



ELLSWORTH COMMUNITY  
ASSOCIATION  
JANUARY NEWSLETTER

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

Table of Contents

Calendar, Notices.....2

Birthdays, Remembering the  
past.....3

Homewood Cemetery.....4

Business Spotlight, Thank  
you, Ellsworth Historical  
Museum.5

Library News.....6

Council Minutes.....7,8,9

Membership.....10

**CONGRATULATIONS**

2023

ELLSWORTH CHRISTMAS LIGHTING WINNERS

**1st Place - \$75.00**

Curtis Jensen, 1821 DeSota St



**2nd Place - \$50.00**

David Fukutake, 1627 DeSota St



**3rd Place - \$25.00**

Ryan & Melanie Resinger, 522 Park Av



**Special Mention:**

Duane & Shelly Zimmerman, 1816 DeSota St

Bob & Marcy Olson, 1215 Dayton St Apt #1

Justin Jensen, 1626 DeSota St

# JANUARY<sup>24</sup>

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1  New Year's Day	2	3  Last Quarter	4  Library board meet 5:30	5	6  Bingo Community Center 5:00
7  Trinity Lutheran Church 9:00	8  City Council 7:00	9  Community Association 7:00 Library	10	11  New Moon	12	13  Bingo Community Center 5:00
14  Trinity Lutheran Church 9:00	15  Firemen Meeting 7:00  Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	16	17  First Quarter	18	19	20  Bingo Community Center 5:00
21  Trinity Lutheran Church 9:00	22	23	24	25  Full Moon	26	27  Bingo Community Center 5:00
28  Trinity Lutheran Church 9:00	29	30	31		<b>DECEMBER</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 31	<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 29

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.

# Birthdays This Month

Danny Anderson	1st	Jan Thompson	16th
Hallie VanLangen	9th	Rob Evans	23rd
Heidi Eckers	10th	Pat Hill	24th
Scott George	15th	Robert Caudle	26th
Isiah Hired	15th	Justin Thompson	28th
Staci Kuhfus	16th	Cheri VanLangen	28th
		Tryvin Laube	31st

**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.

## REMEMBERING THE PAST

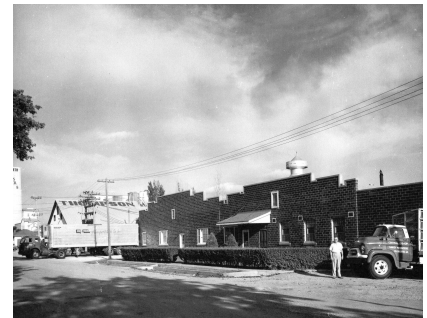
### Third article of the Turkey Industry in Ellsworth - The Turkey Plant

In 1945, the Central Cooperative Turkey Producers Association was formed and a new processing plant built. The location of the new plant was immediately west of the Thompson Hatchery building with track facilities on the Chicago & North Western railway. The new industry processed turkeys for the market - buying them live from the raisers and putting them through the plant to be killed, drawn, packed and shipped to the city markets.

There were approximately 150,000 turkeys in the vicinity in 1945. At this time it was judged the plant would employ from twenty to forty persons depending upon the number of live turkeys delivered to the plant. By 1952, the annual output was 3,5000,000 pounds of turkey. Employment then at the plant was about 80 persons and the cooperative membership was 115 turkey producers. Also, in 1952 an addition was built.

More additions were built in 1957, 1959, 1960 and 1962 when this plant was one of the largest and most modern of its kind in the midwest. The Central Cooperative Turkey plant was sold in 1968 to Land O' Lakes, Inc of Minneapolis who continued to operate here until 1989. At the height of the operation 180-270 employees were hired with an annual payroll of around \$1,000,000 annually. That did not include management and office staff.

Managers during the Central Cooperative Turkey Producers Association: Otto Daniher, Howard Richey, Orlan Hanson & Oscar Hertzke



# HOMEWOOD CEMETERY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

## 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

The Homewood Cemetery improvement Association held six meetings in 2023 with an average of 9 members present. Jordan Walbaum contracted the maintenance work for the season.

The Gazebo was cleaned and strained by HCIA members in May. The Directory building was also cleaned and stained during the summer. The veterans' flags were placed in the holders by HCIA members the week before Memorial Day and picked up after Veterans' Day.

Memorial Day services were held at the cemetery with a large attendance. Nathan Ferrie was speaker.

Headstone restoration was continued with completion expected yet this year. Trees showing their age are to be removed and one "rehabbed" to preserve the living half.

There were 5 spaces sold and 9 burials this year. Those buried were: Joyce Knutson, Shrylee Hill, Ruth Erbes, Beverly Thompson, Joey Hanson, Judi Charlson, Jesse Romp, Gerald Hill, Daniel Beattie.

### Memorials Given:

**Sue Norem:** Debra Senn, Jim & Pat Hill, Lauren & Teresa Olson, Bruce & Jan Thompson, Gerald & Jacquelyn Hill

**Shrylee Hill:** Lois Danielson, Ostebee/Lindseth, Janet Adix, Todd & Jody Berg, Betsi Danielson, Donald & Marilyn Kolbe, Richard Pearson, Jayson & Lori Evans, Janice Hetland, Mark Lunde, Karl & Judith Greve, Janice Lunde, Paul & Mary Hill, Rolen & Clara Hill, Joel & Lisa Hovick, Lange Family, Tom & Helen Ellwood, Linda Clark, Jim & Pat Hill, Jeff & Rachel Britten, Hill Family.

**Alisha Ellwood Odhiambo:** Lois Danielson, Craig Hill, Paul & Mary Hill, Karl & Judith Greve, Janice Hetland, Gerald & Jacquelyn Hill

**Ruth Erbes:** Janet Adix, Lois Danielson, Joel & Lisa Hovick

**Harris Twedt:** Lois Danielson

**Beverly Thompson:** Betsi Danielson, Harland & Sheila Schaefer, Lois Danielson, Ostebee/Lindseth, Jim & Pat Hill, Paul & Mary Hill, Karl & Judith Greve, Janet Adix, Lauren & Teresa Olson, Tom & Helen Ellwood.

**Judi Charlson:** Paul & Mary Hill, Jim & Pat Hill

**Joey Hanson:** Debra Senn

**Jesse Romp:** Jim & Pat Hill, Janet Adix, Jeri & Beth Grove, Dale & Linda Graham, Lindseth/Ostebee, Jayson & Lori Evans, Romp Family

**Stephen Howard:** Karl & Judith Greve, Lois Danielson

**Dan Danielson:** Rolen & Clara Hill, Craig Hill

**Gerald Hill:** Lois Danielson, Janet Adix, Dale & Linda Graham, Ostebee/Lindseth, Todd & Jodi Berg, Bruce & Janice Thompson

**Daniel Beattie:** Lois Danielson, Todd & Jody Berg

Memorial/At Large Donations can be designated to 4 different funds: Maintenance, Avenue of Flags, Weed Spraying, Beautification/Restoration. One hundred per cent of donations go towards these funds, no administration fees.



Consignment Shop  
**The Sister Act**  
 642 Dubuque Ellsworth,  
 IA 50075  
 Hours: Tues-Sat  
 10am - 3pm



## BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: The Sister Act

For the month of January, The Sister Act is the business spotlight. Dee Drummond and Shawnda DeWitt are the owners and operators of one of the longest businesses open in Ellsworth. The Sister Act was established 30 years ago by Janet Wing and Patty Hoversten. It was officially opened in April of 1994. Dee bought Janet’s half in January, 2004 and Shawnda joined her in 2006 by buying Patty’s half.

The store is located at 642 Dubuque Ave, in Ellsworth. The Sister Act, a consignment shop, is open Tuesday thru Saturday 10:00 AM TO 3:00 PM, closed Sunday and Monday. Telephone # 515-836-4747. They sell many items used in everyday life including furniture, antiques and much more. Friend them on Facebook for more information. The black cat welcomes your comments.

.....

**THANK YOU:** Ellsworth Community Association,

Thank you for the Ellsworth Community Association for the scholarship. This scholarship will help greatly with paying for my first year of college at Iowa State. I can now continue my pursuit to get my Bachelors in Music Education. I am hoping to teach middle school or high school music to students. I am hopeful to introduce the gift of music to the future generation. This could not be possible without your assistance.

Sincerely, Edward Wirth

.....

**ELLSWORTH HISTORICAL MUSEUM**

Word has been received the Museum has been awarded SEED Catalyst grant money of \$417.00 for a new computer. With \$392.00 money previously available, \$350.00 is still needed. The city does not fund the museum so money has to come from grants, business & private donations, and memorial givings. Letters have been sent to local businesses asking for donations towards this project. Any donations from persons interested in the Museum would be appreciated. They can be sent to City of Ellsworth, P.O. Box 310, Ellsworth, IA 50075. All donations are tax deductible.

Administrator, Janet Adix

## ELLSWORTH PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS

### January 2024 Salena Schmitz. Library Director

Having a clean and organized space to live in is relaxing to come home to. There are so many containers and systems that can be purchased, it's difficult to know what works in our own home. That's why ISU Extension and Outreach, Hamilton County is partnering with the Ellsworth Public Library to host "Organizing 101" program. Join us for some breakfast treats and learn some tips and tricks to get organized in each room of your house. Learn how to create clear space and get clutter free for 2024. Registration is appreciated by calling the Ellsworth Public Library at 515-836-4852 to join on Saturday, January 27, 2024 from 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. to learn tools that fit your own situation and home.

The spotlight book of the month is, *The Sympathizer* by Viet Thanh Nguyen.

It is April 1975, and Saigon is in chaos. At his villa, a general of the South Vietnamese army is drinking whiskey and, with the help of his trusted captain, drawing up a list of those who will be given passage aboard the last flight out of the country. The general and his compatriots start a new life in Los Angeles, unaware that among their number, the captain, is secretly observing and reporting on the group to a higher-up in the Viet Cong. *The Sympathizer* is a story of his captain: a man brought up by an absent French father and a poor Vietnamese mother, a man who went to university in American, but returned to Vietnam to fight for the Communist cause. A gripping spy novel, an astute exploration of extreme politics, and a moving love story, *The Sympathizer* explores a life between two worlds and examines the legacy of the Vietnam War in literature, film, and the wars we fight today.

#### Adult Fiction:

- *Chasing Trouble in Texas #2* by Delores Fossen
- *The Favorite Daughter* by Patti Callahan Henry
- *A Magical New York Christmas* by Anita Hughes
- *The Fifth Season* by N.K. Jemisin
- *The Kew Garden Girls* by Posy Lovell
- *Until We Meet* by Camille Di Maio
- *Star Wars: The Princess and the Scoundrel* by Beth Revis

#### Adult Non-Fiction:

- *Dream Big and Win: Translating Passion into Purpose and Creating a Billion-Dollar Business* by Liz Elting

#### Biography:

- *Missionary Pumpkins: Miracle Stories from God's Pumpkin Patch* by Cheryl Erickson

#### Junior Fiction:

- *Skandar and the Unicorn Thief* by A.F. Steadman

#### Junior Non-Fiction:

- *Space: A Visual Encyclopedia* by DK Smithsonian

#### Beginner Reader Fiction:

- *Kitty and the Moonlight Rescue #1* by Paula Harrison, illustrated by Jenny Lovlie
- *Reggie Kid Penguin* by Jen de Oliveira

#### Early Reader Fiction & Non-Fiction:

- *Paw Patrol: The Mighty Movie, The Official Storybook* by Frank Berrios
- *Help Your Dragon with Anxiety* by Steve Herman
- *Catch the Wind* by Mortenson Construction
- *The Big, Fun Kids Baking Book* by Food Network
-

## DECEMBER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

The Ellsworth City Council met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall on December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023 with Mayor Pro Tem King presiding until Mayor Yager arrived at 7:38 p.m., and the following council present: Sogard, Gelder, King and Norem. Absent: Funk. City Attorney Montag was also present.

November Receipts

November Disbursements

General Fund	18775.77	13064.28
Road Use Fund	5623.10	2622.08
Employee Benefit Fund	1081.59	788.47
Emergency Fund	402.20	
Local Option Sales Tax Fund	5769.71	
Tax Increment Finance Area 1	289.77	
Tax Increment Finance 1 Amend		
Bingo Fund	4580.08	2657.04
Debt Service Fund	623.11	2415.00
Capital Project-Strm Water		
Capital Project-Water Tower		
Water Fund	25794.16	28804.66
Water Sinking Fund		
Sewer Fund	6709.32	6095.28
Electric Fund	75051.28	61725.75
Electric Sinking Fund		
Storm Water Fund	4784.74	57.75
Storm Water Sinking		3058.00
	\$149484.83	\$121288.31

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

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

- a. Motion to approve November 13<sup>th</sup> and November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023 council minutes.
- b. Motion to approve November payment of claims.

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

**PUBLIC FORUM:** None

**BUDGET AND PROCEDURE CHANGES FOR DEPARTMENTS:** In response to the multiple impacts that House File 718 may have to the City’s budget, the Council and the City Clerk had previously discussed several options that may aid in offsetting some of the general fund revenue losses. In an effort to help reduce excessive spending, eliminate unauthorized expenses, prevent multiple budget amendments, and help with future CIP planning, as well as boosting communication between all City departments and Staff, the Council will implement a Purchasing Order Policy and an addendum to the current Departmental Credit Card Policy effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. The Council will unfortunately also be required to review yearly allocations given to local organizations, groups and departments for the FY24/25 Budget Year.

Council Minutes continues on page 8

- a) **Library-** Library Director Schmitz and Library Board member Grove were in attendance to discuss several concerns regarding the duties of the Library Board verses the duties of the council when it comes to making

financial decisions on the library budget. They also had numerous questions surrounding authorizations for library expenses because it is believed that the Library policies differ from other department policies. Director Schmitz inquired about a monthly Library report for the council as an option for better communication. The council had previously discussed all department heads being required to attend quarterly meetings to update the City on department matters and the council will move forward with that change. In other matters, Director Schmitz had questions for the council surrounding 1.5 hours of time from the November pay period that she was informed would not be paid at her director wage from the City, due to it being for a volunteer event with The Ellsworth Community Association of which she is a member. The council and director spent several minutes discussing the line of separation when it come's to volunteering, library director duties and being a member of the ECA. Attorney Montag had questions for both Schmitz and the council that will require follow up information. The council will await that information and re-address at the next meeting.

- b) **Fire-** Fire Chief Evans was present with general questions regarding emergency situations that may arise during fire and ambulance calls and how the new purchase order policy would apply during that given event. Through previous discussion and in speaking with Chief Evans, it was determined that if communication was not possible through phone or text at that time, special exception would be made and he would need to attend the next council meeting for a briefing with the council. Evans then updated the council on the purchase of new turn out gear for the department, the new digital radio program through the county, and the possibility of using volunteer call funds to purchase additional identifying gear such as jackets or polos for the department members.
- c) **EMS-** Chief Evans informed the council that the department will have 2 members enrolling in EMT certification classes at the cost of \$2,000.00 each that will need to be included in the Ambulance budget. The Clerk will assist Evans with a breakdown of last year's budget, so they may plan accordingly.
- d) **Bingo-** Bingo Coordinator Allen Watts addressed the council with minor concerns over some burnt out lights in the gym, a malfunctioning outdoor light and the possibility of covering the ceiling louvers due to escaping heat. He also inquired about the status of the new tables and chairs for the Community Center. The City Clerk informed Watts that the tables are still on backorder and although the chairs are available, to avoid two different freight and delivery costs, it was decided to wait until all items were in stock before having them delivered.
- e) **Utilities/Streets-** Supervisor Vanlangen had no questions or concerns for the council at this time.

**OATH OF OFFICE:** Newly elected officials took their Oath of Office during the meeting. Terms will begin on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. They include:

Mayor- Dolorus Yager  
 Council Seat- Kalib King  
 Council Seat- LaDana Sogard  
 Council Seat- Jeremy Laube

Council Minutes continued on page 9

Council member Funk will take his oath with the City Clerk before January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

Many thanks to current Council member Norem for his years of serving on City Council and throughout the community.

**SECURITY CAMERAS:** Requests for additional security at the Community Center and the City Shop had been brought to the City Clerk’s attention. There was concern regarding Bingo safety and City equipment being vulnerable to vandalism. The council also discussed possibly adding a camera at the Shelter house and additional cameras at the back of City Hall. Police Chief Turpen offered a suggestion of a brand of cameras that a neighboring town uses. Motion by King, seconded by Norem to authorize the City Clerk to look into options and cost and purchase a multi-location system. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

**NEW ONLINE BILL PAY PROPOSAL:** The City Clerk has received numerous requests and inquires about residents being able to have their monthly utility bill emailed to them, have their payments automatically taken out of their account, and have current and live access to their balances and payment history. The current online bill pay system does not offer those functions. In the past, the software the City currently utilizes for their services was incompatible with many of the online bill pay options out there, without a huge expenses being passed onto both the City and the residents. This new company Nuvei is being promoted by the current software, Banyon, and offers these ~~Requested services~~ Requested services. The Clerk was able to speak with a representative, however would like to gather a bit more information prior to a vote to ensure costs to residents and the City align with the information she received.

**INVOICING PROCEDURES:** The Clerk presented 3 invoices from Midland Power Cooperative that she received per her email request on 12/7/23. Due to several areas of concern, such as the lack of detail in the invoices, the abnormally high cost of service and other contributing factors, representatives from Midland Power will be present at January’s council meeting to answer any questions or concerns the council will have.

Supervisor Vanlangen spoke with the Council about the need for a new P.H. meter and sampler for the Water Treatment Plant. The current machine is outdated and we are unable to continue to use it for future samples. He presented the council with a previous quote and an updated quote from Core and Main. Motion by King, seconded by Gelder to approve the purchase from Core and Main for \$7,527.60. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

**WATER/WASTEWATER OPERATOR CONTRACT:** The City’s contract with Central Iowa Water Management is set to expire at the end of the year. Supervisor Vanlangen is scheduled to test in January, but the council discussed extending Central Iowa Water Managements contract another 6 months in order to not have any lapse in coverage or issues with DNR regulations. Motion by Sogard, seconded by Gelder to renew the contract for 6 additional months. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

**ONE TIME PAY INCREASE:** Motion by Norem, seconded by King to approve a one-time pay increase to the following employees listed below. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

- |                             |                        |                       |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| N. Vanlangen - \$250.00     | D. Turpen - \$250.00   | S. Schmitz - \$100.00 |
| A. Zeman - \$250.00         | K. Morton - \$250.00   | A. Watts - \$50.00    |
| L. Knickerbocker - \$250.00 | D. Campbell - \$100.00 | T. Painton - \$50.00  |

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mayor Yager adjourned the meeting at 9.59 pm.

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

## ELLSWORTH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

It is that time of year again for the annual Ellsworth Community Association membership renewal. Dues are \$20.00 for single or family memberships. Please include all names of the family, address and phone number. Thank you for your interest in the Ellsworth Community.

Also, members are invited to the monthly meetings, the second Tuesday of the month, 7:00 PM at the Ellsworth Public Library. Needed are new ideas and help to carry them out. You could be the change we need.

### ELLSWORTH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

Send this form and yearly dues -\$20.00 to:

Ellsworth Community Association, PO Box 272, Ellsworth Ia 50075

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY the following information for our records.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone (     ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile Phone(     ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Do you or your family wish to be included in the monthly birthday/anniversary calendar in the newsletter.

First Name

Last Name

Month/Day

B. A \_\_\_\_\_

B. A \_\_\_\_\_

B. A \_\_\_\_\_

B. A \_\_\_\_\_

Do you wish to get the monthly Ellsworth Newsletter by email? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_