



ELLSWORTH COMMUNITY
ASSOCIATION
FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

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

Not many years does Ash Wednesday and
Valentines Days land on the same day.

February 14, 2024

Ash Wednesday



Valentines Day

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FEBRUARY²⁴

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">JANUARY</p> <table style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> | 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 | | | | <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">MARCH</p> <table style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> <tr><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> | 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 | | | | | | | | | <p style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">1</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Library board meet 5:30</p> | <p style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">2</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">Last Quarter</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Groundhog Day</p> | <p style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">3</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Bingo Community Center 5:00</p> |
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| <p style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">4</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Trinity Lutheran Church 9:00</p> | <p style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">5</p> | <p style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">6</p> | <p style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">7</p> | <p style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">8</p> | <p style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">9</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">New Moon</p> | <p style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">10</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Bingo Community Center 5:00</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">11</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Trinity Lutheran Church</p> | <p style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">12</p> <p style="margin: 0;">City Council 7:00</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">Lincoln's Birthday</p> | <p style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">13</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Community Association 7:00 Library</p> | <p style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">14</p> <div style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">  <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">Valentine's Day Ash Wednesday</p> </div> | <p style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">15</p> | <p style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">16</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">First Quarter</p> | <p style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">17</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Bingo Community Center 5:00</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">18</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Trinity Lutheran Church 9:00</p> | <p style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">19</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Firemen Meeting 7:00</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">Presidents' Day Family Day (Canada)</p> | <p style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">20</p> | <p style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">21</p> | <p style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">22</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">Washington's Birthday</p> | <p style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">23</p> | <p style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">24</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">Full Moon</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Bingo Community Center 5:00</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">25</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Trinity Lutheran Church 9:00</p> | <p style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">26</p> | <p style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">27</p> | <p style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">28</p> | <p style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">29</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 4:30-6:60 at Bethesda Lutheran Church, Jewell

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

Birthdays This Month

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

REMEMBERING THE PAST

New Water Tower

Editor’s note: With the present council talking of building a new water tower, I thought it would be appropriate to write the history of the present one.

In November of 1941 the towns water pressure tank blew up leaving Ellsworth without water pressure and fire protection. In December, the council contracted with Pittsburgh-DesMoines Steel Co. to erect a steel tower with tank. (The contract was signed the same day war was declared between the United States and Japan). In early April of 1942, the work was started by a crew of local men digging large holes, 8 foot square and six feet deep, for the concrete footings. Later in April, work started putting up the tower. July 3, 1942 the tower and tank work was completed, filled with water, and the electric light at the top turned on.

It was eight months that the residents of Ellsworth had little water pressure, from the time the tank in the power house blew up to completion of the new water tower. Cost in 1941 when purchased was \$8000.00 installed.

Town Officials at Time of Construction

Mayor - Otto Lande

Councilmen - Clifford Dalbey, Paul Hudgins, Earl Reynolds,
Roy Ahrens & Curtis Thoreson.

Treasurer - G. C. Rorem

Clerk - George Hanson

Water Supt - Raymond Classon



JANUARY CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

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

| | December Receipts | December Disbursements |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| General Fund | 10035.48 | 16519.91 |
| Road Use Fund | 6118.52 | 1167.00 |
| Employee Benefit Fund | 288.86 | 954.15 |
| Emergency Fund | 107.41 | |
| Local Option Sales Tax Fund | 5517.76 | |
| Tax Increment Finance Area 1 | | |
| Tax Increment Finance 1 Amend | 433.39 | |
| Bingo Fund | 2836.27 | 17343.21 |
| Debt Service Fund | 171.22 | 2415.00 |
| Capital Project-Strm Water | | |
| Capital Project-Water Tower | | |
| Water Fund | 22634.95 | 24189.35 |
| Water Sinking Fund | | 12381.25 |
| Sewer Fund | 6389.16 | 8918.88 |
| Electric Fund | 57646.20 | 60236.05 |
| Electric Sinking Fund | | |
| Storm Water Fund | 3868.08 | 56.70 |
| Storm Water Sinking | | 3058.00 |
| | \$116047.30 | \$147239.50 |

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

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

- a. Motion to approve December 11th, 2023 council minutes.
- b. Motion to approve December payment of claims.
- c. Motion to reappoint Raphael M. Montag as City Attorney.
- d. Motion to reappoint Amy L. Zeman as City Clerk,
- e. Motion to reappoint Jayson Evans as the Hamilton County’s E911 and Emergency Management Board with Dolorus Yager as the alternative representative.
- f. Motion to rename South Hamilton Record News as the City’s official Newspaper.
- g. Motion to approve Fire Truck payment in the amount of \$11,349.00 due February 1st, 2024.
- h. Motion to approve The Girls Catering liquor license.

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

Council Minutes continued on page 5

PUBLIC FORUM: None

YSS REQUEST: A representative was not available at the meeting and the Clerk received no additional information, so the council moved to the next agenda item.

MIDLAND POWER: Norm Fandel and David Speed were in attendance for Midland Power to answer questions and concerns that the council had regarding several invoices for work that was performed in the Industrial Park. The work consisted of relocating a 3-phase junction box due to new construction and installing two new 3-phase metering and transformers at 2 businesses. Previously, the City Clerk had questioned who authorized the expenses, why the City had just received the invoices, why the cost was so high and why the full costs were passed to the City in the first place. The council had several concerns of their own, as well as inquiries regarding future growth and expansion on the commercial and industrial side of the City when dealing with electrical outputs and completing the substation loop. After discussing for several minutes policies and procedures and reviewing the Electric Service Rules of the Ellsworth Municipal Electric, it was determined that the Business owners would in fact be responsible for costs coordinating with the service connections and relocation of any property in association with extending services to expansions and construction of their business/property per Ellsworth's Service Rules. The City Clerk requested from Midland, a breakdown of materials used for the metering packages and transformers costs, as well as the number of feet bored at each location, so that she may then pass those individual costs and invoices on to the business owners with more clarity.

TIMECARD CLARIFICATIONS: At Decembers meeting, the council met with departments regarding upcoming budgets. Library Director Schmitz had discussed 1.5 hours of time that had been turned in on her City timecard but had not been discussed with the City Clerk, Mayor, or the Council prior due to the hours being for a volunteer organization in which she was a member of. The council had asked for additional time to review and discuss before making a decision on whether the time qualified for payment under public funds payment. After much discussion, it was determined that going forward time spent outside normal business hours on non-City related business without prior consent will not be approved. There was a motion by Funk, seconded by Sogard to pay the 1.5 hours for this event due to the understanding that she was representing the library. Roll calls votes 5-0. Motion carried. The Clerk will add the hours to her January paycheck.

BUDGET: Due to valuations not yet being released by the county auditor prior to the meeting, limited conversation regarding budget constraints were discussed. Several areas where expenses could be cut were discussed. The council agreed further budget planning would need to wait until the City's revenues were more solidified.

The Clerk received an update from the Hamilton County Sheriff's Department in reference to the 28E agreement that the City has for Night Patrol. The current per capita amount is \$14, which is up from the previous \$10 of FY22/23. The current ask that would take affect July 1st, 2024 for the FY24/25 budget year, pending County Supervisors approval is \$20 per capita.

The Clerk was also presented a letter from the Library Board approving current Library director Salena Schmitz a \$1.25/hr. raise effective January 2nd, 2024. The council discussed how other employee raises and employee evaluations are done and agreed that the process needs to align with the budgeting process. Motion by King, seconded by Sogard to approve the Library Board's decision to approve the \$1.25 raise effective January 2nd, 2024 pending a copy of the employee evaluation be made available for the councils review and be placed in the employee's permanent file at City Hall. Raises will also now need to be given at fiscal year in order to be accounted for in the budgeting process. Roll call votes 5-0. Motion carried.

Council Minutes continued on page 6

MAYORIAL APPOINTMENTS: Mayor Yager made the following appointments

- Mayor Pro-tem: Kalib King
- Personal Committee: Dolorus Yager, Kalib King, William Funk
- Finance and Ordinance Committee: Dolorus Yager, Ladonna Sogard, Amy Zeman
- Utilities and Streets Committee: Dolorus Yager, William Funk, Nick Vanlangen
- Buildings and Grounds Committee: William Funk, Jeremy Laube, Nick Vanlangen
- Sanitary Landfill Rep: Kalib King, Dolorus Yager (Alternate), Steven Gelder (Alternate)
- Police Board: Dolorus Yager, Ladonna Sogard
- Hamilton County Crime Stoppers: Barry Anksorus

COUNCIL MEETING CHANGES: There has been previous discussion about going to two monthly council meetings instead of one due to the length of the current meetings and the new budgeting procedures. The council debated different options including an earlier start time and a different night, but scheduling conflicts and prior engagements made it impossible to find a second time that would be compatible for all. At this time the council agreed to leave the meeting to once a month, with the special meeting option for budgeting purposes and revisiting it again at fiscal year.

KEY/LOCK AND SECURITY CHANGES: There was a discussion regarding several buildings in the City needing updated locks due to numerous keys being lost and/or copied to non-City employees. Access to the Water Treatment Plant is a concern in particular and will be taken care of. City Hall’s door lock has been having key issues for the last year and with the colder temperatures, needs to be addressed immediately. The Clerk will work with Supervisor Vanlangen to coordinate these changes. The Clerk will also do some research into having someone come and look at the handicap door button to see why it isn’t working properly.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Yager adjourned the meeting at 9:18 pm.

/s/ Dolorus Yager, Mayor
 /s/ Amy L. Zeman, City Clerk

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LEAP YEAR - 2024

Leap year is a calendar year that contains an additional day compared to a common year. The 366th day is added to keep the calendar year synchronized with the seasonal year. By inserting an additional day, a leap day into some years, the drift between a civilization’s dating system and the physical properties of the Solar System can be corrected. Each leap year, the month of February has 29 days instead of 28. Adding one extra day in the calendar every four years compensates for the fact that a period of 365 days is shorter than a tropical year by almost 6 hours.

A person born on February 29 may be called a “leapling” or a “leaper”. In common years, they usually celebrate their birthdays on the 28th. In some situations, March 1st is used as a birthday in a non-leap year.

For legal purposes, legal birthdays depend on how local laws count time intervals.

ELLSWORTH PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS

February 2024 Salena Schmitz. Library Director

Letter from Library Director: Salena Schmitz

February 5, 2024 will be my last day as the Library Director for Ellsworth Public Library. I have truly enjoyed providing programming and serving the community for the last 5 years. Both as a Library Director and the library clerk. I am looking forward to my new opportunity to serve as the Elementary Library Associate at the South Hamilton Elementary School.

The spotlight book of the month is, *The Fifth Season* by N K Jemisin.

This is the way the world ends. Again. Three terrible things happen in a single day. Essun, a woman living an ordinary life in a small town, comes home to find that her husband has brutally murdered their son and kidnapped their daughter. Meanwhile, mighty Sanze -- the world-spanning empire whose innovations have been civilization's bedrock for a thousand years -- collapses as most of its citizens are murdered to serve a madman's vengeance. And worst of all, across the heart of the vast continent known as the Stillness, a great red rift has been torn into the heart of the earth, spewing ash enough to darken the sky for years. Or centuries. Now Essun must pursue the wreckage of her family through a deadly, dying land. Without sunlight, clean water, or arable land, and with limited stockpiles of supplies, there will be war all across the Stillness: a battle royale of nations not for power or territory, but simply for the basic resources necessary to get through the long dark night. Essun does not care if the world falls apart around her. She'll break it herself, if she must, to save her daughter.

Adult Fiction:

- *Broadway Butterfly* by Sara Divello
- *Wild Nights in Texas* by Delores Fossen
- *The Running Grave* by Robert Galbraith
- *Collateral Damage* by J.A. Janice
- *The Obelisk Gate #2* by N.K. Jemisin
- *In a Book Club Far Away* by Tif Marcelo
- *Red River Seven* by A. J. Seven

Adult Non-Fiction:

- *Reunion: Leadership and the Longing to Belong* by Jerry Colonna

Junior Fiction:

- *Flat Stanley: His Original Adventure!* by Jeff Brown
- *The Witches* by Road Dahl

Junior Non-Fiction:

- *Tips to Mental Health for Teens* by Wisdom E. Forster

ELLSWORTH HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Money has been received from SEED Catalyst Grant, Ellsworth Coop Telephone Ass'n, Innovative AG Services, Champion Seed and a unanimous donation to acquire the amount to buy a new computer for the Ellsworth Historical Museum. Thank you to all for the generous donations.

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT:



For February, Jon Rollefson, local agent for United Real Estate Professionals in Ames, is our featured business. You may better know Jon as the Pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church here in Ellsworth, but he plays a secondary role in our community as Ellsworth's local realtor.

"Before I chose a vocation in ministry, I worked in the banking industry for over 26 years. It was there that I worked with many real estate agents in the area. As I interacted with each agent, I found the real estate business to be a very interesting occupation to consider investing my time in, particularly down the road during retirement." Jon and his wife Laura began their new careers with Security Realty in Gowrie in 2019, but in October of this year, the realty decided to discontinue operations. So, Jon went searching for a new broker, and he found what he was looking for with United Real Estate Professionals and Brokers Sara Samms and Kurt Carlson.

"I found Sara and Kurt to be very helpful in developing my real estate knowledge and skills. I feel comfortable here, and with a brokerage of 26 agents in the Ames and surrounding area, I can receive additional support and expertise from my colleagues." You may see a sign in town that a family has recently invested their trust in Jon. "If you are thinking about selling or purchasing a home, farm, or business, please talk with me about exploring options you have available to you. I would love to work with you!"

Jon Rollefson
 Agent/ Salesperson
 United Real Estate Professionals
 2213 229th Place
 Ames, IA 50014
 Ph. 641-590-4937 cell/text
 Phone 515.509.2344 Ames office
 jonrollefson@outlook.com
 License# S67912000
 Licensed in the State of Iowa

Ground Hog Day - February 2, 2024

Will the ground hog see his shadow this year?

Do you believe in the superstition?

Sees shadow - 6 weeks more of winter

Not sees shadow - early
 spring

