parks
9. Cemeteries
10. Ela Historical Museum

III. Review of Laws, Township Policies, Township Rules and Procedures, Township Training Materials, and other Documents

We have reviewed the following, non-exhaustive list of laws, policies, training materials, and other documents applicable to the Township to evaluate our compliance and to determine if any of the foregoing should be amended.

<u>On file</u>	State laws applicable to Townships, including, but not limited to the Township Code (60 ILCS)
<u>On file</u>	Illinois Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120)
<u>Approved 4/2024</u>	Policy on public comment
<u>Completed 10/2023</u>	Designation of OMA officer (5 ILCS 120/1.05(a))
<u>Annually</u>	All of Elected Officials have completed OMA Training (5 ILCS 120/1.05(b))
<u>Approved 12/2023</u>	Schedule of All Township Regular Meetings for Calendar or Fiscal Year (5 ILCS 120/2.03)
<u>On file</u>	Illinois Freedom of Information Act (5 ILCS 140)
<u>Approved 8/2023</u>	FOIA Policy and Designation of FOIA officer (5 ILCS 140/3.5(a))
<u>Annually</u>	FOIA Officer Training (5 ILCS 140/3.5(b))
<u>Approved 9/2023</u>	Computation and Retention of FOIA Requests (5 ILCS 140/3.5(a))
<u>Approved 9/2023</u>	Posting Other Required FOIA Information (5 ILCS 140/4(a); 5 ILCS 140/4(b))
<u>Approved 9/2023</u>	List of Types or Categories of FOIA Records under Township's Control (5 ILCS 140/5)
<u>Approved 8/10/2023 And 1/11/2024</u>	Periodic Meetings to Review Closed Meeting Minutes (5 ILCS 120/2.06(d)) (Semi-Annual Review)
<u>Completed 2024</u>	IMRF Total Compensation Postings (5 ILCS 120/7.3)
<u>Approved 7/2022</u>	Designation of Whistleblower Auditing Official (50 ILCS 105/4.1)
<u>Annually</u>	All of our Elected Officials have filed statement of economic interests (5 ILCS 420/4A-101; 5 ILCS 420/4A-101.5)

- Annually Sexual harassment prevention training (775 ILCS 5/2-109(c))
- Current Our Intergovernmental Agreements
- Current Our Social Service Agreements or Contracts
- Annually Our budget and financial documents
- On file State Ethics Laws, including, but not limited to the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act (5 ILCS 430/1-1)
- On file Reports on government efficiency, including “Local Government Efficiency and Size in Illinois: Counting Tax Revenues, Not Governments” by Wendell Cox (2016); “Local Democracy and Townships in the Chicagoland Area,” by Wendell Cox, (January 2012).
- _____ Others (List Below or Attach):

- IV. Dates that our Committee Met (50 ILCS 70/20)
- First (Organizational) Meeting
(must occur prior to June 10, 2023): May 24, 2023
- Second Meeting: April 24, 2024
- Third Meeting: _____, 2024
- Additional Meetings (List All): _____, 2024

V. Programs Offered by Ela Township.

- A. Our Township offers the following services and programs:
Please see attached department descriptions

VI. Social Service Agreements

- A. We partner with the following non-profits to offer social services (list all):

Entity:

1. NICASA
2. A Safe Place
3. PADS
4. Center for Enriched Living
5. Center for Independence
6. Erie Family Health Center
7. Joanie's Closet
8. North Suburban Legal Aid Clinic
9. Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center

- B. We have Intergovernmental Agreements with the Villages of Lake Zurich, Kildeer, and Hawthorn Woods to provide social services to their residents in need.

VII. Awards and Recognitions

In 2022, NCOA-National Council on Aging, presented Assistant Community Programs Director, Jim Dalbec, with the Innovation Award for his Road to Happiness Class. Additionally, at last year's TOI Conference, former Township Assessor John Barrington, was awarded "Assessor of the Year" for his work serving as the Ela Township Assessor, as well as many other accomplishments in public service.

VIII. Intergovernmental Agreements

- A. We partner with, or have Intergovernmental Agreements, with the following other Governments (List all):

<u>Entity:</u>	<u>Services Offered:</u>
1. Village of Deer Park	Public Works & Emergency Management Services
2. Village of Deer Park	Snowplowing
3. Village of Kildeer	Public Works & Emergency Management Services
4. Village of North Barrington	Public Works & Emergency Management Services
5. Village of Long Grove	Public Works & Emergency Management Services
6. Village of Kildeer	Social Services

7. Village of Lake Zurich	Social Services
8. Village of Hawthorn Woods	Social Services
9. Fremont Township	Equipment Sharing
10. Cuba Township	Equipment Sharing
11. Vernon Township Highway Dept.	Equipment Sharing
12. Wauconda Twp. Highway Dept.	Equipment Sharing
13. Wauconda Township	Transportation
14. Libertyville Twp. Highway Dept.	Equipment Sharing
15. Palatine Twp. Road District	Snow & Ice Control
16. Long Grove Park District	Public Works
17. Fremont Twp. Highway Dept.	Maint. of W. Sylvan Dr. S & N. Arrowhead Dr.
18. Village of Lake Zurich	Vehicle Servicing
19. Village of Hawthorn Woods	Equipment Sharing
Public Works	

- B. Our Township's efficiency has increased through intergovernmental cooperation in the following way:
1. By sharing equipment, both townships save in cost and in storage
 2. Residents of the surrounding municipalities save in tax dollars – their own municipality does not have the cost of equipment and buildings nor the cost of employees (benefits, IMRF, etc.)

IX. What Have We Done Well? (List any budget/levy freezes or reductions in the past decade; list new programs or services offered to residents over the past decade; list any ethics ordinances adopted; timely FOIA compliance; responsiveness to public; list any new intergovernmental agreements or social services offered; list any increase in number of township residents served, etc.)

X. What Inefficiencies Did We Identify/What Are our Next Steps?

XI. What Can We Do Better or More Efficiently?

XII. Studies on Governmental Efficiencies

In preparing this report, we reviewed several studies on local government efficiency. These studies show that:

- The average local government in Illinois serves 1800 residents compared to the national median of 2850 individuals
- Most townships in Illinois have no bonded indebtedness. Together with road districts they are an integral element of local democracy. Township expenditures have grown at a lower rate than those of any other level of government since 1992.
- Townships have lower labor costs and employ mostly part time employees.

XIII. Our committee's recommendations regarding Increased Accountability and Efficiency:

Note: This Report must be filed with your County no later than 18 months after your first committee meeting.

Submitted by: _____
Chairman, Decennial Efficiency Committee of _____ Township

Date:



Supervisor's Office
Gloria M. Palmblad

Town Hall: 1155 East Route 22 • Lake Zurich, IL 60047
Phone: 847-438-7823 **Fax:** 847-438-9269
E-mail: info@elatownship.org

ADMINISTRATION

Mission Statement:

Dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for Ela Township residents by providing unparalleled and cost-effective community-based services.

Ela Township government has many facets all working together to serve the residents of Ela Township. In the Administration Department you will find the Township Supervisor, Township Clerk, Township Manager, finance/payroll, and administration staff members. The Supervisor serves as the chairperson of the Township Board and treasurer of all funds. The Supervisor oversees various administrative functions, general assistance, and staff. All payroll, human resources, invoice processing and bill payment, and accounting and record keeping related business falls under the Supervisor and administrative staff consisting of three part time staff. Any communications related business is conducted via the Administration offices as well, such as resident guides, electronic and paper newsletters, and social media management. Staff are tasked with preparing monthly board books, creating any necessary reporting for the Board, manage yearly audits, prepare resolutions and ordinances, public notices, etc. Our office hours are Monday thru Thursday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday. Closed on weekends.

The Ela Township Clerks office works in conjunction with the Administrative Department. The Township Clerk is the keeper of records, clerk of all town meetings, and local election authority.

Many services are offered to Township residents via the Administration Department:

LIHEAP: Ela Township serves as a catalyst between Community Action Partnership of Lake County and Township residents assisting them with the application process to register for LIHEAP, Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program. This program is available to eligible low-income households to assist with their heating and energy costs.

Notary Services: Administration department staff offer notary republic services to Ela Township residents free of charge.

Prescription Discount Cards: Free cards provided to Township residents from Coast2Coast RX saving families up to 75% on human and pet prescriptions at 60,000 participating pharmacies. Residents can also save up to 60% on dental and 10-50% on vision and hearing needs. This card has no fees, does not expire, and has no usage limit.

Voter Registration: The Township Clerk, Deputy Clerk, and Deputy Registrars can assist residents with voter registration, change of address, vote by mail applications, and finding their polling place on election day. Ela Township also serves as an early voting location during elections and a polling place on election day.

Disability Placards: Residents can bring their completed disability placard form from their physician to the administration office where we issue a placard for up to 90 days. If the placard is prescribed for a longer period of time, staff will mail the form to the state for you. The state will then issue a separate placard for the duration of the time and mail directly to the resident.

Recycling Opportunities: Recycling bins located in the Town Hall lobby include compact light bulbs, battery, and plastic recycling. Recently, a plastics recycling program was initiated through the Trex Plastic Recycling program. This has been very successful, and with every 500 lbs. of plastic collected and recycled, the Township receives a free park bench. At the Knox Park concession you will find additional options for recycling such as glasses, flags, old gym shoes, and cell phones.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Mission Statement:

Empowering Ela Township Residents to Thrive. To assess, address, and advocate for the needs and concerns of all Township residents. To build partnerships with organizations and agencies to improve the quality of life for all township residents while identifying creative ways to solve problems. To provide support and assist individuals and families suffering with mental health issues.

Ela Township's Health & Wellness Department offers no cost mental health and social services to Ela Township residents of all ages regardless of financial status. Our services include different types of psychotherapy: individual, group, family, couples; case management, crisis interventions, and consultations. Included in our services is a growing medical lending closet, where residents can borrow medical equipment for three months without cost. H&W works closely with first responders, District 95, Lake County Health Department, and local social services organizations to provide and encourage wrap-around services. H&W has teamed up with local substance abuse treatment programs to better serve individuals suffering with substance abuse and co-morbid disorders. H&W facilitated Intergovernmental Agreements with three villages: Hawthorn Woods, Kildeer, and Lake Zurich. H&W partakes in the review of grants to local non-profit organizations. H&W helps prepare general assistance and emergency assistance applications for the Supervisor's review.

H&W consists of three licensed clinicians and two administrative coordinators. We help facilitate staff trainings such as Narcan, Rapid Response Trainings, and Dementia Trainings. H&W offers in-person and virtual programs and implemented a HIPAA compliant and confidential electronic medical record in 2021 to keep up with growing trends. H&W promotes health and wellness through weekly Wellness Wednesday flyers. They are board members in Ela Coalition and Association of Illinois Township Committees on Youth (AITCOY) and active members in Illinois Township Association of General Assistance Caseworkers (ITAGAC)

COMMUNITY CENTER

Mission Statement:

Ela Township 55+ is dedicated to providing the highest quality recreational, social and supportive services to adults 55 and older residing in Ela Township. It is our goal to foster a warm environment where individuals can explore and enjoy activities and services designed to meet the needs and enrich the lives of our diverse older adult population.

The Ela Township Community Center offers a vast array of programs and services to those 55+ and the area youth.

Starting with the 55+ population, the Ela Community Center is open from 8:30am - 7:00pm, Monday – Friday.

The Center offers a slew of volunteer opportunities:

- Reception Desk: Afternoon Shifts Needed. Fill in for days off.
- Kitchen Aide: Plating, serving, and washing dishes.
- Friendly Home Visitor: Provide social visits to those who can't get out.
- Good Shepherd Hospital: Sew and stuff pillows, make cards, provide hand massages, and more.
- Card Making Program: Writing out cards to our members who have been unable to make it to the center for a while. Just sending a friendly hello!
- Bulletin Boards: Help create and maintain throughout Community Center
- Driving Homework Club Bus: 14 Passenger, no CDL required

In collaboration with Jewel Osco, the center offers monthly vaccine clinics where folks can conveniently receive COVID, Shingrix, Flu, Pneumonia and even Tetanus vaccines.

Our Senior Resourcing services offer immense help including:

- SNAP (Food stamp program)
- Benefit Access Program/Discount on license plates and Ride Free RTA pass
- Senior Health Insurance Counseling and Education (SHIP)
- Pharmaceutical Assistance Program
- Extra Help/Medicare Savings Program Screening and Application Assistance
- Trained by the Illinois Department on Aging
- As always, SHIP counseling is FREE!

We facilitate Alzheimer's and Parkinson's Support Groups. The international program Death Café is also offered at our center.

Knowing that socialization and engagement are incremental in the well-being of older adults, our programs are built to help. We offer monthly Day Trips and outings to local restaurants. These trips range in interests from sports to theater, education to nature and architecture to food.

In-house, we host monthly themed dinners with live music and delicious food. We have monthly concerts on the patio and even trivia nights.

To broaden the spectrum of experiences, offer an opportunity for seniors to feel safe, have companionship and see the world, we even offer long distance travel. Several fun clubs have been formed at the center, including art, ukelele, guitar and soon photo.

Naturally we also offer the standards of cards and bingo. We offer cooking classes, balance classes, crafts, BUNCO, nutrition presentations, cooking demonstrations and classes, and so much more.

Feedback is greatly encouraged at our center, and we often host opportunities like Donuts with the Director and Ice Cream with the Director to give people a platform to provide insights.

Health & Wellness are key to keeping seniors healthy and happy and the Ela Community Center is a hub for this. We offer a myriad of exercise classes; some free and some come with a nominal fee. We even have ping pong for those looking for some healthy competition.

Ela Community Center has a remarkable nutrition program that provides delicious home-made meals for a small fee. It's a great service to our seniors as it may be the only meal for them each day.

To encourage our meals, we often have programs including lunch. Once a month we have lunch and a movie and almost every Tuesday is Lunch & Learn. Our topics range from history, to biographies, to movie stars to topical discussions.

There are also monthly discussion groups, a group that watches documentaries and then has a roundtable talk, a group that watches TED Talks and follows with conversation, and even a monthly discussion about different musical groups and artists.

Ela Community Center also collaborates with several other community entities including the school district, library, and Lake County Forest Preserve District. Through these collaborations we can offer technology classes, nature walks and presentations, intergenerational experiences, crafts and even genealogy support.

Ela Township Community Center also offers an extensive Youth Program. Through this program, hundreds of Township families are served.

During the school year, the Community Center is the hub for our Homework Club. This program is for township children in grades Kindergarten through 5th. The children are transported via Township buses and are picked up by their parents/guardians by 5:30pm, allowing working parents time to finish their workday knowing their children are safe and having fun. During their time with us, the children eat healthy snacks, complete their homework, receive academic help if needed, play group games, and socialize with children from different schools and grades.

This program flows right into our Shooting Stars Summer Camp. Here children in grades 1st through 6th, join in weekly field trips, group games, weekly crafts and activities, and socialize with other kids in Ela Township while school is out for the summer!

Ela Township Community Center provides similar camps for kids during Winter Break and Spring Break, allowing parents to continue their work schedule while still giving the kids a fun time during their school break.

Lastly, the Youth Department offers SafeSitter and Safe@Home. These are important programs designed to prepare students for babysitting and for being at home for short periods of time on their own, depending on their ages.

ASSESSOR

The Assessor is the only Illinois elected officeholder that has educational qualifications and certification requirements that must be completed before any election activities may be undertaken. The most common certification that all Lake County Assessors have is the Certified Illinois Assessing Officer bestowed by the Illinois Property Assessment Institute.

Each year we analyze property sales within our township to determine which areas or neighborhoods need to be changed and to determine if they can be used for the sales ratio studies for valuation purposes.

The Assessor appraises or estimates the market value of all real estate as of January 1 of each tax year. The property is then "assessed" at 33.33% of the market value.

The assessment is used to determine each taxpayer's overall share of the tax burden created by units of local government who are funded by the property tax.

Ela township has 18,569 residential, commercial and industrial parcels that the Assessor's office is responsible for assigning values to. Our office currently has a staff of 6, consisting of both full and part-time employees. Once permits are received from the villages, our field inspectors will verify the work that was done and when it was completed so that we can determine who will be receiving a home improvement exemption.

The Assessor's office performs many other administrative functions. We assist taxpayers with the filing of Senior Homestead Exemptions, the Senior Freeze, Disabled Persons and Disabled Veterans Exemptions.

Through our neighborhood review process, we continuously strive to have the most updated property record cards to ensure that properties are being fairly and accurately assessed. Most of all we pride ourselves on outstanding customer service and will go above and beyond to satisfy the needs of our homeowners as we are the liaison between them and the county.

TRANSPORTATION

Ela Township provides its senior (55+) and disabled residents who cannot or do not have the ability to drive with the vital service of transportation. Residents are taken to doctor and therapy appointments, to work, retail/grocery stores, beauty appointments, etc. Transportation service is limited to Ela Township boundaries, with the exception of the Good Shepherd hospital area in Barrington and the Barrington Metra station. We have also opened our transportation services to the youth of Ela Township, transporting them one-way, from their elementary school to the Ela Township Community Center for Township provided after school care.

Transportation hours are Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Residents can make reservations a minimum of 24 hours and up to 30 days in advance. The reservation line is open from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday-Friday. Bus fare is \$2 one-way, \$4 round trip, and riders may make one additional stop for \$1.

The bus department averages 200-300 trips and an average of 1500-2000 miles per month. All four of our buses are wheelchair accessible, and we use the lift roughly 70-80 times per month. Currently, the bus department employs 1 full-time driver, 1 part-time driver, and 1 part-time bus liaison.

The Ela Township bus department also has an intergovernmental agreement with Wauconda Township, which allows us to transport two individuals from Wauconda along with one from Lake Zurich to the Little City Foundation adult learning center, in Schaumburg, for those with intellectual and developmental disabilities three days per week.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE AND

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

Ela Township's General Assistance (GA) is a public assistance program mandated by state law for qualified individuals with financial needs. Ela Townships GA can provide monthly payments or up to \$225 to help individuals meet basic needs. An applicant must be a resident of Ela Township, age 18 or older, and a United States Citizen or qualified immigrant. In addition, an applicant must meet all financial and non-financial eligibility requirements.

Ela Township established an Emergency Assistance (EA) Program which provides help to Ela Township residents who are faced with a life-threatening circumstance and need financial assistance with overdue rent, car repair (if employed), gas, electric, garbage, and water bills. Applications are processed in accordance with the standards set by the Department of Public Aid and guidelines approved by Ela Townships Supervisor. Ela Township's EA provides up to \$1000 grants to individuals and \$1500 grants for a qualified family. Grants are paid to vendors on behalf of the applicant. Staff utilized the computer program Visual GA to assist throughout the process.

ELA TOWNSHIP HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Ela Township Highway Department offers a wide array of services that are performed year-round and designed to help our residents. Ela Township Highway Department is responsible for 23 unincorporated road miles in Ela Township. The Highway Department consists of a Highway Superintendent, eight full-time employees, one part-time administrative assistant, and two to three seasonal employees. It is our constant goal to use taxpayer dollars wisely by providing efficient and cost-effective services for our residents.

We support and partner with our surrounding villages (Deer Park, Long Grove, Kildeer and North Barrington) that do not have a Public Works department through Intergovernmental Agreements offering public works operation services, which serves as a cost-effective option to expand services to our residents and ultimately, save taxpayer dollars. This partnership accounts for an additional 75 road miles bringing our total close to 100 road miles being serviced by Ela Township Highway Department. In addition, Ela Township Highway Department also has Intergovernmental Agreements with our surrounding Villages and Townships regarding sharing of equipment.

The Highway Department is responsible for all Right-of-Way maintenance throughout all unincorporated Ela Township. Some of our duties include:

- Stormwater drainage system maintenance and improvements throughout the Township
- Tree trimming and dead tree removal in the right-of-way
- Concrete sidewalk/curb removal and replacement
- Road maintenance which includes spot patching, resurfacing, pothole repair, and striping of unincorporated roads
- Mowing and weed trimming of all rights-of-way
- Sign maintenance
- Snow and Ice Removal of unincorporated Ela Township roads and the Village of Deer Park through Intergovernmental cooperation
- Fleet maintenance which includes trucks, vehicles, buses, equipment and small engines
- MS4 EPA compliance, maintenance and inspection of (2) Dams
- Distribution of mosquito abatement into stormwater basins with the Township
- Maintaining Ela Township properties: Townhall, Community Center, Lake Zurich/Fairfield Cemeteries, Knox, Knigge, and Ela Township Community Park, Ela Park and open space areas

ELA TOWNSHIP PARKS

Knox Park: Knox Park is home to the Lake Zurich Flames and Lake Zurich Baseball/Softball Association (LZBSA) youth sports organizations. The Township provides a storage facility for the Lake Zurich Flames throughout the year. This park offers a playground, outdoor fitness court, and concession stand for Township residents. Opened in June of 2023, Knox Park has two new tennis courts, and four new pickleball courts.

Knigge Park: Knigge Park is home to the Ela Soccer Club youth sports organization. This park offers a playground for Township residents. Knigge Park is also home to the Knigge Park student parking lot which is used for overflow LZHS student parking.

Ela Park: Ela Park resides next to the Ela Historical Society and Lions Park in downtown Lake Zurich. This park offers a playground for Township residents. New in 2023, the Ela Peace Pole was installed. The peace pole measures an impressive 14 feet tall (tallest in the state of Illinois) and has the word “peace” engraved in the 60 languages spoken in Ela Township.

Ela Township Community Park: Ela Township Community Park (ETCP) is the new home of the Lake Zurich Lacrosse Club youth sports organization.



CEMETERIES

Ela Township is responsible for maintaining two cemeteries:

1. Lake Zurich Cemetery at 295 Church Street, Lake Zurich
2. Fairfield Cemetery at 24375 Quentin Road, Lake Zurich

Both cemeteries were inherited by the Township, approximately 30 years ago. There is so much local history buried in these cemeteries with some dating back to the Civil War. Flags are distributed to Veteran's gravesites for both Memorial Day and Veteran's Day.

Both cemeteries offer full burial and cremation sites with very limited spots remaining. The Lake Zurich Cemetery also offers a scatter garden for those that prefer to spread their loved one's ashes. The Lake Zurich Cemetery recently invested in the purchase of three columbaria for those that prefer to have their urn above ground in a niche.

We currently contract with a cemetery professional to help dig and fill holes as well as install concrete headstone foundations. Due to the age of these cemeteries, the Township also budgets money each year to repair and level old headstones. Our seasonal help is responsible for cutting the grass at both cemeteries.

The Cemetery Board consists of the Township Supervisor, Cemetery Manager, Township Manager, three Committee Members and meets a minimum of four times a year to handle the business and make decisions on both cemeteries.

THE ELA HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM

Ela Township has a rich and diverse historical story to tell and celebrate dating back to the 1830s. The mission of the Society is to collect, preserve and share the history of Ela Township. Through the establishment of the Ela Historical Museum, we promote a sense of community; educate the public, and protect and preserve historical archives and artifacts. The historic Ela Town Hall, one of the oldest buildings in Lake Zurich, on Main Street, is home to the museum. We have hundreds of artifacts on display to teach about and enjoy for many years to come.

Our historical society and museum is funded, mostly, by taxes collected through Ela Township. Our work of historical preservation and public education is not possible without these contributions, as well as the work of our all volunteer staff.

The Ela Historical Museum is open to the public on Saturdays from 12 to 3 pm, or visits may be arranged by appointment. Admission is free, but donations are appreciated. To contact Ela Historical Society for scheduling a visit or for other matters, call 847-438-2086 or e-mail elahistorical@gmail.com. We are proud to offer a historically centered, family-friendly, living history event at our museum and Lion's Park, Lake Zurich. History Day combines visits to the museum, an antique & artisan market, with live historical demonstrations! This year we are excited to host a mid-19th century live baseball game, among other events.