



ELLSWORTH COMMUNITY  
ASSOCIATION  
JULY NEWSLETTER

Community Association  
Officers:

President: Marcy Olson  
[cornflower39@yahoo.com](mailto:cornflower39@yahoo.com)

Vice President: Ashley Platte

Secretary: Amber Davis

Treasurer: Linda Clark

Board Member:

Marv Norem

Editor:

Janet Adix

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**July 22-27, 2025**

**Together We Fair!**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
First Quarter: 2 Full Moon: 10 Last Quarter: 17 New Moon: 24	GUIDE TO BEST FISHING DAYS BEST  GOOD  POOR 	<b>1</b> Comm. Assoc 6:00 Comm. Center Canada Day (Canada)	<b>2</b>  Farmers Market DeWitt Street 5:00-7:00	<b>3</b> 	<b>4</b>  Independence Day (USA)	<b>5</b>  Bingo Community Center 5:00
<b>6</b>  Trinity Lutheran Church 9:00 City Park	<b>7</b> 	<b>8</b> 	<b>9</b>  Farmers Market DeWitt Street 5:00-7:00	<b>10</b>  Library board meet 5:30	<b>11</b> 	<b>12</b>  Bingo Community Center 5:00
<b>13</b>  Trinity Lutheran Church 9:00	<b>14</b>  City Council 6:00	<b>15</b>  Comm. Assoc 6:00 Comm. Center	<b>16</b>  Farmers Market DeWitt Street 5:00-7:00	<b>17</b>  Firemen Meeting 7:00	<b>18</b> 	<b>19</b>  Bingo Community Center 5:00
<b>20</b>  Trinity Lutheran Church 9:00	<b>21</b> 	<b>22</b>  Hamilton Co Fair	<b>23</b>  Farmers Market DeWitt Street 5:00-7:00	<b>24</b> 	<b>25</b>  Homewood Cemetery meet TLC 10:00	<b>26</b>  Bingo Community Center 5:00
<b>27</b>  Trinity Lutheran Church 9:00 Hamilton Co Fair ends	<b>28</b>  City Council 6:00	<b>29</b> 	<b>30</b>  Farmers Market DeWitt Street 5:00-7:00	<b>31</b> 	<div> <div>JUNE</div> <div> <div>S M T W T F S</div> <div>1 2 3 4 5 6 7</div> <div>8 9 10 11 12 13 14</div> <div>15 16 17 18 19 20 21</div> <div>22 23 24 25 26 27 28</div> <div>29 30</div> </div> </div> <div> <div>AUGUST</div> <div> <div>S M T W T F S</div> <div>1 2</div> <div>3 4 5 6 7 8 9</div> <div>10 11 12 13 14 15 16</div> <div>17 18 19 20 21 22 23</div> <div>24 25 26 27 28 29 30</div> </div> </div>	
<b>JULY</b>						<b>2025</b>

## 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

Seth Berg	1st	Janice Hetland	17th
Aidan Hill	1st	Janet Lindseth	19th
Sarah Hemphill	2nd	Mackenzie Henderson	20th
Kristi Busch	3rd	Jeremy Laube	20th
Nick VanLangen	8th	Dorothy Tribby	23rd
Marilyn Doyle	10th	Mark Hill	25th
Reggie Caudle	12th	Dugan Swenson	26th
Leah Mass	13th	Jon Rollefson	27th
Grant Larson	13th	Teresa Olson	28th
Tory Hetland	14th	Nancy Campbell	29th
William Angove	16th	Marcia Anderson	30th
Tom Ellwood	16th		

## ANNIVERSARIES

Lindsay & Steve Gelder	9th
Jody & Todd Berg	10th
Brandi & Cory Nelson	22nd

### Missing at the Museum -

Year Books 1963 & 2017

Would anyone have copies of these year books and be willing to donate them to the Museum? If so, please leave on Museum Desk or drop in book drop. Thank you



## REMEMBERING THE PAST: July 4th at Lakin's Grove written by Gladys Bonner

A Fourth of July celebration was held every year at Lakin's Grove. Elisha and Luther Lakin, the first settlers in Lakin's Grove, owned the land where the 4th was celebrated. (Present day would be south along the river of Roger Volkmann's farm). This was a timbered tract along the Skunk River. Fine old oak, walnut, elm and hickory trees furnished pleasant shade and a flowing well furnished cold, sweet water. A "bowery" had been built for dancing. It had hinged windows which were raised so any vagrant breeze could wander through. Around it were clustered the stands for concessions and the merry-go-round with its steam calliope.

On the night of the third, the men and boys took to the swimmin' hole in the Skunk River. The women waited for the men to return then used their own swimmin' pool — the over flow tank at the foot of the hill.

The day of the 4th started early with preparing for a pot luck dinner. The afternoon was spent with a program of speakers and local talent. Races and rides on the merry-go-round kept the kids busy. The evening was spent dancing and fireworks.

## MAY 27TH CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The Ellsworth City Council met in regular session at 6:03 p.m. at City Hall on May 27th,, 2025 with Mayor Yager presiding, and the following council present: Sogard, Funk and Olson. With Phipps arriving at 6:12pm. Also in attendance were Ashley Platte with ECA, Andrew Holden, Laura Larson SMK Insurance, Bobby Shomo SMK Insurance, Brian Zimmerman, EJS Officer Kaleb Morton.

### May Receipts May Disbursements

Road Use Fund	0.00	10,849.16
Employee Benefit Fund	2,797.40	375.98
Emergency Fund	0.00	
Local Option Sales Tax Fund	0.00	
Tax Increment Finance Area 1	0.00	
Tax Increment Finance 1 Amend	2,025.12	
Bingo Fund	3,959.00	7251.75
Debt Service Fund	1,520.78	0.00
Capital Project-Strm Water		
Capital Project-Water Tower	14,845.00	
Water Fund	24,486.38	57,983.14
Water Sinking Fund		
Sewer Fund	7,545.62	5,937.57
Electric Fund	44,984.59	122,559.88
Electric Sinking Fund		
Storm Water Fund	3,121.18	64.10
Storm Water Sinking		
<hr/>		
	\$140,820.14	\$240,679.93

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

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

- a. Motion to approve May 12th, 2025 council minutes.
- b. Motion to approve May payment of claims.

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

PUBLIC FORUM: None Present

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SMK INSURANCE: Laura Larson with SMK Insurance and owner Bobby Shomo were present to update Council on current city coverage and to answer any questions Council may have. They informed Council that wind/hail coverage is more than likely something that will continue to have a separate policy and deductible. Currently through EMC Ellsworth is at a rate of 1% total value deductible. On a building like the newer Water Plant, should a catastrophic weather event occur the deductible would be \$38,000. They presented the City with two dollar amount options for deductible buy down coverage. The \$10,000 deductible coverage would be an additional \$5,099.59 per year and the \$5,000 deductible coverage would be an additional \$5,810.19 per year. After Q&A by Council, Motion made by Sogard and seconded by Funk to purchase the \$5,000 deductible buy down policy. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

NEW BINGO EMPLOYEE: Bingo lost their third employee in December, and Allen Watts had requested hiring a replacement. Clerk Eckers has the paperwork in hand, including application from Marvin Nelson. Motion by Funk and seconded by Phipps to approve the hire of Marvin Nelson at minimum wage. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

FY26 EJS 28E AGREEMENT: Council had a short discussion about the need for a vote. It was determined, as the current 28E agreement had never received a vote by Council to discontinue participation, the Council will continue to be committed to the current 28E agreement, which will renew after June of 2026.

FY 26 PER CAPITA RATE INCREASE, HAMILTON COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT: Tabled until the proposed increase can be discussed at the next EJS Police Board meeting. Mayor Yager will extend an invitation to Sheriff Pruisman to the next City Council meeting to answer Council questions.

DEVELOPERS AGREEMENT PARCEL 40872436226006: Updated Developer's Agreement included removing the proposed widening of the intersection at Ubben and Hwy 175 and adding developer responsibility for vacating and moving sewer line. Motion by Funk and seconded by Phipps to approve the new draft of the Developers Agreement. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried. Clerk Eckers will re-draft a signature page and send to the developer.

ECA: Ashely Platte was present to update the Council on the progress for fundraising and improvements to the concession stand at the Ball Field Park. Platte will bring quote from Thompson Construction to Clerk Eckers this week. ECA is running a 50/50 raffle at Saturday evening Bingo at the Community Center, the first week they raised \$52 off of \$1 ticket sales. Motion by Sogard to approve starting of the rehab project to the concession stand. Second by Funk. Roll call votes 3-0 with Olson abstaining. Motion carried. Ms Platte also updated the Council on the date decided on for the 2026 Ellsworth Extravaganza, which is proposed for June 27. The ECA requested use of the City Park and Park Shelter house for the day. Motion by Sogard and second by Funk to allow ECA access to the City Park and buildings at no charge for the Ellsworth Extravaganza celebration on June 27, 2026. Roll call votes 3-0 with Olson abstaining. Motion carried.

NEW CITY ATTORNEY: Discussion was had that the city is in need of a new city attorney. Clerk Eckers will identify potential local attorneys and draft a letter of intent to send out.

COUNCIL MEMBER RESIGNATION: Councilman Laube submitted his resignation letter effective 05-19-25. Clerk Eckers published open application period, with interviews to be held June 24th. Clerk Eckers will call previous applicants as well to see if they are still interested in filling the vacancy. Motion to accept resignation by Olson and seconded by Sogard. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

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COUNCIL MEMBER RESIGNATION: Councilman Laube submitted his resignation letter effective 05-19-25. Clerk Eckers published open application period, with interviews to be held June 24th. Clerk Eckers will call previous applicants as well to see if they are still interested in filling the vacancy. Motion to accept resignation by Olson and seconded by Sogard. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

PUBLIC WORKS UPDATES: FY25/26 purchase or lease of a new backhoe – a lease from Murphey Tractor was presented to Council for 5 year lease to own of a John Deere 2025 310 P Backhoe for a price of \$126, 587.00 with a fixed interest rate of 4.59%. Annual payments with interest included would be \$26, 479.47. Supervisor Vanlangen called Chris Nelson with Murphey Tractor during the discussion to answer questions the Council had. Motion by Funk and seconded by Phipps to lease the new backhoe from Murphey Tractor with downpayment and/or annual payments to be determined at a later council meeting pending questions about how the interest rate will accrue and be paid out. Roll call votes 3-1 with Sogard voting Nay. Clerk Eckers will follow up with Chris from Murphey Tractor concerning questions on interest rate and a purchase agreement. Supervisor Vanlangen approved a building permit at 438 Park Ave Circle. Council was updated on the project.

CITY HALL UPDATES: Clerk Eckers updated Council on the status of several projects including a developers agreement for a potential buyer for the fish farm, updating the water ordinance with new rates which will factor into financing on the new water tower, the new water tower project status, amending the urban renewal plan to include a few properties seeing development so that the city can leverage TIF for the infrastructure costs.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Yager adjourned the meeting at 7:47 pm.

/s/ Dolorus Yager, Mayor

/s/ Heidi Eckers, City Clerk

## JUNE 9TH CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The Ellsworth City Council met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall on June 9th , 2025 with Mayor Yager presiding, and the following council members present: Sogard, Funk and Olson. With Phipps arriving at 6:11pm. Also in attendance were Andrew Holden, Katie Sterk with Bolten and Menk, Ron Cook, and EJS Officer Kaleb Morton. Staff present: Public Works Supervisor Vanlangen.

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

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

- a. Motion to approve May 27th, 2025 council minutes.
- b. Motion to approve annual tobacco license renewal for Love's Travel Stop

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

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PUBLIC FORUM: None Present

BOLTEN AND MENK - WATER TOWER: Katie Sterk with Bolten and Menk was present to update the council on the new water tower project. She shared plans and specs and the opinion of probable, which has been updated to an estimated \$3,407,115. Bid letting to begin June 11, 2025, with a deadline of July 11, bids submitted to Clerk Eckers at Ellsworth City Hall. A public hearing on the water tower project will be July 14 at the regular council session. The bid will be awarded at the July 22nd regular council session.

RESOLUTION 6-9-2025 ORDERING BIDS, APPROVING PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS AND FORM OF CONTRACT AND NOTICE TO BIDDER, FIXING AMOUNT OF BIDDER'S CHECK, AND ORDERING CLERK TO PUBLISH NOTICE AND FOR A PUBLIC HEARING ON PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS, FORM OF CONTRACT AND ESTIMATE OF COSTS FOR THE 350,000-GAL ELEVATED WATER STORAGE TANK PROJECT: Motion by Funk and seconded by Phipps to adoption Resolution 6-9— 2025. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENTS: Mayor Yager appointed Marcy Olson to the EJS Police Board.

FY 26 PER CAPITA RATE INCREASE, HAMILTON COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT: Due to EJS advertising for a second officer position, the sheriff department will maintain the current \$14 per capita rate for Ellsworth, Jewell, and Stanhope for FY 26.

DEVELOPERS AGREEMENT PARCEL 40872436226006: Tabled until Public Works, Council, and City Clerk can meet with Wayne Shlotfeldt to discuss the implications of proposed adjustments to the sewer easement.

ECA: Councilwoman Olson mentioned the ECA is looking for volunteers in several capacities for the Ice Cream Social event on August 2nd. Contact Marcy Olson, Ashley Platte, or Linda Clark if anyone in the community is willing to help. Olson also updated the Council on progress with the ball field concession roof project, which is almost complete. Thompson Construction agreed to donate a rolling concession window/door for the project valued at \$1500.

LIBRARY: none present

FIRE/EMS: none present

NUISANCE AND PUBLIC COMPLAINTS: Officer Morton was present to update the Council on nuisance notices served recently in Ellsworth. Ron Cook was present to request an extension from the Council to continue work to fix his pickup truck, which is needed to haul scrap metal and items from his backyard away. Council would like to remind the public of the upcoming ECA-sponsored Dump Your Junk event on June 21st. Large items can be hauled out to the road or brought to the large dumpsters in the parking area of IAS and ECA will be covering disposal fees and collection with the partnership of The Trashman of Webster City. Mr Cook was granted an extension until June 30 to remove debris from the backyard and to utilize the dump your junk event. Officer Morton also mentioned a junk vehicle notice and garbage/weeds notice that was presented to 324 Lakin. The owners were not present to request an extension, and a citation will be issued.

PUBLIC WORKS: Supervisor Vanlangen presented the council with quotes for two different RO filter options through Consolidated Solutions. Motion by Funk and seconded by Olson to approve the purchase of the required 66 replacement RO filters at \$440 each. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

CITY HALL: Clerk Eckers updated the Council on a CD maturing on June 11. The three-month CD utilizing Local Option funds has yielded \$5,224.34 in interest. Clerk Eckers will renew the CD and roll in the accrued interest.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Yager adjourned the meeting at 7:32 pm.

## **Ellsworth Community Association (ECA)**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**June 2, 2025**

Members in attendance: Marcy Olson, Ashley Platte, Linda Clark, Jeremy Laube, Brittany Williams

Meeting called to order by Marcy Olson, President at 6:07 PM.

**Agenda Approval:** Did not have minutes from last month's meeting available for approval.

**Treasury Report Approval:** Motion to approve by Ashley. Seconded by Jeremy. Motion carried.

**Public Forum:** Jeremy was present to talk about the city park basketball court. He would like to see about the possibility of us painting the South Hamilton Hawks logo on the basketball court along with the 3 point and free throw line. Marcy said she could talk with someone about having them do it. Jeremy also mentioned he had some lumber he could donate to improvement projects.

**Garage Sales:** Ashley reported we had 13 garage sales on the list. Marcy reported that she saw 5 more that weren't on the list for a total of 18.

**Dump your Junk:** Linda reported she talked to the Co-Op and got permission to use the gravel parking area for the collection area. Brittany reported we have a list from the salvage guy that we will be posting in the next couple of weeks. Linda said she talked with the Trash Man and he said as long as we are paying for everything they will take everything. Ashley and Brittany reported the only thing we can't take are explosives, animal carcasses and yard waste. We can take paint as long as we dry it out. Brittany said she would look into an organization that might recycle the paint. Ashley mentioned she will have her enclosed trailer up at the Co-Op on the 21st as well. She also said we are taking tires and the Car Doctor said he would take any oil we get. Brittany reported looking into finding an organization that take tires for recycling. Ashley stated we will be posting fliers door to door for people. Marcy, Linda, Ashley and Brittany volunteered to split up the town and deliver the fliers. Also if people need help they will need to contact Linda or Ashley, as stated on the flier.

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**Ice Cream Social:** Brittany reported that we have been in contact with the Lucky Wife Wine Slushies and they are planning on coming. She also reported she has been in contact with another truck but needs some clarification on a few things with them. Marcy reported she has been in contact with the Cheesy Smoker and they are planning on coming. We will check in with city hall to make sure registration is done. Marcy was going to talk to Amber about going over the Jewell Jubilee's to get business cards for other food trucks. Brittany reported we are also working on a possible liquor license for the park for the day. Ashley reports she had picked up some yard games, bubbles and chalk and are working on more games. Linda recommended a list of things we need volunteers for and time frames. Brittany mentioned making a Google document for that. Brittany reported that Band o' Randos have been booked. Marcy mentioned talking to Champion Seed about using their trailer again for the "stage".

**Newsletter:** Marcy reported she is going to talk to Amber about getting the minutes to Janet for the newsletter. Linda said Janet is also going to do an extra flier for Dump your Junk.

**Ball Diamond Renovations:** Ashley reported we have been collecting donations at the ball diamond concession stand for the renovations. They have also started doing a 50/50 raffle at BINGO. So far between the two we have raised \$241.50. She reports getting approval from city council to have Thompson start work and Thompson as agreed. They are starting on the roof this week. Brittany reported she ordered a fundraiser thermometer sign that we can hang up that will keep people up to date on where we are at with our collection.

### Comments

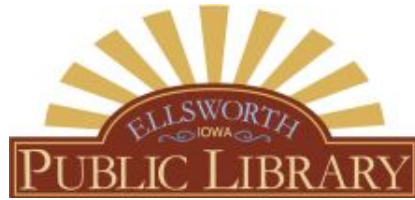
**Flowers on Main:** Linda reported she has someone donate flowers that they put in the hanging baskets on main and she will be starting to water as needed. She also stated the flower boxes need some work she is going to talk to the city to see if they have any ideas for them.

**Extravaganza:** The date of June 27th, 2026 was decided on last week and Ashley reported she has gotten it approved by the city. Marcy mentioned possibly having a craft show. Brittany mentioned she was thinking about seeing if her husband could do a car show. Marcy said Jeremy usually puts on the car show. Brittany said she would maybe see if her husband would like to help with it then. Ashley said we could reuse the yard games from the social. She also said she would like to see a beer garden. Linda mentioned making sure we had a volunteer list of this as well.

**Pop cans:** Brittany mentioned we maybe need to sort pop cans at our next meeting. It was decided we could wait until our second meeting in July.

**Adjournment:** Motion by Ashley. Seconded by Brittany. Marcy adjourned meeting at 7:27.

# July 2025



## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Card Group | 1-4pm EVERY TUESDAY (except July 1)
- BASE Exercise Group | 10:15-10:45am EVERY FRIDAY
- Giant Checkers | Drop-In, All Week July 1-5
- **Library Closed | July 4**
- Life-Sized Chutes & Ladders | 2:00pm on Tuesday, July 8
- Magazine Pixel Art Craft | 1:00pm on Thursday, July 10
- Board Meeting (open to public) | 5:30-6:30pm on Thursday, July 10
  - Moved back a week due to the holiday weekend.
- Create a Puzzle Piece Mural | Drop-In, All Week July 14-19
- Musical Chairs | 1:00pm on Tuesday, July 22
- (Mine)Craft | Drop-In on Monday, July 28
- Young(ish) Adult Book Club | 6:00-7:00pm on Monday, July 28
  - Come join this new book club for adults in their 20s and 30s(ish)! This month, we will discuss *The Midnight Feast* by Lucy Foley.
- BINGO | 1:00pm on Wednesday, July 30
- Summer Reading Logs DUE | Thursday, July 31
  - Turn in your completed reading log for a prize!

More details about any of these programs can be found at [ellsworth.lib.ia.us/events](https://ellsworth.lib.ia.us/events).



REGISTER TODAY!

**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](mailto:holyone@netins.net)    🌐 <https://tcellesworth.org>