



ELLSWORTH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION AUGUST NEWSLETTER

Community Association Officers:

President: Ashley Platte
ellsworthcommunity
assn@gmail.com

V-President: Brittany Williams

Secretary: Rebecca Jensen

Treasurer: Linda Clark

Editor:

Janet Adix

ellsworthca@netins.net

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

ELLSWORTH CITY PARK

AUGUST 2, 2025 - 3:00 PM

Free Ice Cream, Live Music, Games & Food

Sponsored by Ellsworth Community Ass'n

BACKPACK GIVEAWAY

August 14, 2025

5:00-7:00

Trinity Lutheran
Church



Join Our Fun!

- ✓ Bible Stories
- ✓ Arts & Crafts
- ✓ Games
- ✓ Snacks Provided

Program Details:

- ✓ Wednesdays
- ✓ 3:45pm - 5:00pm
- ✓ 1629 DeWitt St. Ellsworth, IA

FREE!

ALL are Welcome!

Bus drop off from South Hamilton available!

More information:

515-836-4792 holyone@netins.net <https://tcel Ellsworth.org>

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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
First Quarter: 1 Full Moon: 9 Last Quarter: 16 New Moon: 23 First Quarter: 31	JULY S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	SEPTEMBER S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	GUIDE TO BEST FISHING DAYS BEST GOOD POOR		1 	2 Bingo Community Center 5:00
3 Trinity Lutheran Church 9:00 City Park	4 Civic Holiday (Canada)	5 Comm. Assoc 6:00 Comm. Center	6 Farmers Market DeWitt Street 5:00-7:00	7 Library board meet 5:30	8 	9 Bingo Community Center 5:00
10 Trinity Lutheran Church 9:00	11 City Council 6:00	12 	13 Farmers Market DeWitt Street 5:00-7:00	14 	15 	16 Bingo Community Center 5:00
17 Trinity Lutheran Church 9:00	18 	19 Firemen Meeting 7:00	20 Farmers Market DeWitt Street 5:00-7:00	21 	22 	23 Bingo Community Center 5:00
24/31 Trinity Lutheran Church 9:00	25 	26 City Council 6:00	27 Farmers Market DeWitt Street 5:00-7:00	28 	29 Homewood Cemetery meet TLC 10:00	30 Bingo Community Center 5:00

AUGUST

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

Deb Naber Senn	2nd	Erin Hill	10th
Marcy Olson	2nd	Noah Laube	10th
Tom Swenson	4th	Betsi Danielson	12th
Lauren Olson	8th	Brian Henderson	23rd

ANNIVERSARIES

Molly & Brian Henderson	7th
Teresa & Lauren Olson	14th
Liz & Ryan Hill	14th
Janelle & Todd Hill	15th
Joely & Tom Swenson	26th
Holly & Don Adix	28th

REMEMBERING THE PAST: The Lumber Company

The Lumber Company was established in February 1910 in Randall, Iowa, with most of its stockholders residing in the vicinity. The company experienced significant growth and expansion. Shortly thereafter, they sold stock to numerous farmers and businessmen in Ellsworth and established a yard here. Later, they acquired a yard in Story City and another in Des Moines, ultimately owning and controlling four yards.

In 1928, T.H. Dalbey of Des Moines acquired the Randall Lumber Company. Edd Hanes became the first manager, and his son Kenneth Hanes joined him in 1930. In 1960, the Farmers' Cooperative Company purchased the Dalbey Lumber Company.

The Cooperative managed the business for several years. However, in the future, the lumber business was dismantled, and the buildings were demolished. The site remained vacant for several years until the Cooperative constructed a storage building on the same location.



Ellsworth Community Association Minutes
July 1, 2025 Ellsworth Community Center 6:00PM

Before the start of the meeting, Marcy Olson stepped down as ECA President and Amber Davis stepped down as ECA Secretary.

Roll Call: Marcy Olson, Amber Davis, Ashley Platte, Kayla Knippel, Linda Clark, Rebecca Jensen, Brittany Williams: Present Darlene Campbell: Absent

Vice President, Ashley Platte called the meeting to order at 6:25PM.

Motion by Brittany, second by Kayla to approve minutes and treasurer's report.

Motion by Kayla, second by Linda to appoint Ashley Platte as ECA President.

Motion by Kayla, second by Brittany to appoint Rebecca Jensen as ECA Secretary.

Motion by Kayla, second by Ashley to appoint Brittany Williams as ECA Vice President.

Public Forum: Nothing to comment

Dump Your Junk Review: Communication was great! Very positive responses. Clean-up was completed in a timely manner and nothing left behind in time for business hours on Monday. Looking forward to next year: tape off areas, one-way traffic with posted signs, thinking about how dumpsters are set up, etc. Discussion about when to have Dump Your Junk next year.

Pop Cans: Collecting pop cans as a fundraiser for ECA to utilize for city activities. Grain trailer at the coop for collection. Sorted and taken to Nevada four times a year.

Back Room at Community Center for ECA Use: utilize a work meeting to clean a room in the Community Center to store ECA items, an upcoming Friday night to do so. Kayla donated shelving to help with the project.

Ball Diamond Renovation Update: Darlene, Ashley, Brittany, and Kayla painted inside of the concessions stand and the bathrooms. Ashley and Jesse completed the floor. What's left: roll down door, refrigerator, countertop with sink, and cabinets or shelving of some kind.

Ice Cream Social: Lucky Wife Wine Slushies cannot make it. Possibly obtaining a liquor permit. The Thirsty Pigs to come in and sell liquor then we would not have to purchase or the ECA buys beverages and asks for donations. In the park there has to be a liquor permit to have alcohol on the premises. Ice cream 3-4:30, band from 5-7, games throughout. Plans to ask to Jewell Market, Story City Locker, Stanhope Locker, etc for possible donations for food such as hot dogs, brats, hamburgers, chips, etc. Possibly asking the Jewell Market to come sell meals, Brittany said she would talk to Garren. Possible glow foam party at the end of the night after the live band.

Halloween: Waiting for the city to decide on Halloween dates before making set-in-stone plans. Still wanting to collaborate with the fire department to host the events at the fire station.

No additional comments.

Motion by Brittany, Second by Linda, Ashley adjourned meeting at 7:46pm.

JUNE 23rd CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The Ellsworth City Council met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall on June 24th, 2025, with Mayor Yager presiding, and the following council members present: Phipps, Sogard, Funk, and Olson. Also in attendance were Vera Rios, Andrew Holden, Curtis Jensen, Irene Postma, Brian Zimmerman, Barry Anksorus.

June Receipts June Disbursements

General Fund	1044.28	5078.68
Road Use Fund	0.00	653.33
Employee Benefit Fund	0.00	0.00
Emergency Fund	0.00	0.00
Local Option Sales Tax Fund	0.00	0.00
Tax Increment Finance Area 1	0.00	0.00
Tax Increment Finance 1 Amend	0.00	0.00
Bingo Fund	0.00	433.92
Debt Service Fund	0.00	0.00
Capital Project-Strm Water		
Capital Project-Water Tower		4500.00
Water Fund	22895.85	1870.80
Water Sinking Fund		
Sewer Fund	5618.75	570.85
Electric Fund	59304.50	5627.58
Electric Sinking Fund		
Storm Water Fund	3830.44	0.00
Storm Water Sinking		
	\$92693.82	\$18735.16

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

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

Motion to approve June 9th, 2025 council minutes.

Motion to approve June payment of claims.

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

PUBLIC FORUM: None Present

NUISANCE ABATEMENT: Request for extension for a junk/non-movable vehicle at 324 Lakin by Vera Rios. Council discussed and agreed to extend prior to citation until June 30.

WATER RATES: Clerk Eckers made a call to UMB Bank financial advisor Nate Summers via conference line. The Council discussed an updated pro forma prepared by Mr Summers for the repayment of the new water tower and the necessary water rate increase as a part of the repayment plan. The Council asked if in a new proposed change to the current Water/Sewer rate Ordinance, the size of the connection could be a factor for a proposed rate. Mr Summers will work with Clerk Eckers to draft a potential change to the water/sewer rate Ordinance by the next Council meeting on July 14th. Proposed rate increases could also be effected by the final bid accepted for the probable cost of the new water tower project.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: SEALED BIDS 639 BRINTON AVE: Motion by Sogard and seconded by Olson to accept the bid of \$8000 by Logan Prime for the purchase of the lot from the City. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

COUNCIL VACANCY INTERVIEWS: Mayor Yager welcomed the candidates for the council seat vacancy. Present were Barry Anksorus, Irene Postma, Andrew Holden, Curtis Jensen, and Brian Zimmerman. All were asked questions by Council members and Mayor. s

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES continued on page 6

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: DEVELOPERS' AGREEMENT PARCEL

40872436226006: Updated or new version of Developers' Agreement not finalized in time to be presented to council. A DNR Sewer Access Agreement was presented. Supervisor Vanlangen can approve the DNR form. Clerk Eckers has been in communication with the City engineer for this project as well as the engineer for the Overland group. An updated Developer's Agreement is planned to be presented on the July 14th meeting for council discussion/decision.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: ELECTRICAL IMPROVEMENTS 1011 IA-175: Short Circuit Electric as project manager for the Ellsworth Truck Wash was present to update the Council on the progress of the project. Midland Electric is planning to do the boring and placing of wire surrounding the expansion next week. Clerk Eckers presented the council with copies of the Olson Industrial Park Urban Renewal Plan stating the city is committed to funding electrical improvements in that area. Clerk Eckers is still working with bond attorneys on amending the Urban Renewal plan to include once more the industrial developments on the south side of Hwy 175. Motion by Funk and Seconded by Sogard to pay Midland for the new transformer in the amount of \$13,711.39 for the expansion to the Ellsworth truck wash. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

LIBRARY: None present

FIRE/EMS: Andrew Holden asked for update on when the weather siren would be mounted. Supervisor Vanlangen said the new taller pole was just placed the siren should be mounted the end of next week.

ECA: Councilwoman Olson updated the Council on what a success the recent Dump Your Junk event was. A thank you card was presented to the Council from the ECA and read by Clerk Eckers. The ECA was particularly grateful for the help from Supervisor Vanlangen with the back hoe for large items and EJS Officer Morton's involvement in helping to pinpoint properties needing to utilize this free event/cleanup to stay in compliance with the city's ordinances.

FISCAL YEAR 25 YEAR END TRANSFER RESOLUTION: Resolution # 06-24-25 Authorizing Clerk Eckers to transfer funds for year-end accounting. Motion to approve by Sogard and seconded by Olson. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

PUBLIC WORKS UPDATES: Supervisor Vanlangen updated the Council on the arrival of 26 of the 66 RO membranes for the water plant, the rest should arrive within the next 2-4 weeks and then will be installed all at the same time. He also updated the Council on the new taller weather siren pole that was placed, the hope being the sound will carry further in the event of weather emergencies.

CITY HALL UPDATES: Clerk Eckers updated Council on progress for some improvements in the city park, including a quote for resurfacing the tennis court and converting the court into two pickleball courts. The bathrooms at the City Park will also be renovated in the coming months, including having automatic times locks so that they can be accessed by the public during the day during the park's open hours. Clerk Eckers continues to pursue continuing education, and certification through IMFOA and the League of Cities as well as IEDA economic development conferences and classes. Clerk Eckers recently met with Conservation Creations director DeDe Henderson, Hamilton County Conservation director Brian Lammers and Ellsworth Library Director Karlie Hunter to discuss a story walk being installed along the JewellEllsworth trail as well as plans for a conservation-themed mural. Clerk Eckers also is pursuing updating the city's tree inventory with state DNR arborists. They are coming to do a full inventory on July 7. Clerk Eckers plans to write at least one DNR grant to help with the expense of trees to replace the ash tree mitigation that has been ongoing on city property for the past several years.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: COUCIL VACANCY APPOINTMENT: After discussion about the candidates and interviews, motion by Sogard and seconded by Funk to appoint Andrew Holden to the Ellsworth City Council to fill the vacancy of Jeremy Laube's position. Roll call votes 3-1 with Phipps voting nay. Motion carried. Clerk Eckers will prepare Oath of Office for Andrew Holden, and he will be an active voting council member at July 14th regular Council session.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Yager called for a vote to adjourn. Motion by Olson seconded by Sogard. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

/s/ Dolorus Yager, Mayor

/s/ Heidi Eckers, City Clerk

JULY 14TH CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The Ellsworth City Council met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall on July 14TH, 2025, with Mayor Yager presiding, and the following council members present: Sogard, Phipps, and Olson. Council member Funk arrived at 6:04 p.m. Also in attendance were Ron Cook, Ashley Platte, Linda Clark, Jim Leiding with Bolton and Menk, DeDe Henderson with Conservation Creations, and library director Karlie Hunter.

OATH OF OFFICE: New Council Member Andrew Holden appointed at June 24th session, took his Oath of Office.

AGENDA APPROVAL: Motion by Sogard, seconded by Olson to approve the agenda. Roll call votes 5-0. Motion carried.

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

- a. Motion to approve June 24th, 2025 council minutes.
- b. Motion to approve July 14th payment of claims.

Roll call votes 5-0. Motion carried and claims hereby made a portion of these minutes.

PUBLIC FORUM: Ron Cook was present and requested an extension for his junk vehicle citation, which had had a deadline of June 30th. As it was not an agenda item, the Council could make no actionable decision at this meeting, and Ron Cook's request for extension will be on the July 22nd Agenda.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR WATERTOWER PROJECT: Mayor Yager opened the public hearing at 6:07 p.m. Jim Leiding with Bolton and Menk was present to answer questions from the public. No public present with comment or question. Mayor Yager closed the public hearing at 6:09 p.m.

BOLTEN AND MENK – WATERTOWER DISCUSSION: Jim Leiding with Bolton and Menk was present to update the Council on the bidding process. Jim stated that the deadline of November 2026 for project completion was a hurdle for several of the potential bidders he spoke with due to back log of jobs for available steel crews. He suggested the Council consider extending to fall of 2027. Public works Supervisor Vanlangen expressed concerns about the increased cost of replacement for the RO membranes and sand filters as their efficacy is compromised currently due to the number of cycles the water plant and tower must endure due to increased usage in the industrial park. Discussion of a smaller tower was had; however, a smaller tower does not change the need for a longer timeline and/or earlier completion date. The current bids in hand will be discussed at the regular council session on July 22nd.

PARKS BOARD: Linda Clark was present to update the council on previous discussion by the parks board for upgraded amenities in the city park. Linda had a sale bill with a quote for a new set designed for 3 to 12 year olds that would be placed between the park shelter house and the old water plant. It would have pea gravel for the footing. The quote was for \$27,179 for just the

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equipment, which did not include labor for installation or the pea gravel. Linda was asking if this park improvement could be sponsored by the Bingo fund. Council and Clerk Eckers discussed the option of using Bingo funds as a match for a few grant applications to help pay for the improvements. No actionable decision made by Council at this time. The next Parks Board meeting is Wednesday August 6th at 6pm at the park shelter house should any public wish to attend.

LIBRARY: Karlie Hunter and DeDe Henderson were present to request a Bingo donation of \$2,780.81 to help with the costs involved in a story walk project along the eastern part of the JewellEllsworth trail. Conservation Creations, the non- profit DeDe Henderson represents, applied for and received a \$4000 POET grant to help with the project costs. Motion by Sogard and seconded by Olson to approve a Bingo donation of \$2,780.81 to Conservation Creations to help with the funding for this Ellsworth Library-supported project. Roll call votes 5-0. Motion carried.

ECA: Ashley Platte and Linda Clark were present to update the council on the progress in fundraising via the 50/50 raffle at Saturday Bingo nights to help with the cost involved in the concession stand improvements at the ball field. So far the ECA has raised \$1,300. Ashley presented Clerk Eckers with the ECA's 50% portion of the Thompson Construction invoice for the new roof on the concession stand in the amount of \$1900. Ashley and Linda also updated the Council on the upcoming Ice Cream Social on August 2nd in the city park. Ice cream toppings are being donated by the Webster City Dairy Queen, and a \$5 meal will be provided by the Jewell Market. ECA volunteers are still looking for corporate for private sponsors to help with the costs of the entertainment for the event.

BUILDING PERMIT – 1425 DELPHI: Clerk Eckers presented council with the approved building permit for the new fence at this address.

FIRE/EMS: The weather siren is having a mounting bracket made by Abbott Electric and will be mounted as soon as the hardware is completed.

PUBLIC WORKS UPDATES: Supervisor Vanlangen has scheduled his water certification test for DNR compliance on July 21st. The improvements to the soon-to-open public restrooms at the park are underway, and all replacement items have been ordered and are in hand. Vanlangen is still awaiting the final shipment of replacement RO filters for the water plant.

CITY HALL UPDATES: Clerk Eckers updated Council on end of FY25 process and presented the Council with a final balance sheet. Clerk Eckers had the assistance of past Clerk Kathy Eittreim in this process and is truly grateful. Eckers also gave updates on the pickleball court refresh, City Hall building renovations, and progress on the future schoolhouse project.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Yager called for a vote to adjourn. Motion by Funk and seconded by Olson. Roll call votes 5-0. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:17 pm

s/ Dolorus Yager, Mayor

/s/ Heidi Eckers, City Clerk

JULY 23rd CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The Ellsworth City Council met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall on July 22nd, 2025, with Mayor Yager presiding, and the following council members present: Sogard, Phipps, and Funk. Also in attendance were Ron Cook, Katie Sterk with Bolton and Menk, and Officer Kaleb Morton with EJS.

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

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

a. Motion to approve July 14th, 2025 council minutes.

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

PUBLIC FORUM: None Present

NUISANCE – REQUEST FOR EXTENSION: Ron Cook was present to request an extension for his citation concerning a junk vehicle and piles of yard waste. Motion by Funk to grant extension until 7/28/25 at 8 a.m. for Mr. Cook to remove the Cavalier and pile of yard waste between two sheds in the backyard, future requests for extension to be denied. Seconded by Sogard. Roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried.

BVS TRANSFORMER 3/27/24: Motion by Sogard and seconded by Funk to reimburse BVS Solutions the \$15,528.05 for the purchase of an electric transformer from Midland Power. Roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION REJECTING BID FOR THE 350,000 GALLON ELEVATED WATER STORAGE TANK PROJECT: Motion by Funk and seconded by Phipps to adopt Resolution # 07-22-2025 rejecting bid for the 350,000 gallon elevated water storage tank project. Roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE FOR A NOTICE OF HEARING ON PROPOSED PLANS, SPECS, FORM OF CONTRACT AND ESTIMATE OF COST FOR THE 350,000 GALLON ELEVATED WATER STORAGE TANK PROJECT AND THE TAKING OF BIDS. THEREFOR: Motion by Funk and seconded by Phipps to adopt Resolution # 07-22-2025-2 to provide for a notice of hearing on proposed plans, specs, form of contract and estimate of cost for the 350,000 gallon elevated water storage tank project and the taking of bids therefor. Roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried.

LIBRARY: NONE PRESENT

FIRE/EMS: NONE PRESENT

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PUBLIC WORKS: Motion by Funk and seconded by Sogard to accept the contract for certified operator contract with Central Iowa Water Management at the cost of \$1750 monthly until 10-31-2025. Roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried.

CITY HALL UPDATES: NONE

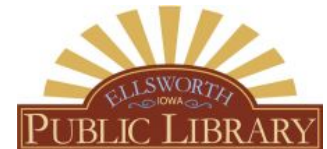
ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Yager called for a vote to adjourn. Motion by Funk and seconded by Sogard. Roll call votes 3-0.

Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:23 pm.

/s/ Dolorus Yager, Mayor /s/ Heidi Eckers, City Clerk

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Card Group | 1-4pm EVERY TUESDAY
- BASE Exercise Group | 10:15-10:45am EVERY FRIDAY
- Board Meeting (open to public) | 5:30-6:30pm on Thursday, August 7
- Young(ish) Adult Book Club | 6:00-7:00pm on Monday, August 25
 - Come join this book club for adults in their 20s and 30s(ish)! This month, we will discuss *The Story Collector* by Evie Woods.



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

NEW BOOKS:

Adult Fiction:

- Nightshade by Michael Connelly
- Onyx Storm by Rebecca Yarros
- Wilder by Rebecca Yarros
- Great and Precious Things by Rebecca Yarros
- The Housemaid is Watching by Freida McFadden

Adult Nonfiction:

- Memorable Loss by Karen Martin

Biographies:

- Melania by Melania Trump

Young Adult:

- Sunrise on the Reaping by Suzanne Collins

Junior Nonfiction:

- Who Is Caitlin Clark? by Meri-Jo Borzilleri

Beginning Reader:

- Orris and Timble: Lost and Found by Kate DiCamillo

Early Reader Fiction:

- The Bakery Dragon by Devin Elle Kurtz
- How to Apologize by David LaRochelle
- How I Feel When I Hear No by Ronit Farzam
- You Are Powerful by Laura Catrinella

DVD:

- Barton Fink