



ELLSWORTH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION MARCH NEWSLETTER

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

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A new format is being tested by the Community Association for the Ellsworth monthly newsletter. As costs are rising it is becoming more difficult to continue as in the past. The newsletter will be published once a month on the first day of the month, in digital form and included on the City of Ellsworths website, ellsworthiowa.org and the Ellsworth Historical Museum website, ellsworthia.us. A hard copy will be placed in City Hall, Ellsworth Public Library and Ellsworth Cooperative Telephone Association for those who do not have access to computers. For those who do have access to a computer and want the newsletter delivered to you by email, please send a request to ellsworthca@netins.net. Articles to be included in the publication, can be sent to ellsworthca@netins.net or PO Box 272, Ellsworth, Ia by the 25th of the month prior to publication. Please let the officers of the Community Association know your thoughts on the change.

FEBRUARY COUNCIL MINUTES

The Ellsworth City Council met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall on February 13th, 2023 with Mayor Yager presiding and the following council present: Gelder, Norem, King, and Sogard arriving at 7:04 pm. Absent: Funk.

	January Receipts	January Disbursements
General Fund	17993.11	24360.39
Road Use Fund	5031.28	1282.05
Employee Benefit Fund	388.39	2602.58
Emergency Fund	142.50	
Local Option Sales Tax Fund	5938.00	
Tax Increment Finance Area 1		
Tax Increment Finance Area 2		
Tax Increment Finance 1 Amend		
Bingo Fund	4568.97	4001.51
Debt Service Fund	204.16	11349.00
Capital Improv Reserve		
Capital Project-Ind. Park Rd.		
Capital Project-EL Util Impr		
Capital Project-Well Project		
Capital Project-Strm Water		
Water Fund	24413.28	13281.99
Water Sinking Fund		
Sewer Fund	7204.83	5528.63
Electric Fund	74395.45	61329.48
Electric Sinking Fund		
Storm Water Fund	3927.43	113.40
Storm Water Sinking Fund		5473.00
	\$144207.40	\$129322.03

AGENDA APPROVAL: Motion by King, seconded by Gelder to approve the agenda. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

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

- a. Motion to approve January 9th, 2023 council minutes.
- b. Motion to approve January payment of claims.

Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried and claims hereby made a portion of these minutes.

PUBLIC FORUM: Thom Marsh with RotoForm Molding Corporation was present to provide a little more information on what his company would be manufacturing and the process by which they would do it. There was discussion regarding when utilities could be run and who was responsible for the boring and expense. Supervisor Vanlangen will check to see if the extension of services is more than the 100 feet that the city is responsible for.

COUNCIL MINUTES CONTINUED

Sue Schmitz, Kris Groth and Linda Clark were in attendance to speak with the council about hosting another Dump Your Junk event this spring/summer. Discussion involved included a date, prices for residents and volunteers to run the event. There was also mention of obtaining a sticker from City Hall instead of paying cash in line. More conversation will take place at next months' meeting after speaking with the trash collector and their availability to provide bins.

Rick Ashburn from North Story Roadside Assistance spoke with the council regarding the large concrete block and planter that sits on the south corner of his property. The planter was bumped by a city employee during the last snowstorm

while attempting to move snow and has not yet been fixed. He also had complaints regarding the alley to the northwest side of his buildings that people are using to drive through his property and the small shed owned by the local elevator being an eyesore. Rick was asked if he had reached out to the elevator to discuss these issues with them, to which he replied no. The mayor then suggested he contact someone at the elevator regarding the problems and the council would speak with the employee regarding correcting the planter. Supervisor Vanlangen will visit the site and measure the current block to see if it does indeed fit into the required 5-foot setback.

ISU EXTENSION OFFICE: Sue Schmitz, Program Coordinator for ISU Extension and Outreach, presented the council with information regarding what the local ISU extension office offers in our community and surrounding areas. The packet included a population profile for Ellsworth and Hamilton County, housing access for the county and current poverty and food needs in our area.

YOUTH BASEBALL LEAGUE: Jeremy Sloan was in attendance to inform the council of the changes that would be happening with this year's league. Costs for players registration has increased due to higher equipment and operating fees. Practice will begin at the end of March, with games scheduled for the beginning of April. The league has requested a donation from the City and the ability to hang sponsored banners on the outfield fence. Motion by King, seconded by Gelder to donate \$500.00 to the league for this fiscal year. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

FFL DISCUSSION: Current resident Andrew Holden had requested a letter from the City stating that there were no current ordinances regarding the sale of firearms within city limits. The Clerk reached out the City attorney and after researching the regulations for a home-based FFL in Iowa, drafted said letter at the ATF's request. The City will retain a current copy of the FFL license at City Hall.

BUDGET DISCUSSION:

Fire Department: Fire Chief Evans presented the council with the Fire budget for FY23/24. The department is requesting an increase in vehicle operations, maintenance and repairs and operating expenses. The additional funding will be taken out the Fire savings. Chief Evans also inquired about the possibility of creating a Fire Sinking Fund in anticipation of a new fire vehicle, by using donation money. The clerk suggested setting up a separate revenue fund to track the funds instead. The council will consider the request and vote at the special meeting on February 28th, 2023.

COUNCIL MINUTES CONTINUED

Ambulance Budget: No one was present for the Ambulance budget, however Chief Evans suggested that due to the budget being based off fees and service revenues, the budget remain the same as the FY22/23 budget.

Community Center Budget: There was discussion regarding the Community Center gym floor and that previously it was refinished every five years. The Clerk stated that the flooring hadn't been done since May of 2017. Supervisor Vanlangen will speak with the company that normally does the refinishing to see if it needs done this year, since the floor has remained covered. The Clerk also stated that a complaint was raised over the flooring in the lobby and bathrooms being chipped and uneven. Supervisor Vanlangen will ask if the same company can give an estimate of replacing that flooring. Council will re-address at the March council meeting.

Police Budget: Motion by Sogard, seconded by King to approve the FY23/24 Police budget. The City of Ellsworth's share of costs will be \$69,446.00. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

Wages: At this time, the council discussed both current wages and upcoming wages for the FY23/24 budget year. Previously, the Personnel Committee was to meet with the City Clerk to review her current FY22/23 wages, but was unable to establish a meeting. During the current Personnel meeting, the members discussed an adjustment to the current clerk wage and future wage increases for all employees. Motion by King, seconded by Norem to increase the City Clerk wage effective immediately to \$60,000.00 for the remainder of the FY22/23 budget year and to set the FY23/24

budget wages at: \$62,400.00, with possible 2% increase upon Water/Wastewater certification for Nick Vanlangen, \$62,400.00 for Amy Zeman and \$44,200.00 for Lee Knickerbocker. Roll call votes 3-0, with Sogard voting Nay. Motion carried.

Additional Budget Requests: Supervisor Vanlangen stated the composite sampler for the City has been fixed several times over the last 10-15 years and currently has only been intermittently working. The DNR requires certain tests to be run weekly/monthly and the sampler is essential in confirming those results. Vanlangen will obtain several quotes to present to the council for approval at the February 28th meeting.

Upper Des Moines Opportunity: The council reviewed the annual report summarizing the assistance UDMO provided to area residents from October 1st, 2021 through September 30th, 2022. UDMO supports services for individuals who have lost jobs, lost their homes or have been challenged by other financial and emotional hardships. Motion by Sogard, seconded by Norem to approve a \$300 yearly allocation for the FY23/24 budget year. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

Setting the FY23/24 Max Levy Hearing: Motion by Gelder, seconded by Sogard to set the FY23/24 Max Levy hearing for a special meeting on February 28th, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

COUNCIL MINUTES CONTINUED

GRANT WRITER: The council previously discussed the option of hiring a grant writer in hopes to apply for grants that would assist in improving and upgrading City Park equipment, restoring and repairing City Hall and other projects throughout the community. City Attorney Montag suggested reaching out to the Ames EOC as an option and the City Clerk will contact the local Council of Governments to see if they can provide further information.

1627 DEARBORN REQUEST: The current property owner is requesting a variance in the City ordinance regarding the use of a commercial building separated from the initial residence in a residentially zoned district. Previously, the owner had requested a zoning variance for the building to become commercially zoned from the Board of Adjustments but was denied. The council requested an appeal be completed and the Board of Adjustments will be required to hold a public hearing to discuss and vote on the matter. The Clerk will contact the board members to set that procedure in motion.


ORDINANCE #621 AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES PERTAINING TO AUTOMATIC TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT: No action was taken due the project being on hold per questions regarding state regulations on expired registrations.

RESOLUTION #916 SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING ON A PROPOSED WATER REVENUE LOAN AND DISBURSEMENT AGREEMENT: Motion by King, seconded by Gelder to fix a date of March 13th, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. for a public hearing on a proposal to enter into a Water Revenue Loan and Disbursement Agreement and to borrow money thereunder in a principal amount not to exceed \$300,000.00. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

DEMAND BUSINESSES: In conjunction with the water and electric meter conversions, inquires were made regarding the current and future commercial and industrial demand users and the type of meter monitoring they would need. The City’s current electric ordinance defines a demand user in 3 phases. Industrial I Service, Industrial II Service and Industrial Three Phase Served by 7,200 Volts Primary Service. Supervisor Vanlangen, the City Clerk and Norm Fandel from Midland Power will work together in creating a current and updated list of demand customers.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Yager adjourned the meeting at 9:10 pm.

WELCOME TO ELLSWORTH



ADAMS
CELEBRATION OF
LIFE
641-648-9000
1525 DEWITT ST
Watch for Open House

March 2023

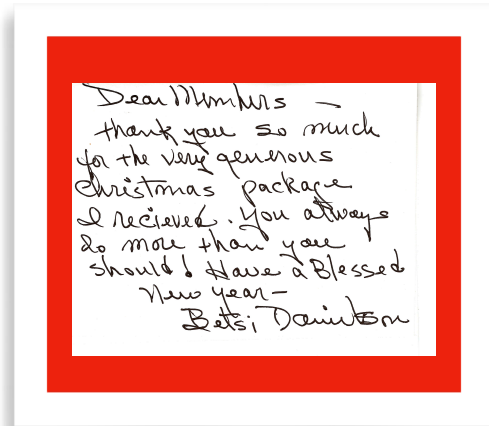
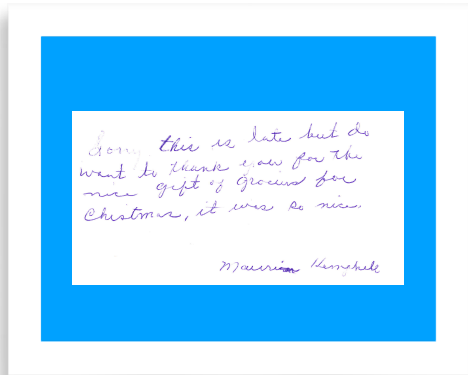
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NOTICES

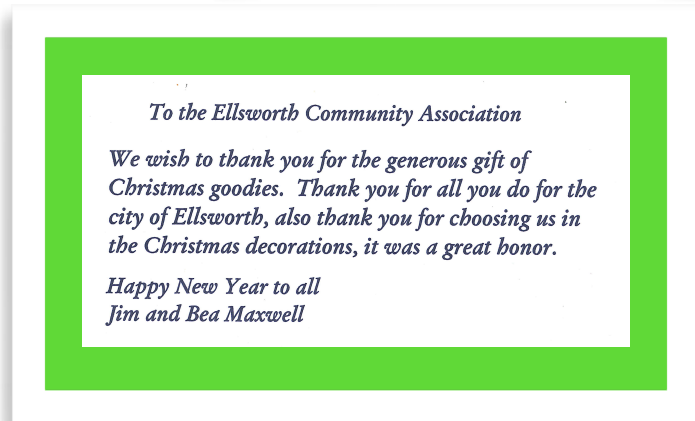
DUMP YOUR JUNK will be taking place June 24th, 8:00-12:00. Watch the newsletter for more information.

LORDS CUPBOARD - open every Monday from 4:30-6:30 at Bethesda Lutheran Church, Jewell

COMMUNITY COFFEE - Tuesdays, 9:30 to ?. Trinity Lutheran Church, Ellsworth
 Lively discussions. Everyone welcome.



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY
Merlyn and Shirley Evans
March 6th



Birthdays This Month

Lindsay Gelder 3rd

Tia Brown, Shane Nelson 5th.

Faye Thompson, Vera Valde 6th

Steve Lindseth 9th

Chad Larson 10th

Larry Barquest 12th

Bruce Thompson, Collin Hill, Ella Johnson 13th

Nate Laube. 14th

Lori Crouse, Mark Lunde, Nevaeh Nelson. 15th

Josiah Brown. 16th

Barb Patterson 17th

Kathy Hyland, Victor Jackson, Lester Jackson 19th

Jason Thompson, Spencer Davis 20th

Dale Graham, Daphine Clark 21st

Dalton Gregerson 23rd

Wanda Olson 24th

Kathryn Thompson 27th

Nathan Hill 30th

REMEMBERING THE PAST

March 1963

Carolyn Thompson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Thompson Sr of Ellsworth Iowa was initiated as an active member of Angel Flight, at Iowa State University, Ames Ia.

~~~~~  
The Ellsworth Library is open during the following hours:

Tuesday & Wednesday 3:00 - 5:30

Saturday - 2:00 - 5:00

Thursday Evening 7:00-9:00

~~~~~  
The Woman's Society of Christian Service of the Methodist Church will meet April 3 with the lesson "A Sign Unto You" given by **Mrs. Frank Doyle and Mrs. Carroll Kuhfus**. Hostess will be **Mrs. Dale Thompson and Mrs. Shirley Farwell**.

March 1983

A winner of District FFA competition is **Mark Grubb** in the categories of Job Interviews and Salesmanship. **Jerry Swenson** won "Creed Speaking" and **Erik Iverson** placed high in the sub-district Extemporaneous Speaking.

~~~~~  
The Ellsworth Eagles 4-H Club met Wednesday, March 9, 1983 at **Peter and Nathan Hill's** home.

The Pledge of Allegiance was lead by **Katie Volkmann**. Roll call was answered by each member reading their goals in each project. Committees were appointed for the Fireman's supper we are serving March 21st. County communications were discussed. The 4-H Pledge was lead by **Sarah Volkmann**.

**John Volkmann** gave a talk. On gardening and a demonstration on parliamentary procedue was given by **Keith Norem**. **Katie Volkmann** gave a talke on " Now that you have a pet".

Lunch was served by **Peter and Nathan Hill**.

## March 1993

Can't afford to take a trip Las Vegas. No worry, just take a short drive to Ellsworth for their 8th annual Vegas Nite which will be held on March 20.

In 1986, a group of Ellsworth residents conceived the idea of Vegas Nite as a fund raiser for the community. That group included **Steve & Pam Larson, Kay Danielson, Karl Greve, J. R. Tuttle, Jim & Shel Toussaint, Monty Hemphill, Gene Hanson, Kelly O'nelil, Jackie Severe and Sharon Hertzke**.

The first year, they didn't know how many people to expect, but hoped to have at least 200 people there. The day of the Vegas came, and they added up the tickets sold, and it was over 400, so they hurriedly took things down they had set up, rearranged to accommodate 200 more people and pulled off a successful event. Their top years were 500 people, which is their limit for the space they have. They hold Vegas in the Community Building, which is the gym of the former schoolhouse.

The evening begins at 5:00 when they open the doors and start selling their turkey fillet sandwiches along with pop and beer. The games begin a 6:00 and run until 9:00. The admission of \$6.00 gives you \$60,000 in Vegas money.

This years committee members are **Steve & Brenda Rasmussen, Pat Hill, Bob & Vicki Ruggles, Dave & Kris Cavanaugh, Rob Evans, Ben & Jennifer Knutson and Kim & Kelli Reis**. Projects that have been completed in Ellsworth with the help of Vegas proceeds include new playground equipment in the park, the fence around the ball diamond, enlargement and resurfacing of the tennis court, a welcome sign to Ellsworht and money toward the remodeling of the Community Center.

Vegas Nite has become a way in which many of the Ellsworth residents can work together, have fun and help with raising the needed funds for projects in their community.

Taken from the South Hamilton Record/News March 11, 1993

## LIBRARY NEWS    **March 2023**    Salena Schmitz

Join us March 18<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am – Noon for Rock Painting! Paint a rock to be displayed in our garden bed, or take one home to brighten up yours! For more information go to our Facebook page or call us at (515)836-4852

\*\*\* The spotlight book of the month is, *The Boys from Biloxi* by Jude Deveraux. \*\*\*

For most of the last hundred years, Biloxi was known for its beaches, resorts, and seafood industry. But it had a darker side. It was also notorious for corruption and vice, everything from gambling, prostitution, bootleg liquor, drugs...even contract killings. The vice was controlled by a small cabal of mobsters, many of them rumored to be members of the Dixie Mafia. Keith Rudy and Hugo Malco grew up in Biloxi in the sixties and were childhood friends. But as teenagers, their lives took them in different directions. Keith's father became a legendary prosecutor, determined to "clean up the Coast." Hugh's father became the "Boss" of Biloxi's criminal underground. Keith went to law school and followed in his father's footsteps. Hugh preferred the nightlife and worked in his father's clubs. The two families were headed for a showdown, one that would happen in a courtroom.

### **NEW BOOKS**

#### **Early Reader Fiction:**

*Lizzie Demands a Seat!: Elizabeth Jennings Fights for Streetcar Rights* by Beth Anderson

*Izzy Paints* by Tim Miller

#### **Beginner Reader Fiction:**

*Hooray for Lolo* by Niki Daly

#### **Graphic Novels:**

*Pie in the Sky* by Remy Lai

#### **Adult Fiction:**

*Sunset Beach* by Mary Kay Andrews

*The Cottage at Glass Beach* by Heather Barbieri

*Something Old, Something New* by Amy Clipston

*Uncanny Times* by Laura Anne Gilman



**Ellsworth Community Association Membership Form**

Send to:  
Ellsworth Community Assn.  
PO Box 272  
Ellsworth, IA 50075-0272

Our Community needs your skills and fresh ideas. You could be the change we need! Dues are \$20 for a single or family membership. Fill out the following and include a \$20 Check or cash.

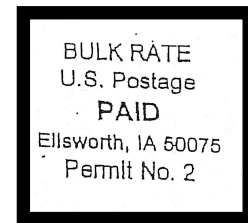
**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY the following information for our records**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone (     ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
Mobile Phone (     ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

|            | First Name | Last Name | Month / Date / Year |
|------------|------------|-----------|---------------------|
| <b>B A</b> |            |           | / /                 |
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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 COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION  
PO BOX 272  
ELLSWORTH, IOWA 50075



ECRWSS  
BOXHOLDER  
ELLSWORTH, IA 50075