

Elizabeth

The heart of Jo Daviess County

Special points of interest:

- **Dollar General Update**
- **Northwest Special Education comes to Elizabeth**
- **Spring Fling**
- **Music in the Park**
- **Shop Local Campaign**



Village of Elizabeth Newsletter

Michael Dittmar, President

Message from the Mayor

First of all, let me apologize for taking so long to come out with this newsletter. Things were a little hectic this winter and spring. I sincerely apologize. The good news is, because of the wait, we do have some information to share with you. In January, I told the Village Board that 2014 might be our best year yet. Here goes!

The Village has been working hard the last 2 years to get a grocery store. We decided that a Dollar General would be our best chance of getting something close to a grocery store and we are happy to announce that a major hurdle has been overcome and things are looking good on that front. Please read further in the newsletter for more information.

By the time you get this, the Downtown Sidewalk Project should almost be finished. This work was made possible by a USDA grant and Village TIF funds. The goal is to make the entrance of our downtown more pleasing and encourage people to stop and shop.

We received a \$50,000 grant from the State of Illinois DCEO that will go toward Terrapin Park. We have received 25% of the funding. Sometime after the fair, we should receive the remaining 75%. Soon after, you can expect to see some curb and gutter, other drain items, and blacktop to enhance the park area.

I was asked recently, why are we only getting grants for the park? We are currently applying for 6 grants for, a wide-range of needed projects, but for whatever reason, we are only being awarded grants for the park.

Our audit came back from the Village 2012-2013 fiscal year showing a \$43,000 surplus, the first surplus in about 4 years. \$43,000 sounds like a lot, but most of it went back into the savings accounts that needed to be replenished, with half going to our MFT (streets) fund. Our plan is to spend those funds next year on seal-coating as many streets as possible. Budget year 2013-2014 just ended and that looks good, as well.

After ten years, Highland Community College will be leaving the Old School Building. I am pleased to announce that Northwest Special Education Co-op will be taking its place. We want to thank Highland for their years in Elizabeth. NWSE signed a 3 year lease agreement with the Village. As many of you know, Highland was in the building rent free (they did share utilities) and now we will be getting a fair monthly rental from NWSE, which will help our budget immensely. Also, NWSE will be bringing 15 full time jobs to Elizabeth—wow!

Because of Highland's move, the Village will have complete control of the gymnasium this

summer, and has already signed a lease with GEAR to run and administer its usage. If you haven't seen the gym, be sure you get down there to take a look! The Village, with the help of GEAR and Mark Petsche, cleaned, fixed, painted, and resealed everything and it is looking very good. The gym update would not have been possible without the participants in the MAPPING process. I would also like to thank all the MAPPING people for all their work and future work upcoming.

Lastly, I want to stress that the Village is committed to communicate with the residents of Elizabeth on all the happenings that are going on. We recently annexed 34 acres into town (the Farm Camp) and there was some concern that the Village was being "secretive" in this process. The Village followed all legal requirements for notifications with the annexation and on top of that, put updates on our web-page and Facebook page 2-3 months beforehand. The Village does send its minutes to one of the local papers, however, they have not printed them. I now have contacted The Flash and they will print our minutes monthly. Last but not least, please do not hesitate to call me or any board member, anytime, should you have a question. Thanks!

Michael Dittmar

Village, President



Public Works Report

This summer the Village will be installing all new signs throughout the town. The State of Illinois is requiring that all stop signs and the like, be replaced with “highly reflective” signs. The State is paying for them, but we will be installing. Some of the new signs have tree limbs or bushes that are partially blocking the view. Some of these trees are on private property. Before the Village

cuts anything down, we will communicate with the home owner to give them the option of trimming themselves, or having the Village do it.

We have noticed some people are putting out their garbage several days before Friday. We ask that if you do that, please put the bags in garbage cans. Quite often, the paper and plastic doesn't make it until Friday, blows all over and causes a mess.

Finally, please do not put grass clippings in the street. We have already unplugged two storm drains and this could cause flooding in some areas. Clippings can all be taken down to the Village dump behind the Community Building.

Thank you to all who moved their cars during the street sweeping!

Grocery Store Update

As many of you know, the Village has put much time, money and effort into trying to get a new grocery store. About two years ago, the Village budgeted money to hire Community Funding & Planning (CFPS, Inc.) to try recruiting a grocery store for us. They quickly replied back that they thought they had a chance at a Dollar General. A Dollar General carries many common grocery items. The Village Board gave them the go ahead.

After two years of work, around mid-May, we heard that Dollar General's corporate office approved the Village of Elizabeth as a site for a new store. That was probably the biggest hurdle we were facing. But until a shovel hits the ground, the Village isn't taking anything for granted. So what is the status now? The Village is currently negotiating a TIF redevelopment deal with the Dollar General people and we should

know something in a few weeks. The TIF district is turning out to be a valuable tool to help recruit Dollar General.

Once we have the agreement in place, Dollar General will then close on the property and start building. As of now, we don't have anything for a solid timeline but we are hoping by at least Christmas, if not Fall. Keep your fingers crossed!

Music in the Park Schedule

11-7: Derinda, Hanover & Massbach Lutheran Youth pulled pork sandwiches

12:30—2:00: Local Talent - Connor Brown

2-3: Open Mic

3-5: Local Talent Ray and Judy Traen

5:30—6:00—Grand Opening of Terrapin Park

6-10: The Infarctions—a Blues Band.

Music in the Park/Grand Opening of Terrapin Park/Spring Fling

On June 7th, coinciding with the Spring Fling, the Village will be hosting the first ever Music in the Park. Also, on the 7th, there will be a Flea Market at the Fair Grounds and the Derinda, Hanover, Massbach Lutheran Church Youth Group will be selling pulled pork sandwiches at the Community Building from 11:30 a.m.—7:00 p.m. The proceeds from the cookout will go toward Navaeh LaFrancois, the young girl from Hanover that recently had a heart transplant.

Music will start playing at 12:30 with local talent Connor Brown,

followed by an open mic session at 2:00 with local talent Ray and Judy Thraen playing from 3-5.

At 5:30 there will be a short ceremony to officially open Terrapin Park. The Village will be giving out “keys” to the Village for people who donated \$1,000 and over in dollars and/or in-kind services to the project. Anyone and everyone is invited!!

From 6:00 to 10:00 the band, The Infarctions will be playing. The festivities are free, however, there will be a “pass the hat” to help offset the cost of the band.

Don't forget that June 7th is also the annual Elizabeth Chamber of Commerce's Spring Fling, downtown. Most of the stores will be open with great deals. There will be a “food court” between the Elizabeth Garage and Galena State Bank with Bounce Houses for the kids. June 7th in Elizabeth is looking like it will be one heck of a day! We hope all can go out and experience some of the fun things going on!

Police Chief Report

Welcome Spring and Summer....I think we can all agree on that! However, with the arrival of warmer temperatures, some problems begin to happen regarding pets. It really boils down to common courtesy for our neighbors and fellow residents. All dogs must be leashed when walking them. All dog waste must be cleaned up by the owner of the animal while walking their dog. And finally, regarding the dog waste situation....please do not allow your dog to urinate on the streetlights downtown or resident's bushes, flowers and lawns. In addition to dogs not

being allowed to run at large, cats are not allowed to run at large in the village by ordinance. I did have a resident complain about barking dogs. No one wants to listen to a barking dog at 3AM. Please keep your dogs quiet, and again this boils down to common courtesy. The vast majority of dog and cat owners do their best to take care of their animals and I think they are to be commended.

In conclusion, I want to remind everyone to watch out for children playing along the streets and alleys. They do

not always think when chasing a ball or running after one another. They are children and we all were once children, no matter what our age. One of the greatest joys in the world down through the ages have been the sound and laughter of happy and content children. It is a sound I look forward to every year in Elizabeth. Have a wonderful Spring and Summer.

Scott Toot

Chief of Police



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Help 'Energize Elizabeth' and shop local

A promotion to encourage local residents to Energize Elizabeth by shopping local starts June 1.

"Shop Local Challenge" punch cards are available now at the two banks in Elizabeth, The Elizabeth Banking Center and Apple River State Bank. Residents who accept the seven-week challenge to "shop local" can pick up a card at either bank anytime from May 19 through June 7.

"This Shop Local Challenge is a direct result of the MAPPING program Elizabeth residents participated in last fall," said Pam Wheelwright, chairman of the challenge promotion. "This promotion is sponsored by the Elizabeth Retail Growth & Development Group that was formed through the MAPPING process. Our focus is promotion of local busi-

nesses by educating and encouraging residents as to the importance of supporting their local businesses."

How does the challenge work? Each week for seven weeks, June 1 through July 13, participants must shop at one of the 20 participating businesses, spend at least \$20 and get their card stamped. At the end of the seven weeks, participants return the completed card. Their name will be entered in a drawing to win one of two \$100 gift certificates that can be redeemed at any of the participating businesses. Fully stamped cards must be returned by Saturday, July 19 and can be dropped off at either bank by noon or at the Elizabeth Fairgrounds between noon and 5 p.m. The winners will be drawn and announced during the Sunday evening entertainment at the Eliza-

beth Fair on July 20. Winners do not need to be present to win.

For more information, contact Pam Wheelwright at Hoskins Building Center at 815-858-3414 or visit the Energize Elizabeth - Shop Local Facebook page.

MAPPING (Management and Planning Programs Involving Nonmetropolitan Groups) the Future of Your Community is a strategic visioning and planning process in which local community residents create an action plan for creating the community they envision. The Retail Growth & Development Group's main goal is that residents enjoy a variety of retail stores that provide for all the basic needs of their families.



Shop Elizabeth





The Village of Elizabeth

310 West Street—Room 140
PO Box 236
Elizabeth, IL 61028

Phone: 815-858-3911
Fax: 815-858-9212
E-mail: villageofelizabeth@aeroinc.net
Mike's E-mail: mikedittmar210@yahoo.com

The Village Board of Elizabeth published this newsletter in an effort to better communicate with the residents of the Village of Elizabeth. We intend to continue a tri-annual newsletter and will do our best to keep it up to date. The Village welcomes any organization that would like to use the newsletter or the Village websites to help advertise/communicate local events. Please contact Michael Dittmar or the Village Hall at 815-858-3911 if interested.

*Sincerely,
The Village Board of Elizabeth*

We're on the Web!

(Village Municipal web-page) <http://villageofelizabeth.pbworks.com>

(Relocation web-page) <http://www.riverridge210.org/welcome/Elizabeth.html>

Facebook—Village of Elizabeth, Illinois

Upcoming Dates and Community Events

Upcoming Dates

June 3rd at 4:30—Village Public Works Committee

June 4th at 7:00—Village Administration Committee

June 4th at 7:00—River Ridge 8th Grade Commencement

June 7th—Spring Fling/Music in the Park/Flea Market.

June 18th at 7:00—Regular Board Meeting

July 1st at 4:30—Public Works Committee

July 2nd at 7:00—Administration Committee

July 16th—Regular Board Meeting

July 18th, 19th, and 20th—Elizabeth Community Fair and Parade.

**Spring Fling
June 7th**

**Bounce
House**

**Deals!
Shopping!**

**Music in the
Park**

**June 7th
12:30-10:00
Grand Opening
of Terrapin
Park
5:30**

Promote your event here.
Just let us know!