



ELLSWORTH COMMUNITY
ASSOCIATION
MARCH NEWSLETTER

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



MARCH 30, 10:00AM

ELLSWORTH CITY PARK

WEATHER PERMITTING

INCLEMENT WEATHER

PLACE TO BE
ANNOUNCED

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MARCH 24

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>FEBRUARY</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3</p> <p>4 5 6 7 8 9 10</p> <p>11 12 13 14 15 16 17</p> <p>18 19 20 21 22 23 24</p> <p>25 26 27 28 29</p>	<p>APRIL</p> <p>S M T W T F S</p> <p>1 2 3 4 5 6</p> <p>7 8 9 10 11 12 13</p> <p>14 15 16 17 18 19 20</p> <p>21 22 23 24 25 26 27</p> <p>28 29 30</p>				1	2
<p>3 Last Quarter</p> <p>Trinity Lutheran Church</p>	4	5	6	7	8	9
<p>10 New Moon</p> <p>Trinity Lutheran Church 9:00</p> <p>Daylight Saving Time Begins</p>	11	12	13	14	15	16
<p>17 First Quarter</p> <p>Trinity Lutheran Church 9:00</p> <p>St. Patrick's Day</p>	18	19	20	21	22	23
<p>24 Palm Sunday</p> <p>Trinity Lutheran Church 9:00</p>	25 Full Moon	26	27	28	29	30
<p>31 Easter</p>				<p>Mobile food Pantry 4:00-6:00 Bethesda Lutheran Church Jewell</p>	<p>Good Friday</p>	<p>Easter Egg Hunt 10:00 City Park</p> <p>Bingo Community Center 5:00</p>

Notices: ^C

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

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.

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

ANNIVERSARIES

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
Vera Valde	6th	Victor Jackson	19th
Steve Lindseth	9th	Lester Jackson	19th
Chad Larson	10th	Jason Thompson	20th
Larry Barquest	12th	Spencer Davis	20th
Bruce Thompson	13th	Dale Graham	21st
Collin Hill	13th	Daphine Clark	21st
Ella Johnson	13th	Wanda Olson	24th
Nate Laube	14th	Kathryn Thompson	27th
Lori Crouse	15th	Nathan Hill	30th

Merlin & Shirley Evans 6th

“Opportunity is missed by most people because it’s dressed in overalls and looks like work”

HELP WANTED - ELLSWORTH PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Ellsworth Public Library Board of Trustees is currently seeking a Library Director. Under the direction of the Board, the Library Director duties include but are not limited to: long range library planning, technological advancement, facility maintenance and staff development. The Library Director is responsible for the daily management and operation of the library and the operating budget of the library. This director position is a part-time position averaging 30 hours per week. Applicant should have excellent interpersonal, written and oral skills.

Minimum Qualifications: High School diploma or its equivalent; State Library-Public Library Endorsement or be able to achieve endorsement within 2 years of hire. Prefer at least two years of experience in a library setting, supervisory experience is a plus.

Please send a cover letter and resume to Ellsworth Public Library, PO Box 338, Ellsworth, IA 50075. Deadline is March 7, 2024 or until position is filled.

REMEMBERING THE PAST

Ellsworth Public Library

In September 1935, the subject of a Book Club was brought up at the Women's Club, (later known as the Study Club). Each member would bring a book or magazine to the meetings. They would be passed around each month. These articles went their rounds until they were tattered and torn.

In October of 1936, a question was brought up at a meeting "Why don't we start a Library?" An investigation committee was appointed to see what could be done. Local organizations responded with financial aid.

The library committee reported permission was secured from the Telephone Company to use their board room for a library. In 1937, new books were purchased from a closing out sale of the Sundry store. Later the library was located in a building on the east side of the street, south of the Methodist Church for a monthly rental of \$5.00 a month.

In 1942, the library had grown so big with the help of friends and local organizations, the Study Club asked the town of Ellsworth take over and levied a tax for its support.

In 1962, the new Library was built on the west side of DeWitt St for the cost of \$16,000.00. An addition was added in 1985 to the back to be used as a Museum and meeting room.

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT:

GEM JUNCTION

Lisa Ewing, owner of Gem Junction works with rocks, minerals and precious stones of all kinds doing neat things with them. She does Custom work making jewelry: rings, bracelets and necklaces with rare rocks from all over the world. There are many rock displays in her collection of Fairy Gardens, Essence of Oil bottles and fanciful shaped stones. You can also buy a handful of beautiful colored stones.

Lisa has her shop and an extensive display in the Sister Act, Ellsworth open Tuesday-Saturday, 10:00AM to 3:00PM, also Vender Village in Jewell which is open for special events. She attends Farmers Markets and is on Facebook with live sales.

Lisa is an in-home care giver and lives with an elderly lady in Ellsworth.

*Sister Act in Ellsworth &
in The Vendor Village on Main in Jewell, Iowa*

LISA EWING
lisarenehens1988@gmail.com
515.310.2199



FEBRUARY CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

The Ellsworth City Council met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall on February 12th, 2024 with Mayor Yager presiding, and the following council present: King, Sogard and Laube. Absent: Funk and Gelder.

	January Receipts	January Disbursements
General Fund	20320.40	15708.10
Road Use Fund	5946.95	1537.91
Employee Benefit Fund	34.34	771.52
Emergency Fund	12.78	
Local Option Sales Tax Fund	4466.43	
Tax Increment Finance Area 1		
Tax Increment Finance 1 Amend	50.19	
Bingo Fund	5430.67	3670.08
Debt Service Fund	20.33	13764.00
Capital Project-Strm Water		
Capital Project-Water Tower		
Water Fund	24171.75	8712.53
Water Sinking Fund		
Sewer Fund	7036.07	6630.88
Electric Fund	83113.12	55281.88
Electric Sinking Fund	175.54	
Storm Water Fund	3780.75	56.70
Storm Water Sinking		3058.00
	\$154559.32	\$109191.60

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

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

- a. Motion to approve January 8th, and January 30th, 2024 council minutes.
- b. Motion to approve January payment of claims.

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

PUBLIC FORUM: None

SOUTH HAMILTON YOUTH BASEBALL REQUEST: Jeremy Sloan was in attendance to speak with the council about the 2024 youth baseball season. He explained the sign-up fees and how that was distributed to different costs, as well as providing a chart of operating expenses. The league is looking to start practice in late March/early April with games wrapping up at the end of June. They have requested use of the Ellsworth field, to allow banners to be hung on the fence and a donation from the City. Motion by Sogard, seconded by Laube to authorize use of the field and approve the donation banners. Roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried.

Council minutes continued on page 6

YSS REQUEST: Keith Holland with Youth and Shelter Services of Hamilton County was present to discuss services they provide in our area. He also updated the council on the new Youth Recovery facility being built in Cambridge Iowa and the treatment and support it will offer youth throughout Iowa. Motion by Sogard, seconded by Laube to approve the \$1,000.00 budget request for the FY24/25 budget year. Roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried.

The Clerk also received a request from Upper Des Moines Opportunity for continued support in the amount of \$300.00. UDMO provides assistance in Ellsworth to individuals and households who struggle with heating and electrical obligations. Motion by King, seconded by Sogard to approve the \$300.00 budget request for the FY24/25 budget year. Roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried.

ELLSWORTH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

ION: Linda Clark addressed the council as a representative for the ECA in regards to using the Community Center lunchroom to hold their monthly meeting. Previously, the association had met in the back meeting room of the Library building, but due to a recent fee being implemented, have requested to utilize the lunchroom instead. She expressed the different functions the ECA performs throughout the City and the number of community events they host or co-host during the year, including the Easter Egg hunt, Ellsworth Extravaganza, Meet Santa Event, Christmas Lighting contest, Trick or Treat Night, an Motion by Sogard, seconded by King to allow the Ellsworth Community Association use of the Community Center lunchroom for their monthly meeting without fee. Roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried.

1814 DAYTON: Resident Dan Knippel was present to discuss a recent abatement notice he received from the local police department regarding items he had placed in his yard for a short period of time. He requested clarification of the timeline and type of storage he was able to have, what the actual procedure was and the correct steps in how to obtain permission or an extension if he was working on a project, to allow for those type of items to not create a nuisance. Officers and Council, along with the City Clerk discussed with the resident different options and procedures to help create a positive and cohesive solution moving forward.

BUDGET DISCUSSION:

- a. **LIBRARY-** Former Library Director Schmitz and Library Board Members Neuman and Lovell were in attendance to discuss the Library's budget request for the FY24/25 budget year, as well as provide an update on Library matters. The Library requested \$41,483.00 for the upcoming budget year expenses. Motion by King, seconded by Laube to approve the Library's FY24/25 budget. Roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried.

Council members also inquired about how the hiring process of a new director was progressing and where the job position was being posted. At this time, the Library is open to the public on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 4:30 pm to 7:00 pm.

- b. **FIRE-** Chief Evans was present to submit the Fire Departments FY24/25 budget request. The Department is requesting \$48,746.00 for budget expenses this year. Chief Evans again discussed repairs needed at the fire station such as the roof and gutters. The council is still awaiting quotes for gutter replacement from the June meeting. Evans also discussed the new turn out gear that had been purchased and the implementation and cost of the new digital pager system. Due to Council member Sogard being on the department and the absence of several other council members, no vote was taken at this time.

Council minutes continued on page 7

- a. **EMS-** Chief Evans also presented the council with the FY24/25 EMS budget request. The Department is requesting \$17,100.00 for budget expenses this year. Evans discussed with the council that since the EMS department is self-funded, and many of the calls they respond to, they do not receive payment for, if there was additional revenue available from the City. Previously, the City allocated \$15,000 from the Local Option Sales Tax fund to help purchase an auto load cot for the ambulance and \$10,000 to the Fire Department for new turn out gear, gutters, and repairs to fire equipment. In response, the Clerk offered the option of using the additional annual tax allocation of twenty- and one-fourth cents per thousand dollars of assessed taxable property valuations that is given to the fire department when not required, to be given to the EMS department instead. The Fire Department would continue to receive the allocated forty- and one-half cents per thousand from the City, plus the additional \$30,000.00 of revenue from the Townships for fire protection. Due to Council member Sogard being on the department and the absence of several other council members, no vote was taken at this time.

The Clerk received several past due Fire and EMS statements that the City never received invoices for and advised the council that after reaching out to department heads and not getting a response, she was unable to complete the required paperwork or pay the balances. Chief Evans will look into obtaining the needed information.

- b. **BINGO-** The Clerk state that the FY24/25 budget for Bingo would remain much the same, however an increase in operating expenses was to be expected due to inflation prices and the economy. She also accounted for repairs to the gym and roof from the dedicated expenses line due to requirements set by the state of Iowa in completing the annual Bingo Report.
- c. **PUBLIC WORKS-** Supervisor Vanlangen was available to discuss items needed for the different departments throughout the City. He expressed the need for a new air compressor for the water treatment plant, a new line locator and new manhole assemblies. The Clerk has been working on a Capital Improvement Plan to aid in future needs throughout the City and will have a better idea of what revenues are available once budgets are approved and the Water Tower Project gets underway.
- d. **YEARLY ALLOCATIONS:** The council discussed several yearly allocations to various organizations that will be affected due to change in budget levies and revenues. There was conversation regarding the State Auditor's advisory on public funds going to private non-profits and what that will mean for donations the City has given in the past.
- e. **OTHER-** The Clerk presented the finalized 28E agreement with The Hamilton County Sherriff Department to the council. With the increase in per capita rate, Ellsworth's fiscal responsibility increases from \$7,112.00 per year to \$10,160.00. There were concerns expressed regarding the additional expense and where that revenue would come from since the Emergency levy previously used to cover the expense has now been combined into the general level, as well as if the increase would result in more patrolling in our City. It was agreed to wait for a full council to vote.

Council minutes continued on page 7

NEW ONLINE UTILITY BILL PAYMENT SYSTEM: After doing more research on the best option for both the City and residents, the Clerk was able to present a new option for utility bill payment that allow residents to have their bill automatically taken out of their account, show their payment history, include their current and past due balances and give them the ability to eventually have their bill emailed instead of mailed. There will be a cost to the City annually of \$119.40 from Nuvei and \$195.00 per year from the software company Banyon. The fee to residents will be the same 2.75% fee for credit/debit card transactions and a \$1.10 fee for ACH/EFT transactions. Motion by Sogard, seconded by King to approve contract with Nuvei for online bill payment. Roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried.

OUTSTANDING INVOICES: The Clerk discussed invoices from Van Wert Inc. that needed clarification before being paid and that in working with Supervisor Vanlangen, they had established the appropriate payment. Both employees will speak with Van Wert Inc. to finalize the meter project and make final payment.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Yager adjourned the meeting at 9:27 pm.

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

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 _____