ELLSWORTH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

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Information about the

Christmas Lighting Contest

Letters to Santa

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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Last Quarter: 1 New Moon: 8 First Quarter: 17 Full Moon: 23 Last Quarter: 30	GUIDE TO BEST FISHING DAYS BEST GOOD FAIR POOR	**1** Community Assoc 6:00 CommCenter	**2**	**3** Library Board meet 5:30	**4**	**5** Bingo Community Center 5:00 Hanukkah Begins
6 Trinity Lutheran Church 9:00	**7** Pearl Harbor Day, 1941 (USA)	**8**	**9**	**10**	**11**	**12** Bingo Community Center 5:00
13 Trinity Lutheran Church 9:00	**14** City Council 6:00	**15** Community Assoc 6:00 CommCenter	**16** Firemen Meeting 7:00	**17**	**18** Trivia Night 7:00 Comm Center	**19** Bingo Community Center 5:00
20 Trinity Lutheran Church 9:00	**21** Winter Begins	**22** City Council 6:00	**23**	**24**	**25** Christmas Day	**26** Bingo Community Center 5:00 Boxing Day (Canada)
27 Trinity Lutheran Church 9:00	**28**	**29**	**30**	**31**	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 30	JANUARY 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 24/31 25 26 27 28 29 30 Good Value Calendars® Printed in U.S.A.

DECEMBER **2026**

Winter Farmers Market 9:00-1:00

Santa Arrives In Ellsworth 4:30-7:00

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

Staci Thompson	1st
Laura Rollefson	7th
Rachel Uttecht	13th
Holly Adix	15th
Tanner Thompson	30th



REMEMBERING THE PAST: Christmas White Lights Contest

Reprinted from the Webster City Freeman Journal, December, 1965



White lights are shining across Hamilton County during the 1995 holiday season as merchants in all nine Hamilton County towns have gone all out in decorating their storefronts. Nearly one hundred businesses participated in this year's White Lights Contest, sponsored by Hamilton County S.E.E.D.

Judging was more difficult this year since merchants add to their displays of last year - added lights and decorations. One winner was selected in each town. Winners received a string of white lights so that in 1996 they can expand their decorative lighting.

The winner in Ellsworth was Aunt Blanche's Attic (Linda's Boutique window). Ellsworth residents gave judges a sight to behold as they had lined the main street with lit luminaires to guide their visitors through town. Patty Yungclas, Ellsworth Community Association president, put out a challenge to other communities to put out the welcome mat next year and outdo the presentation of the Ellsworth folks.

December, 2026

UPCOMING EVENTS

. December 12, 2026 – Santa will be coming to the Ellsworth Fire Station and the Ellsworth Public Library will be at the fire station too. We will be having crafts and giveaways for Christmas. This event is from 4:30 pm till 7 pm. Santa arrives at 5pm. Bring the children for a fun time.

. BASE Exercise Group – Meets MONDAY – WEDNESDAY- & FRIDAY's 10:15 – 10:45am - NEW DAYS & TIMES -If interested please contact 515-832-2525 for more information.

. Story Time for Children ages 0 to 5 is every Wednesday at 10:30 am till 11:30 am. We read stories, sing songs, create a craft and have a snack. If you have a child or children 5 years old or older and would like to join us, they are always welcome too.

. LIBRARY BOARD TRUSTEE MEETING will be held on December 3, 2026, at 5:15 pm here at the library.

. The library will be CLOSED December 24 & 25 & 26 for the Christmas Holiday Season.

The library will close at 3 pm on Wednesday December 31, 2026 and all day on January 1, 2027, for the New Year.

. If you have a card club or would like to start one up here at the Ellsworth Public Library, we have Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday afternoons available. Please call the library at 515-836-4852 to schedule dates and times.

. We have many new books by James Patterson, Lucy Score, John Sanford, Meghan Quinn, Michael Connelly, and many new authors that are worth a good read. Plus we have all of our Christmas holiday books out on display for the children!

I still have some extra tickets for the Blank Park Zoo if anyone is interested in them you may pick them up at the library, they are for child admissions and are good through Dec.31, 2026.

. Please make sure and check Facebook, Instagram, or our library website for various December 2026, events happening at the library.

More details about programming will be available on our website ellsworth.lib.ia.us/events.

Have a Wonderful Holiday Season!

Roxann Boyce
Director / Ellsworth Public Library
515-836-4852

OCTOBER 27th COUNCIL MEETING

The Ellsworth City Council met in regular session at 6:00 pm on October 27, 2026, at City Hall, with Mayor Anksorus presiding, and the following council members present: Funk, Olson, Jensen, Phipps, Sogard. Also in attendance were city staff Jordan Walbaum, city public works staff Lee Knickerbocker, ECA members Ashley Platte and Brittany Williams, and community members Brian Zimmerman and Chad Zimmerman.

AGENDA APPROVAL: Motion by Olson, seconded by Funk to approve the agenda. Roll call votes 5-0. Motion carried.

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

a. b. Motion to approve October 12, 2026 council minutes.
Motion to approve October 27, 2026 payment of claims.

Roll call votes: 5 - 0. Motion carried, and claims are hereby made a portion of these minutes

PUBLIC FORUM: Ashley Platte made a request to Council concerning new table racks for the community center. Mayor Anksorus read from a comment form comments from community member Ron Kinyon concerning continued storm water issues around the park, cattails growing in the storm water ditch, some small trees growing in a culvert off of Hwy 175.

LIBRARY: None present
FIRE/EMS: None present
ECA: No comments or items

WHKS MAIN STREET SCOPE: Representatives from WHKS Engineering presented Council with an initial scope of work for a Main Street streetscape project, including several options with estimated costs involved. No action at this time.

WHKS PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT – MAIN STREET: Tabled until the November 9th meeting.

BINGO DONATION REQUEST – HISTORY MUSEUM: Janit Adix requested a Bingo donation to help cover the costs of digitizing the remainder of the South Hamilton Record News for publication on the museum website in the amount of $1373.97. Motion by Sogard and seconded by Phipps to have Bingo make a donation to the Museum for this project. Roll call votes 5-0. Motion carried.

PUBLIC WORKS:

a. Historic School Repair Quote: Tabled until November 9 meeting to give time for city staff to obtain more detailed quotes.

b. Rexco Trade In Quote: Motion by Jensen and seconded by Olson to list the current pusher on GovDeals with a reserve bid of $15,000 prior to pursuing trade in. Roll call votes 5-0. Motion carried.

c. Water Plant Updates: Quotes provided for Vessco equipment for the chlorinator room at the water plant represented work already approved by Affidavit Operator Anderson. No action by Council at this time.

CITY HALL: Clerk Eckers update the Council on the status of annual reports, recent training and upcoming training.

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CITIZEN LIVESTOCK PERMIT EXEMPTION REVIEW: William Funk of 126 Thoreson requested addition of electric fencing to their 4-acre property within city limits. Mr Funk presented maps of the property, proposed fencing area, and discussed history of approval and conversations with neighbors of adjoining property. Motion by Jensen and seconded by Olson to approve the electric fencing exemption. Roll call votes 4-0 with Councilman Funk abstaining.

PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSAL TO ENTER INTO A WATER REVENUE LOAN AND DISBURSEMENT AGREEMENT: Opened by Mayor Anksorus. No public comment. Closed by Mayor Anksorus.

RESOLUTION 10-27-2026(1) AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING A LOAN AND DISBURSEMENT AGREEMENT AND PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SECURING THE PAYMENT OF $3,039,000 WATER REVENUE BONDS, SERIES 2026: Motion by Funk and seconded by Olson to approve Resolution 10-27-2026(1) Roll call votes 5-0. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 10-27-2026(2) AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING A LOAN AND DISBURSEMENT AGREEMENT, PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUEANCE OF $1,000,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION WATER IMPROVEMENT BONDS, SERIES 2026 AND PROVIDING FOR THE LEVY OF TAXES TO PAY THE SAME: Motion by Jensen and seconded by Funk to approve Resolution 10-27-2026(2) Roll call votes 5-0. Motion carried.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – CLOSED SESSION: Motion by Funk and seconded by Olson to enter into closed session for personnel discussion at 8:03 pm. Roll call votes 5-0. Motion carried. Motion by Jensen and seconded by Olson at 8:46 pm to return to open session. Roll call votes 5-0. Motion carried. No action will be taken at this time.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Funk and seconded by Phipps to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 pm. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

/s/ Barry Anksorus, Mayor
/s/ Heidi Eckers, City Clerk

NOVEMBER 9th COUNCIL MEETING

The Ellsworth City Council met in regular session at 6:00 pm on November 9, 2026, at City Hall, with Mayor Anksorus presiding, and the following council members present: Funk, Olson, Phipps, Sogard, and Jensen via conference line. Also in attendance were city staff Jordan Walbaum, city public works staff Lee Knickerbocker, community members Logan Wilhoit, Chad Zimmerman, Brian Zimmerman, ECA members Ashley Platte and Brittany Williams, and Julie Wright.

AGENDA APPROVAL: Motion by Olson, seconded by Funk, to approve the agenda. Roll call vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

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

a. Motion to approve October 27, 2026 council minutes.
b. Motion to approve November 9, 2026 payment of claims.

Roll call votes: 5 - 0. Motion carried, and claims are hereby made a portion of these minutes

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PUBLIC FORUM: Clerk Eckers introduced Julie Wright, the new Hometown Pride coach for Hamilton County to the Council. Julie gave an overview of the program and how excited she is to help Ellsworth identify and plan future community development projects.

LIBRARY: None present
FIRE/EMS: None present

ECA: Ashley Platte, ECA board President, updated the Council on planned 2027 Dump Your Junk day as being Aril 24 and requested use of the city sheds for staging again. Ms. Platte requested use of the city park, community center, and ballfield facilities for the 2027 Ellsworth Extravaganza from June 25-27. Motion by Sogard and seconded by Olson to allow use of city facilities for the community event, any necessary road closures, hours of the park to be extended to midnight during the event, as well as approval for an application for a liquor license for a beer garden at the event. Roll call votes 5-0. Motion carried.

POLICE BOARD: Mayor Anksorus updated the Council on the previous week's police board meeting. After the police board exited a closed session, Officer Morton submitted his resignation, effective November 5, 2026. Citizens are encouraged to contact the Sheriff's Department until a replacement police officer can be hired for the EJ Police Department. Ellsworth Police Board representatives Mayor Anksorus and Councilwoman Olson will keep the Council updated on any changes or progress.

PUBLICE WORKS: a. Historic School Building Quote: staff Knickerbocker and Eckers updated the Council and are still working on quotes for the north addition as well as the repairs to the wall of the boiler room. b. Water Drainage Behind Shop: After discussion, Councilman Funk offered to reach out to Thompson Construction on the city's behalf to discuss resolution to current drainage issues. c. Building Permits: two building permits were presented, approved by Public Works staff Knickerbocker, one at 225 Ridgeview Court, and one at 1618 Dewitt.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: Public Works Position Hire – Resolution 11-6-2026(1) after discussion, motion by Funk and seconded by Phipps to approve resolution and hire of Logan Wilhoit as the new full-time public works employee for the City of Ellsworth, starting salary rate of $60,000 with an increase after 90 day probationary period and a 1 time pay increase after water certifications are issued to Wilhoit. An employment contract will be drafted and presented to Council at the next meeting on November 24. Roll call votes: Funk – Aye, Phipps – Aye, Jensen – Aye, Olson – Aye, Sogard – Nay. 4-1. Motion carried.

CITY HALL: a. City Depository Discussion: Clerk Eckers discussed Availa Bank's proposal for their Treasury Management program, at the cost of $25 per month, which gives secondary login information and access to the city funds to both Mayor Anksorus and Clerk Eckers, as well as offering the options of ACH payments/credits, benefit credit card, a in house "sweep" account to a higher interest savings account, and higher-yielding interest-earning potential on the checking account. Motion by Sogard and seconded by Olson to enter into a treasury management program with Availa Bank. Roll call votes 5-0. Motion carried. b. Resolution 11-6-2026(2) New CD Investments of city funds as follows: Road Use Fund $200,000, Sewer Fund $40,000, and Electric Fund $250,000 for six month terms. Motion by Sogard and seconded by Phipps to approve Resolution 11-6-2026(2) roll call vote, 4-1, with Funk voting nay. Motion carried.

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c. Bingo Gift Cards: Motion by Sogard and seconded by Olson to approve Clerk Eckers in purchasing 25 $10 gift cards for Thanksgiving Bingo Prizes and 25 $10 gift cards for Christmas Bingo prizes. Roll call votes 5-0. Motion carried. d. Motion by Phipps and seconded by Funk to approve Resolution 11-6-2026(3) approving the hire of Chase Reisetter as the new third weekly Bingo employee for the City of Ellsworth. Roll call votes 5-0. Motion carried. e. Bingo Donation to History Amendment: Motion to amend the vote from the Oct. 27 meeting, changing the verbiage from "publication on the museum website" to "publication on the Hamilton County Historical Society website," for the same amount of $1373.97. Roll call votes 5-0. Motion carried.

WHKS MAIN STREET SCOPE: Clerk Eckers discussed with the Council possible changes to the timeline of the project if the City desired to apply for CDBG grant funding. Clerk Eckers presented the Council with an estimated increase in construction costs due to inflation, as provided by the City financial advisor, Nate Summers of UMB Bank.

WHKS PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT – MAIN STREET: Motion by Sogard and seconded by Olson to move forward with the Main Street Project and approve the initial engineering professional services agreement in the amount of $81,000. Roll call vote: 5-0. Motion carried.
ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Sogard and seconded by Funk to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 pm. Roll call votes 5-0. Motion carried.

/s/ Barry Anksorus, Mayor
/s/ Heidi Eckers, City Clerk

HAMILTON COUNTY HISTORY ARCHIVES

The Ellsworth Chronicle, the Ellsworth News, and the South Hamilton Record/News, which were digitized in 2012, have been added to the Hamilton County Archives website, **hamiltoncounty.historyarchives.online.** This achievement was made possible by a generous donation of $1373 from the Ellsworth Bingo fund.

The website, organized by Advantage of Cedar Rapids, now houses 31 different newspapers from various county towns. It serves as an excellent research tool for exploring the past events and happenings in Hamilton County. We eagerly anticipate the addition of school yearbooks to this site in the near future.

Meanwhile, the Ellsworth Chronicle, the Ellsworth News, and the South Hamilton Record/ News from 1899 to 2012, along with the Ellsworth Consolidated School yearbooks, will continue to be accessible on the Ellsworth Historical Museum website, **ellsworthia.us.**

I extend a thank you to the Ellsworth City Council members for their invaluable contribution in making Ellsworth a part of the County website.

Janet Adix, Ellsworth History Museum Administrator


CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAY
SEASON WITH US
Christmas
Light/Decoration
Contest
HELP US SPREAD CHRISTMAS CHEER IN ELLSWORTH THE HOLIDAY SEASON!
DECORATE THE OUTSIDE OF YOUR HOME AND/OR BUSINESS.
FIRST PLACE $75 SECOND PLACE $50 THIRD PLACE $25
Judging Dec 17th-20th 2026
ELLSWORTH, IOWA
ELLSWORTH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION


Santa
LETTERS
mailed
here
Get your Santa letters dropped off in the mail box at the Ellsworth Post Office by December 15th. He just might send a response with his elf!