



# Winter 2021-2022 Newsletter

Deer Park • Lake Zurich • North Barrington • Hawthorn Woods



Kildeer • Long Grove • Barrington • Unincorporated Ela Township

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



SCAN ME



Facebook/Ela Township



Twitter@Ela Township



Website:  
[www.elatownship.org](http://www.elatownship.org)



Email:  
[Info@elatownship.org](mailto:Info@elatownship.org)



## From Ela Township Supervisor Gloria Palmblad



### Greetings -

The holidays have arrived once again. I am hoping that unlike last year, you were able to gather around the table with family and friends to share a meal and give thanks – thankful just like Bing Crosby sang in an old classic Irving Berlin movie, *Holiday Inn*, “I’ve Got Plenty To be Thankful for”!!

I am thankful that with careful planning, we were able to replace the old Knox Park playground just a few weeks ago. Over time, the equipment became worn or broken and replacement parts have become difficult to find. The Township plans to hold a ribbon cutting ceremony unveiling the new playground in Spring 2022.



I am also thankful that despite school closings last year due to the pandemic, we were still able to distribute \$1,500.00 scholarships to six graduates of Lake Zurich High School. Tax dollars are not used for scholarship funds but rather rent money collected from the students who park in our Knigge parking lot across from the high school. Even though no fees were collected this past school year, resources were still available from prior school years. Congratulations to our recipients and we wish them all the luck in the world as they move on to higher education.

Students pictured with Township officials include: Anthony Enciso, Ginger Mirabelli, Rinna Kim, Madeleine Lawler, Kate Wisniewski, and Vincent Petropoulos.

We should all be especially thankful for the friendship and camaraderie we had with Assessor John Barrington including his significant impact within our communities. As I am sure you are all aware, John passed away suddenly on September 13th. This intelligent, kind man left behind a young family, dedicated staff, and a Township of residents who highly respected him. A park bench in John's memory and recognition of his service will be purchased and dedicated on the grounds of Knox Park.

John spent 17 years dedicated to public service to the communities of Ela Township in the Assessor's Office. John was a veteran who served as a US Navy Fleet Marine Force Corpsman completing multiple tours, a Commander of the American Legion, he served as President of the Lake County Assessors Association, and an Executive Board Member of the Illinois Chapter of the International Association of Assessing Officers. John originally came to Ela Township in 2005 after his second tour of duty overseas and took a field position in the Assessor's Office. He quickly grew in his role over a few years and in 2009, he successfully ran and became elected to the top position of Ela Township Assessor. John was elected to four consecutive terms as the Assessor. John's main goal during his tenure as Assessor was to be a resource for all residents within the Township and help them fully understand the assessment and appeals process. Through public forums, outreach sessions, and speaking engagements, John made every effort to help educate the taxpayers of Ela Township. If you knew John, then you also understood that one of his greatest accomplishments was being an excellent husband and father to his family. John will be greatly missed by all those who knew him and his service to Ela Township will always be remembered.



Last but certainly not least - I am thankful for our staff! With their due diligence and careful planning, the Township Board again approved our upcoming levy with a ZERO percent increase for the second year in a row. Staff continues to look for more cost-effective solutions to maintain and/or minimize any increases to our future expenses, but still keep the high level of service you've all come to expect.

So wherever the holidays take you, may you find peace and joy! On behalf of the entire Board and staff, we wish you all a Happy Holiday and a Joyous New Year!



## Ela Township Senior/Disabled Bus Service

Ela Township offers bus transportation service for weekday use to our residents who are 55 years of age or older, and to those with disabilities. If you would like more information or to schedule a ride, please call (847) 438-6677 or email [bus@elatownship.org](mailto:bus@elatownship.org).



Township buses run from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, within Township boundaries. In addition, we transport to the Barrington Metra station, Good Shepherd Hospital, and the doctor offices in the surrounding area. Bus service is first come first served, and hours are subject to change. Ela Township buses follow COVID-19 protocols including social distancing, sanitizing high touch surfaces, and we ask that all riders wear protective face coverings for the duration of their ride. The cost for bus service is \$2 one-way, \$4 round-trip, and one additional stop can be made for \$1.

The reservation line is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Next day transportation must be requested no later than 12:45 p.m. on the day before your scheduled ride. All buses are equipped with wheel chair lifts and tie downs for passengers in wheel chairs.

There is no bus service on the following holidays: New Years Day (obs. January 3, 2022), President's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Black Friday, Christmas Eve (obs. December 23, 2022), and Christmas Day (obs. December 26, 2022).

## 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 Highway Superintendent, 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 municipalities that do not have a Public Works department through intergovernmental agreements offering general public works related services, including snowplowing and equipment sharing. The Ela Township Highway Department is responsible for snowplowing, road maintenance, and right of way maintenance along unincorporated Township roads and the Village of Deer Park. Ela Township assists the villages of Kildeer, Long Grove, and North Barrington with all public works operational services except for snowplowing.

During the fall season, the Highway Department serviced Township storm water areas to 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!

### 2021 Spring/Summer Projects:

- Forest Lake Subdivision Paving Project
- Echo Lake Subdivision Paving Project

Ela Township is glad to partner with villages of Deer Park, Long Grove, Kildeer, North Barrington, Hawthorn Woods, and Lake Zurich 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.

We encourage you to check our website at [www.elatownship.org/departments/highway](http://www.elatownship.org/departments/highway) and follow us on Facebook to view all of the annual programs and services that our department offers. Please feel free to call our main office at (847) 438-2371 or email us at [highway@elatownship.org](mailto:highway@elatownship.org).



## Clerk Lucy Prouty

Greetings from the Ela Township Clerk! 2022 will bring Lake County residents two elections, the General Primary Election on June 28, 2022, and the General Election follows on November 8, 2022. Legally registered voters in Lake County who will be outside of their precinct on election day can be provided with a Student or Snowbird enrollment form so your ballot can be mailed to you at your temporary address. These forms are available at the Clerk's office. Absentee ballots can be requested by contacting the Lake County Clerk's office or by visiting [www.lakecountyil.gov](http://www.lakecountyil.gov). Voter registration closes one month prior to any election. Provisional registration in Illinois has now been extended through election day, but you must register and vote at the same time. Please contact your Township Clerk, Lucy Prouty, or Deputy Clerk, Jessica Case, at (847) 438-7823 with any questions you may have.

## Ela 55+

### Ela Township 55+ Senior Resource Services

Our senior resource office assists Ela Township residents with many programs and links them with services to promote independence and a sense of well-being. Lisa Gaggiano or Laura Kulawik, our Senior Resource Specialists, will help you in any way possible. Our staff can help with Pharmaceutical Assistance, State Benefits/Department of Human Service Programs, Senior Health Insurance Counseling (SHIP), Extra Help/Medicare Savings Program, and can provide information and referrals. Our Senior Resource Specialists are trained by the Illinois Department on Aging.

Call us to schedule your telephone, zoom, or in person appointment.

As always, SHIP counseling is FREE!

Phone: (847) 438-9160 or Email: [lisag@elatownship.org](mailto:lisag@elatownship.org) or [laurak@elatownship.org](mailto:laurak@elatownship.org)

### Ela 55+ Gift Certificates

Not sure what to give someone for the holidays? An Ela 55+ Gift Certificate will please even the pickiest... maybe even you! Suggest them to your family members who don't know what to get you! Gift certificates are available in any denomination, never expire and are good for anything at Ela 55+ except long distance travel.



### New Years Eve Dinner Pick-Up

**Friday December 31  
CURBSIDE PICK-UP AT 12:00 P.M.**

Let's say good riddance to 2021 in style! Enjoy an exquisite New Year's Eve dinner without having to dirty a single pan. Pick up your meals curbside at noon and simply heat up to enjoy later in the evening.

Re-heating instructions included.

Dinner Menu:

Bacon-Wrapped Pork Loin with Cherries, Potato Gratin, Sautéed Green Beans with Mushrooms and Fresh Baked Dinner Roll.

Dessert: Decadent Fudge Cake

Fee: \$10 Resident/\$15 Non-Resident

Participants must register one week prior.

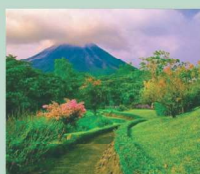
### MLK Day of Helping

**Monday, January 17, 2022**

The MLK Day of Helping is something we have been striving to participate in for ages to look within our own community and help where we can. For more information, or if you would like to join our team of volunteers, please email Susan Dillon at [susand@elatownship.org](mailto:susand@elatownship.org).



### Trips, Trips, & More Trips!



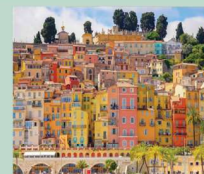
Tropical Costa Rica  
January 19-28, 2022  
10 Days/14 Meals  
Double \$2,798 Per Person



*Ladies Only!*  
Harbor County Michigan  
May 24-26, 2022  
Single \$525 Resident



Discover Door County  
*Cape Cod of the Midwest*  
August 28 - September 1, 2022  
Double \$1075 Per Person



Spotlight on the French Riviera  
September 17-25, 2022  
9 Days/11 Meals  
Double \$4,448 Per Person



## Health & Wellness

Ela HEALTH & WELLNESS recently changed our name from Community Family Services to better fit our updated program. With the extra stress COVID-19 has added to our everyday lives, it is important to take time for self-care. That is why Ela Health & Wellness continues to provide mental health services to Ela Township residents at NO COST. Our services include, but are not limited to, individual therapy for all ages, family therapy, couples counseling, group therapy, case management, and consultations. We have a wide range of resources and referrals for those with specialty or long-term needs.

We are currently offering in-person sessions along with confidential and HIPAA compliant telehealth services for those unable to make it to our office. If needed, we now offer Spanish and Russian speaking interpreters for our residents. Health & Wellness Director Sara Marx LCPC, NCC and staff look forward to serving you.



### Lending Closet:

We continue to offer gently used medical equipment rental at no cost through our fully stocked Lending Closet. We offer, but are not limited to, wheelchairs, walkers, rollators, knee scooters, crutches, commodes, and much more! Please contact the Health & Wellness Department for availability.



### Grief Group: Coming Soon!

If you are having difficulty coping after a loss we welcome you to join us for Grief Group. Please contact the Health & Wellness Department for more information.

This group will begin in January 2022.  
Grief shared is grief diminished - Rabbi Grollman

### CREATE FOR A CAUSE



### Charity Knit, Crochet & Quilters:

This group meets on Monday's from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. both virtually via Zoom and in person at Ela Town Hall.

All are invited to make handmade items for those in need whether you knit, crochet, or quilt!

No experience necessary!  
Yarn donations are greatly appreciated!

For more information, please contact our office by phone at (847) 540-8380 or email [health@elatownship.org](mailto:health@elatownship.org).

## 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 the 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 the Township by Isaac Fox. For many years it was utilized as a town hall and also as a school building. Today this building is the home of the Ela Historical Society & Museum, which organized and had its first meeting there in 1976. As the years went by, many interesting displays have been added from the Township's past.

The Ela Historical Museum is open to the public on Saturdays from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m., or visits may be arranged by appointment. COVID-19 restrictions are currently in place. Admission is free, but donations are appreciated. To contact the Ela Historical Society for scheduling a visit or for other matters, please call (847) 438-2086 or email [elahistorical@gmail.com](mailto:elahistorical@gmail.com).





## Lake Zurich Cemetery & Fairfield Cemetery



Autumn has come and gone, the leaves have fallen, and the grass is gradually going dormant for the winter. Wild creatures are getting fat in anticipation of cold weather. We use Autumn as a metaphor for the waning or closing time of our lives. There is constant change. Have you considered what you wish to have for your final resting place? Would you like to be laid to rest in the community which you have loved, where you have lived, where your family will remember you? Ela Township has two of the most beautiful cemeteries in the area. Individuals from other communities stop by to see what we do here to honor our citizens with their final resting place.

Fairfield Cemetery, on Quentin Road, just South of Old McHenry Road, is a beautiful setting. A walk through this cemetery and one realizes the history of the place, the people who were laid to rest even back in Civil War days.

Lake Zurich Cemetery, on Midlothian Road is also a place of renown. It is one of a few cemeteries in the area which contains a scatter garden for cremains as well as three beautiful new columbariums in which to place the urn of loved ones, with room for two urns, and maybe even a beloved pet or two, in each niche. These niches are lower in cost than most around the state. There are a few open places for graves as well. We are glad to announce that the Lake Zurich cemetery driveway has recently been repaved.

I encourage you to consider one of the beautiful Ela Township Cemeteries as a final resting place either for you or your loved ones. They are places of peace for family and friends to reminisce, respect, or reflect on the life of loved ones. Please contact the Ela Township Supervisors office at (847)438-7823 or email [info@elatownship.org](mailto:info@elatownship.org) for more information.

## Ela Township Assessor's Office

**From the Assessor... We're here to help!** Our office is fully open to assist residents, but we encourage you to reach out before you visit, as we can handle most concerns quickly over the phone or via email. Please contact our office by phone at (847)438-8370 or email [assessor@elaassessor.org](mailto:assessor@elaassessor.org) for assistance.

While government mandated COVID-19 restrictions greatly impacted businesses, the real estate market is still doing well. The question everyone wants answered now is how long does that last; and we just don't know. We will be closely watching the market to see whether the pandemic continues to make the real estate market thrive into the winter when the real estate market typically slows down. This past assessment year we did not do any across the board reassessments. Instead, we added new construction, home improvements, and removed demolitions as we do every year; and we will be focusing on reviewing and updating our records in preparation for the 2023 quadrennial reassessment year when all the properties are revalued. The 2021 assessment notices for Ela Township were mailed in July and the last day to file was August 23rd. Property owners in Ela Township saw an equalization factor of 1.00 based on the sales in the township from 2018 to 2020.

**If you missed the deadline this year to file an appeal, our office can still correct any factual errors or missed exemptions.** For a complete list of exemptions, please go to [elatownship.org/exemptions](http://elatownship.org/exemptions), and review property characteristics at [IMSLake.org](http://IMSLake.org). Please contact our office as soon as possible if you feel that there is an error in the characteristics.

**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 the tax burden, while assessments simply divide up that tax burden in an equitable way. For example, 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 2021 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.

In closing, we 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, please contact our office at (847) 438-8370, or visit the Assessors Department located at Ela Town Hall 1155 E. Route 22, Lake Zurich, IL 60047.





**SAFE@HOME**  
by SAFESITTER

## Winter Break Camp

Winter Break Camp is quickly approaching! This year, our Winter Break Camp will be from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. and will run Dec. 28-31 and Jan. 4-7th. Any child, kindergarten-6th grade can sign up. The camp is designed to engage children in group activities, field trips, outdoor fun, and more! Registration forms can be found online at our website, [www.elatownship.org/winter-break-camp](http://www.elatownship.org/winter-break-camp). A schedule of the field trips can be found within the registration form. Registration is open!



## Safe Sitter & Safe@Home

SafeSitter is a program designed to prepare students in grades 6-8 to be safe when they're at home alone, watching younger siblings, or babysitting. This class is filled with fun games and role-playing exercises. By the end of this day-long program, students will cover safety skills, childcare skills, first aid and rescue skills, and basic life and business skills. For detailed information on this program please visit [www.elatownship.org/safe-sitter-essentials](http://www.elatownship.org/safe-sitter-essentials).

Safe@Home is a new program designed for children in grades 4-6 to prepare them to be safe when they are home alone. This 90-minute program teaches how to practice safe habits, how to prevent unsafe situations, and what to do when faced with dangers, such as power failures or weather emergencies. Learn more about this program at [www.elatownship.org/safehome](http://www.elatownship.org/safehome).



## Homework Club

Homework Club is an after-school program offered to the youth in Ela Township. Children engage in daily activities such as completing homework, playing games, making crafts, and building friendships. The goal of homework club is to provide children with a safe and enjoyable environment for them to grow academically and socially. Homework Club is held after school at the Ela Township Community Center, Monday through Friday, until 5:30 p.m., only on days when Lake Zurich CUSD 95 is in session. Transportation is available for limited participants for students attending Isaac Fox, May Whitney, and Spencer Loomis schools. As of now, Isaac Fox still has availability. If you have transportation, you are welcome to join too! Call or email our Youth Coordinator, Joe Cacciatore, for availability at [youth@elatownship.org](mailto:youth@elatownship.org) or 847-438-9160. For more information on Homework Club, and to access registration forms visit [www.elatownship.org/homework-club](http://www.elatownship.org/homework-club).

*Early Release Days: Each program provides extra hours for District 95.*

## Winter Events

### Lake Zurich

Purple Plunge  
Breezewald Park  
Saturday, March 5  
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

### Long Grove

Holidays in Historic Long Grove  
Downtown Long Grove  
Saturdays & Sundays  
November 20 - December 19

### Deer Park

Cocoa Classic 5K Run/Walk  
Deer Park Town Center  
Saturday, December 11  
7:15 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

### Just a reminder!

**Ela Township will be closed in observance of the following holidays:**



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

ECRWSS  
Postal Customer  
LOCAL

## Ela Township Department Directory

[www.elatownship.org](http://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, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
Phone: (847) 438-7823 • Fax: (847) 438-9269  
Email: [info@elatownship.org](mailto:info@elatownship.org)  
[www.elatownship.org](http://www.elatownship.org)

### Ela Township Assessor's Office

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.  
Phone: (847) 438-8370 • Fax (847) 438-6880  
Email: [assessor@elaassessor.org](mailto:assessor@elaassessor.org)  
[www.elatownship.org/departments/assessor](http://www.elatownship.org/departments/assessor)

### Ela Township Highway Department

Highway Superintendent Mike DePouw  
23605 Echo Lake Road, Lake Zurich  
Hours: Monday-Thursday, 6:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
Friday, 6:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
Phone: (847) 438-2371 • Fax: (847) 438-0457  
Email: [highway@elatownship.org](mailto:highway@elatownship.org)  
[www.elatownship.org/departments/highway](http://www.elatownship.org/departments/highway)

### Ela Township Cemeteries

Cemetery Manager Dave Kylo  
23605 Echo Lake Road, Lake Zurich  
Phone: (847) 438-7823  
Email: [info@elatownship.org](mailto:info@elatownship.org)  
[www.elatownship.org/departments/cemeteries](http://www.elatownship.org/departments/cemeteries)

### Ela Health & Wellness Department

Director Sara Marx LCPC, NCC  
1155 E. Route 22, Lake Zurich  
Hours: Monday - Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Phone: (847) 540-8380 • Fax: (847) 540-8390  
Email: [saram@elatownship.org](mailto:saram@elatownship.org)  
[www.elatownship.org/departments/health-wellness](http://www.elatownship.org/departments/health-wellness)

### Ela 55+ Senior Services

Community Programs Director Susan Dillon  
Assistant Director Jim Dalbec  
380 Surryse Road, Lake Zurich  
Hours: Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Phone: (847) 438-9160 • Fax: (847) 438-9196  
Email: [susand@elatownship.org](mailto:susand@elatownship.org) • [jimd@elatownship.org](mailto:jimd@elatownship.org)  
[www.elatownship.org/departments/seniors](http://www.elatownship.org/departments/seniors)

### Ela Youth Program

Community Programs Director Susan Dillon  
380 Surryse Road, Lake Zurich  
Hours: Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Phone: (847) 438-9160 • Fax: (847) 438-9196  
Email: [susand@elatownship.org](mailto:susand@elatownship.org) • [youth@elatownship.org](mailto:youth@elatownship.org)  
[www.elatownship.org/departments/youth-programs](http://www.elatownship.org/departments/youth-programs)

### Ela Senior/Disabled Bus Service

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  
Phone: (847) 438-6677  
Email: [bus@elatownship.org](mailto:bus@elatownship.org)  
[www.elatownship.org/departments/transportation](http://www.elatownship.org/departments/transportation)

## Ela Township Elected Officials

Supervisor  
Gloria Palmblad



(847) 438-7823  
[supervisorpalmblad@elatownship.org](mailto:supervisorpalmblad@elatownship.org)

Clerk  
Lucy A. Prouty



(847) 438-7823  
[clerkprouty@elatownship.org](mailto:clerkprouty@elatownship.org)

Trustee  
Larry Bowman



(847) 438-7823  
[trusteebowman@elatownship.org](mailto:trusteebowman@elatownship.org)

Trustee  
Joel Sikes



(847) 438-7823  
[trusteesikes@elatownship.org](mailto:trusteesikes@elatownship.org)

Trustee  
Tosi Ufodike



(847) 438-7823  
[trusteeufodike@elatownship.org](mailto:trusteeufodike@elatownship.org)

Trustee  
Laurie Wilhoit



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