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Elmwood Park cuts 2012 property tax levy by 5.3%

Village puts forth "frugal and realistic" spending plan

ELMWOOD PARK – The Elmwood Park Village Board this week approved the 2012 budget appropriation of \$48,853,327. The corresponding property tax levy is set at \$11,040,803, which represents a 5.3 percent reduction compared to last year.

The difference between the levy and the total budget is made up with additional sources of revenue the Village receives, such as the Motor Fuel Tax. However, license and permit fees will not increase.

President Silvestri noted that the budget amount was decreased, in part, because of the early retirement of five employees and the elimination of a Directors' position. "All departments, with the exception of police and fire, saw cutbacks. This budget is frugal and realistic, while also allowing us to move forward on key capital projects."

New capital projects for the coming year include the flood mitigation project for Westwood and surrounding areas (pending final approval by the Village Board), Green Alley replacement, closing expenses for the Belmont Avenue Streetscape and money for the redevelopment of the Armitage and 76th Avenue Park. Twelve blocks of streets are slated for resurfacing using Motor Fuel Tax dollars.

"We're also continuing our special events, such as the Farmers' Markets, Taste of Elmwood Park and Summer Concerts in the Park," Silvestri said. "We know these are important to fostering the community spirit that makes Elmwood Park a great place to live."

While the board approved the appropriations this week, the spending plan will be retroactive to May 1, when the 2012 budget began.

Elmwood Park is located approximately 12 miles from downtown Chicago. Incorporated in 1914, the Village is primarily a residential community of single-family homes, newer condominiums and town homes, but also includes several business districts and a small light industrial area.