



ELLSWORTH COMMUNITY
ASSOCIATION
AUGUST NEWSLETTER

*Thank you to the Sponsors and Volunteers for
Ellsworth Extravaganza*

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**Winner of Kayak raffle:
Brian Phipps of
Ellsworth**

AUGUST 24

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>JULY</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6</p> <p>7 8 9 10 11 12 13</p> <p>14 15 16 17 18 19 20</p> <p>21 22 23 24 25 26 27</p> <p>28 29 30 31</p>	<p>SEPTEMBER</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7</p> <p>8 9 10 11 12 13 14</p> <p>15 16 17 18 19 20 21</p> <p>22 23 24 25 26 27 28</p> <p>29 30</p>		<p>→</p> <p>1 Back to School Night 6:00-8:00 Trinity LC</p>	<p>2 Library board meet 5:30</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>3 Bingo Community Center 5:00</p>
<p>4 Trinity Lutheran Church 9:00 City Park</p> <p><i>New Moon</i></p>	<p>5 <i>Civic/Provincial Holiday (Canada)</i></p>	<p>6 Basketball Camp Community Center</p>	<p>7 Farmers Market DeWitt Street 5:00-7:00</p>	<p>8 Iowa State Fair</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 Bingo Community Center 5:00</p>
<p>11 Trinity Lutheran Church 9:00</p> <p>Iowa State Fair</p>	<p>12 City Council 7:00</p> <p><i>First Quarter</i></p>	<p>13 Basketball Camp Community Center</p>	<p>14 Farmers Market DeWitt Street 5:00-7:00</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 Bingo Community Center 5:00</p>
<p>18 Trinity Lutheran Church 9:00</p> <p>Iowa State Fair</p>	<p>19 Firemen Meeting 7:00</p> <p><i>Full Moon</i></p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 Farmers Market DeWitt Street 5:00-7:00</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 First Day of School</p>	<p>24 Bingo Community Center 5:00</p>
<p>25 Trinity Lutheran Church 9:00</p>	<p>26 <i>Last Quarter</i></p>	<p>27 City Council 5:00</p>	<p>28 Farmers Market DeWitt Street 5:00-7:00</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 Homewood Cemetery meet TLC 10:00</p>	<p>31 Bingo Community Center 5:00</p>

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

Lords Cupboard - open every Monday from 4:30-6:30 at Bethesda Lutheran Church, Jewell

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

ANNIVERSARIES

Deb Naber Senn	2nd	Erin Hill	10th	Molly & Brian Henderson	7th
Marcy Olson	2nd	Noah Laube	10th	Teresa & Lauren Olson	14th
Tom Swenson	4th	Betsi Danielson	12th	Liz & Ryan Hill	14th
Lauren Olson	8th	Brian Henderson	23rd	Janelle & Todd Hill	15th
				Joely & Tom Swenson	26th
				Holly & Don Adix	28th

REMEMBERING THE PAST: Ellsworth City Park

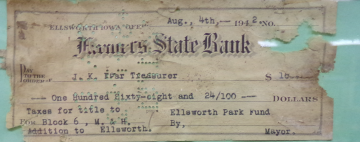
In July of 1942 the purchase of a city block of land from a Mr. Snow was completed. The purchase price was \$150.00 and a ditch assessment tax of approximately \$18.00. Gaylord Rorem, Banker and Mayor Otto Lande took charge of raising the money from businesses and local residents. The park did not cost the taxpayers anything, the cost of land and improvements were made by volunteer contributions of cash and labor donations.

First improvements were trees planted, approaches graded and grass mowed. In 1953 the tennis court was constructed with basketball hoops added for more versatility. The shuffle board located just west of the tennis court was constructed at the same time.

The open shelter house was built in the summer of 1956. It was frequently used for picnics, family gatherings, reunions, Ellsworth Turkey Day etc. The enclosed shelter house was built in October of 1968 with profits from Ellsworth Turkey Day and tax funds.

Over the years, play ground equipment has been added, removed, more safe swings, slide etc added. A ball field was added shortly after the purchase of the park.

In 1948 a water well was drilled and a building was built in the center of the Park. That will be addressed in a future article about the Water System.



A group of good people got together and purchased the Ellsworth Park with the above check. Mr. Snow, a former Hamilton County Superintendent of Schools owned this block of Ellsworth and consented it to be purchased by this group of people. Mr. Snow allowed it to go for the taxes owed.
Otto Lande, Mayor 1942

Breaking Ground for new shelterhouse at City Park



Ground has been broken for the new shelterhouse at Ellsworth. The 24' x 48' frame building will be located at the southwest corner of the park and will feature a 4' walkway all the way around, a 4' overhang, and a four way roof. Clarence Danger, on the left, and Steve Amundson are shown as they stake out the building.

JUNE 25TH CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The Ellsworth City Council met in special session at 5:00 p.m. June 25, 2024 at City Hall with Mayor Yager presiding and the following council present: Laube, Gelder and King. Absent: Sogard and Funk

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

CONSENT AGENDA: Motion by King, seconded by Laube to approve Kum and Go #133 Owner Update Changes for Class E Alcohol Permit. Roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried.

PUBLIC FORUM: None.

CITIZEN COMPLAINT: Kathy Eittreim attended the meeting in regards to a street light on the corner of Des Moines and Delphi that has been out for several years. She had previously filled out a complaint form in July of 2022, and Supervisor Vanlangen has attempted to replace the bulb and wiring twice, to no avail. She is requesting the City have someone from an electric company come out and finally address the light. The council will assign this to the public works department and follow up from there.

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE: Due to numerous changes and policy updates, the City Clerk suggested forming an Ordinance Committee in order to prepare for a recodification of the City's Code of Ordinances. The Code book has been in the process of being re-done since prior to the current Clerk' employment, however was never completed due to the utility section not being reviewed by previous staff. Motion by Laube, seconded by Gelder to form an Ordinance Committee to aid in updating and completing a new book of ordinances. Roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried.

DNR UPDATES: Water/WasteWater Operator Alan Hanson was present to discuss with the council the Lead and Copper survey that the DNR is requiring every City to complete. The group discussed different methods of getting the survey circulated and what questions would need to be included in order to complete the DNR requirements. The council also spoke with Hanson about the plan of action that was being required by the DNR for the lagoon and when the engineers needed to be contacted and a report needed to be submitted.

CITY CHARGES: The Clerk presented several invoices that were not approved, were not issued PO numbers, or were for more than the approved amounts. She stated that it was impossible to plan for future expenses, stay in budget or even keep track of expenditures if the current policies put in place weren't being followed. The council discussed the capability of our staff performing repairs verses calling in contractors to do the repairs at twice the cost, what the current parts inventory is for such repairs and why invoices received don't match the quotes that were approved. It was agreed that the invoices will not be paid until further discussion is had with the parties involved.

INDUSTRIAL DEMAND CUSTOMERS: The Clerk has been attempting to obtain a multiplier to begin billing new demand users in the City based on their yearly usage for the last year and a half. Contact has been made with Midland Power, Supervisor Vanlangen and the Council regarding the frustration of not having these answers for months. There seems to be a miscommunication between the entities involved on who is responsible for providing this information. Council member King volunteered to reach out to Midland for more answers. The Clerk will again follow up with Supervisor Vanlangen.

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THIRD READ OF ORDINANCE #623 AMENDING THE CITY CODE PERTAINING TO SEWER RENTAL: Changes were discussed with the rates of the ordinance. The third reading failed. The ordinance will be stricken.

THIRD READ OF ORDINANCE #624 AMENDING THE CITY CODE PERTAINING TO THE ELECTRIC UTILITY: Changes were discussed with the rates of the ordinance. The third reading failed. The ordinance will be stricken.

THIRD READ OF ORDINANCE #625 AMENDING THE CITY CODE PERTAINING TO RATES FOR ELECTRIC HEATING: Changes were discussed with the rates of the ordinance. The third reading failed. The ordinance will be stricken.

FISCAL YEAR END TRANSFER RESOLUTION: Motion by King, seconded by Gelder to approve Resolution #925 authorizing the City Clerk to make certain transfers for year-end expenses. Roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried.

NEW FISCAL YEAR CHANGES/REMINDERS: Due to the Clerk receiving numerous questions regarding the rental fees for the shelter and gym, building permit fees and the utility disconnection process, she asked that the Council review the changes that had occurred over the last 3-4 years and address any questions or concerns they may have. The council also discussed enforcement and procedures for implementing code violations.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Yager adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

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August Business Spotlight: Thompson Construction & Sons LLC

Thompson Construction was started in Ellsworth in 1977 by Bruce Thompson. Bruce is married to Jan and they live in Ellsworth. They have 3 sons, Jason, Jeremy, and Justin. Two sons, Jason and Justin, have taken over the construction part of the business while Bruce works in the office. Jason living in Ellsworth is married to Staci and they have 2 children, Trevor and Tanna. Justin, living in Ellsworth is married to Megan and they have 2 children, Lilly and Lane.

	Thompson Construction & Sons L.L.C.		
	P.O. Box 40 ████████████████████ Ellsworth, IA 50075		
Jason Thompson 515-836-4422 Cell 515-290-5107	Bruce Thompson 515-836-4559 Cell 515-290-5081	Justin Thompson 515-836-4251 Cell 515-290-2686	
515-836-4559 Fax 515-836-4237			
e-mail: thompsonconstruction@netins.net			

Thompson Construction works out of their office at 1527 Detroit St, working mainly within a 50 mile radius. They employ 8 seasonal workers and 4 part time workers.. Their construction company builds new houses, ag buildings and commercial buildings. They also construct decks, and do remodels such as bathrooms, windows, roofing and siding. Thompson Construction is one of the older businesses in Ellsworth and is proud to be a part of the community.

JULY 8TH CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The Ellsworth City Council met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall on July 8th, 2024 with Mayor Yager presiding, and the following council present: Sogard, Laube and Funk. Absent: King and Gelder.

	June Receipts	June Disbursements
General Fund	15241.96	18567.50
Road Use Fund	8099.66	1339.88
Employee Benefit Fund	99.48	1166.16
Emergency Fund	36.99	
Local Option Sales Tax Fund	4490.99	
Tax Increment Finance Area 1		
Tax Increment Finance 1 Amend	130.73	
Bingo Fund	4145.98	881.84
Debt Service Fund	58.73	1772.00
Capital Project-Strm Water		
Capital Project-Water Tower		
Water Fund	26265.24	12469.12
Water Sinking Fund		96918.75
Sewer Fund	8252.41	7847.84
Electric Fund	46443.64	51982.36
Electric Sinking Fund		
Storm Water Fund	3674.40	57.75
Storm Water Sinking		3701.00
	\$116940.21	\$196704.20

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

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

- a. Motion to approve June 10th and June 25th, 2024 council minutes.
- b. Motion to approve June payment of claims.
- c. Motion to approve Fire Truck payment in the amount of \$11,349.00 with \$9,113.54 going to principal and \$2,235.46 towards interest.

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

PUBLIC FORUM: Resident Bobby Caudle was in attendance to file several complaints regarding non-working street lights throughout the City. He expressed his frustration with the amount of time the lights have been nonfunctioning. He also inquired as to the repair or replacement that needed to occur to the storm drain located in the Park Circle area, stating that the drain has backed up for over 15 years and he would like the City to address it. Mayor Yager informed Mr. Caudle that she has assigned someone to look into the electrical issues and that they will have the Public Works department investigate the storm drain further and see if Central Iowa Televising needs to be called to jet the line.

Council minutes continued on page 7

Dale Graham also attended the meeting to learn what follow up was being done on ordinance violations, building permit violations and other items that hadn't been completed. The council assured Mr. Graham that additional policies would be implemented and personal follow up would be completed.

ELLSWORTH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION: Linda Clark represented The Ellsworth Community Association in asking the council to allow the City-Wide Garage sales on Saturday July 13th, 2024 and in participating in Dump your Junk on Saturday July 20th, 2024. Dump your Junk will be held from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm at the same location as last year, and the cost of a ticket remains at \$25.00. Tickets are available at City Hall during normal business hours.

LIBRARY MATTERS:

- a. Wages: On June 24th, 2024 the City Clerk was informed by a member of the Library Board that effective July 1st, 2024, the wage of the Library Director would be increasing by \$2.00 per hour. The Clerk requested the Library minutes where that raise had been discussed and approved, so she could present them to the City Council for approval. There was discussion that no meeting minutes contained that information. The Clerk explained that any wage discussion needed to be documented in minutes and approved by the Board prior to being given. The Board Member stated that would occur at the next Library Board meeting.
The Council has chosen to wait to discuss this matter further due to having no minutes documenting the wage increase and approval and the budget constraints the approved Library budget already has. Mayor Yager will be attending the Library Board meeting on July 11th for more clarification and invite the Library Board to the next council meeting to discuss in more detail.

FIRE AND EMS MATTERS: The council took this time to discuss how things were progressing on the \$4,000 worth of approved fire equipment repairs from J and T Truck and Trailer Repair and the fire station gutter replacement by Professional Gutter Systems. Without anyone from the department available, it was agreed that the Mayor would reach out to the Fire Chief and see if he could attend the July 23rd meeting to update the council.

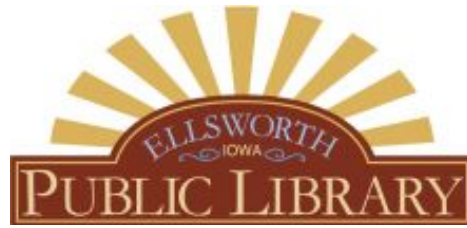
PUBLIC WORK MATTERS:

- a. Invoices: The Clerk had several invoices that were received at City Hall that did not have PO numbers assigned, or were for amounts different than issued or approved. There was also question of purchased repair sleeves for a water main break and then payment to a contractor who performed the actual repair for an additional repair sleeve. Supervisor Vanlangen will contact the contractor and request the charge to be removed. After discussing policy and communication, a motion by Sogard, seconded by Funk to approve an additional \$560.00 for PO# 250 to Consolidated Water Solutions. Roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried.
- b. Sales: Discussion regarding Bulk Water Sales ensued. The Clerk presented an invoice to the council for approval prior to mailing.

BOARD REAPPOINTMENTS: Council member Sogard will be stepping down from the Police Board due to scheduling conflicts. Mayor Yager appointed Council member Laube as her replacement to the Board.

UTILITY RATE DISCUSSION: Due to several council members being absent, the utility rate discussion will be moved to the September council meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Yager adjourned the meeting at 9:21 pm.



August 2024 , Karlie Hunter, Library Director

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Thursday, August 1 | 5:30-6:30pm: Library Board Meeting (open to the public)
-
- Friday, August 2 | 10:00-11:00am: Kids Recycling Program with ISU Extension & Outreach Hamilton County
 - Join us for a fun and interactive session on recycling led by Susan Schmitz from ISU Extension and Outreach.
 -
- Tuesday, August 6 | 1:00-4:00pm: Card Group
-
- Tuesday, August 13 | 1:00-4:00pm: Card Group
-
- Monday, August 19 | 6:00-7:00pm: WIP Group (Work in Progress)
 - 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 to work on with the group.
 -
- Tuesday, August 20 | 1:00-4:00pm: Card Group
-
- Friday, August 23 | 2:00-3:00pm: Early Out Activity
-
- Celebrate the first day back to school with a fun afternoon of LEGO activities! We are going to use LEGO bricks and our creativity to build our own creations.
-
- Monday, August 26 | 6:00-7:00pm: Young(ish) Adult Book Club
 - Contact us to join this new book club! For this first meeting, we will be painting book bricks and handing out the book we will discuss at our September meeting.

HOMEWOOD CEMETERY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION - Do you want to honor a member of your family with a flag that makes up the Avenue of Flags displayed during Memorial Day? You can for \$125.00. This buys the flag, pole and the plaque engraved with a name. Contact Lisa Hovick at 515 /836/4712 or jchovick@netins.net. Displayed May, 2025 if ordered before April 1st, 2025.