



ELLSWORTH COMMUNITY  
ASSOCIATION  
MARCH NEWSLETTER

SAVE THE DATES

ELLSWORTH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

announces dates of 2025 activities

April 19th - Easter Egg Hunt, 9:00, City Park

April 19 - Easter Brunch 9:30, Community Center

May 5th - Hwy 175 Clean Up,

May 11th - Mother's Day Hanging Baskets  
signup and give away

May 15th - South Hamilton Seniors Awards  
Banquet -three scholarships given

July 13th - Community Garage Sales

July 20th - Dump Your Junk

October 31 - Halloween Party at Fire Station

December 14th - Santa Claus come to town

December 18th - Lighting Contest

December 21 - Christmas Baskets delivered

**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  
[ellsworthca@netins.net](mailto:ellsworthca@netins.net)

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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
First Quarter: 6 Full Moon: 14 Last Quarter: 22 New Moon: 29	<b>FEBRUARY</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	<b>APRIL</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	GUIDE TO BEST FISHING DAYS BEST  GOOD  POOR 			<b>1</b> Bingo Community Center 5:00
<b>2</b> Trinity Lutheran Church	<b>3</b> 	<b>4</b> Community Association 6:00 Community Center	<b>5</b>  Ash Wednesday	<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> 	<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> 	<b>18</b> 	<b>19</b> Firemen's meeting 7:00	<b>20</b>  Spring Begins	<b>21</b> 	<b>22</b>  Bingo Community Center 5:00
<b>23/30</b>  Trinity Lutheran Church 9:00	<b>24/31</b> 	<b>25</b>  City Council 6:00	<b>26</b> 	<b>27</b> 	<b>28</b> 	<b>29</b>  Bingo Community Center 5:00

**MARCH**

**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



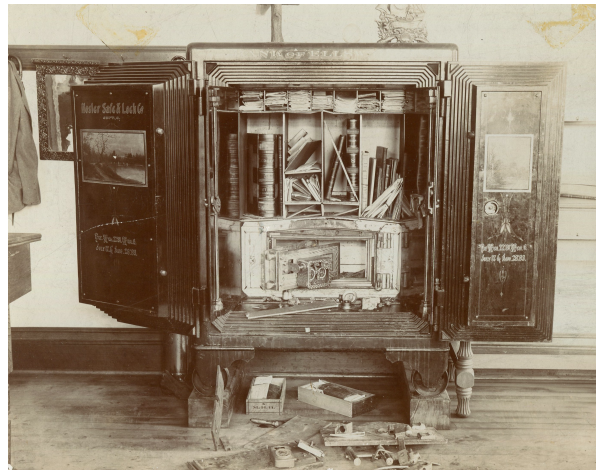
Lindsay Gelder	3rd	Mark Lunde	15th
Donna Evans	4th	Nevaeh Nelson	15th
Tia Brown,	5th	Josiah Brown	16th
Shane Nelson	5th.	Barb Patterson	17th
Faye Thompson	6th	Kathy Hyland	19th
Steve Lindseth	9th	Victor Jackson	19th
Chad Larson	10th	Lester Jackson	19th
Larry Barquest	12th	Jason Thompson	20th
Bruce Thompson	13th	Spencer Davis	20th
Collin Hill	13th	Dale Graham	21st
Ella Johnson	13th	Daphine Clark	21st
Nate Laube	14th	Wanda Olson	24th
Lori Crouse	15th	Kathryn Thompson	27th
		Nathan Hill	30th



## REMEMBERING THE PAST: Bank Robbery at State Bank

It was on a hot summer night in 1898, that the State Bank of Ellsworth was robbed of \$1500.00. The two well-dressed men who robbed the bank had had their evening meal with John Ringstad and family south of Ellsworth. After visiting with family for a while the men had rested in a nearby field until total darkness.

After robing the bank, they caught the east bound midnight train to Gifford, Iowa. Here they sought lodging at the hotel. After the men had been apprehended, the \$1500.00 in a cigar box was found under the bed.



## JANUARY 28TH CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The Ellsworth City Council met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall on January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025 with Mayor Yager, and the following council present: Funk, Olson, and Phipps.

**AGENDA APPROVAL:** Motion by Funk, 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 January 13 Minutes.
- b. Motion to rename South Hamilton Record News as the official City newspaper.
- c. Motion to reappoint Heidi Eckers as City Clerk.
- d. Motion to reappoint Raphael M. Montag as City attorney.
- e. Motion to pay South Hamilton Trap Team \$250 donation from Bingo.

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

**PUBLIC FORUM:** None

**DISK GOLF BINGO DONATION:** Mayor Yager spoke on behalf of councilman Laube about the project update for the disk golf course in the Ellsworth City Park. Councilman Laube has found sponsors for most of the holes at \$700 each. Motion made by Funk and seconded by Phipps to sponsor a hole with a \$700 donation from Bingo. Roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried.

**BUDGET DISCUSSION:** City Clerk Eckers included budget work sheets for each councilperson in their packets for this meeting. The City has the EJS Police Department proposed budget for FY 25/26 in hand but is still waiting for the Ellsworth Fire Department and Ellsworth Public Library's proposed budgets. City Clerk Eckers will continue to work with the council and Mayor on proposed budget for FY 25/26.

**COUNCIL AND MAYOR IPERS:** City Clerk Eckers updated the chamber on current law regarding IPERS benefits. Newly appointed councilpersons are not required to pay into or receive IPERS nor are they required to "opt out" with the required form. Current elected councilpersons present have already completed and submitted the "opt out" form.

**ECA:** NO COMMENTS

**FIRE/EMS:** NOT PRESENT

**LIBRARY:** NOT PRESENT

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**CITY HALL UPDATES:** City Clerk Eckers updated the council on the 2025 updated bid and quote thresholds for the city found in the Iowa League of Cities Special Budget Report document. Available to the public at city hall if requested. Clerk Eckers presented the council with available budget for current FY and quote from Peterson flooring for new carpet in City Hall. Motion made by Phipps and seconded by Funk to move forward with the \$7351.92 replacement of carpeting project through Peterson flooring. Roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried.

Clerk Eckers updated the council on progression of the new watertower project. Including an upcoming meeting with the engineers, financial advisor, bond attorney, and Ames Alliance representative. Clerk Eckers' discussed initial water rate study done by UMB bank of Des Moines, this rate study was based on a 20 year SRF loan, whereas the project is more than likely being funded by a USDA 40 year loan. The firm will rework the proposed rate increases and communicate directly with the City's bond attorney for Ordinance drafting. Clerk Eckers will keep the council apprised of all updates.

City Clerk Eckers updated the council on the decision made on January 21<sup>st</sup> by Planning and Zoning board to move forward with proposed rezoning on the corner of 175 and Ubben Ave contingent upon a developer's agreement between the City of Ellsworth and Dollar General Corp. Clerk Eckers has spoken with Schlotfeldt Engineering to pursue an initial draft of a developers agreement and discuss a traffic study through the DOT for that intersection. Clerk Eckers will keep the council updated on progress of this proposed project and will have Schlotfeldt Engineering present at an upcoming council meeting with the draft of the developer's agreement for the council to discuss and approve or amend.

City Clerk Eckers discussed with the council a request by an electric customer to pursue and amend changes to the electric heat rates for those with geothermal systems in place. Clerk Eckers called Midland and was alerted to the probable removal of these rates in the next few years. Changing the Ordinance and rates at present would not be recommended.

Clerk Eckers discussed a missing Greenwood Cemetery disbursement check, after calling several community members involved with the upkeep of the cemetery, Eckers requested from council approval for reissuing this disbursement check from April of 2024. After discussion, Mayor Yager approved the request.

Clerk Eckers updated council on the availability of Local Option Sales Tax funds which were 100% allocated by public vote effective July 1, 2022 for use on Main Street improvements. These funds are still available for use in a Main Street improvement project, currently totaling \$494,156.68. Clerk Eckers began initial conversations with a few engineering firms and will bring further information to a later council meeting. Including examples from other nearby cities of downtown improvement grants for building owners, potential grants to help with the city's soft expenses in a new streetscape project, and programs available to municipalities for downtown visioning.

**PUBLIC WORKS UPDATES:** Public Works employee Lee Knickerbocker was present to update council on public works. Supervisor Vanlangen continues to gather quotes to replace reverse osmosis membranes and media filters at the water plant and also to replace one of the pumps. Both PW employees have been working to flush hydrants this week to clear the lines of any "color". Knickerbocker updated council on updates to the lighting in the Community Center including presenting council with a quote from Short Circuit Electric to replace all the fixtures with LED lighting in the gym portion of the building with an estimated cost of \$8039.48 to be donated by the Bingo fund.

Knickerbocker brought a pricing sheet from Karl Chev in Webster City for a possible new truck to be purchased by the city for public works. Clerk Eckers mentioned that there was \$60,000 already in this 24/25 FY budget for the purchase of a new truck. Motion made by Funk and seconded by Olson to approve purchase of a GMC Sierra 2500 HD Pro Double Cab truck through Karl Chev of Webster City in the amount of \$58,425.00. Roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried. The plow and salter will be added as proposed items in the FY 25/26 budget.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mayor Yager adjourned the meeting at 7:31 pm.

## FEBRUARY 10TH CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The Ellsworth City Council met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall on February 10, 2025, with Mayor Dolorus Yager presiding, and the following council present: Laube, Funk, Olsen, Phipps. Roll Call 4-0

	January Receipts	January Disbursements
General Fund	8365.05	33581.98
Road Use Fund	6036.05	1288.56
Employee Benefit Fund	71.25	782.09
Emergency Fund		
Local Option Sales Tax Fund	7024.28	
Tax Increment Finance Area 1		
Tax Increment Finance Area 2		
Tax Increment Finance 1 Amend		
Bingo Fund	4445.78	2385.55
Debt Service Fund	38.11	
Capital Project-Storm Water		
Capital Project-Water Tower		5840.00
Water Fund	24307.22	17668.60
Water Sinking Fund		
Sewer Fund	5200.00	7281.21
Electric Fund	66188.69	60358.86
Electric Sinking Fund		
Storm Water Fund		4469.72
Storm Water Sinking		5473.00
	\$126146.15	\$134659.85

**AGENDA APPROVAL:** Motion by Olson, second by Laube. Roll Call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

Sogard present 6:02 p.m.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** Motion by Laube, seconded by Funk to approve the following items listed on the consent agenda. Roll call votes 5-0. Motion carried.

- a. Motion to approve January 28 minutes
- b. Motion to approve January Payment of Claims

**PUBLIC FORUM: None Present**

**BUDGET DISCUSSION:**

**FIRE/EMS:** Fire Chief Jaysen Evans present to discuss proposed budgets for Fire Department and EMS. Proposed increases in 24/25 budget include additional funding for FD training and increased amounts to building maintenance. Bid from Sogard Excavating for removal of old Fire Station led to discussion by PW Supervisor Vanlangen at the prospect of investing in a grapple hook by the city which would enable city staff to handle demo projects in the future. Supervisor Vanlangen will bring quote for equipment to next council meeting to discuss adding into the FY 25/26 budget.

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**POLICE:** Proposed budget was emailed to City Clerk, Mayor and Council. The City will use proposed per capita (\$129.76) numbers in 25/26 FY.

**LIBRARY:** Proposed budget was email to City Clerk, Mayor and Council. Changes to note are wage increases for both library staff and a reduction in budgeted cost for utilities.

**MUSEUM:** An annual budget request was made via email by Janet Adix of \$300 to be used for regular expenses by the Museum. A balance of \$45 from FY 24/25 was mentioned, which does not match the city's current balance of \$300. A list of proof of expenses will be requested by the City Clerk to be communicated to council at the next regular meeting,

**WAGES:** Personnel committee discussed annual reviews for City Clerk Eckers, PW Supervisor Vanlangen and City staff Knickerbocker. Raises proposed for Eckers at 8%, Knickerbocker at 6% and Vanlangen at 6% with an additional 4% after water certification completed. Proposed raises accepted by Knickerbocker and Eckers. Vanlangen requested an additional rate increase. Personnel committee will meet at the close of tonight's regular session to discuss further.

**OTHER REQUESTS:** None

**ECA:** ECA President Olson gave examples from the ECA budget of expenses throughout the year, including the proposed reinstallation of monthly newsletter mailings at \$700 per month. Olson asked the council if contributing to this proposed expense was something they would consider. Clerk Eckers will look into per until cost to print on the city's printer and per until cost to mail using the city's bulk mailing permit. This will be discussed further at the next regular council meeting.

**CITY HALL UPDATES:** City Clerk Eckers updated the Council on progress with the Urban Renewal Plan, proposed update on a Comprehensive Plan for the city, renovations and updates to the City Hall building, and the Clerk certification classes just completed the week prior. Clerk Eckers also updated the Council on several development grants that may be applicable to Main Street streetscape project and the Watertower project. Clerk Eckers will continue to work with Ottie Maxey of the Ames Regional Alliance to pursue these funding opportunities. Clerk Eckers presented information on a short term CD special First State Bank is running. Clerk Eckers will find out what's necessary to add another financial institution to the cities' current depository ordinance.

**PUBLIC WORKS:**

- a. OLD WATER PLANT BATHROOMS – Parks Dept Staff Knickerbocker will begin gathering quotes for a remodel project with the plan to re-open public bathrooms in the city park. City staff will work with local law enforcement to design a plan that will minimize the occurrence or threat of vandalism in these facilities.
- b. CONCESSION STAND BALLPARK BATHROOMS – Council requested these bathrooms be priority in the spring, new toilets, sinks and doors. Knickerbocker will work with Clerk Eckers to gather quotes to propose to council.
- c. LOGOS ON CITY TRUCKS – City Logo design and quotes provided by Clerk Eckers presented to council.

**CITY-WIDE CLEANING:** Tabled to next session

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**RESOLUTION SETTING DATE FOR PUBLIC HEARING ON URBAN RENEWAL PLAN AMENDMENT:** Motion by Funk and second by Olson to accept Resolution 2-10-25 and set a public hearing at 5:30 p.m. on March 10, 2025. Roll call votes. 5-0. Motion carried. Resolution adopted.

**PAYROLL CYCLE:** Mayor Yager proposed Resolution 2-11-25 to amend payroll cycle for full-time city employees to every other Friday in lieu of bi-monthly. Motion by Funk and second by Sogard to adopt Resolution 2-11-25. Roll Call votes. 5-0. Resolution adopted. Clerk Eckers will discuss necessary steps to enforce this Resolution with software company, Banyon.

**CODIFYING PROPOSAL:** Clerk Eckers presented council with codifying proposal from Simmering-Cory Firm of \$5000. The most recent Code book, also published by Simmering/Cory is from 2008. For an additional fee of \$1100 the Code can be digitized and for \$450 per year can be hosted online. Motion made by Funk and seconded by Phipps to recodify but not digitize or have the code by hosted online. Roll call votes. 5-0. Motion carried.

**MAX LEVY HEARING:** Motion made by Funk to set max levy hearing date as April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6pm. Second by Sogard. Roll call votes. 5-0. Motion carried.

**FIRST DRAFT DEVELOPERS' AGREEMENT 1325 DELPHI:** Council will read over and discuss potential changes by next regular session.

**LIABILITY INSURANCE:** Council discussed addition of ball field and concession stand to the liability policy at cash value \$16000 as opposed to replacement cost of \$32000. Clerk Eckers will communicate with Laura Larson of Shomo-Madsen Insurance to make these changes.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mayor Yager called for adjournment at 8:13 p.m.

## Option of paying your City bill on line -

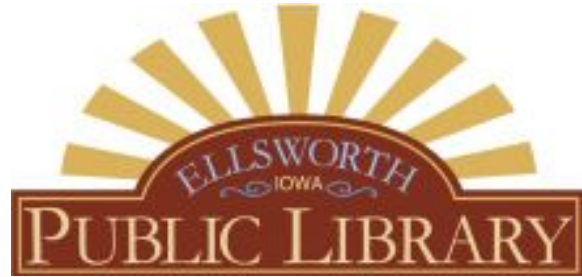
Did you know Ellsworth Residents can pay their city bill on line?

Go to Ellsworth's Website - [ellsworthiowa.org](http://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



## March 2025

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- VITA Tax Appointments | 12:00-5:00pm on Monday, March 3
- After School Snack & Activity | 4:00-5:00pm on Thursday, March 6
- Board Meeting (open to public) | 5:30-6:30pm on Thursday, March 6
- BASE Exercise Group | 10:15-10:45am on Friday, March 7
- After School Snack & Activity | 4:00-5:00pm on Thursday, March 13
- BASE Exercise Group | 10:15-10:45am on Friday, March 14
- Kids Activity: Spring Break Craft Day | 1:00-3:00pm on Monday, March 17
- Adult Craft: Vision Board Collage | 6:00-7:00pm on Monday, March 17
  - Join us for this free adult craft and social activity! There is no fee to join or pre-registration required.
- Kids Activity: Spring Break Just Dance Day | 1:00-3:00pm on Tuesday, March 18
- Kids Activity: Spring Break Puzzle Day | 1:00-3:00pm on Wednesday, March 19
- Kids Activity: Spring Break Game Day | 1:00-3:00pm on Thursday, March 20
- BASE Exercise Group | 10:15-10:45am on Friday, March 21
- Kids Activity: Spring Break Career Fair Day | 10:00am-3:00pm on Friday, March 21
- After School Snack & Activity | 4:00-5:00pm on Thursday, March 27
- BASE Exercise Group | 10:15-10:45am on Friday, March 28
- Early Childhood Storytime | 10:00-10:30am on Friday, March 28
- Young(ish) Adult Book Club | 6:00-7:00pm on Monday, March 31
  - Come pick up a book to join this new book club for adults in their 20s-30s(ish)! This month, we will be discussing *The Anxious Generation* by Jonathan Haidt.

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

# ELLSWORTH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

## ANNUAL REPORT

The Ellsworth Community Association asks for membership each year. Do you know where the membership money goes, what projects are sponsored? The following is an annual report of activities that the Association assumes responsibility for.

January - The Annual meeting and election of officers is held. Every Saturday, January thru December lunch is served at Bingo in the Community Center. Also, through the year the newsletter is sponsored by the membership.

March-April - The Easter Egg Hunt is an annual event held at the City Park unless the weather is uncooperative, then moved to the Community Center. A new event will be an Easter Brunch held at the Community Center.

May - The sign up and drawing is held for Mother's Day Baskets. Three \$1000 scholarships are given to South Hamilton Seniors at the Senior Awards Banquet.

June - Every even year (2026) Ellsworth Extravaganza is held the last weekend with all day and evening activities. Community Church Service is held the Sunday of the event.

During the summer Community Garage Sales and Dump Your Junk are scheduled. The downtown flower containers are planted and maintained all season. Also, an Annual Free Will Donation Dinner is held for a money making project to carry out the activities through the year. Watch for dates to be announced each year.

October - The Halloween Party is held at the Fire Station on the 31st. Sandwiches and drink are served before Trick Or Treating.

December - December brings Santa to town. The Mini Park is decorated for the season. There is a lighting contest each year with awards given to the 1st thru 3rd place winners. Christmas Baskets are delivered to shut-ins, older citizens and those in need.

Your membership helps the Community Association with all events. The monthly meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month at the Community Center, 6:00 PM. A few months the second meeting is held at the last of the month. They are listed on the newsletter calendar.