



ELLSWORTH COMMUNITY  
ASSOCIATION  
FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

Community Association  
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Ellsworth Senior Housing Inc Sold

The 2 units of Ellsworth Senior Housing Inc have been sold to KD Rentals, Series LLC and the money has been divided among the local organizations for their betterment.

Teresa Olson, Board Member presented checks to:  
Ellsworth Volunteer Fire Department - \$40,000.00,  
Homewood Cemetery Improvement Association - \$25,000.00,

Ellsworth Public Library - \$25,000.00,  
South Hamilton Sports Association - \$10,000.00,  
The Lord’s Cupboard - \$4,400.00.

Senior Housing Board: Brian Eittreim, President,  
Teresa Olson, Secretary and Dale Graham.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
First Quarter: 5 Full Moon: 12 Last Quarter: 20 New Moon: 27	<b>JANUARY</b> 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	<b>MARCH</b> 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	GUIDE TO BEST FISHING DAYS BEST GOOD POOR			<b>1</b> Bingo Community Center 5:00
<b>2</b> Trinity Lutheran Church 9:00 Groundhog Day (USA)	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Community Association 6:00 Community Center	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Library board meet 5:30	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Bingo Community Center 5:00
<b>9</b> Trinity Lutheran Church 9:00	<b>10</b> City Council 6:00	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Lincoln's Birthday (USA)	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Bingo Community Center 5:00
<b>16</b> Trinity Lutheran Church 9:00	<b>17</b> W P F 	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Firemen Meeting 7:00	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Bingo Community Center 5:00 Washington's Birthday (USA)
<b>23</b> Trinity Lutheran Church 9:00	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> City Council 6:00	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	

# FEBRUARY

# 2025

Notices:

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

Jody Berg	3rd
Selwyn Rash	4th
Gavin Swenson	14th
Sydney Gelder	18th
Kristal Johnson	21st
Trevor Thompson	26th
Eli Angove	28th

## REMEMBERING THE PAST:

### Ellsworth Senior Housing Inc

The Ellsworth Senior Housing units were built in 1974 at the DeCora Ave location and 1975 at the Des Moines Ave location. Money was asked of the Ellsworth residents and memberships sold for \$25.00. The money collected made it possible to be eligible for a federal loan.

With four units in each building, many different residents have taken advantage of the opportunity of Senior Living over the years. The board made a decision to sell the two buildings. KD Rentals, Series LLC was the buyer.

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## BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: Ellsworth Airbnb

### The Peaceful Turtle Cottage

“One of the most loved homes on Airbnb, according to guests”

Angela Wirth has remodeled and opened an Airbnb in Ellsworth. Located at 1628 Dearborn St, she has named it “The Peaceful Turtle Cottage”. With a 4.88 rating out of 5 stars, the Bed and Breakfast has been well received. Testimonies have been written by people from New York, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Indiana and Iowa.

If you google Ellsworth Airbnb you will find all the information: rates and pictures of the house, plus check-in.

Angela lives at 3212 330th St near Ellsworth and is the owner of Mended Hearts Quilt Shop. The Wirth family consists of husband, Jason, sons Eddie & Thomas and daughter Grace.



# JANUARY 13<sup>TH</sup> CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The Ellsworth City Council met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall on January 13, 2025, with Mayor Dolorus Yager presiding, and the following council present: Sogard, Laube, Funk, Olsen, Phipps.

	December Receipts	December Disbursements
General Fund	31394.15	13558.30
Road Use Fund	5829.03	1859.09
Employee Benefit Fund	1662.71	865.36
Emergency Fund		
Local Option Sales Tax Fund	5210.41	
Tax Increment Finance Area 1		
Tax Increment Finance Area 2		
Tax Increment Finance 1 Amend	1971.17	
Bingo Fund	2917.40	2296.03
Debt Service Fund	913.11	
Capital Project-Storm Water		
Capital Project-Water Tower		5275.50
Water Fund	27538.35	10182.88
Water Sinking Fund		11672.50
Sewer Fund	7185.51	5935.59
Electric Fund	85991.00	79029.28
Electric Sinking Fund		
Storm Water Fund	4476.09	
Storm Water Sinking		5473.00
	\$175088.93	\$139147.53

**AGENDA APPROVAL:** Motion by Funk, second by Laube. Roll Call votes 5-0. Motion carried.

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

- a. Motion to approve December 17 minutes
- b. Motion to approve “The Girls Catering” Liquor License
- c. Motion to Approve 02/01/25 Pumper Tank Payment of \$11,349.00
- d. Motion to Approve \$1000 Bingo Donation to YSS for FY 24/25

**PUBLIC FORUM: None Present**

**ECA:** Marcy Olson was present to update council on upcoming ECA events and to ask permission to use the Community Center for a pancake breakfast on April 19<sup>th</sup>, before during and after the Annual Easter Egg Hunt. The Breakfast would be free will donation and run from 9am to 11am. The Easter Egg Hunt would still be located in the city park at 9am. Motion made by Sogard to allow use of Community Center on April 19<sup>th</sup> for this fundraiser and to waive the rental fee. Second by Funk. Roll call votes 4-0 with Olson abstaining. Motion carried.

Council Minutes continued on page 5



**FIRE/EMS:** Fire Chief Jaysen Evans was present. City Clerk Eckers and Chief Evans have met several times to discuss changing the way the volunteers are reimbursed for their calls annually. Chief Evans has proposed starting and keeping track of the call reimbursements as individual “wearable” accounts for the volunteers. This benefit would also hopefully help increase interest from locals in volunteering as numbers are lower than in previous years at this point. The city would go back to reimbursing the volunteers for wearables and fuel as a method of payment as opposed to payroll. The volunteers would remain on the workman’s comp insurance policy. Motion made by Funk and seconded by Olson to change method of payment for the volunteer fire firefighters. Roll call votes 4-0 with Sogard abstaining.

Chief Evans updated the council on the furnace in the fire station, it was able to be repaired. There’s an EMA meeting in Webster City at the courthouse on Jan 22 and an elected official from Ellsworth needs to be present for budget voting. Council discussed and Mayor Yager agreed to attend. Chief Evans is still collecting bids for the tear down of the old fire station as well as the new pole for the weather siren.

**LIBRARY:** Karlie Hunter (library director), board members Beth Grove and Linda Bottorf were present for discussion. The board members shared with the council that in July the library director will be receiving a \$2 per hour raise the part time staff a \$1 per hour raise. Council was presented with state library statistics from similar sized library programs. Board members made the request to council to obtain a credit card for small purchases by the library director Hunter. Council needed to discuss. The Library board also expressed interest and investing some of their savings through IPAIT where the diversified savings interest rate is currently 4% and the money can still be accessed within 24 hours as opposed to a fixed term investment. The board will let city clerk Eckers know the amount they wish to invest. The funds will continue to be managed through city hall. The board brought up some questions about the library’s insurance premiums. They would prefer to take out a renters policy to cover the contents of the building as opposed to continue paying for the insurance on the entire property which includes the building as the city owns the building, the argument was made that the city should be responsible for the coverage on the building. Director Hunter will speak with SMK insurance in Jewell about what the cost difference would be and get back with Clerk Eckers.

**PRESENTATION BY IA AREA DEVELOPMENT GROUP ON UTILIZING TIF FUNDS – BRUCE NUZUM:** David Speed with Midland Power, Steve Holt with the Ellsworth Development Corporation, and Ottie Maxey with the Ames Regional Alliance were present for this agenda item. Bruce was introduced by David Speed and handed out paper copies of a presentation regarding TIF fund management and definitions of Urban Renewal Areas, TIF districts and how the city can better utilize these available funds.

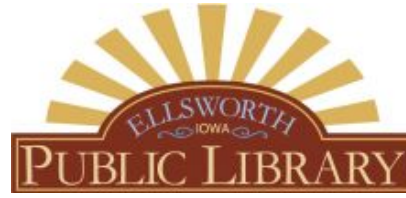
**CITY HALL UPDATES:** City Clerk Eckers updated the Council on several projects being worked on at city hall. Eckers continues the bidding process to replace flooring in City Hall. Replacement windows have been ordered for the building through Z&Z Glass out of Iowa Falls and clerk Eckers will keep council updated on the progress of these renovations. Clerk Eckers updated the council on proposed dates for the 25/26 budget season and upcoming Clerk certification training through the Municipal Professionals Institute and Iowa State.

**PUBLIC WORKS:** Not Present

**PROSAL TO CHANGE TIME OF SECOND MONDAY COUNCIL MEETING:** After council discussion, Phipps made a motion to change the times of both the second Monday meeting and the fourth Tuesday meeting to 6pm to offer clarity to the schedule, to take effect at the January 28<sup>th</sup> meeting. Second by Sogard. Rolls call votes 5-0. Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mayor Dolorus Yager called for adjournment at 8:46 p.m.

# February 2025



## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Board Meeting (open to public) | 5:30-6:30pm on Thursday, February 6th
  - Tax Appointments | 12:30pm on Monday, February 10th
  - BASE Exercise Group | 10:00-10:30am on Fridays:
    - February 7th
    - February 14th
    - February 21st
    - February 28th
  - After School Snack & Activity | 4:00-5:00pm on Thursdays:
    - February 6th
    - February 13th
    - February 20th
    - February 27th
  - Young(ish) Adult Book Club | 6:00-7:00pm on Monday, February 24th
    - Come pick up a book to join this new book club for adults age 18-30(ish)! Please contact the library to see which book we will be reading in February.
  - Early Childhood Storytime | 10:30-11:00am on Friday, February 28th
- More details about any of these programs can be found at [ellsworth.lib.ia.us/events](http://ellsworth.lib.ia.us/events).

## PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT:

BASE has started and is going strong! The Balance Agility Strength Endurance (BASE) Senior Fitness Class will be held at the Ellsworth Public Library on Friday mornings at 10am. This free and fun exercise class will be led by volunteer Linda Clark and has been developed by Central Iowa RSVP. It is designed to improve physical and mental wellness of people age 55 and older. The exercises are proven to help build bone density, strengthen muscles, reduce fall risk, improve circulation, lower cholesterol, lower blood pressure, reduce pain of arthritis, increase energy, improve sleep, and help you look and feel younger while staying active longer! Joining us on Friday mornings is sure to improve your quality of life, and we look forward to working out with you!

## TAX APPOINTMENTS

Thanks to the Volunteer Tax Assistance program, the Ellsworth Public Library will be hosting free income tax appointments. Please contact the library to make an appointment. Walk-ins are also welcome.