

ELMHURST

CITY OF ELMHURST

SUMMER 1986

CELEBRATING

150

COLORFUL YEARS

Sesqui Party Speeding Toward Grand Finale

FOR SESQUI INFORMATION,
CALL 279-1986.

It's Grand Finale time for Elmhurst's summer-long, gala Sesquicentennial celebration.

During the first two weeks in September, the city will play host to a variety of activities befitting a 150th birthday party. From the biggest fireworks display in DuPage County history to a children's parade, it promises to be an unforgettable once-in-a-lifetime extravaganza rivaling anything ever before seen in Elmhurst.

Here's what's happening:

Things get started Monday, Sept. 1, with a parade in which every child in Elmhurst is invited to participate. Organized by the Jaycees, the parade is scheduled to step-off at noon from York High School and weave its way to a kiddie-conclusion in Wilder Park.

The city's Sesqui Birthday Party officially gets under way with the cutting of an 800-pound cake.

Although a variety of youth organizations will be represented, any child who wants to march will be welcomed.

As the parade ends, the city's Sesqui Birthday Party officially will get under way with the cutting of an 800-pound cake in Wilder Park. Following the serving of the free Sesqui cake, revelers will pose for a community photo to be taken by an aerial photographer.

The celebration resumes Friday, Sept. 5, with the start of Founder's Week. The party

begins at 5 p.m. with a steak fry (tickets are \$15), barn dance, and beard and bonnet competition in Wilder Park.

Friday is also the day when the city's week-long beard and bonnet ordinance goes into effect, requiring all men to wear a beard and all women to wear bonnets. Violators are subject to \$1.50 fines. Official waivers may be purchased for \$1.50 from the Sesquicentennial Caboose at York and First streets.

On Saturday, Sept. 6, visitors and residents alike are invited to take a guided tour of the city as part of the "Day In Our Town" celebration. The series of tours will begin about 11 a.m. at Wilder Park and include about two dozen stops at key Elmhurst attractions.

Also on Saturday, the Elmhurst Historical Museum will host an open house from noon to 5 p.m. to preview the first section of its new Sesqui exhibit. There will also be continuous showings of 1936 Centennial movies and the official presentation of a Sesqui quilt.

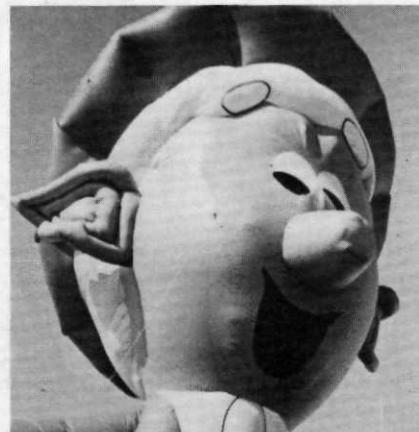
When the sun goes down, there'll be an old-fashioned street dance in the parking lot of Illinois Marine Bank in the central business district. Co-sponsored by the Elmhurst Evening Lions Club, the party will include food and continuous dancing and entertainment from 7 p.m. to midnight. Tickets are \$10 each or \$19.86 a couple.

Things will keep cooking on Sunday, Sept. 7, when Gov. James Thompson leads the giant Sesquicentennial Parade beginning at noon in downtown Elmhurst.

Continued on page 2



Top attractions at Elmhurst's Sept. 7 Sesqui Parade will include Gov. James Thompson, top, and Ernie the 45-foot-high Keebler Elf balloon.



Sesquicentennial schedule at a glance...

- Sept. 1 - Children's Parade begins at noon at York High School and ends in Wilder Park.
- Sept. 1 - Sesqui Birthday Party and Community Photo in Wilder Park following parade.
- Sept. 5 - Founders' Week begins at 5 p.m. with Steak Fry, Barn Dance and Beard and Bonnet judging in Wilder Park. Beard and bonnet ordinance takes effect.
- Sept. 5-14 - Historical Museum open from 1-5 p.m. daily. Closed Sept. 7.
- Sept. 6 - "Day In Our Town" guided tours of city begin at 11 a.m. in Wilder Park. Historical Museum open house from noon to 5 p.m.
- Sept. 6-7 - Elmhurst Country Fair at Wilder Park.
- Sept. 6 - Outdoor dancing from 7 p.m. to midnight at Illinois Marine Bank in central business district.
- Sept. 7 - Sesqui Parade steps-off at noon in central business district.
- Sept. 8 - "Prairie Day" for children in grades 1 through 5.
- Sept. 9 - "Echoes of the Past: Voices of Elmhurst Women" at 7:30 p.m. at Historical Museum
- Sept. 11 - Sesqui golf outing.
- Sept. 12-14 - Oktoberfest at Plunkett Park with food, contests and continuous German entertainment.
- Sept. 13 - Sesqui fireworks display at dusk in Plunkett Park.

Inside: *City Photo Contest... New Police Chief... More Downtown Plans*



Fire dept. in hot pursuit of top insurance rating

Elmhurst Fire Department, which already ranks as one of the area's best firefighting units, soon may move another notch up the ratings list.

Chief Richard Swanson says the department will be seeking a Class 3 rating (on a scale of one to 10 with one the best) when it's evaluated later this year or in early 1987 by the Insurance Services Office (ISO) of Illinois. If it attains that rating—one step up from the Class 4 rank the department has held since 1976—it could help reduce fire insurance rates for many of the city's commercial structures.

It also would place the department in select company with Oak Brook and parts of the Lisle-Woodridge Fire Protection District as the best-rated departments in DuPage County.

Swanson said ISO officials will evaluate the department's fire protection capability—including the quantity and quality of equipment and manpower—along with its code enforcement, dispatch facilities and the city water system.

The department hopes to take two steps this fall that could help ensure an improved rating.

First, officials are considering installing an

Opticom system that, during emergencies, permits firefighters to control traffic signals at key intersections from inside their trucks.

The system turns all traffic signals red except those that apply to the approaching fire engines.

"The Opticom system would improve our ability to respond more quickly and increase traffic safety, both for us and other vehicles," Swanson says.

Money for Opticom already has been budgeted and Swanson says the system can be operational within 60 days after city council approval.

A better ISO rating could reduce commercial insurance rates.

The second step toward bolstering the department is scheduled for October, when a new pumper is expected to arrive to replace a fire engine that's been in operation since 1947.

With the addition of the replacement pumper, Swanson says all of the department's first-line equipment will be less than 20 years old.

Continued from page 1

Sesqui Party's Grand Finale

The 3-hour parade, scheduled to be the largest in the city's history, will include floats, several marching bands, including the 350-piece University of Illinois and Marine Corps bands, and the 45-foot-high *Ernie the Keebler Elf* balloon.

Monday, Sept. 8, will be Prairie Day for youngsters in grades K through 5. School history classes will be geared toward a look at Elmhurst's past and all participating youngsters will receive Sesqui mementos.

The 3-hour parade is scheduled to be the largest in city history.

On Tuesday, Sept. 9, the historical drama "Echos of the Past: Voices of Elmhurst Women", will be presented at the Historical Museum. Show time is 7:30 p.m.

After a few days rest—relatively speaking—the Sesqui party switches back into high gear for the Oktoberfest weekend beginning Friday, Sept. 12, at Plunkett Park.

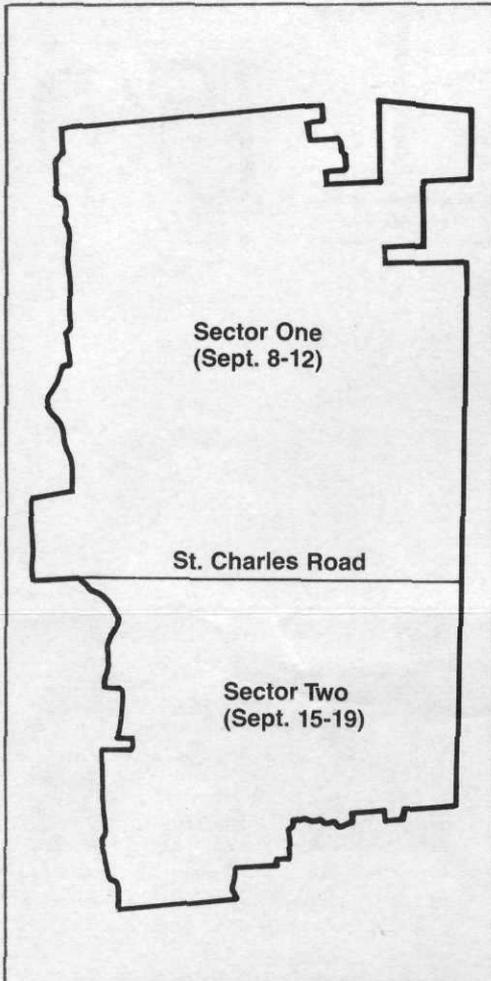
The three-day festival will include plenty of food, games and continuous German entertainment. Championship rounds of several community sporting events—from softball to mud volleyball—also will be held on the Oktoberfest grounds.

The highlight of the Fest will come at dusk on Saturday, Sept. 13, with a super-duper fireworks display that organizers say will be the largest in DuPage County history. The grand finale will include 840 — yes, 840! — rockets.

On Sept. 12, the Historical Museum will sponsor self-guided tours of six historic Elmhurst homes. The walks will be conducted from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Tickets are available at the museum.

Marie Shapiro, chairman of the Sesqui activities committee, says community response to the summer-long birthday celebration has been overwhelming.

"People have been fantastic," she says. "Everyone has been very supportive. They realize it's their party and they're enjoying it."



City crews planning fall brush pickup

The great Elmhurst "brush-off" will resume early next month as part of the city's bi-annual brush pickup program.

Public works crews will be collecting brush in Sector One (see map) the week of Sept. 8-12. They will be in Sector Two the week of Sept. 15-19.

Brush should be placed in the parkway the Sunday night before the start of the scheduled pickup. Crews will make just one pass along each route and will not return for materials placed out after the Sunday deadline.

Because of the large areas and expected volumes of brush, pickups in each sector will continue throughout the week.

For the remainder of summer and the fall, brush that is prepared to the following specifications will be collected for no extra charge as part of the weekly rubbish service:

- Branches must not exceed four feet in length and two inches in diameter at the butt end.
- Brush must be bundled or placed in containers and set on parkways.
- The volume of brush should not exceed four cubic yards—or seven bundles measuring 2' x 2' x 4'.

Mayor's Message

This year's Sesquicentennial celebration has again renewed the pride that we all have in this great city. The volunteerism and contributions from the community have made Elmhurst's 150th year one that will always be remembered and it isn't over by a long shot. The closing festivities will be among the most exciting events that have ever taken place in our city.

If you haven't yet participated in one of the Sesquicentennial events, please don't miss the chance to be a part of some of the spectacular activities that are still to come.

It truly is your party. Enjoy it.

Just as residents are renewing their pride in Elmhurst, your city government is renewing its dedication to provide you with the best services possible. I emphasize service, because that is what you pay for with your hard-earned tax dollars and that is what you should expect to receive.

When you decide to purchase a product or service, you expect to be satisfied. There's no reason you should accept anything less from government services. Our goal is not only to give you outstanding value for your tax dollar, but also to provide city services in a courteous and respectful manner.

One of the best ways to improve service is for those of us in city government to listen to your comments and suggestions. I told you in my first mayor's message that my motto for government is "Listening to You, Working for You."

Toward that end, I have kept the mayor's office open every Monday night to listen to your comments or concerns. Some of

the best ideas for improving Elmhurst have come from you, or people like you, who have shared suggestions with various city officials.

For example, Mrs. Dorothy Bonthron recently called her alderman and expressed concerns about a State of Illinois highway crew that was marking for removal many of the beautiful oak trees in her neighborhood.

Because she took the time to call, the city was able to act on behalf of the neighborhood and—with the help of State Rep. Gene Hoffman—alter the state's plans and save many of the trees.

Mrs. Bonthron's interest in the community is an excellent example of how you and your neighbors can work with the city to help make it a better place for all of us.

Beginning in this issue of the city newsletter, we will provide you with a form for suggestions or comments. We call it SOUND OFF! Please use it to alert me and your city council about things we could improve, or to share any idea about how we can better serve you, or to just drop us a line and tell us what you think we're doing right.—

We'll take a close look at all your comments and suggestions and we'll respond as quickly as we can. Your ideas will be greatly appreciated.

Mayor Robert J. Quinn

New chief named

Police setting sights on 21st century

Elmhurst's new police chief, John Millner, is not the kind of man who backs down from a challenge.

He proved that shortly after his appointment as acting chief in late July when he announced that his two major goals are to lead his department into the 21st century and to make the Elmhurst police force "the standard against which other departments are judged."

Big talk for a new chief, but Elmhurst officials long have been impressed with Millner's work. The city council expressed its confidence in his abilities by unanimously approving his appointment.

He replaces Bernt Monsen, a 29-year veteran of the department, who will retire Jan. 2 after more than five years as chief. Until that time, Monsen will serve as an advisor to the new chief to ensure the smoothest possible transition.

Millner, 35, joined the department as a patrolman in 1972 and rose steadily through the ranks. He most recently served as commander of the detective division.

He has a bachelor's degree in social justice from Lewis University and a master's degree in law enforcement administration from Western Illinois University. He's also a polygraph expert and a master investigator hypnotist.

Millner knows he has set difficult goals for the department, but he's convinced they're attainable if everyone works together.

He says the department already is blessed with a number of strong leaders and he's determined to listen to any and all suggestions for improving police operations.

"I want to create a feeling of togetherness so that creativity isn't stifled and so everyone feels like they're an important part of the organization," he says.

"John will be an outstanding chief...he'll carry on the fine tradition of the department."

He also wants to work closely with Monsen to learn some of the administrative ropes.

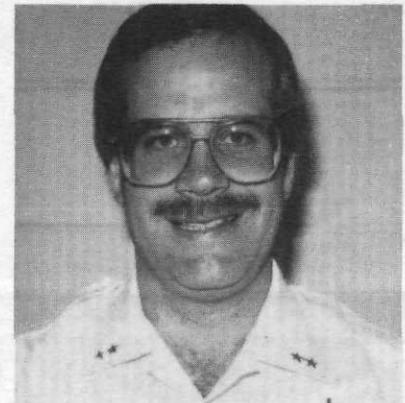
"I'm happy that I'll be allowed to work under his (Monsen's) guidance and benefit from his expertise," the new chief says.

Monsen, 49, says he's leaving his post with a "sense of pride in the department and the quality of services it provides to the community."

"We've always been cognizant of the people's needs in the community," he says, "and the citizens have always been supportive."

Monsen also has nothing but praise for the man who will try to fill his shoes.

"John will be an outstanding chief," he says. "I'm sure he'll carry on the fine tradition of the department."



John Millner



Bernt Monsen

Entry deadline nears

CITY PHOTO CONTEST OFFERS CASH! FAME!

Picture this: A photograph you've taken could appear in the official, one-of-a-kind, 1987 City of Elmhurst Calendar. And not only would you and your neighbors be able to look at your masterpiece for a whole month, but you'd receive \$40 in cold hard cash to boot!

It's all part of the city's Sesquicentennial Photo Contest and everybody's eligible, from the seasoned professional shutterbug to the weekend clicker. But hurry, contest entries must be submitted to city hall no later than noon on Oct. 1. This is a chance you won't want to miss.

Here's the lowdown: Photos must be of people, attractions or activities that make Elmhurst the special place it is to live and work.

Entries will be judged on quality, originality and compliance with the theme. They will be accepted in four categories:

- People
- City Life
- Landscapes and Scenery
- Events and Festivals

Photos must be color prints at least 3-1/2" x 4-1/4". Winners will be required to furnish negatives. Each submission must be accompanied by the application form provided here or by a photocopy of the form.

Winning entrants must be able to provide written consent from identifiable people appearing in their photographs.

Prints will not be returned.

Along with the entry form, photographers should include their name, telephone number and the category in which the picture is being entered on the back of each photo. A single photo may not be entered in more than one category.

Entrants are eligible to win in each of the four categories, but no entrant can win more than once in any single category.

If all that sounds complicated, don't be discouraged. What we're really looking for are some unusual views of our city that we can share with the rest of the community.

So good luck and get clicking.

etc.

Street Life ...

Paving work, which began earlier this month on about seven miles of city streets, is scheduled for completion in early September. Associated restoration work should be completed this fall...From the sign of the times department: the city is installing five new signs at key locations to welcome visitors to Elmhurst. The signs, each of which will be accented with landscaping and a disease-resistant hybrid elm tree, will be installed along north and south York Street, along east St. Charles Road and east Butterfield Road, and at the Melrose-North Avenue triangle.

Money, Money...

City officials have their fingers crossed that they'll receive \$4 million in proposed "Build Illinois" funds to help pay Elmhurst's \$5.6 million share for proposed sewer improvements.

The first phase of the two-part project calls for upgrading sanitary sewer lift stations and replacing about four miles of sewer lines to improve flow to the wastewater treatment plant. Public Works Director William Gray says the improvements will reduce the threat of sewer back-ups and the danger of sewage overflowing into Salt Creek. Construction is scheduled for late 1987.

Phase two will involve improvements to the wastewater treatment plant to meet Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) water quality standards.

Speaking of Water...

Yes, you're going to keep receiving quarterly notices that naturally occurring radium levels in Elmhurst's water supply exceed EPA limits. But, no, there appears to be no immediate danger to your health.

Radium concentrations in the city's water supply have remained fairly constant since the 1950's, but the EPA didn't start setting standards for those concentrations until 1981.

The problem will be solved with the arrival of Lake Michigan water in the early 1990's, but until then, officials say there isn't much to be overly concerned about.

Even EPA officials say the chances of contacting a life-threatening disease like bone cancer from Elmhurst water are less than one in a million for a life-long resident.

To put that in perspective, the EPA says that someone who drives 300 miles in a car faces a million to one shot of dying. So does someone who rides a bicycle for just 10 miles. And so does someone who, during his lifetime, has eaten 40 tablespoons of peanut butter.



PHOTO CONTEST OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

NAME: _____ Telephone: _____
(please print)

ADDRESS: _____

PHOTO TITLE: _____

CATEGORY: (Check One) PEOPLE LANDSCAPES/SCENERY
 CITY LIFE EVENTS/FESTIVALS

Form (or a photocopy) must accompany each entry.
Decisions of the judges are final.

RETURN TO:
City Photo Contest 119 Schiller
City of Elmhurst Elmhurst, Illinois 60126

Working Together

Public—private cooperation key to downtown plan

Elmhurst's drive toward revitalizing its downtown business district is beginning to pick up speed and could be going full throttle by late fall.

Design and development plans already have been completed for two proposed gateways to the central business district (CBD). Officials also have identified elements for improving the proposed Schiller Court area in the heart of the city and for creating "Elmhurst-style" parking at several locations.

All of that work is part of a \$270,000 public improvement program approved earlier this year by the city council. The program is designed to demonstrate—both to the community and potential developers—the city's commitment to maintaining a healthy and vibrant downtown.

"The most important part of this program is to have the public support to make it work."

That approach seems to be working because three major firms already have submitted what officials call "exciting proposals" for developing portions of the CBD. The three companies are: Craig/Stevens Development Co., Northbrook; Rescorp Development Corporation, Chicago; and The Forrest City-Harris Group, Chicago.

The council tentatively is scheduled to select one of those companies this fall to begin working with the city on downtown redevelopment.

But in order for that to happen, officials say they will need continued and expanded support from the private sector.

"The most important part of this program is to have the public support to make it work," says City Manager, Thomas Borchert.

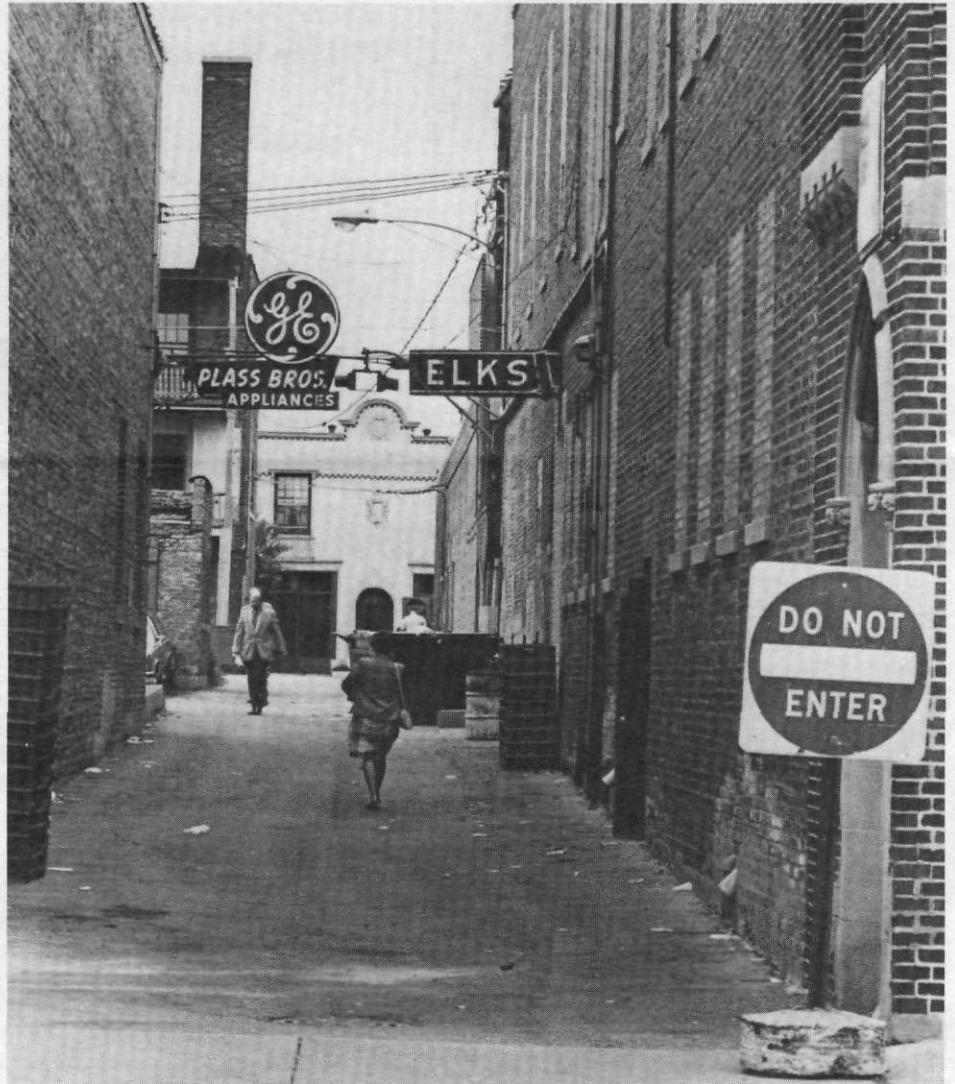
"We're showing our commitment to the developers, but the bottom line is: this is your project Elmhurst. In order to be successful, we need to create and maintain a spirit of public—private cooperation."

An example of that spirit of cooperation surfaced this summer when the city and Immanuel Lutheran Church worked hand-in-hand to develop plans for "Elmhurst-style" parking at the northeast corner of Elmhurst Street and Michigan Avenue, near city hall. Construction is scheduled to begin in September.

"Elmhurst-style parking will be parking that not only respects the area's aesthetics, but actually improves upon them," says Mayor Robert Quinn.

That project is the first in what officials say will be a series of steps to create new parking and improve existing spaces for shoppers and commuters without detracting from the CBD's appearance.

In addition to the joint venture with Immanuel Lutheran, Quinn says officials



This alleyway is one of the areas scheduled for improvement as part of the Schiller Court project that will help kick-off Elmhurst's drive for a "new" downtown.

"will continue to look at other opportunities as they present themselves to provide quality parking."

But parking isn't the only element in the proposed public improvement program.

"Elmhurst-style parking will not only respect an area's aesthetics, but actually improve upon them."

The city also is taking close looks at plans for creating at least two gateways to the CBD that probably would be located at York and 3rd Street to the north and the southern intersection of York Street and Robert Palmer Drive to the south.

Officials say the gateways will help set the downtown area apart from the rest of the city and tell visitors they're entering a special place.

Still another aspect of the proposed public improvement program is the development of Schiller Court. The site, which now consists primarily of alleyways and parking lots behind stores, is in an area bordered roughly by 1st Street to the south, Addison Avenue to the west, York Street to the east, and the Schiller Street alley to the north.

Planners hope to convert the area into a people-gathering place and focal point for the CBD while still maintaining most of the parking. They hope to create pedestrian linkages between York Street and Addison Avenue, spruce up the rears of some of the buildings, plant flowers and trees, and use some of the area's nooks and crannies for outdoor eating areas.

None of those plans are cast in concrete, but city officials say they represent a serious and important step toward a cautious and well-conceived downtown revitalization program that can help the CBD survive and flourish well into the next century.

Details, details . . .

All bicycles in Elmhurst should be licensed for identification purposes. Licenses are available from the city collector's office free of charge and are valid as long as the bike is owned. Bicycle riding and skate board riding are not allowed on the sidewalks of city business districts because of possible safety hazards.

- The burning of leaves, paper or rubbish on public streets, alleys or sidewalks is illegal within the city.
- Parking is prohibited on city streets between 3 a.m. and 6 a.m. to allow for proper street cleaning and to provide for neighborhood security.
- Lawn and garden sprinkling is permitted between 8 p.m. and 8 a.m. Residents with even-numbered addresses are asked to sprinkle only on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Residents with odd-numbered addresses are asked to sprinkle only on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Sprinkling is not permitted on Sunday.
- Residents interested in home remodeling or constructing a fence may require a permit from the building department **BEFORE CONSTRUCTION BEGINS**. A review of the construction plans will ensure that the municipal building code and life safety code is being followed. Call the building department at 530-3030 for details.
- Garage sale, real estate and political signs should be posted on private property. Sale signs are not allowed on parkways and are limited in size to six square feet.
- Trees within the city suspected of having Dutch Elm Disease will be inspected and tested by city personnel. If the disease is found, state law requires owners to remove the tree, or to authorize the city to remove the tree at the owner's expense. All parkway trees are inspected annually by the city. Dutch Elm logs may be stored in the city if the bark is removed.
- **DID YOU KNOW?** That Elmhurst covers 10.1 square miles...that there are 143 miles of city maintained streets...that the median age of an Elmhurst resident is 33.4 years...that the median family income is \$30,407?

JOIN THE CELEBRATION THAT'S BEEN 150 YEARS IN THE MAKING!

YES, I want to....

- Make reservations for the Community Steak Fry**
Friday, September 5 (\$15.00 steak dinner/\$8.00 child's hamburger dinner)

____ Number of steak dinners

____ Number of hamburger dinners

- Purchase tickets for the Gala Street Dance**
Saturday, September 6 (\$10 per person/\$19.86 per couple)

____ Number of tickets

Make checks payable to Elmhurst Sesquicentennial and mail to Sesquicentennial Headquarters, First Street at York, Elmhurst, 60126.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Yes, I would like a copy of the book "150 Years of News". Here is my donation of \$8.95 payable to Elmhurst Sesquicentennial or mail to Elmhurst Sesquicentennial, P. O. Box 1986, Elmhurst, IL 60126.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Phone _____

All proceeds will benefit the Elmhurst Sesquicentennial. Allow 3-4 weeks for delivery. You will be notified when your book is ready for pickup. Add an additional \$1.50 for handling and shipping if you wish to have your book mailed.

City of Elmhurst

119 Schiller St., Elmhurst, IL 60126

(312) 530-3000

Elected Officials: Robert J. Quinn, mayor
Alice Doyle, city clerk
Robert W. Sutherland, treasurer

Aldermen: John J. Carroll and James R. Thomas, 1st ward; Jane Bartmann and Charles "Chuck" Smith, 2nd ward; Vicki Southcombe and Carl A. "Mac" Macaione, 3rd ward; Olivia Gow and John E. Howlett Jr., 4th ward; Robert L. Wilkinson and William H. Jones III, 5th ward; Frank N. Capparelli and Donald F. Olson, 6th ward; and John Ferrone and Charles H. Garrigues, 7th ward.

Appointed Officials: Thomas P. Borchert, city manager
Robert B. Cole, assistant city manager/
director of finance
Richard R. Swanson, fire chief/
superintendent of building
construction
Bernt A. Monsen, police chief
John Millner, acting chief of police
William R. Gray, director of public works

Elmhurst: Scenes from Yesterday, the new book published by the Elmhurst Historical Commission, has been received from the printer and is now available for distribution. This hardcover volume includes more than 400 pictures of people, places and events in Elmhurst's past — most of which have never been published before! The book is light and lively, with captions by Virginia Novinger.

This keepsake volume costs \$14.50. You may pick up a copy at the Elmhurst Historical Museum, 120 E. Park Avenue, or at the Sesquicentennial headquarters — the caboose at York and First streets.

For a limited time — through Founders' Week — the new book and the 1977 historical study, *Elmhurst: Trails from Yesterday* will be available at a special combination price of \$24.00.



**ELMHURST:
SCENES
FROM
YESTERDAY**

Your Opinion Counts

Got an idea about how to make Elmhurst a better place?

Does something really bug you about the way this city is being run?

Do you just want to take a minute to tell somebody they're doing a good job?

SOUND OFF! is your chance. It's our ver-

sion of a community soap box and it gives you, the resident, the opportunity to let us know what's on your mind.

Starting with this issue of the Elmhurst Newsletter, SOUND OFF! will be a regular feature. We promise we'll read your notes and, if you give us your name, address and

telephone number, we'll reply to your suggestions or criticisms as quickly as we can.

The success of any local government depends on communication between residents and the people elected or appointed to serve them. We want to hear from you.

SOUND OFF! A forum for residents' comments, complaints and suggestions about their city and how to make it a better place to live.

Dear Mayor and Members of the City Council: _____

If you wish a personal reply, please complete the following:

NAME: _____ TELEPHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

RETURN TO: SOUND OFF!
City of Elmhurst

119 Schiller Street
Elmhurst, Illinois 60126

City of Elmhurst
119 Schiller Street
Elmhurst, IL 60126
(312) 530-3000

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