



ELLSWORTH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
 APRIL NEWSLETTER

Community Association Officers
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 Secretary: Amber Davis
 Treasurer: Linda Clark
 Board Member: Marv Norem
 Editor: Janet Adix
ellsworthca@netins.net



April 19, 2025 - 9:00AM

Ellsworth City Park

Weather Permitting

Inclement Weather - Place to be Announced

BRUNCH & SILENT AUCTION

Community Association

Community Center

April 19, 9:00-11:00AM

See page 4 for details

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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT																																																																																																			
First Quarter: 4 Full Moon: 12 Last Quarter: 20 New Moon: 27	GUIDE TO BEST FISHING DAYS BEST  GOOD  POOR 	1 Community Association -6:00 Community Center <small>All Fools' Day</small>	2	3 Library board meet 5:30	4	5 Bingo Community Center 5:00																																																																																																			
6 Trinity Lutheran Church 9:00	7	8	9	10	11	12 Bingo Community Center 5:00																																																																																																			
13 Trinity Lutheran Church 9:00 <small>Palm Sunday Passover Begins</small>	14 City Council 6:00	15	16 Firemen's meeting 7:00	17	18 Good Friday 	19 Bingo Community Center 5:00																																																																																																			
20 Trinity Lutheran Church 9:00 <small>Easter Sunday</small>	21 Easter Monday (Canada)	22 City Council 5:00 <small>Earth Day</small>	23 Administrative Professionals Day (USA)	24	25	26 Bingo Community Center 5:00																																																																																																			
27 Trinity Lutheran Church 9:00	28	29	30	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">MARCH</th> <th colspan="7">MAY</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td> <td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td> <td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td> <td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td> <td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		MARCH							MAY							S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S							1						1	2	3	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
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APRIL

2025

Notices:

NEWSLETTER MATERIAL DUE: by the 25th of the month for the next month's edition. Send by email to ellsworthca@netins.net or Ellsworth Community Association, PO Box 272, Ellsworth, Ia 50075. Subscribe/ unsubscribe by email: send your request to ellsworthca@netins.net.

Opinions expressed in the Ellsworth Newsletter are those of the writers and are not necessarily those of the Ellsworth Community Association or the editor.

Ellsworth Meals: Contact Linda Clark 515-297-3012 if you wish to have the noon meal delivered. Delivery Monday thru Friday, no holidays. Each meal \$5.00

Community Coffee - Tuesdays 9:30-?. Trinity Lutheran Church, Ellsworth. Everyone welcome.

Lord's Cupboard: Bethesda Lutheran Church, Jewell, 1st Monday 1:00-2:00, 5:00-6:30, other Mondays 5:00-6:30.

Birthdays This Month

Jacob Nicholson	1st	Cory Nelson	11th	Ronda Olson	21st
Jim Hill	3rd	Dawn Hegland	12th	Brandi Nelson	23rd
Cole Berg	4th	Elizabeth Hill	14th	Mary Hill	23rd
Colton Hill	4th	Gail George	15th	Michael Eckers	26th
Jaclyn Hill	8th	Josh Angove	15th	John Lovell	27th
Kasen VanLangen	9th	Veronica Olson	18th	Davien Henderson	29th
Zachery Campbell	10th	Austin Busch	19th	Debbie Caudle	29th
Diane Holt	10th	Adalynne Hill	20th		

ANNIVERSARIES

Marcia & Danny Anderson	4th	Brain & Kristal Johnson	10th
Konni & Doug VanLangen	4th	Leah & Bob Maass	17th
Janet & Tony Lindseth	5th	Tory & Jessica Hetland	26th
Barb & Wayne Patterson	7th	Staci & Jason Thompson	27th
Linda & Dale Graham	8th		

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BRUNCH

April 19, 9:00-11:00

Pancakes, Sausage & Strawberries
Free Will Donations accepted

SILENT AUCTION

April 19, 9:00-10:30

Ellsworth Community Center

Sponsored by Ellsworth Community Assoc.

ECA 2025 Activities

- May 5th - Hwy 175 Clean Up,
- May 11th - Mother's Day Hanging Baskets
signup and give away
- May 15th - South Hamilton Seniors Awards
Banquet -three scholarships given
- July - Community Garage Sales
- July - Dump Your Junk
- October - Halloween Party at Fire Station
- December - Santa Claus come to town
- December- Lighting Contest
- December - Christmas Baskets delivered

REMEMBERING THE PAST: Interstate Opens

Printed from the South Hamilton News in 1967. "Ellsworth has this picturesque access to I-35 located just east of town. The half-cloverleaf provides for traffic from the four points of the compass. "

The Interstate highway open to traffic from Ames to Williams in December of 1967. But one thing was missing. There was no sign telling travelers this exit took you to Ellsworth. The signs listed Jewell and Hubbard. Under the rules for signing at the time, the county seat town, the first town of 1,000 or more population, or the end town served by a stub route in either direction for the interstate was listed.

Ellsworth asked for a change to the Commission policy for some time. A group of interested business people met at the Highway Commission and discussed the possibility of a sign being place on the Interstate. In 1969, Ellsworth got their name on I-35.

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HOMEWOOD CEMETERY IMPROVEMENT ASS'N

ADOPT A FLAG AND POLE

Avenue of Flags - Flag and Pole

\$125.00 Flag, Pole & Plaque engraved with family name on pole

Contact: Lisa Hovick 515-290-6845 by May 1st.

FEBRUARY 25TH CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The Ellsworth City Council met in regular session at 6:02 p.m. at City Hall on February 25th, 2025 with Mayor Pro Tem William Funk, and the following council present: Olson and Phipps. Sogard arrived at 6:05 p.m.

AGENDA APPROVAL: Motion by Olson, seconded by Phipps to approve the agenda. Roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA: Motion by Olson, seconded by Phipps to approve the following items listed on the consent agenda:

- a. Motion to approve February 10 Minutes.
- b. b. Motion to approve purchase of 3-month CD with Availa using \$490,000 in LOST funds.
- c. Motion to donate \$150 to South Hamilton Post Prom Committee from Bingo Funds.

Roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried and claims hereby made a portion of these minutes.

ECA: Linda Clark and Darlene Campbell present to discuss dispersal of monthly newsletter. Current rate to do every door mailing including rural Ellsworth is \$700 per month. Discussion with council about potential other options that would still meet the desires of some to receive a physical copy of the newsletter in the mail. After discussion narrowed down to sending out a one time every door mailing of a one page signup document. There will be an annual fee to receive the newsletter in the mail, as it's readily available on the city's website as well as emailed to those who request it for no charge. Motion made by Sogard to have the 1 page signup mailing be printed at city hall, ECA will provide the paper and cover postage, ECA will provide the city clerk with the document to be printed after their next ECA meeting. Second by Phipps. Roll call votes 3-0, Olson abstained. Motion carried.

SOGARD EXCAVATING: After discussion with supervisor Vanlangen, no grapple hook for the city will be purchased this year. The old fire station with its close proximity to the neighboring property needs to be done by a more experienced excavation company. Motion made by Phipps to accept the bid of \$7800 to demolish and remove debris of the old fire station by Sogard Excavating. Second Olson. Roll call votes 3-0, Sogard abstained. Motion carried. Motion made by Phipps to accept the bid of \$6550 to demolish the old city utility shed and build up the site for new shed by Sogard Excavating. Second by Olson. Roll call votes 3-0, Sogard abstained. Motion carried.

BOOST GRANT CITY COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING: City Clerk Eckers met with Oattie Maxey of the Ames Area Economic Alliance to write a BOOST grant to help cover the cost of comprehensive planning this past week. The project scope was such that the deadline of February 28th for the grant could not be met. City Clerk Eckers will continue to pursue quotes for comprehensive planning and developing a steering team for the project. There is an alternative grant as an option to help with the cost with a more feasible deadline.

CITY LAND PURCHASE PROPOSAL: After council discussion Motion by Sogard to dissolve purchase/offer on parcels 40872331105003 and 40872331107001 for \$30,000/acre. Second by Olson, roll call votes 4-0, motion carried.

BUDGET DISCUSSION: DNR suggested budget for FY 25/26 for the Jewell/Ellsworth trail of \$750 was brought before council by Clerk Eckers. This amount will not be included in FY25/26 budget after discussion by council and input from city staff VanLangen and Knickerbocker.

FIRE/EMS: NOT PRESENT

LIBRARY: NOT PRESENT

CITY HALL UPDATES: City Clerk Eckers updated council on a request city hall received from the real-estate agent for the fish farm facility in the way of possible incentives the city could offer to a buyer. Clerk Eckers has reached out to bond attorney Amy Bjork to see what the agreement looked like originally and what is possible in the urban renewal district at this time. Clerk Eckers met this past week with Ellsworth museum director Janet Adix to discuss budget for the museum for FY24/25 and purposed budget for 25/26. Director Adix was unaware there was \$250 in the fy 24/25 budget of \$250 for the Museum and will turn in a few receipts for reimbursement of expenses. Clerk Eckers mentioned the process could be simplified for accounting purposes if Bingo made a donation which could be deposited and tracked in the library savings account for FY 25/26. South Hamilton baseball rec league director Jeremy Sloane reached out the city hall this past week to discuss timing for upcoming baseball season with practices to begin the end of March and games to begin April 21st. City staff Vanlangen and Knickerbocker will be working on the ball field surface and updating the concession stand bathrooms prior to the start date. City Clerk Eckers will alert ECA to the first game date for scheduling of the concession stand. Clerk Eckers updated council on need for new city attorney. Due to the number of larger scale projects on the docket for the city including potential land purchases, it has been suggested the city look into hiring a lawyer on retainer. City Clerk Eckers will make inquiries and update the council on potential costs and availability at the next council meeting.

PUBLIC WORKS UPDATES: PW Supervisor Vanlangen was present to update council on updates at the water plant. Currently two of the plant's pumps are being rebuilt. Vanlangen has a few inquiries out for continued quotes to replace media in sand filters and the RO membranes. Vanlangen updated council on success of maintenance work on the detention tanks that took place Monday Feb 24th. The water output has benefitted by it's increased clarity since this maintenance was finished. Supervisor Vanlangen and Councilman Phipps both updated council on Water tower project. SRF financing will be pursued and the city will budget for covering the cost of an increase in size of the water tower over and above what the SRF approved and within the size that was recommended by engineering firm Bolten and Menk working on the project. Bid letting maybe begin as soon as 2 months from now. The water rate study was done by Nate Summers of UMB bank and Clerk Eckers will include proposed numbers to council at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Pro Tem Funk adjourned the meeting at 7:59 pm

MARCH 10TH CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The Ellsworth City Council met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall on March 10th, 2025 with Mayor Yager presiding, and the following council present: Laube, Sogard, Phipps and Olson. Absent: Funk. Also in attendance were EJS Police Chief David Turpen, Kris Groth, South Hamilton Elementary Principal Steve Neuburger, and Nate Summers with UMB Bank.

	February Receipts	February Disbursements
General Fund	49930.62	17830.79
Road Use Fund	5125.57	31205.25
Employee Benefit Fund	37.33	0.00
Emergency Fund	0.00	
Local Option Sales Tax Fund	4516.34	
Tax Increment Finance Area 1	0.00	
Tax Increment Finance 1 Amend	0.00	
Bingo Fund	3413.22	2620.50
Debt Service Fund	19.98	0.00
Capital Project-Strm Water		
Capital Project-Water Tower		
Water Fund	37134.26	19307.66
Water Sinking Fund		
Sewer Fund	12669.24	6751.27
Electric Fund	54192.78	17915.58
Electric Sinking Fund		
Storm Water Fund	3203.10	62.99
Storm Water Sinking		
	\$170242.44	\$95694.04

AGENDA APPROVAL: Motion by Sogard, seconded by Olson to approve the agenda. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA: Motion by Olson, seconded by Laube to approve the following items listed on the consent agenda:

- a. Motion to approve February 25th, 2025 council minutes.
- b. Motion to approve February payment of claims.

Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried and claims hereby made a portion of these minutes.

PUBLIC FORUM: Kris Groth inquired as to which city shed had approved removal/replacement and alerted the council to a light being on in one of the previously abandoned downtown buildings.

SH SCHOOL BUS STOP SIGN ON 175: Mr Neuburger was present to discuss with council the close call incident of two students almost being hit by a car passing a stopped school bus on Hwy 175 two weeks prior. The buses have now all been set up with external cameras as well as bus routes changed to eliminate children having to cross roads to get on the bus. There's been a call by many constituents to have a bus stop both east bound and west bound on Hwy 175. Motion made by Sogard to make an inquiry to DOT to request signs for 175. Seconded by Laube. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

ELLSWORTH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION: Marcy Olson updated council on upcoming ECA events and made a request to use the park shelter house for an ice cream social event on August 2nd from 3pm to 9pm. Mayor Yager requested there be another, non-council seat, representative at the next council meeting to make this request. Discussion and motion will be moved to March 25 council meeting.

CITIZEN COMPLAINT FORM 2-25-25 FOLLOWUP: Copies of the nuisance ordinances have been sent to council persons, council members will pursue compliance. City Clerk Eckers will reach out to the complainant to communicate that council members will be looking into the matter and will follow through on abatement as necessary.

FIRE/EMS: None Present

LIBRARY: None Present

WATER RATE INCREASE: Ellsworth financial advisor, Nate Summers of UMB Bank, was present to discuss potential water rate increases to pursue the needed debt approval amounts for the new watertower project. Packets were dispersed to all council persons, staff and Mayor. These packets are available for viewing at city hall for the general public. Included in the water rate study were comparisons to 12 other surrounding communities providing water service to their residents. City Clerk Eckers will continue to work with Mr Summers as well as Amy Bjork of Dosey and Whitney for any proposed changes to the water rate ordinance.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH-CHURCH IN THE PARK: A request was made by Pastor Jon Rolofson via email to use the open shelter at the Ellsworth City Park for church services on June 1, July 6 and August 3. Motion was made by Sogard and seconded by Laube to allow the church use of the open shelter as well as to have the shelter house building available for use of restrooms. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

POLICE BOARD: EJS Police Chief Turpen was present to update the council on his recent resignation from the EJS Police Department at the March 6th Police Board Meeting. Council discussed the specific needs and issues that arise from a public safety perspective in Ellsworth and what the city's needs are from law enforcement in the future. Mayor Yager addressed the council and alerted them to a potential agreement the city could make with the Hamilton County Sheriff Department for less of a cost than the current rate being paid to the City of Jewell for it's contribution to the EJS Department annually. A few specific questions were raised by council members for Mayor Yager to bring to Sheriff Alex Pruismann prior to making any agreements or a decisions on changing Ellsworth's law enforcement presence. Public works employees also addressed the council in favor or pursuing an agreement with the Hamilton County Sheriff's Department. These questions will be answered at the March 25th council meeting where Sheriff Pruismann will be present. The council thanked Chief Turpen for his years of dedicated service in the protection of Ellsworth's residents.

City Council Minutes continued on page 8

25/26 BUDGET DISCUSSION: City Clerk Eckers discussed progress on the budget prep. Clerk Eckers has proposed budget numbers from EMS/Fire/Library and public works. Proposed Tax Levy was submitted on time thanks to the help from Jewell City Clerk Regina Beaune. Clerk Eckers will reach out to Clerk Beaune for assistance in entering the 25/26 proposed budget into the Department of Management system early April.

CITY HALL UPDATES: Clerk Eckers asked the council for advice on whether comp time for the three full time employees should be paid out prior to the end of the current fiscal year or if it should be carried over. The council discussed and recommended for less impact to a future budget, the comp time be paid out at the end of each fiscal year. Clerk Eckers has reached out to county conservation and DNR forestry services for Iowa to inquire about grant opportunities that would be available to convert some of the storm water ditch and other waterways/public spaces to pollinator pathways in addition to a recommended tree planting plan as a result of the massive removal of so many ash trees within city limits in the previous several years. Clerk Eckers will keep the Council apprised of the progress on this matter.

PUBLIC WORKS UPDATES: Supervisor Vanlangen and PW staff Knickerbocker were present to update council on several projects. There is a quote in hand for replacement of the old city shed, this will be added to the proposed budget for FY 25/26. There is a quote in hand from short circuit electric to replace all lights in the community center. Council gave the go head for the lights to be replaced, Bingo funds will be used as a donation to cover the expense.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Yager adjourned the meeting at 7:40 pm.

s/ Dolorus Yager, Mayor

/s/ Heidi Eckers, City Clerk

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Thank You

They say it's never too late to extend a heartfelt thank you. We have two to thank.

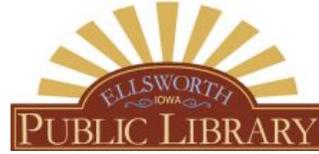
We wish to thank the Ellsworth Community Association for thinking of us over the holidays with the very generous bag of goodies - little snow man and pretty embroidered dish towel! We have enjoyed everything so much. In fact we are still enjoying it. Also thank you for choosing us as one of the winners in the Christmas lighting contest.

Have a joyous Easter
Jim and Bea Maxwell

To the Ambulance EMT's and everyone who promptly answered my call to assist me when I fell. I was scared and anxious not knowing what to expect until I heard someone say "what are you doing down there?" It put me at ease knowing I was in good hands! Thank you so much.

Have a joyous Easter
Bea Maxwell

April 2025



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- After School Snack & Activity | 4:00-5:00pm EVERY THURSDAY
- BASE Exercise Group | 10:15-10:45am EVERY FRIDAY
- Board Meeting (open to public) | 5:30-6:30pm on Thursday, April 3
- WIP Group (Works in Progress) | 5:30-7pm on Monday, April 7
 - Calling all quilters, knitters, crocheters, embroiderers, painters, etc! This is a time to work on our projects together. For anyone who wants to join but doesn't have a project, we will also have adult coloring pages and brush lettering kits.
- Early Childhood Story time | 10:00-10:30am on Friday, April 25
- Young(ish) Adult Book Club | 6:00-7:00pm on Monday, April 28
 - Come pick up a book to join this new book club for adults in their 20s-30s(ish)!

This month, we will be discussing *The Things We Cannot Say* by Kelly Rimmer.

More details about any of these programs can be found at ellsworth.lib.ia.us/events.

*Please note that the library's email address has changed to library@ellsworthiowa.org. The old email has been discontinued.

SUPPORT THE ELLSWORTH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Attend the Pancake Breakfast and Silent Auction at the Community Center

April 19, 2025 9:00 to 11:00

Money goes for ECA projects during the year.