



ELLSWORTH COMMUNITY  
ASSOCIATION  
FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

**Community Association Officers:**

**President: Ashley Platte**  
ellsworthcommunityassn  
@gmail.com

**V-President: Brittany Williams**

**Secretary: Brittany Williams**

**Treasurer: Linda Clark**

**Editor:**

**Janet Adix**  
ellsworthca@netins.net

**Table of Contents**

Calendar, Notices.....2

Birthdays,, Save The Date,  
Remembering the Past.....3

Ellsworth Community Assn  
Minutes.....4

























Parade Form.....5

Library Events.....6

Council Minutes..... 7,8,9,10,11

Volunteers Needed.....12



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>1</b> Trinity Lutheran Church 9:00	<b>2</b>  Groundhog Day (USA)	<b>3</b> Community Association 6:00 Community Center	<b>4</b> 	<b>5</b> Library board meet 5:30	<b>6</b> 	<b>7</b>  South High Price BB Tournament
<b>8</b> Trinity Lutheran Church 9:00	<b>9</b> City Council 6:00	<b>10</b> 	<b>11</b> 	<b>12</b>  Lincoln's Birthday (USA)	<b>13</b> 	<b>14</b>  Bingo Community Center 5:00 Valentine's Day
<b>15</b> Trinity Lutheran Church	<b>16</b>  Washington's Birthday Observed (USA) Presidents' Day (USA) Family Day (Canada)	<b>17</b> Community Association 6:00 Community Center	<b>18</b>  Firemen Meeting 7:00 Ash Wednesday	<b>19</b> 	<b>20</b>  Trivia Night Ells Comm Center 7:00	<b>21</b>  Bingo Community Center 5:00
<b>22</b> Trinity Lutheran Church 9:00 Washington's Birthday (USA)	<b>23</b> 	<b>24</b>  City Council 6:00	<b>25</b> 	<b>26</b> 	<b>27</b> 	<b>28</b>  Bingo Community Center 5:00
			GUIDE TO BEST FISHING DAYS BEST  GOOD  FAIR  POOR 	<b>JANUARY</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>MARCH</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	Full Moon: 1 Last Quarter: 9 New Moon: 17 First Quarter: 24
<b>FEBRUARY</b>			<b>2026</b>			

## 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.

**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

Jody Berg	3rd
Selwyn Rash	4th
Gavin Swenson	14th
Sydney Gelder	18th
Kristal Johnson	21st
Trevor Thompson	26th
Eli Angove	28th
Daniel Knippel	28th



**Ellsworth Iowa Upcoming Events 2026**

**SAVE THE DATE!**

APRIL <b>4</b>	<b>EASTER EGG HUNT &amp; BRUNCH</b> EGG HUNT STARTS AT 9 AM, BRUNCH 9 AM TO 11 AM @ ELLSWORTH CITY PARK
APRIL <b>25</b>	<b>DUMP YOUR JUNK</b> 8 AM TO 12 NOON
MAY <b>2</b>	<b>HWY 175 CLEANUP</b> STARTS AT 8 AM @ THE ELLSWORTH WELCOME SIGN
JUNE <b>27</b>	<b>EXTRAVAGANZA</b> STAY TUNED FOR MORE DETAILS TO COME
SEP <b>12</b>	<b>CITY WIDE GARAGE SALES</b> 8 AM TO 2 PM
NOV <b>8</b>	<b>3RD ANNUAL SOUP SUPPER</b> 5 P.M. TO 8 P.M. @ ELLSWORTH COMMUNITY CENTER



If you'd like to get involved in the community or help out, we'd love to hear from you!  
 Reach out to us anytime – we would absolutely love any help!  
  
**ELLSWORTH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**  
 EMAIL: [ellsworthcommunityassn@gmail.com](mailto:ellsworthcommunityassn@gmail.com)

## REMEMBERING THE PAST: SCHOOL BELL



The Bell, cast in 1884, served as a fire bell for Ellsworth Community until 1911, when the town installed an electric whistle. Initially, it was mounted on a marquee of the wooden store building (Holt Plumbing, Heating, Refrigeration & Electric building) in the heart of Main Street.

In 1911, the bell was relocated to the belfry of the first schoolhouse. By 1913, it was mounted on the roof of the new grade school building, with a rope attached to the bell's handle, pulling it from the second floor. The ringing of the bell was a highly coveted responsibility for the students.

In 1975, Raymond Anderson and his son Dennis removed the bell from the grade school building. Carl Anderson constructed a frame, and Clarence Kuhl acquired a red wagon to mount the bell on. Today, the bell is a cherished possession of the Ellsworth Historical Museum.

**Ellsworth Community Association (ECA)**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**January 6th, 2026**

Meeting called to order by Ashley Platte, President, at 6:19 PM.

**Roll Call:** Ashley Platte, Brittany Williams, Linda Clark, Lori Yagor, Kayla Knipple and Becca Jensen (Phone).

**Minutes and Treasure Report Approval:** Motion to approve by Brittany, seconded by Kayla. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

**Vote on Board Members:** President- Brittany motioned for Ashley to be president, Linda seconded. Roll call votes 3-0, Ashley abstaining. Motion carried. Vice President- Kayla motioned for Brittany to be Vice President, Linda seconded. Roll call votes 3-0, Brittany abstaining. Motion carried. Treasurer- Ashley motioned for Linda to be Treasurer, Kayla seconded. Roll call votes 3-0, Linda abstaining. Secretary- Ashley motioned for Brittany to be secretary, Kayla seconded. Roll call votes 3-0, Brittany abstaining. Motion carried. Brittany motioned to appoint Marcy Olson as officer at large, Ashley seconded. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

**Public Forum:** None present

**Christmas/Planting a Christmas Trees in small park:** We need to decide what kind of tree we would want to plant and go back to council.

**Breakfast during South Hamilton pride:** We will be having breakfast burritos and cinnamon rolls with coffee and orange in addition to our regular menu.

**Pride Volleyball Tournament:** We will open the concession stand with our regular menu, minus the special, and we will also be having breakfast.

**Concession stand prices:** We will be raising our concession stand prices effective for the Volleyball tournament and continuing to BINGO the following weekend (Jan 31st).

**Trivia Night:** Nerd Herd Trivia will be here to do trivia at the community center on Feb 20th at 7 PM. We will have the concession stand open with the regular menu minus the special. We will have prices for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places.

**Extravaganza:** We have gotten 2 bands and some vendors booked and in talk with others. We will be talking with the church at their next board meeting to see if they will put on a noon meal for a fundraiser.

**Repainting the kitchen in the community center:** Ashley will go to city council to get approval to repaint.

**Benches/picnic tables for park:** We will get with the park board about this.

**Volunteer List:** We are going to have a running list of things we need help with or ideas for volunteer hours for when people contact us to volunteer.

**Comments:** Linda brought up wanting to put together a welcome packet for people moving to town. We will start getting a list of businesses and services in town.

**Adjournment:** Motion by Brittany. Seconded by Linda. Adjourned at 7:40 PM.

## 2026 Parade Form

Ellsworth Community Association invites you to come celebrate the Ellsworth Extravaganza on June 27, 2026.

**Business/Organization:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Person:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Day Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Brief Description of Entry:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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**\*\*Return the top half of this entry form and keep the bottom portion for your information.**

- Please arrive **no later than 9:30 AM** on the parade day to line up.
- You will be given a number of where to go on the day of the parade.
- For questions call Heidi Nye at 515-451-5494.

Please mail your entry to:

Ellsworth Community Association

PO Box 272

Ellsworth, IA 50075





## FEBRUARY 2026

### UPCOMING EVENTS

. BASE Exercise Group – Meets 10:15 – 10:45am EVERY FRIDAY

. Story Time for Children ages 0 to 5 is every Thursday at 10am till 11 am. We read stories, sing songs, create a craft and have a snack.

. THE LIBRARY HAS **NEW** LIBRARY HOURS: Monday 12 – 7 pm, Tuesday 12 – 5pm, Wednesdays 12 – 5 pm, Thursday 10 – 5 pm Friday Closed, Saturday 9 – 1 pm

LIBRARY BOARD MEETING WILL BE HELD FEB. 5, 2026 from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm. (open to the public).

. We have many NEW **VALENTINE** BOOKS for children! These books are ready for immediate checkout!!

. Saturday Feb 7, 2026 from 9:30 am till 11:30 am we will be celebrating “**TAKE YOUR CHILD TO LIBRARY DAY!!**” **Come explore the new and exciting changes at the Ellsworth Public Library! We will be having cookies and giving away prizes!**

**This Month’s KIDS KRAFT WILL BE CREATING A VALENTINE’S DAY MAILBOX - we have a limited supply so the first 20 children that come in will be able to pick up a free Valentine’s Day Mailbox Kit. MONDAY FEBRUARY 9, 2026 will be the day to pick up your free kit!**

## DECEMBER 30TH CITY COUNCIL

The Ellsworth City Council met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall on December 30, 2025, with Mayor Yager presiding, and the following council members present: Phipps, Olson, Sogard. Also in attendance were Ashley Platte, Brittany Williams, Staci Thompson, Alan Hanson.

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

**CONSENT AGENDA:** Motion by Sogard and second by Phipps to amend the date of claims from December 23 to December 30. Roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried. Motion by Olson, seconded by Sogard to approve the following items listed on the consent agenda:

- a. Motion to approve December 8, 2025 council minutes.
- b. Motion to approve December 30, 2025 payment of claims.

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

**PUBLIC FORUM:** None Present

**GYM/COMMUNITY CENTER USEAGE – VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT:** Staci Thompson was present to request use of the Ellsworth gym for a South High Pride volleyball tournament on Saturday January 24th. Allen Watts was contacted by Mayor Yager during the meeting to be consulted on change to Bingo schedule. Allen agreed to cancel Bingo activity on Jan 24th. Motion by Sogard and second by Phipps to allow use of the gym for the South High Pride volleyball tournament free of charge on January 24th 2026, with the ECA running a concession stand during the day as a local fundraising element. Roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried.

**HALF DAY GYM USEAGE DECEMBER 30TH RATE:** Strike from Agenda

**HOLT PLUMBING AND HEATING INVOICES:** Clerk Eckers was presented with invoices dating back to 2019 by Holt Plumbing and Heating at the time of the expected invoice for recent furnace replacement at the Ellsworth Library. Council was presented with the invoices. Council requested Clerk Eckers ask business owner Steve Holt to attend the January 12th Council meeting as well as Supervisor Vanlangen for some Q&A about the work shown on the invoices dating back 6 years. Motion by Sogard and second by Olson to approve payment of the \$4600 invoice to Holt Plumbing and Heating for the replacement of the furnace at the Ellsworth Library. Roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried.

**SOUTH HAMILTON MUSIC BOOSTERS DONATION:** Motion by Phipps and second by Olson to approve a bingo donation of \$500 in FY27 to the South Hamilton Music Boosters. Roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried.

**BOLTEN AND MENK – WATER TOWER UPDATE:** Clerk Eckers recently had a meeting with engineers from Bolten and Menk to discuss next steps in the project. Clerk Eckers updated the Council on the findings from the engineering firm as to why the past two bids for the project have been so inflated.

Council Minutes continued on page 7

**BOLTEN AND MENK – ENGINEERING SERVICES AMENDMENT:** After discussion about the documents presented to Council, Council requested a representative from Bolten and Menk be present at the January 12th Council meeting to discuss changes in the Engineering Services Contract.

**WHKS ENGINEERING MAIN STREET SCOPE QUOTE:** Clerk Eckers recently met with engineers from WHKS firm out of Ames concerning the upcoming Main Street streetscape project. Council was presented with a quote for SCOPE work by the engineering firm. Councilwoman Sogard raised questions about the streetscape being done prior to the new water tower. Council discussed with Alan Hanson (affidavit water operator for the city) how replacing the water mains under the street might be affected, whether before or after the new water tower. It was determined that Supervisor Vanlangen should be present at the next Council session to discuss the pros/cons of the order in which these projects can be accomplished. Motion to table the decision on the WHKS Scope to January 12th meeting by Sogard and seconded by Olson, roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried.

**EMPLOYEE TITLE CHANGE – JOB DESCRIPTION UPDATE:** Tabled to be discussed first by Personnel Committee

**MIDAS LMI SURVEY DISPERSAL:** Clerk Eckers handed out survey packets to the Council. Surveys to be completed and returned to City Hall by the end of January. Clerk Eckers will disperse packets to Council members Jensen and Funk, as well as newly elected Mayor Anksorus, prior to the next Council session.

**MARVERIK SIGN PERMIT APPLICATION:** Motion by Sogard and second by Olson to approve the phase 2 Maverik sign permit. Roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried.

**LIBRARY:** None Present

**FIRE/EMS:** None Present

**ECA:** No items

**EMPLOYEE CELL PHONE POLICY:** Clerk Eckers presented Council with information gathered on pricing and phone costs for two additional lines to be added for public works employees. Motion to approve adding two phones and lines for both Supervisor Vanlangen and public works employee Knickerbocker by Phipps and seconded by Sogard. Roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried.

**CITY COUNCIL EMAILS:** Clerk Eckers is still waiting on more information from IT company VC3 on any additional costs and steps involved to add emails to the city account for elected officials. Clerk Eckers will update the Council at the January 12th meeting.

**PUBLIC WORKS:** Alan Hanson, Ellsworth water/wastewater affidavit operator, was present to discuss the current status of the water plant, the distribution system, and the wastewater lagoons. Further questions on these topics will be addressed with Supervisor Vanlangen at the January 12th Council session.

**CITY HALL UPDATES:** Oath of office taken by Councilwoman Sogard to begin 4 year term January 1, 2026.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mayor Yager called for adjournment. Motion by Olson and seconded by Sogard to adjourn. Roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:34 pm.



# JANUARY 12TH CITY COUNCIL MEETING

	December Receipts	December Disbursements
General Fund	8757.24	35856.33
Road Use Fund	5637.15	23325.67
Employee Benefit Fund	253.56	1516.94
Emergency Fund	0.00	7112.00
Local Option Sales Tax Fund	10895.30	0.00
Tax Increment Finance Area 1	0.00	0.00
Tax Increment Finance 1 Amend	0.00	0.00
Bingo Fund	3699.31	2155.39
Debt Service Fund	128.37	11349.00
Capital Project-Strm Water	0.00	0.00
Capital Project-Water Tower	0.00	0.00
Water Fund	23605.31	12976.13
Water Sinking Fund	0.00	0937.50
Sewer Fund	5328.73	8752.02
Electric Fund	42489.72	66161.05
Electric Sinking Fund	0.00	0.00
Storm Water Fund	3122.44	0.00
Storm Water Sinking	0.00	0.00
	<hr/>	
	\$103,917.13	\$168,793.03

The Ellsworth City Council met in regular session at 6:13 p.m. at City Hall on January 12, 2026, with Mayor Anksorus presiding, and the following council members present: Phipps, Olson, Sogard, Jensen, and Funk. Also in attendance were Ashley Platte, Jim Leiding with Bolton and Menk, David Speed with Midland Power, Steve Holt with Holt Plumbing and Heating, and city staff Lee Knickerbocker and Public Works Supervisor Nick Vanlangen.

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

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

- a. Motion to approve December 30, 2025 council minutes.
- b. Motion to approve January 12, 2026 payment of claims.

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

**PUBLIC FORUM:** None Present

Council Minutes continued on page 9

**HOLT PLUMBING AND HEATING INVOICES:** Clerk Eckers was presented with invoices dating back to 2019 by Holt Plumbing and Heating at the time of the expected invoice for the recent furnace replacement at the Ellsworth Library. At the December 30 Council meeting, the furnace invoice was approved for payment. Steve Holt, the owner, was present to answer the Council's questions about why there were invoices dating back to 2019. Public works supervisor Vanlangen confirmed that the work on the invoices had been completed for the city. Council discussed adopting a policy that, in the future, vendor invoices for work done for the city must be received within 90 days of the work's completion. Motion by Funk and second by Phipps to pay the remainder of the invoices in the amount of \$4748.17. Roll call votes 5-0. Motion carried.

**BOLTEN AND MENK – WATER TOWER UPDATE:** Jim Leiding, Engineer with Bolten and Menk, was present to answer the Council's questions about the variability of the previous bids when compared to other Iowa water tower projects. The Council revisited the history of the new water tower project, which began in 2022. There were questions concerning the need for the 350,000-gallon tank versus the DNR-recommended 200,000-gallon tank.

**BOLTEN AND MENK – ENGINEERING SERVICES AMENDMENT:** After discussion about the documents presented to Council, motion by Funk and seconded by Phipps to approve the engineering services amendment and contract for services and to move forward with bid letting on a 300,000-gallon elevated storage tank with an alternative of 200,000. Roll call votes 5-0. Motion carried.

**WHKS ENGINEERING MAIN STREET SCOPE QUOTE:** After discussion with Supervisor Vanlangen about whether it would be possible to begin the Main Street project prior to the new water tower, Council recommended to Clerk Eckers adding the cost of the scope to the FY27 budget. Agenda item tabled.

**MIDAS LMI SURVEY UPDATE:** Clerk Eckers handed out survey packets to Councilman Funk and Jensen. Mayor Anksorus gave an update on the survey work he has completed and included some talking points. Clerk Eckers reminded the Council of the end of January deadline for completion.

**COUNCIL/CITY COMMITTEE DISCUSSION:** Mayor Anksorus presented the Council with a list of two-person committees he would like to see implemented by the February 9th Council session. This includes: Police Board, Personnel Committee, Streets/Alleys/Sidewalks, Electric Utility Committee, Parks and Rec Committee, which includes Bingo, and Water/Sewer Committee. The hope is that these two-person committees can meet outside of Council sessions to discuss concerns, projects, direction, and budget, thereby making Council sessions more efficient.

**PLANNING AND ZONING RESIGNATION:** Clerk Eckers presented the Council with a letter of resignation by Beth Grove from the Planning and Zoning Board. Mayor Anksorus will appoint a replacement in the next Council session.

Council Minutes continued on page 10

**PUBLIC WORKS:** Supervisor Vanlangen discussed with the Council the need for some updates and repairs to the community center. Volunteers from the ECA will help with painting, and Councilman Phipps will repair the railing on the stairs leading down from the double doors on the West side of the building. Work to be completed by January 24, and the South High Volleyball Tournament.

**CITY HALL UPDATES:** David Speed with Midland Power was present to discuss a possible rider to the electric utility ordinance implementing a PCA charge, which would fluctuate with the changes in cost of service per kilowatt-hour to the city from the supplier. This possible increase in cost would not include the electric heat rates. The Council was presented with an example of the new ordinance rider and the data used to formulate the rate equation, provided by Power System. Clerk Eckers will send links to the Council individually with their new city-hosted email addresses, which will be posted on the city website. Clerk Eckers presented the Council with the Annual Bingo Finance Report for 2025, which brought in a gross of \$193,164.50 with prizes totaling \$143,439.00. Clerk Eckers presented the Council with a monthly Treasurer's Report. Clerk Eckers updated the Council on the weekly goal-setting session with all staff and Mayor Anksorus at City Hall, which started the first of the year.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mayor Anksorus called for adjournment. Motion by Olson and seconded by Jensen to adjourn. Roll call votes 5-0. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:26 pm.

/s/ Barry Anksorus, Mayor

/s/ Heidi Eckers, City Clerk







# **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

**"Are YOU bored at home?!"**

**Do you find yourself staring at the wall, wondering what day it is?**

**Do you sigh dramatically every time you open the fridge and  
realize... you're still bored?**

**Well, have we got the solution for YOU! 🌟**

**Introducing... VOLUNTEERING!**

**That's right — the all-natural, no-prescription-needed way to meet  
people, make a difference, and actually have something to talk  
about besides what's on Netflix.**

**Whether you've got one hour or one amazing personality to  
spare, we need YOU!**

**Help out your community, laugh a little, maybe even wear a cool name tag. (We can't  
promise fame or fortune, but you might get free snacks.) 🍪**

**So what are you waiting for?  
— be a volunteer today!**

**Because your couch will still be there when you get back. 😊**

**Email us at: [ellsworthcommunityassn@gmail.com](mailto:ellsworthcommunityassn@gmail.com)**