

Fall-Winter 2020-2021 Newsletter

Forest Lake • North Barrington • Long Grove • Kildeer • Hawthorn Woods

**Important Information regarding the Ela Township Road District Consolidation
with Ela Township Referendum Enclosed in this Newsletter**

Deer Park • Lake Zurich • Barrington • Unincorporated Ela Township

**1155 E. Route 22, Lake Zurich, IL 60047
(847) 438-7823**

Website:
www.elatownship.org



Facebook/Ela Township



Twitter@Ela Township



Email:
Info@elatownship.org

From Ela Township Supervisor Gloria Palmblad

Greetings from Town Hall!

To say this was an unusual year, would be an understatement. It seems that many of the things we've been accustomed to doing, has changed in a blink of the eye these past seven months due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As we all try and get through these difficult times, please know that Ela Township is here and available to provide assistance. Back in March, when Governor Pritzker put in place the "stay at home" order, Ela Township complied with these directions and temporarily closed our doors. But thanks to our dedicated staff, employees were still here, and served residents via phone. I'm proud to say while our staff was following these orders, they were busy looking for creative ways using technology to assist and communicate with residents in any way they could.

Our Community Family Services Department has been extremely busy helping those with all stress related issues due to COVID-19 and the many ways this affected their families. Yoga Nidra, meditation, and even our Charity Knit, Crochet & Quilters groups are now meeting via Zoom and connecting with former Ela Township residents that have moved out of state. How wonderful!

Ela 55+ staff have been busy making wellness checks by calling seniors in our communities and helping them stay safe by doing their grocery shopping and prescription pickups with the assistance of our Youth Department staff. The Ela 55+ Chef, Lynn Garrett, has been preparing delicious homemade lunches daily for those Seniors choosing to purchase a prepared meal, with the assistance of the Youth staff packaging them for curbside pickup throughout the week. The Assessor's Department has been busy assisting residents via phone, to ensure home exemptions were accurately applied to their property tax bills.

Once Governor Pritzker announced the State of Illinois was moving to Phase 4, the Township was prepared with new safety measures in place to allow our doors to be reopened to the public and our staff was ready to serve. As always, our staff takes pride in what we do and believes in "neighbors serving neighbors". If you need anything or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ela Town Hall at (847) 438-7823. On behalf of the Ela Township Board, we wish you all a wonderful holiday season and a happy New Year!

Just a Reminder!

All Ela Township Offices and Bus Service are Closed in Observance of the Following Holidays:



Clerk Lucy Prouty

The upcoming general election will be taking place on Tuesday, November 3, 2020. There are several local referendums on the ballot that the public will be voting on: the Village of Lake Zurich Local Sales Tax referendum, the Ela Township Road District Consolidation with Ela Township referendum (see fact sheet on next page), and a proposed amendment to the Illinois Constitution pertaining to income tax rates. Early voting will be available at Ela Town Hall, in the lower level board room, October 19 through November 1, 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Pritzker has extended early voting hours to Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., and on Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. All voters should use the lower level building entrance facing Route 22 when coming to Town Hall for early voting. Mail-in-ballots can be obtained from the Lake County Clerk's office by visiting www.lakecountyil.gov. Voter registration closes one month prior to any election. You may register and vote simultaneously in the two weeks that early voting is available. Please contact your Township Clerk, Lucy Prouty, or Deputy Clerk, Jessica Case, at (847) 438-7823 with any questions.

NOVEMBER 2020 ELECTION INFORMATION:

On August 13, the Ela Township Board voted to approve a referendum resolution to be included in the upcoming November ballot. If approved, this referendum will consolidate the Township of Ela Road District with the Township of Ela and transition these government agencies toward a similar municipal and county form of government. Presently, these are two separate government entities and taxing bodies that serve the same population of Ela Township residents. In short, this referendum provides Township residents with the opportunity to consolidate these two government agencies into one government agency and taxing body.

On the following page is a fact sheet that explains how the process works and what this means to Ela Township residents. Please plan on attending the upcoming information session on Wednesday, October 15, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. to learn more. Please visit our website at www.elatownship.org for more details on how to attend this public information session via Zoom. You may also contact Ela Township directly with any questions at (847) 438-7823.



Ela Township Road District Referendum

Fact Sheet

On the upcoming general election ballot on November 3, 2020, Ela Township voters will have the opportunity to decide whether to consolidate the Township of Ela Road District with the Township of Ela. Presently, these are two separate government entities and taxing bodies that serve the same population of Ela Township residents. Voting "YES" for the consolidation of these two government agencies would transition Ela Township government toward a similar municipal and county form of government and reduce the total units of government agency taxing bodies in Illinois. Voting "NO" would keep things as they currently are.

Ballot Question

Shall the Road District of the Township of Ela be abolished with all the rights, powers, duties, assets, property, liabilities, obligations, and responsibilities being assumed by the Township of Ela?

What does this mean?

- ♦ The elected Highway Commissioner position will transition to an employed staff position accountable to the elected Ela Township Board.
- ♦ The Ela Township Highway Department serves up to 23.5 road miles in unincorporated Ela Township. Ela Township residents in unincorporated areas and encompassing municipalities would continue to receive the same Road District services they currently receive.
- ♦ There would be more continuity of leadership and operations within the Ela Township Highway Department.
- ♦ Elimination of duplication of internal services and responsibilities.
- ♦ There would be Ela Township Board oversight over the Ela Township Highway Department and its operations.

Information Session

**Attend a Road District Referendum
Public Information Session on Zoom:**

October 15, 2020 @ 7PM

**For more details, visit
www.elatownship.org.**

Referendum Process



Want to know more? Please contact Ela Township for any comments and/or questions by calling (847) 438-7823 or visit www.elatownship.org for more details.

Road District Referendum Frequently Asked Questions

Background:

At the general election on November 3, 2020, the Ela Township voters will have the opportunity to vote on whether the Road District in the Township of Ela should be consolidated into one unit of government with the Township of Ela or should continue to operate as two separate government agencies and taxing bodies.

Ballot Question	
Shall the Road District of the Township of Ela be abolished with all the rights, powers, duties, assets, property, liabilities, obligations, and responsibilities being assumed by the Township of Ela?	
Yes	No

What is a referendum and how do I vote on this referendum?

A referendum is a vote on a question. A referendum can be started by a citizen or by the government. If you are registered to vote, you can vote on a referendum. This referendum will be placed on the November 3, 2020 ballot. You can choose to vote on this referendum via early voting or in-person.

What does it mean if I vote "YES"?

Voting yes on this referendum question means you want the Township of Ela and the Road District in the Township of Ela to be consolidated from two separate government agencies and taxing bodies into one unit of government. If this referendum passes, it also means that the elected Highway Commissioner position would be eliminated.

What does it mean if I vote "NO"?

Voting no on this question means you want to maintain the status quo in which Ela Township residents are served by two separate government agencies and taxing bodies in the form of the Road District in the Township of Ela and the Township of Ela. This means the elected highway commissioner position will continue to remain as the sole authority overseeing the Road District in the Township of Ela.

How would this affect the services I currently receive from the Road District via the Ela Township Highway Department?

Presently, the Ela Township Highway Department serves up to 23.5 road miles in unincorporated Ela Township. In short, whether you live in unincorporated Ela Township or in an incorporated municipality that is provided public works related services from the Ela Township Highway Department, there will be no change to the services and/or minimum service level that is currently provided.

What would result from Township Government consolidation between the Road District in the Township of Ela with the Township of Ela?

Consolidating these Township government bodies would:

1. Dissolve one unit of government and taxing body within Ela Township, with the Township of Ela assuming all responsibilities associated with the Road District;
2. Abolishing the Road District and eliminate the elected highway commissioner position, and the Township of Ela would begin to operate in a similar operational and leadership structure as many municipalities and counties with an employed staff position accountable to the elected Ela Township Board;
3. Provide continuity of leadership and operations within the Ela Township Highway Department without potential disruption to service delivery;
4. Eliminate duplication of internal services and responsibilities; and
5. Provide Ela Township Board oversight over the Ela Township Highway Department and its operations.

Can the Township of Ela spend money to publicize a referendum?

Yes. The Township cannot use public funds or resources to advocate for or oppose a referendum. But Section 9-25.1 (b) of the Election Code does specifically permit public bodies to use funds to disseminate "factual information" relative to a proposition appearing on an election ballot.

How can I acquire more information and/or share my comments and questions about this referendum?

The best way to stay informed is to attend an upcoming information session that will be held via Zoom meeting on October 15, 2020 at 7pm or you can visit the Ela Township website: www.elatownship.org. If you would like to provide any comments and/or ask a question, you can also contact the Ela Township Supervisor's Office at (847) 438-7823.

Ela Township Senior/Disabled Bus Service

If you are an Ela Township resident that is 55 years or older or are disabled, we have buses available for your weekday use for shopping, errands, hair or medical/dental appointments, and early showings of movies. If you need more information or would like to schedule a ride, please visit our website at www.elatownship.org/bus-service, call (847) 438-6677, or email bus@elatownship.org.

The cost for bus service is \$2 for a one-way ride or \$4 for a round-trip ride. One additional stop can be made for \$1. All bus rides must be scheduled at least 24 hours in advance, weekends excluded. In order to keep our passengers and drivers safe, we have taken several precautions since the COVID-19 pandemic. We require our drivers and passengers to wear protective face coverings prior to boarding the bus and for the duration of the ride; and, our drivers are instructing passengers to maintain social distance with other passengers when riding the bus. Ela Township buses are sanitized before and after each rider.

Ela Township Historical Society & Museum

Ela Township has a rich history dating back to 1835, when the first settlers began arriving. The Township was surveyed by the federal government in 1838; and in early 1850 it was organized as a proper Township and given the name Ela in honor of early settler George Ela. The original Ela Town Hall, located at 95 E. Main Street in Lake Zurich, was built in 1865 on land donated to Ela Township by Isaac Fox. For many years, it stood service as a Town Hall and also as a school. Today, this building is the home of the Ela Historical Society & Museum, which organized and had its first meeting there in 1976. As time went by, many interesting displays have been added from the Township's past. During the present COVID-19 pandemic, the museum is open by appointment only. Admission to the Ela Historical Museum is free, but any donations are appreciated. To contact the Ela Historical Society, schedule a visit, or for other matters, please call (847) 438-2086 or e-mail elahistorical@gmail.com. Also be sure to visit Ela Historical Society on Facebook.

Highway Department

Ela Township has a wide array of services that are performed year-round and designed to help our residents. Each year, the Ela Township Highway Department provides services for over 100 miles of road. The Highway Department consists of a part-time highway commissioner, 8 full-time employees, 1 part-time administrative coordinator, and 2-3 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 that do not have a Public Works department through Intergovernmental Agreements offering general public works operation services, including snowplowing and equipment sharing. The Ela Township Highway Department is responsible for snowplowing, road maintenance, and right of way maintenance along unincorporated roads and the Village of Deer Park. We assist the villages of Kildeer, Long Grove, and North Barrington with all public works operational services except for snowplowing.

With the upcoming Fall season rains around the corner, we will be out servicing our storm water areas and make sure the drains are open and flowing. As a reminder, if you have pipes or storm water drains on your property, please make sure that leaves and debris are not blocking them.

During the Winter months timing is critical with snow and ice control and your safety is our #1 priority! On an annual basis, we examine our snow and ice control operations and actively try to reduce the harmful effects of salt and chlorides that can impact our environment. We are committed to be an environmental steward that avoids practices that can result in excessive salt use during our snowplowing operations. Please remember to reduce your speed when driving during inclement winter weather!

2020 Spring/Summer Completed Projects:

Forest Lake Starry Lane Drainage Project

Northern Section of Forest Lake Subdivision Paving Project

Northern Section of Echo Lake Subdivision Paving Project

We would like to thank the Villages of Deer Park, Long Grove, Kildeer, North Barrington, Hawthorn Woods and Lake Zurich for their cooperation throughout the year. We are glad to partner with these government agencies through Intergovernmental Agreements, which serves as a cost-effective option to expand services to our residents and ultimately, save taxpayer dollars! This is one of several reasons that Township government continues to be one of the smallest taxing bodies on your tax bill.

Lastly, we encourage you to check out our website at www.elatownship.org/highway and follow us on Facebook at [elatownshiphighwaydepartment](https://www.facebook.com/elatownshiphighwaydepartment) to view all of the annual programs and services that our Highway Department offers. On behalf of all Highway Department employees, we are proud to serve Ela Township and be part of the services that it provides in care of its residents. We want to thank all of our Township residents for their support and involvement throughout the year. Please feel free to call our main office at (847) 438-2371 or email us at highway@elatownship.org.

Lake Zurich Cemetery & Fairfield Cemetery

Ela Township is responsible for maintaining two cemeteries within the Township – Lake Zurich Cemetery, located at 295 Church Street and Fairfield Cemetery, located at 24375 Quentin Road. There are limited open plots available for purchase in each cemetery.

The Cemetery Board recently developed a plan to purchase a columbarium to be installed at Lake Zurich Cemetery. This structure provides a place for up to 32 loved one's cremains in the 16 niches. Interest in these types of final resting places has increased over the last several years, and Ela Township has plans to purchase an additional two columbaria in the future.

For more information regarding availability, fees, services, etc., please visit our website at www.elatownship.org/cemeteries. For further inquiries, please contact our Cemetery Manager, Dave Kylo at (847) 204-3541 or email at cemeteries@elatownship.org.



Ela Township Assessor's Office

From the Assessor, John Barrington: "We're here to help"

Due to safety concerns related to COVID-19 our office has limited access. We can handle most concerns quickly over the phone or via email. Please contact our office at (847) 438-8370, or email assessor@elaassessor.org for assistance. Thank you for your patience as we make adjustments to our offices new way of doing business.

The 2020 assessment notices for Ela Township were mailed in August. Last year was our quadrennial assessment year where we revalued the entire Township. This year we made corrections and factual changes, and most saw a small equalization adjustment based upon the sales in Ela Township from 2017 to 2019.

If we see an increase in our assessment can we expect the same on our tax bill next year?

The short answer is not necessarily. When assessments increase and decrease uniformly, tax bills generally will not follow suit. Why? Local taxing bodies depend on property tax revenues to provide local services. Every year they submit a request for property tax funds, known as the "levy". The combined "levies" actually create a tax burden, while assessments simply divide up the tax burden in an equitable way. So if the "levy" requests stay the same and assessments increase uniformly, most of us will see a decreased tax rate on our bill, but a similar tax bill amount. We may see increasing levies for the 2020 tax bills and with different areas of the Township seeing home prices increasing faster than others, it is difficult to guess what the tax bills will do next May. Some of us may see higher bills, while others could decrease. If you missed the deadline this year to file an appeal, our office can still correct any factual errors or missed exemptions. A complete list of exemptions can be found at elatownship.org/exemptions, and you can review property characteristics at IMSLake.org. Please contact our office as soon as possible if you feel that there is an error.

In closing, I would like to remind you that our office is your local resource, and most importantly, we are here for you. If you ever have any questions or comments, you can contact me directly at jbarrington@elaassessor.org, call me at (847) 438-8370, or visit our office at Ela Town Hall 1155 E. Route 22, Lake Zurich, IL.

Ela Township Community Family Services

Ela Community Family Services is available to all Ela Township residents, at no cost. Our services include but are not limited to crisis intervention, case management, information and referrals, individual and family counseling, as well as group work. We will meet with you or your family individually via zoom, facetime, or phone. Situations that can cause distress include: domestic violence, substance abuse, grief and loss, homelessness, youth and family, mental health, stress related to COVID-19, employment and financial needs.

All groups and individual sessions are confidential.

JOIN US FOR ALL OF OUR GROUPS VIA ZOOM:

All groups help reduce stress and anxiety, but also help to maintain healthy living

Yoga Nidra - deep relaxation and meditation. No yoga poses required!

Meditation - guided meditation using mudras, breath work, and imagery.

Grief Group - "grief shared is grief diminished"

DBT - improve and enhance your communication skills.

Charity Knit, Crochet & Quilters - share your love of giving through yarn and material. Quilters welcomed!

Please call (847) 540-8380 or email us at elasocialworker@elatownship.org for more information or to sign up for any of our groups.

Our qualified professional staff includes: Director Susan W. Fackler LCSW CADR RYT, Anna Hummel MSW, Casey Cannon LSW, Taylor Sandstrom BS, and our new social work interns Shana Deubel and Autumn Maraviglia, from George Williams Aurora University.

In addition to our regular services, the Lending Closet is available to you for medical equipment needs.

Ela 55+

WE ARE HERE! Whether it's on the phone, in a video, handing you lunch in the drive-up line or on a Zoom call.

Our #1 priority is your health and well-being, and we are doing everything we can to ensure that you stay safe, in body, mind and spirit.

CONTACT-FREE CURBSIDE LUNCH PICK-UP

NOW OFFERING LUNCH ON FRIDAYS!

Enjoy delicious home-made lunches from the Ela 55+ Chef, Lynn Garrett:

Call or email us at 847-438-9160/susand@elatownship.org to order by the week prior. All lunches are \$5.00 and are picked up curbside at 11:30 a.m. Please have exact change or checks ready. All lunches come with dessert.

ELA TOWNSHIP 55+ COVID-19 SERVICES

Grocery Pick-Up & Delivery:

- Give at least 24-hour notification
- Set-Up list and pick-up with your preferred store
- Pay ahead via credit card if possible
- Notify us of time/order number to pick-up and deliver to you

Pharmacy Pick-Up & Delivery:

- Give at least 24-hour notification
- Inform pharmacy that Ela 55+ is picking up for you
- Pay ahead via credit card if possible

We understand that some of these tasks listed above may not be possible for you to complete on your own. If you experience any difficulties, please notify a member of the Ela 55+ staff so we can assist you further.

Ela Township Youth

Ela Township youth programs have had some major changes since earlier this Spring. The main priority of the Youth Department is the wellbeing of the children that attend our programs. For the safety of the children, staff, and everyone's family, we will not be offering our Homework Club or Teen Club programs this upcoming season. We understand that it is important for children to be active, creative, and engage with others; which is why we offered a modified summer program with limited attendance called Summer Club. While at Summer Club, games were modified to allow for safety during the pandemic; while staying active and having fun. It might not have looked exactly how it did in years past, but we were very proud of the program, our staff, and the children's engagement in activities while following the guidelines set forth by the CDC. We are currently in the process of reviewing our Homework and Teen Club programs so that with alterations, we may be able to offer them to our residents while maintaining a healthy and safe environment.

Youth department staff have been assisting the Ela 55+ department with their curbside pick-up lunches, grocery and pharmacy runs for seniors, and have even joined in on a few Ela 55+ YouTube videos. The Youth Department has also created some of our own YouTube video content that we hope you will all enjoy! These include cooking videos, exploring areas in Ela Township, activities, and much more! Ela Youth department videos can be found on YouTube by searching Ela Township Community Center. Please contact the Ela Township Youth Department at (847) 438-9160 or email youth@elatownship.org if you have any questions, or are interested in any of our programs. For additional information, please visit our website at elatownship.org/youth.

Ela Township
1155 E. Route 22
Lake Zurich, IL 60047

ECRWSS
Postal Customer
LOCAL

Ela Township Department Directory

www.elatownship.org

Ela Township Supervisor's Office
Supervisor Gloria Palmblad • Clerk Lucy Prouty
Township Manager Will Stefaniuk
1155 E. Route 22, Lake Zurich
Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
(847) 438-7823 • Fax: (847) 438-9269
info@elatownship.org • www.facebook.com/ElaTownship

Ela Township Highway Department
Highway Commissioner Andrew Forster
23605 Echo Lake Road, Lake Zurich
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Department Hours: Monday-Thursday, 6:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Friday: 6:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
(847) 438-2371 • Fax: (847) 438-0457
highway@elatownship.org • www.elatownship.org/highway

Ela Senior/Handicapped Bus Service
Route Operator Jessica Case
Bus Service Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Reservation Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Hours are subject to change
(847) 438-6677
bus@elatownship.org • www.elatownship.org/bus-service

Ela Township Assessor's Office
Assessor John Barrington
1155 E. Route 22, Lake Zurich
Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
(847) 438-8370 • Fax (847) 438-6880
jbarrington@elaassessor.org • www.elatownship.org/assessor

Ela Community Family Services
Susan Fackler, Director, LCSW CADC RYT
1155 E. Route 22, Lake Zurich
Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
(847) 540-8380 • Fax: (847) 540-8390
susanf@elatownship.org • www.elatownship.org/social

Ela 55+ Senior Services
Susan Dillon, Community Programs Director
Jim Dalbec, Assistant Director
380 Surryse Road, Lake Zurich
Community Center is Currently Closed to the Public
Phone: (847) 438-9160 • Fax: (847) 438-9196
susand@elatownship.org • jimd@elatownship.org
www.elatownship.org/seniors

Ela Youth Program
Susan Dillon, Community Programs Director
380 Surryse Road, Lake Zurich
Community Center is Currently Closed to the Public
Phone: (847) 438-9160 • Fax: (847) 438-9196
susand@elatownship.org • youth@elatownship.org
www.elatownship.org/youth

Ela Township Cemeteries
David Kylo, Cemetery Manager
23605 Echo Lake Road, Lake Zurich
(847) 204-3541
cemeteries@elatownship.org • www.elatownship.org/cemeteries

Ela Township Elected Officials

Supervisor
Gloria Palmblad



(847) 438-7823
supervisorpalmblad@elatownship.org

Clerk
Lucy A. Prouty



(847) 438-7823
clerkprouty@elatownship.org

Highway Commissioner
Andrew Forster



(847) 438-2371
highway@elatownship.org

Assessor
John Barrington



(847) 438-8073
jbarrington@elaassessor.org

Trustee
Chris Bos



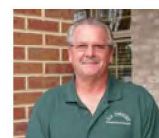
(847) 438-7823
trusteebos@elatownship.org

Trustee
Larry Bowman



(847) 438-7823
trusteebowman@elatownship.org

Trustee
Michael Jennings



(847) 438-7823
trusteejennings@elatownship.org

Trustee
Joel Sikes



(847) 438-7823
trusteesikes@elatownship.org