



ELLSWORTH COMMUNITY
ASSOCIATION
DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

Community Association
Officers:
Co Presidents:
Dan Dean
Sue Schmitz
cosmo3mom@gmail.com
Treasurer:
Linda Clark
Board Member:
Marv Norem

CELEBRATE
the season

IN ELLSWORTH
SANTA CLAUS IS COMING
DECEMBER 9TH

HOME LIGHTING CONTEST
JUDGING DECEMBER 16TH

See page 8 for details

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December 2023

SUNDAY							MONDAY							TUESDAY							WEDNESDAY							THURSDAY							FRIDAY							SATURDAY						
NOVEMBER														JANUARY 2024														1							2													
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1 2 3 4														1 2 3 4 5 6																					Bingo Community Center 5:00													
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3							4							5							6							7							8							9						
Trinity Lutheran Church 9:00																												Library board meet 5:30 Hanukkah Pearl Harbor Day (1941)							Bingo Community Center 5:00													
10							11							12							13							14							15							16						
Trinity Lutheran Church 9:00							City Council 7:00							Community Association 7:00 Library																					Bill of Rights Day							Bingo Community Center 5:00 Battle of the Bulge (1944)						
17							18							19							20							21							22							23						
Trinity Lutheran Church 9:00							Firemen Meeting 7:00																																			Bingo Community Center 5:00						
24							25							26							27							28							29							30						
Trinity Lutheran Church 9:00																																										Bingo Community Center 5:00						
31							Christmas Day																																									

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.

Birthdays This Month

Staci Thompson	1st
Pam Hocking	6th
Laura Rollefson	7th
Holly Adix	15th
Tanner Thompson	30th

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 4:30-6:60 at Bethesda Lutheran Church, Jewell

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

REMEMBERING THE PAST

Continuing with the Turkey Industry - Thompson Hatchery

A turkey hatchery was built in 1938 on Dubuque Ave (where the east end of the turkey plant now stands). This building was outgrown and a new hatchery was constructed on DeSota Street in 1944 and expanded in 1945.

Eggs were trucked weekly back from Clifton Texas where **Bill Thompson** and **Burnice Holt** had set up several egg producing farms. The eggs were set in trays and put in the incubators and 28 days later, wala! Turkeys.

Thompson Turkey Hatchery had a very extensive breeding program and was carried on with reams of records kept on the hybrid development program. More and more farmers began raising turkeys commercially in the area.

FROM THE MIAMI FL NEWS, November 22, 1963 on the front page of the paper along with headlines "President Kennedy Shot".



From this self-proclaimed turkey capital of the world comes a strange sound about this time every year. The "gobble gobble" is from a million and a half turkeys being processed for the Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner tables of the nations. Fields near this central Iowa community are black with turkeys. Ellsworth, population 493 is hiring more than 250 persons in the cooperative processing plant.

Bud Ahrens & Vernon Peterson taking off hatch.

633 MAIN ST.



Email
DKHANDMADEIOWA@GMAIL.COM

Phone:
515-520-4945
515-520-4944

Hours:
THURSDAY 10:00-4:30
FRIDAY 10:00-4:30
SATURDAY 10:00-4:30
SUNDAY 12:00-4:00

JEWELL, IA 50130

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: DK Quality Goods

Many have asked what was in the new building just outside of Ellsworth City limits at 3244 Ubben, the answer is; Jeremy and Rachel Uttecht have set up a production and warehouse facility for their business.

Rachel started a soap making business in her home in Missoula Montana in 2012. They moved to Jewell in late 2012, then on to Ellsworth in 2019 needing property to expand into. With the addition of an existing building on the property they were able to hire more employees and the business grew by 250%. In 2022 construction on an additional 6000 sqft production and warehouse facility was added and moved into December 2022. The facility has given them the opportunity to expand wholesale business to well over 1,000 retail business in every state in the US and also in Canada. They print hats, shirts, onesies, and mugs. Also, they sew women’s accessories and baby items. Rachel makes over 70 bath and body care products as well, showcased in the store in Jewell. Many of the products can be seen at www.dkhandmade.com or at DK Quality Goods at 630 Main St in Jewell.

Their family consists of Addison Uttecht 15 and Weston Uttecht 13.

Editor’s note: Their store is very impressive with a variety of products. Shop local.

NOVEMBER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

The Ellsworth City Council met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall on November 13th, 2023 with Mayor Yager presiding and the following council present: Gelder, Funk, Norem and King. Absent: Sogard.

	October Receipts	October Disbursements
General Fund	125276.03	26364.83
Road Use Fund	5703.35	1270.29
Employee Benefit Fund	9427.61	2889.05
Emergency Fund	3505.61	
Local Option Sales Tax Fund	5054.70	
Tax Increment Finance Area 1	9678.09	
Tax Increment Finance 1 Amend	9340.25	
Bingo Fund	5439.34	15838.34
Debt Service Fund	5660.09	
Capital Project-Strm Water		
Capital Project-Water Tower		
Water Fund	27731.75	13866.41
Water Sinking Fund		
Sewer Fund	8633.67	6170.42
Electric Fund	69074.53	56829.53
Electric Sinking Fund		
Storm Water Fund	5034.54	
Storm Water Sinking	56.70	5473.00
	\$289559.56	\$128758.57

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

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

- a. Motion to approve October 9th, 2023 council minutes.
- b. Motion to approve October payment of claims.
- c. Motion to approve FY22/23 Urban Renewal Report.
- d. Motion to approve debt payment for December 1st, 2023 SRF Loan Interest Only Payment in the amount of \$12,381.25.

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

PUBLIC FORUM: None

FOWL PERMIT PROCEDURES: The council discussed the numerous residents who have yet to complete their annual fowl permit renewals which were due on October 1st, 2023. The permit states that each permit must be renewed by October 1st of each year and that after October 5th of each year, a \$2 late fee for every month will be assessed. The permit also states that failure to comply may result in revocation of the permit. The council determined that the Clerk will issue one last reminder letter to non-compliant owners which will be hand delivered, before the opportunity to have the fowl is revoked.

BUILDING PERMIT CHANGES: The council had previously discussed building permit procedures and the cost of obtaining a permit. The cost of a permit has been set at \$10 for many years and the permit process has been relatively loosely followed. Due to continued issues, The Clerk and Council have determined there will be minor changes in the policy and effective January 1st, 2023, a new permit fee will apply and the permitting steps will be reinforced. Motion by Gelder, seconded by King to change the fee to \$50 for any permitted project required up to the valuation of \$10,000 and \$150 for permitted projects above the \$10,001 valuation. All permits must be approved and signed BEFORE any work can be started, or a fine and/or removal of the project may occur. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

DECEMBER DEPARTMENT MEETINGS: The council had spoken last month about a year end department meeting and new budget procedures heading into the FY24/25 fiscal year. The City Clerk will be attending mandatory training offered by the Department of Management and Iowa League of Cities in November and have more information available about the impact the new HF718 bill will have on general levy ability and property tax valuation growth at the meeting. It was suggested that in addition to department heads; any board members, officers or supporting personnel also be invited to attend the December meeting. The City Clerk will send out a reminder to each department to ensure the attendance of everyone.

SPECIAL MEETING FOR ANNUAL FINANCE REPORT: Motion by King, seconded by Funk to set Tuesday November 28th, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. for a special meeting to approve the FY23 Annual Financial Report. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

WATER TOWER UPDATES: It was determined by the DNR that a Phase I Archaeological review would need to be completed on the proposed water tower site. The DNR has also requested due to the age of the existing tower, a cultural/historical review be completed as part of the project. Bolten and Menk, Inc. obtained several quotes to perform said services for the City, as they are necessary to move forward with construction. Motion by King, seconded by Funk to approve the proposal from In Situ Archaeological Consulting, LLC. in the amount of \$10,138.00. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

Council Minutes continued on page 6

BINGO HOLIDAY GIFT CARDS: Motion by Gelder, seconded by Funk to approve 25- \$10 Holiday gift cards for Thanksgiving and 25- \$10 Holiday gift cards for Christmas to be given as Bingo prizes. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

BUDGET/LEVY CHANGES: Due to House File 718 that was approved by the Iowa Legislature, City budgets throughout Iowa will be impacted in the coming years as a new Combined General Fund Levy is implemented. The new Levy eliminates a host of general fund levies that were previously available to City governments, and potentially restricts or decreases a City's general fund levy for Cities that experience certain levels of property valuation growth. The City Clerk will be attending formal training in November on some of these changes and what it means to the budgeting timeline and future revenues for the FY2025 budget and beyond.

INVOICES: Last month there were several invoices that were in question, awaiting additional information from Supervisor Vanlangen. After discussing in length certain invoicing procedures and homeowner/business owner responsibilities, it was determined that moving forward additional communication would take place prior to contractors being called out or work being performed. Both Vanlangen and the City Clerk will reach out to responsible parties to resolve the remaining open tickets per council's request. The Clerk also presented council with an invoice for \$18, 212.50 from Hill's Backhoe and Tiling for completing work on replacing 2 fire hydrants in town. Supervisor Vanlangen explained that the hydrant along Hwy 175 required additional equipment, man power and experience than he and Public Works employee Knickerbocker could provide due to the proximity to the highway, numerous underground cables and lines and the complexity of the repair and replacement. There was a motion by Norem, seconded by King to approve payment to Hill's Backhoe and Tiling in the amount of \$18,212.50. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

PO SYSTEM: In conjunction with budget changes, rising operating costs, increases in automatic invoicing and changes in payment processing, along with several internal factors, the Council and City Clerk have been working on ways to ensure the City's future financial health. Both would like to be certain the City can support the continued need for potential growth, while withstanding its current debt obligations, as well as being able to supplement any revenue decreases that may occur from levy changes, and still be able to meet the current needs and requirements of all departments within the City. After several discussions on the best possible options to move forward, it was determined that implementing a Purchasing Order Policy would address several different factors and areas of concern for the future. The Clerk will compile suggestions and examples of other governing bodies that currently utilize the PO policy for the councils review at the December meeting.

NEW CONSTRUCTION/NEW UTILITY PROCEDURES: Recently there have been several new utility connections throughout the City, as well as buildings that took over new management or ownership. In the process of these changes, there was miscommunication and misunderstanding on the process of water and sewer connection permits and new utility sign ups. The usual process is started at City Hall with the proper paperwork, identification and permitting/deposit fees and proceeds to the Public Works Department from there. The Clerk expressed her frustration with trying to now work backwards to correct the missed steps of having the proper paperwork required for services to continue and to be billed to the customer, combined with the non-compliance she was receiving from them. It was agreed, that moving forward all new service, change of service, addition of service or removal of service would be initiated through City Hall only and once that process was completed, would then proceed to the next step.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Yager adjourned the meeting at 9:43 pm.

/s/ Dolorus Yager, Mayor

/s/ Amy L. Zeman, City Clerk

LIBRARY NEWS

December 2023 Salena Schmitz, Library Director

The spotlight book of the month is, *Portrait of an Unknown Woman* by Daniel Silva.

Legendary spy and art restorer Gabriel Allon has at long last severed ties with Israeli intelligence and settled quietly in Venice, the only place where he has ever truly known peace. His beautiful wife, Chiara, has taken over the day-to-day management of the Tiepolo Restoration Company, and their two young children are discreetly enrolled in a neighborhood elementary. For his part, Gabriel spends his days wandering the streets and canals of the watery city, bidding farewell to the demons of his tragic, violent past. But when the eccentric London art dealer Julian Isherwood asks Gabriel to investigate the circumstances surrounding the rediscovery and lucrative sale of a centuries-old painting, he is drawn into a deadly game of cat and mouse where nothing is as it seems. Gabriel soon discovers that the work in question, a portrait of an unidentified woman attributed to Sir Anthony van Dyck, is almost certainly a fiendishly clever fake. To find the mysterious figure who painted it—and uncover a multibillion-dollar fraud at the pinnacle of the art world—Gabriel conceives one of the most elaborate deceptions of his career. If it is to succeed, he must become the very mirror image of the man he seeks: the greatest art forger the world has ever known.

Adult Fiction:

- *Dirty Thirty* #30 by Janet Evanovich
- *Tangled Up in Texas* by Delores Fossen
- *The Exchange* by John Grisham
- *Heels of Steel* by Barbara Kavovit
- *Christmas in Painted Pony Creek* #4 by Linda Lael Miller
- *The Sympathizer* by Viet Thanh Nguyen
- *Judgment Prey* #33 by John Sandford
- *Obsession* by Stuart Woods

Non-Fiction:

- *Alcoholics Anonymous: Fourth Edition of the Big Book, the Basic Text for Alcoholics Anonymous*

Junior Fiction:

- *Dogtown* by Katherine Applegate and Gennifer Choldenko, illustrated by Wallace West
- *Wings of Fire: A Guide to the Dragon World* by Tui T. Sutherland

Junior Non-Fiction:

- *Kansas City Chiefs: Inside the NFL* by Tony Hunter

Beginner Reader Fiction:

- *Frank and Bean: The Stinky Feet Monster* by Jamie Michalak, illustrated by Bob Kolar

Early Reader Fiction:

- *Moana* by Laura Hitchcock, with Disney
- *Creeking: A True Story* by Jacqueline Briggs Martin, illustrated by Claudia McGehee
- *Paw Patrol: 5-Minute Stories Collection*

DVDS:

- Barbie - PG-13
- Elemental - PG
- Spider-Man: Across the Spider-verse - PG
- Jurassic World: Dominion - PG-13



Meet Santa SATURDAY

DEC
9

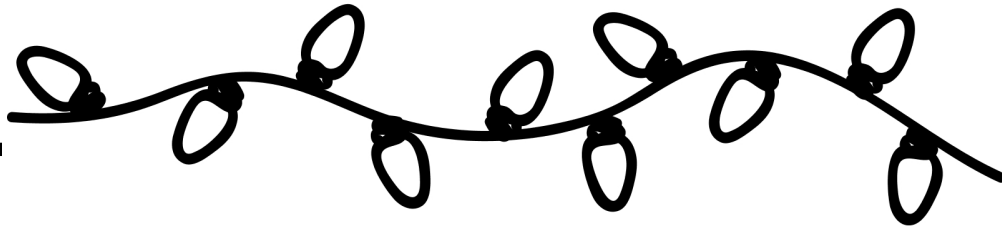
Ellsworth
Fire Station



4:30 PM - 6:00 PM - Activities & Chili Supper

Free will donation! Supporting Ellsworth Fire & EMS

5:00 PM - Santa Arrives



Home Lighting Contest

First Place \$75.00

Judging - December 16th

Second Place \$50.00

6:00-8:00 P.M.

Third Place \$25.00