



ELLSWORTH COMMUNITY
ASSOCIATION
JANUARY NEWSLETTER

Community Association
Officers:
President:
Marcy Olson
cornflower39@yahoo.com
Treasurer:
Linda Clark
Board Member:
Marv Norem
Editor:
Janet Adix
ellsworthia@netins.net

CONGRATULATIONS

2024 Ellsworth Christmas Lighting Winners

1st Place - \$75.00

Bob & Marcy Olson, 1215 Dayton St Apr#1



2nd Place - \$50.00

Lyle & Kris Groth, 665 Olin Ave



3rd Place - \$25.00

Jim & Bea Maxwell, 1819 DeWitt St



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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
DECEMBER 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	FEBRUARY 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	GUIDE TO BEST FISHING DAYS BEST  GOOD  POOR 	1  New Year's Day	2  Library board meet 5:30	3 	4  Bingo Community Center 5:00
5  Trinity Lutheran Church 9:00	6 	7 	8 	9 	10 	11  Bingo Community Center 5:00
12  Trinity Lutheran Church 9:00	13  City Council 7:00	14 Community Association 6:00 Community Center	15  Firemen Meeting 7:00	16 	17 	18  Bingo Community Center 5:00
19  Trinity Lutheran Church 9:00	20  Martin Luther King Jr. Day (USA)	21 	22 	23 Mobile food Pantry 4:00-6:00 Bethesda Lutheran Church Jewell	24 	25  Bingo Community Center 5:00
26  Trinity Lutheran Church 9:00	27 	28  City Council 5:00	29 	30 	31  First Quarter: 6 Full Moon: 13 Last Quarter: 21 New Moon: 29	

JANUARY

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

Danny Anderson	1st	Jan Thompson	16th
Hallie VanLangen	9th	Rob Evans	23rd
Heidi Eckers	10th	Pat Hill	25th
Scott George	15th	Robert Caudle	26th
Isiah Hired	15th	Justin Thompson	28th
Staci Kuhfus	16th	Cheri VanLangen	28th
		Tryvin Laube	31st



REMEMBERING THE PAST: Ellsworth Newsletter, by Editor, Janet Adix

In the December issue of the Ellsworth Newsletter the history of newspapers published for the Ellsworth Community was highlighted. This year the Ellsworth Newsletter will be 40 years old so this article is a little history about the publication of it.

After the South Hamilton Record/News was printed in Jewell, Ellsworth didn't get the "news" as before. The town needed something local. Surrounding towns with no local news papers had newsletters, why couldn't Ellsworth. A proposition was put forward to the Ellsworth Development members, at the time: Jerry Peterson, Ivy Olson, Nancy Hemphill and Janet Adix.

The Ellsworth Development members did support the idea. It was decided that the members would print issues on the Library printer. With four hundred copies of 6 to 8 pages, it was quite a job. Plus the Library printer was a small version so it burned up the first month.

The decision was made to have the newsletter printed by a professional job printer and donations asked from the community to support monthly printing. When the responsibility became too much for the Ellsworth Development, the Ellsworth Community Association was ask to take over the expenses. Forty years later the EDC is still sponsoring the Ellsworth Newsletter.

There have been several editors during this time. Janet Adix was the first, 1985 to1994. Some of the others were: Susan Schmitz, Kris Groth, Heidi Nye, Sue Norem, Jon and Laura Rollefson and present editor, Janet Adix (again).

In 2023 with printing and mailing prices, (over \$500 monthly) it became unable to print the issues by professionals and mail issues Boxholder. Thus the decision was made to email issues to all who subscribed. Hard copies are available at the Telephone Office, City Hall and Library each month for those not having computers or wishing not to subscribe. All issues past and present, are also on the Museum Website ellshismuseum.us and City of Ellsworth Website cityofells.org.

Thank you to all who have supported the newsletter financially in the past.

HOMWOOD CEMETERY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

The Homewood Cemetery Improvement Association held seven meetings in 2024 with an average of 9 members present at each meeting, April thru October.

Jeff Walbaum was the Independent Contractor for mowing and other maintenance from April 15 through October 15, 2024

The Veteran's flags were placed on the graves before Memorial Day and removed after Veteran's Day by HCIA members. Memorial Day services were held at Trinity Lutheran Church due to rainy morning conditions. HCIA members worked with Greenwood Cemetery families to provide the program and color guard. Jerry Swanson was the speaker for the day.

The repairs/restoration of the headstones identified as part of the Headstone Restoration project were completed. A list of others needing repair will be compiled, an estimate asked for.

Shingles have been replaced as needed on the Gazebo roof. The dirt pile area of the cemetery was cleaned up and the lilac bushes were removed. This project will allow for 76 burial spaces to be available for sale. Volunteers will landscape the access area around the Maintenance Shed. A new dirt pile will be relocated to the north edge of the cemetery.

Ongoing projects: Adopt a flag used in the Avenue of Flags, compiling a list of burial spaces owners are willing to sell, continual need for monetary donations to support current maintenance, and long term plan to develop the cemetery's North Addition.

Thirty two spaces were sold this year. There were eight burials in Homewood during 2024: David Charlson, Verona Evans Johnson, Brent Martin, Steve Adix, Ruth Adix, Linda Adix, Roger Volkmann and Marilyn Radar.

Memorial Given:

Gerald Hill: Mark Lunde, Steven & Tanya Baker, Rolan & Clara Hill, Janice Lunde, DeWayne & Cathy Berg, Paul and Mary Hill, Donald & Diane Schaffer, Jim & Pat Hill, Wes & Patty Thoreson, Jayson & Lori Evans, Craig Hill, Lauren & Teresa Olson, Russell & Ellen Henry, Karl & Judith Greve, Steve & Pam Larson, Harlan & Shelia Schaeffer, Dave & Dawn Hegland

Dan Beattie: Paul & Mary Hill, Jim & Pat Hill, Steve & Pam Larson

Dan Danielson: Jacquelyn Hill, Judith, Joan and Jean (Danielson) and families

David Charlson: Steve & Pam Larson

Barbara Peterson Christenson: Karl & Judith Greve

Jesse Romp: Harlan & Sheila Schaefer, Steve & Pam Larson, Romp family

Michele Hetland Mabee: Janet Adix

Shirley Hansel Evans: Dave & Dawn Hegland, Todd & Jody Berg, Betsi Danielson, Janet Adix, Lois Danielson, Steve & Pam Larson, Lindseth/Ostebee Family, Lauren & Teresa Olson, Dale & Linda Graham, Jayson & Lori Evans, Jim & Pat Hill, Mark & Holly Grubb, Craig Hill, Lonnie & Karen Evans, Michael & Stephanie Reymann, Janice Hetland, Sharon Jans, Karl and Judith Greve, Alberta & Philip Voge, Tom & Helen Ellwood, Kelly Vlahakis, Marv Johnson, Evans Family

Verona Evans Johnson: Dale & Linda Graham, Jacquelyn Hill, Lonnie & Karen Evans, Craig Hill, Jayson & Lori Evans.

Phil Heinlen: Janet Adix

Roger Volkmann: Todd & Jody Berg, Jacquelyn Hill, Dale & Linda Graham, Lindseth/Ostebee, Jim & Pat Hill

NOVEMBER 26TH CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The Ellsworth City Council met in regular session at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall on November 26, 2024, with Mayor Yager presiding, and the following council present: Laube, Funk, Phipps.

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

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

- a. Motion to approve November 11 minutes
- b. Motion to approve TIF Indebtedness Certification
- c. Motion to approve Payment of Midland outstanding Invoice
- d. Motion to approve debt payment for December 1, 2024 SRF interest only \$11,672.50 payment
- e. Motion to approve Annual Finance Report
- f. Motion to approve Bingo gift card purchases (Thanksgiving and Christmas)

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

PUBLIC FORUM: None Present

COUNCIL VACANCY INTERVIEWS: Marcy Olson only applicant present. Council interviewed candidate. Main goals for candidate are collaboration between community and municipal organizations.

LUCKY WIFE LIQUOR LICENSE: Motion by Phipps to approve, second by Funk. Roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried.

ECA: None Present

FIRE/EMS: None Present

LIBRARY: None Present

CITY HALL UPDATES: City Clerk updated council. City Clerk will pursue sealed bids process for old park equipment.

PUBLIC WORKS UPDATES: Bolten and Menk representative Katie Sterk was present to update Council on the engineering progress of the watertower project. Design phase is at 60% currently. Information that was gathered by PW Supervisor VanLangen and City Clerk Eckers is being processed in a move towards a water study being completed and financing options being narrowed down. The 20 year DNR-SRF Financing will not approve financing for speculative growth whereas a 40-year DNR loan will approve the erection of a larger capacity watertower. Several questions were proposed by council members and were answered by Katie Sterk. PW Supervisor and Clerk Eckers will continue to have regular check ins with Bolten and Menk to see that the project continues forward.

COUNCIL SEAT VACANCY APPOINTMENT: After discussion by council, motion made by Laube to appoint Marcy Olson to fill the vacancy of Kalib King for the remainder of the term which will end November of 2025. Second by Phipps. Roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT: Councilman Laube motioned to adjourn at 6:32PM, second Funk. Roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried.

DECEMBER 9TH CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The Ellsworth City Council met in regular session at 7:01 p.m. at City Hall on December 9, 2024, with Mayor Pro Tem William Funk presiding, and the following council present: Sogard, Laube, Olsen, Phipps.

	November Receipts	November Disbursements
General Fund	31298.79	36957.38
Road Use Fund	6056.80	3454.36
Employee Benefit Fund	1831.39	3276.73
Emergency Fund		
Local Option Sales Tax Fund	5289.07	
Tax Increment Finance Area 1		
Tax Increment Finance Area 2		
Tax Increment Finance 1 Amend		
Bingo Fund	4040.18	902.58
Debt Service Fund	979.72	
Capital Project-Storm Water		
Capital Project-Water Tower		
Water Fund	19952.80	15159.13
Water Sinking Fund		
Sewer Fund	5589.78	10378.50
Electric Fund	36479.32	61266.17
Electric Sinking Fund		
Storm Water Fund	3662.32	65.71
Storm Water Sinking		24950.00
	\$115180.17	\$136933.56

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

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

- a. Motion to approve November 26 minutes
- b. Motion to approve November and December payment of claims

PUBLIC FORUM: None Present

ONE TIME PAY INCREASE: After discussion on current staff compared to December of 2023, motion made by Sogard and second by Laube to approve one time pay increases as follows:

- N. Vanlangen - \$250.00
 - H. Eckers - \$250.00
 - L. Knickerbocker - \$250.00
 - D. Turpen - \$250.00
 - K. Morton - \$250.00
 - K. Hunter - \$100.00
 - A. Watts - \$50.00
 - T. Painton - \$50.00
- Roll Call votes 5-0. Motion Carried

City Council meeting continued on page 7

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH: Mayor Yager phoned in to update council on Trinity Church being designated as a warming shelter should there be a weather related closing on I35 and the need arise for emergency shelter for travelers. Trinity Lutheran Church is also adding a NARCAN box outside of the church this coming Saturday.

BINGO DONATION TO SH TRAP TEAM: Motion by Sogard and second by Laube to have SH Trap team help out at Bingo for a period of six months with a donation of \$250 per week. Roll call votes 5-0. Motion carried.

BINGO SCHOLARSHIPS TO SH STUDENTS: Motion by Laube and second by Phipps to award three \$500 scholarships to South Hamilton students this coming year following the same process as last year. Roll call votes 5-0. Motion carried.

OPEN GYM TIME AT COMMUNITY CENTER: City Clerk Eckers had prepared a liability release for the Council to look over. After discussion, the Council requested City Clerk Eckers run the liability waiver through the City Attorney prior to approval. The Council discussed fee schedule for community members wanting to attend the open gym hours, a punch pass available at City Hall seems to be the most efficient way to handle the fiscal side of the proposal. Sunday afternoon has been discussed with several councilmembers agreeing to volunteer to staff the open gym time as well as a timeline of weekly ending the last Sunday in February. Looking to finalize details and call for a vote to approve at the next council meeting.

ECA: Marcy Olson, President of the ECA, updated council on her attendance to the most recent Fire Department meeting with collaboration in future events for the community being the goal. The group is working hard to finalize details for the Holiday event on Saturday December 14th at the Ellsworth Fire Department.

FIRE/EMS:

LIBRARY:

CITY HALL UPDATES: City Clerk Eckers updated the Council on status of training, end of year reporting that has been completed, and plans for upcoming Budget process.

PUBLIC WORKS UPDATES: Staff not present

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Pro Tem Funk called for adjournment at 7:58 p.m.

William Funk, Mayor Pro Tem

Heidi Eckers, City Clerk

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Option of paying your City bill on line -

Did you know Ellsworth Residents can pay their city bill on line?

Go to Ellsworth’s Website - ellsworthiowa.org and do the easy sign up.

Paying your bill on line is the only way to pay with Debit/Credit cards.

Also, while you are on the Website, you can sign up for alerts, text messages will be sent when needed.

Free Notary Service is available at City Hall for Ellsworth Residents only

DECEMBER 17TH CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The Ellsworth City Council met in regular session at 5:11 p.m. at City Hall on December 17, 2024, with Mayor Dolorus Yager presiding, and the following council present: Laube, Olsen, Phipps.

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

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

- a. Motion to approve December 9 minutes

PUBLIC FORUM: None Present

OPEN GYM TIME AT COMMUNITY CENTER: After discussion about minor changes made to the liability release, motion made by Laube to begin open gym time at the Ellsworth Community Center Sundays 4pm to 6pm. Community members interested should stop into Ellsworth City Hall to sign a liability release and pay a one time \$10 fee which will cover all residents in household during open gym days and hours until March 2, 2025. Motion seconded by Olson, roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried. City Clerk Heidi Eckers will prepare membership/access cards to hand out as community members come and pay their \$10 fee. These cards need to be presented upon arrival to open gym time.

ECA: Marcy Olson, President of the ECA, updated council on the rescheduled Christmas events this coming Saturday, December 21. Their volunteers will be dispersing holiday meal baskets as well as helping with the festivities at Ellsworth Fire Department starting at 4:30pm.

FIRE/EMS: None Present

LIBRARY: None Present

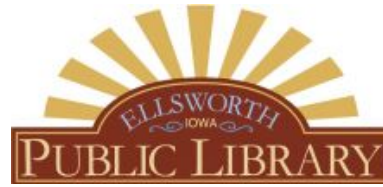
CITY HALL UPDATES: City Clerk Eckers updated the Council on progress with façade and bathroom renovations to City Hall, status with the new water rate study being conducted by financial advisor Nate Summers, a now remedied situation of fraudulently cashed checks from Love's Travel Stop, and an update on storm water drainage district 30 brought in by County Supervisor Rick Young.

PUBLIC WORKS UPDATES: PW Supervisor Nick Vanlangen and PW employee Lee Knickerbocker were present to update the council. Nick let the council know he is waiting to hear back from DMACC on potential testing dates for his water safety certification. Nick and Lee brought to the Council's attention the growing concerns with avian flu in our county, Joe Armbruster from the USDA approached PW employees about addressing the risks in wild bird populations near the city lagoons. Motion made by Phipps to adopt the avian flu management work initiation agreement presented to council, giving Joe Armbruster access to the lagoons to manage the wild bird population and reduce the risks of avian flu to nearby commercial turkey facilities. Motion seconded by Olson, roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried. PW Supervisor Vanlangen mentioned two streetlights with sensor issues on DeWitt Street. These sensors have been replaced by city staff, they suspect faulty wiring and requested bringing in Short Circuit Electric to help them remedy the issues. Schotfeldt Engineering is sending the needed reports to DNR addressing the ammonia levels at the lagoons. Westech will be coming to probe 3 of the sand filters at the new city water plant in the next few weeks to test the media and its efficacy.

APPOINTMENTS: Mayor Dolorus Yager appointed Bill Robb as the City representative to the Sanitation Board.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Dolorus Yager called for adjournment at 5:46 p.m.

January 2025



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Library Closed New Year's Day (January 1)
- Board Meeting (open to public) | 5:30-6:30pm on Thursday, January 2
- BASE Exercise Group | 10:00-10:30am on Friday, January 3
- New Tablet/E-Reader Setup Help | Drop-In on Monday, January 6
- 2025 Goal Setting/Vision Board Adult Program | 6:00-7:00pm on Monday, January 6
- After School Snack & Activity | 4:00-5:00pm on Thursday, January 9
- BASE Exercise Group | 10:00-10:30am on Friday, January 10
- After School Snack & Activity | 4:00-5:00pm on Thursday, January 16
- BASE Exercise Group | 10:00-10:30am on Friday, January 17
- After School Snack & Activity | 4:00-5:00pm on Thursday, January 23
- BASE Exercise Group | 10:00-10:30am on Friday, January 24
- Young(ish) Adult Book Club | 6:00-7:00pm on Monday, January 27
 - Come pick up a book to join this new book club for adults age 18-30(ish)! This month, we will be discussing *The Uglies* by Scott Westerfeld.
- After School Snack & Activity | 4:00-5:00pm on Thursday, January 30
- BASE Exercise Group | 10:00-10:30am on Friday, January 31
- Early Childhood Storytime | 10:30-11:00am on Friday, January 27

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

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT:

BASE is starting this January! 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!

ELLSWORTH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM

It is that time of year again for the annual Ellsworth Community Association membership renewal. Dues are \$20.00 for single or family memberships. Send your check/cash to: **Ellsworth Community Association, PO Box 272, Ellsworth, Iowa.** Please include all names of the family, address and phone number. Thank you for your interest in the Ellsworth Community. Send to:

Ellsworth Community Association

PO Box 272

Ellsworth Iowa 50075

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY the following information for our records:

Name _____

Address _____

Home Phone () _____ - _____

Cell Phone () _____ - _____

E Mail _____

Fill out if you want to be included on the Birthday/Anniversary calendar:

_____ **First Name** _____ **Last Name** _____ **Month / Day**

B _____ **A** _____ / _____

B _____ **A** _____ / _____

B _____ **A** _____ / _____

B _____ **A** _____ / _____