



ELLSWORTH COMMUNITY
ASSOCIATION
OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

Community Association
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Editor:

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ELLSWORTH TRICK FOR TREAT NIGHT

October 30, 2025

5:30 - Hot Dogs served at the Fire Station

Sponsored by

Ellsworth Fire Department & Ellsworth

Community Association

6:00-8:00 - Trick or Treating in the City of

Ellsworth

Fire Station open for Safe Place

during Trick or Treating



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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
SEPTEMBER 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	NOVEMBER 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	GUIDE TO BEST FISHING DAYS BEST GOOD POOR	1 Farmers Market DeWitt Street 5:00-7:00	2 Library board meet 5:30 Yom Kippur	3 	4 Bingo Community Center 5:00
5 Trinity Lutheran Church	6 	7 Comm. Assoc 6:00 Comm. Center	8 Farmers Market DeWitt Street 5:00-7:00	9 	10 	11 Bingo Community Center 5:00
12 Trinity Lutheran Church 9:00	13 City Council 6:00 Columbus Day (USA) Indigenous Peoples' Day (USA) Thanksgiving Day (Canada)	14 Firemen Meeting 7:00	15 Farmers Market DeWitt Street 5:00-7:00	16 National Boss Day (USA)	17 	18 Bingo Community Center 5:00
19 Trinity Lutheran Church 9:00	20 	21 Comm. Assoc 6:00 Comm. Center	22 Farmers Market DeWitt Street 5:00-7:00	23 	24 	25 Bingo Community Center 5:00
26 Trinity Lutheran Church 9:00	27 	28 City Council 6:00	29 Farmers Market DeWitt Street 5:00-7:00	30 Trick or Treating in City of Ellsworth	31 Homewood Cemetery meet TLC Halloween 10:00	Full Moon: 6 Last Quarter: 13 New Moon: 21 First Quarter: 29
OCTOBER			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

ANNIVERSARIES

Conner Hill	2nd	Preston Hocking	12th
Alyssa Hegland	3rd	Lori Yager	12th
Taylor Hill	3rd	Megan Thompson.	12th
Ronald Cook Jr	4th	Parker Hill	17th
Joely Swenson	4th	Desmond Hill	20th
Ella Angove	5th	Linda Graham	21st
Araya Nelson	5th	Hope Caudle	28th
Leigh Solis	6th	Kassidee Hodnefield	28th
Roger Olson	8th	Brooklyn Hill	30th
Karsyn Lande	10th		

Mary Kay & Sewlyn Rash	6th
Kayla & Daniel Knippel	19th
Robin & Keith Hovick	21st

SAVE THE DATE:

NOVEMBER 9TH

2ND ANNUAL SOUP SUPPER

Sponsored by

Ellsworth Community Association

REMEMBERING THE PAST: Halloween



Halloween in Ellsworth has undergone changes over the years, just like everything else. Back then, Trick-or-Treating was a simple affair. You had to perform a trick, like a Knock-Knock joke, a song, or a summersault, to earn treats. Costumes were mostly homemade, often made at the last minute, as the weather was unpredictable.

One year in the early 1960s, the town was installing new sewer lines in the middle of the streets. Of course, it had to rain on "Beggar's Night," resulting in a muddy mess. The residents didn't invite anyone in with muddy shoes.

Growing up across the street from the park was an exciting experience. Every year, the older boys would gather and place all the moveable items in the middle of the streets. I eagerly awaited the morning to see their creations. I never heard them during the process, but they never failed to amaze me.

Main Street always had an outhouse in the middle of the street. I never knew where they came from or if they were relocated to their original location. Would this be considered a fun prank or vandalism today?

Ellsworth continues to live up to its motto—"Always Growing, Always Moving"—with a variety of exciting projects that are enhancing our community spaces, preserving our heritage, and preparing for the future. Here's a look at what's happening around town:



Park Improvements Underway

Big changes are coming to the city park! New **playground equipment**, a **renovated public restroom**, and **two pickleball courts** are all in the works. These upgrades are made possible through a combination of **grants and bingo funds**.

In addition, a vibrant **mural** will soon brighten the park. You can be part of this artistic effort by **sponsoring a letter in "ELLSWORTH" for \$500**.

Preserving the Old Schoolhouse

The historic **Old Schoolhouse** will receive a brand-new **metal roof**, funded equally by **bingo proceeds and city funds**. This project helps preserve a cherished piece of Ellsworth's history for future generations.

City Shed Expansion

Part 1 of the new **City Shed** has been completed and enclosed, and is already being used to store **fire equipment**. **Part 2**, scheduled for next year, will include a **concrete floor and insulation**, further enhancing the facility's functionality.

Weather Siren Installation

A **second weather siren** will be installed soon, improving emergency preparedness and safety for all residents.

Tree Planting Day – Volunteers Needed!

Mark your calendars for **October 6th**! Trees will be planted on **city easements and public spaces**, thanks to **grants and support from the DNR**. **Volunteers are needed**—come lend a hand and help green our community!

City Hall Gets a Facelift

Exciting updates are coming to **City Hall**! The **north wall** will be **patched, painted**, and feature a **small mural**. Additional improvements include:

- **New front and rear windows**
- **A new insulated steel rear door**
- **New carpet throughout the building**
- **A remodeled bathroom**

These upgrades will enhance both the appearance and functionality of City Hall, making it a more welcoming and efficient space for staff and visitors alike.

Coming Soon: Dollar General

A new **Dollar General** store is set to open next year at the intersection of **Highway 175 and Delphi Street**, bringing added convenience and shopping options to Ellsworth.

Story Walk Project on the Trail

This fall, the **Story Walk Project**—a collaboration between the **Ellsworth Public Library** and **Conservation Creations**—will be installed along the **Jewellsworth Trail**. City and county employees, along with volunteers, will help bring this interactive, family-friendly experience to life.

Ellsworth is on the move, and these projects are just the beginning. Thank you to all the volunteers, donors, and community members who continue to make our town a wonderful place to live, grow, and thrive.

**Ellsworth Community Association (ECA)
Meeting Minutes
September 9, 2025**

Members in attendance: Ashley Platte, Brittany Williams and Linda Clark.

Meeting called to order by Ashley Platte, President, at 6:06 PM.

Agenda and Treasury Report Approval: Motion to approve by Brittany, seconded by Linda.

Public Form: None Present

Halloween: We will be collaborating with the fire department again this year for a meal served at the fire station on trick or treat night, Oct 30th. Hotdogs, chips and water will be served at 5:30-8:00.

2nd Annual Soup Supper: November 9, 2025 was approved by the city for us to put on the event at the community center. We will have 3 kinds of soup, roll, deserts and drinks available to the public at 5:00-8:00.

Extravaganza 2026: The fire department has said they will put on a supper in the park that night for a fundraiser for themselves. We will be talking with other organizations about putting on a lunch fundraiser as well. Aftershock has been booked for the evening band and we are looking at booking Band O' Randos for a band during supper. The parade will be at 10:00. We are continuing to reach out to other people and organizations about other events and activities for the weekend.

CD Matures: Our CD has matured. It was decided to roll it into another 13 month CD.

New CD \$10,000: It was decided to open a 6 month CD.

Dump You Junk 2026 Date: New date of June 20, 2026 was decided on pending city council approval.

Park board/funding: It was decided to make a donation to the city for park painting and grants.

Comments: None

Adjournment: Motion made by Linda, seconded by Brittany.

Meeting was adjourned by Ashley, President, at 7:44 PM.

AUGUST 26TH CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The Ellsworth City Council met in regular session at 6:01 p.m. at City Hall on August 26th, 2025, with Mayor Yager presiding, and the following council members present: Phipps, Sogard, Holden, and Olson. Also in attendance were Brian Zimmerman and Katie Sterk with Bolten and Menk.

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

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

Motion to approve August 11, 2025 council minutes.

Motion to approve August 26, 2025 payment of claims.

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

PUBLIC FORUM: None Present

PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS, FORM SPECIFICATIONS, CORM OF CONTRACT AND ESTIMATE OF COST FOR THE PROPOSED 350,000 GALLON ELEVATED WATER STORAGE TANK PROJECT: Mayor Yager opened the public hearing. None present for comment. Mayor Yager closed the public hearing.

RESOLUTION FINALLY APPROVING AND CONFIRMING PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS, FORM OF CONTRACT AND ESTIMATE OF COST FOR THE 350,000 GALLON ELEVATED WATER STORAGE TANK PROJECT: Motion by Sogard and seconded by Olson to adopt Resolution #8-25-2025/1 Resolution finally approving and confirming plans, specifications, form of contract and estimate of cost for the 350,000 elevated water storage tank project. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

CONSIDERATION OF BIDS FOR THE 350,000 GALLON ELEVATED WATER STORAGE TANK PROJECT: Katie Sterk of Bolten and Menk was present to discuss the one bid received from this latest round of bid letting. Opened at 3pm on August 20th at city hall. The single bid received was from Phoenix Fabricators of Avon, Indiana, in the amount of \$5,401,047.00. The recommendation of Bolten and Menk is to reject this bid as the Engineer's estimate was \$2,887,115.00. Katie discussed options for revisions to the plans prior to another round of bid letting. She will attend the next Council meeting with more information on alternatives.

RESOLUTION AWARDDING CONTRACT FOR THE 350,000 GALLON ELEVATED WATER STORAGE TANK PROJECT: Motion to reject bid by Phipps and seconded by Holden. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH OPEN PARK SHELTER USE: Mayor Yager let the Council know TLC would be holding services on Sunday September 7th in the Open Park Shelter House again and will be doing a blessing of the backpacks and blessing of the pets for the community at 9am.

ECA: NONE PRESENT

LIBRARY: NONE PRESENT

FIRE/EMS: Councilman Holden updated the Council about all of the fire equipment now being moved from the rental building to the city shed across the street. Fire Chief Evans is still working on the weather siren project downtown.

PUBLIC WORKS UPDATES: Staff not present. Clerk Eckers presented council with an email from the owner at 1422 Detroit Street. The owner requested that a large rock be placed around the culvert to make it easier to keep weeds and tall grass at bay, as the sides are too steep for a mower. After discussion, motion by Phipps and second by Olson to allow the property owner to place rock on the sides of the culvert, which resides in the city easement. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

City Council Minutes continued on page 6

CITY HALL UPDATES: Clerk Eckers updated Council on the progress of a collaborative art project between the City and Conservation Creations (a local non-profit). Artist Siriaco Garcia has agreed to do two murals for Ellsworth. Conservation Creations director DeDe Henderson will be applying for an Iowa Arts Council Grant to help cover the cost of these murals, as well as through sponsorship, for which Clerk Eckers has sent letters to local businesses to solicit. To secure the artist an initial design fee of \$250 is required. Motion by Phipps and seconded by Sogard to approve the City paying for the design fee of \$250. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried. Clerk Eckers also shared an email from the Iowa State Professor Julie Robison who will be bringing the College of Design students to Ellsworth for their first tour and meet and greet with officials August 27th. Professor Robison requested elected officials be at City Hall around 4:45 as opposed to the previously planned time of 5pm due to several students needing to leave by 5pm. Clerk Eckers will begin typing up COUNCIL MINUTES/CLAIMS CITY OF ELLSWORTH August 26, 2025

materials after the initial meeting regarding necessary Town Hall meetings for student community polling as a part of the comprehensive planning data collection process.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Yager called for adjournment. Motion by Olson and seconded by Holden. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.

/s/ Dolorus Yager, Mayor

COUNCIL MINUTES/CLAIMS

CITY OF ELLSWORTH

September 8, 2025

The Ellsworth City Council met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall on September 8, 2025, with Mayor Pro Tem William Funk presiding, and the following council members present: Sogard, Phipps, Olson. Also in attendance were Ashley Platte and Brian Zimmerman.

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

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

- a. Motion to approve August 26, 2025 council minutes.
- b. Motion to approve September 8 payment of claims.

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

PUBLIC FORUM: Jim Leiding and Katie Sterk from Bolten and Menk present to offer a document to council with possible alternative watertower bidding options.

ECA: Ashley Platte was present for ECA and requested from Council having a beer tent at the 2026 Ellsworth Extravaganza. Motion by Olson and second by Sogard to allow a beer tent at the 2026 Extravaganza. Roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried.

FIRE/EMS: None present

LIBRARY: None present

PUBLIC WORKS: Motion by Sogard to approve purchase of used snow pusher for backhoe contingent upon the posting for sealed bids of the old backhoe. Second by Phipps. Roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Pro Tem Funk called for adjournment at 7:35pm. Motion to adjourn by Olson and second by Sogard. Roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried.

/s/ William Funk, Mayor Pro Tem

/s/ Heidi Eckers, City Clerk

X _____
William Funk, Mayor Pro Tem

X _____
Heidi Eckers, City Clerk

SEPTEMBER 23RD CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The Ellsworth City Council met in regular session at 6:03 p.m. at City Hall on September 23, 2025, with Mayor Dolorus Yager presiding, and the following council members present: Sogard (via telecom), Funk, Olson, Phipps arriving at 6:23 pm, and Sogard leaving at 6:28 pm. Also in attendance were Brian Zimmerman, Brandi Nelson, Travis Anderson, and Brittany Williams.

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

CONSENT AGENDA: Strike B from the Consent Agenda. Motion by Olson, seconded by Funk to approve the following items listed on the consent agenda:
Motion to approve September 8, 2025 council minutes.

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

PUBLIC FORUM: Brian Zimmerman expressed concern about the number of young children riding around on two-wheeled scooters in town and not following any traffic laws. Mayor Yager assured Mr Zimmerman that this topic has been discussed at EJS Police Board meetings, and Police Chief Morton will be addressing the issue by talking to the children and their parents.

REQUEST TO USE GYMNASIUM: Travis Anderson was present to request the use of the Ellsworth Gym for basketball practices Sundays through Fridays on behalf of four South Hamilton teams from early October to the beginning on March during regular and tournament season. He also inquired as to the willingness of the city to tear down and set up the gym for Bingo on Saturdays. Motion by Funk to allow use of the gym by four teams, each paying the city \$100 as a lump sum for the duration of use, no guaranteeing city staff will do the teardown and set up, but when available, offering city staff help. Second by Olson. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: WATERTOWER NEXT STEPS: Motion by Funk and second by Phipps to postpone future bid for an elevated water tower until early in the first quarter of 2026. Roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried.

ECA: Brittany Williams was present to request that a date be chosen and approved for Dump Your Junk 2026. After discussion of possible dates and proximity to Ellsworth Extravaganza, motion by Funk and second by Olson to approve the Dump Your Junk date of Saturday, April 25th, with the potential location of the dumpsters being in front of the city sheds instead of the Co-Op. Roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried.

FIRE/EMS: Brandi Nelson, a local real estate agent, was present to request sponsoring a game at Bingo, where the proceeds would go to the Ellsworth Fire Department, and her business would sponsor the prize of a gift card. After the discussion, it was determined that Brandi should speak with Bingo coordinator Allen Watts before the Council's consideration.

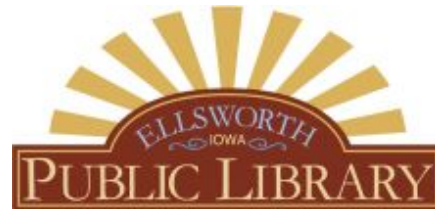
LIBRARY: Clerk Eckers updated the Council on the resignation of Library director Karlie Hunter. Advertisements have been posted online and placed in the newspaper. Mayor Yager updated the Council on a conversation she had with Hunter concerning the historic library quilt possibly being donated to the Historical Museum. Hunter will reach out to Janit Adix, Museum director, and discuss the options.

PUBLIC WORKS: PW Supervisor Vanlangen and staff Knickerbocker were present. Vanlangen updated the Council and said the new RO filters in the water plant should be installed online by Wednesday night. The new backhoe arrives Friday. The bracket for the mounting of the weather siren is still being manufactured, and the tennis court was prepped and ready for sealing.

CITY HALL UPDATES: Clerk Eckers invited the Council to participate in the tree planting at the City Park on Monday October 6th from 11 am to 1:30 pm. Sack lunches will be provided by the Jewell Market for the kids from South Hamilton and the other volunteers. The public is welcome to come help as well! Please bring a shovel! Clerk Eckers read through notes taken during the IEDA Downtown assessment on Monday, September 22. The full report should be available for the Council and public in four weeks. Clerk Eckers reminded the Council about the Community Meeting on 24th of October at 6:30 pm.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Yager called for adjournment at 7:08pm. Motion to adjourn by Olson and seconded by Funk. Roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried.

October 2025



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Card Group | 1-4pm EVERY TUESDAY
- BASE Exercise Group | 10:15-10:45am EVERY FRIDAY
- Board Meeting (open to public) | 5:30-6:30pm on Thursday, October 2
- Young(ish) Adult Book Club | 6:00-7:00pm on Monday, October 27
 - Come join this book club for adults in their 20s and 30s(ish)! This month, we will discuss *The Giver of Stars* by Jojo Moyes.

Adult Fiction:

- Broken Country by Clare Leslie Hall
- Once Upon a Time in Dollywood by Ashley Jordan
- One of Us by Dan Chaon
- What We Can Know by Ian McEwan

Adult Nonfiction:

- Abundance by Ezra Klein
- Are You Mad at Me? By Meg Josephson
- Help In a Hurry by Caroline Leaf

Junior Nonfiction:

- Good Different by Meg Eden Kuyatt
- How to Draw for Minecrafters
- The Experiment by Rebecca Stead
-
- Beginning Reader:
- Lone Wolf by Kiah Thomas

Early Reader Fiction:

- Black and White Farm by Mary Cartwright
- Bluey and Bingo's Book of Bugs by Sarah Jospitre
- Bluey and Bingo's Book of Scary Things by Charlie Moon
- Chicka Chicka Tricka Treat by Julien Chung

Spanish:

- The Unlikely Aventuras of Ramon and El Cucuy by Donna Barba Higuera

DVD:

- Jurassic World Rebirth

October is Fire Prevention Month. Thank a Volunteer Fireman.

Steven Burks
Steve Butler
Eric Davis
Jayson Evans
Steve Gelder
Andrew Holden
Steve Holt
Justin Jensen
Curtis Jensen
Marty Jensen
Austin Jones



Chad Larson
Grant Larson
Cody Robertson
Ben Slinger
Brent Soward
LaDana Sogard
Jason Thompson
Justin Thompson
Nick VanLangen
Brian White
Chad Zimmerman

ELLSWORTH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

Send to: Ellsworth Community Association, Po Box 272, Ellsworth, IA 50075

Name _____

Address _____

Home Phone () _____ - _____

Cell Phone () _____ - _____

E Mail _____

Fill out if you want to be included on the Birthday/Anniversary calendar:

_____ **First Name** _____ **Last Name** _____ **Month / Day**

B _____ **A** _____ / _____

B _____ **A** _____ / _____

B _____ **A** _____ / _____