



ELLSWORTH COMMUNITY
ASSOCIATION
JULY NEWSLETTER

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*HAPPY
BIRTHDAY
AMERICA*

July 4 1776-2026

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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
JUNE 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	AUGUST S M T W T F S 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 FAIR POOR	1 Farmers Market DeWitt Street 5:00-7:00 Canada Day (Canada)	2 	3 	4 Bingo Community Center 5:00 Independence Day (USA)
5 Trinity Lutheran Church 9:00 at City Park 	6 	7 Community Assoc 6:00 CommCenter 	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 	14 	15 Farmers Market DeWitt Street 5:00-7:00 	16 Firemen Meeting 7:00 	17 Trivia Night 7:00 Comm 	18 Bingo Community Center 5:00
19 Trinity Lutheran Church 9:00 	20 	21 Community Assoc 6:00 CommCenter 	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 Homewood Cemetery Meet 10:00 TLC 	31 	Last Quarter: 7 New Moon: 14 First Quarter: 21 Full Moon: 29
JULY						2026

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

1st - Seth Berg	16th - Tom Ellwood
1st - Aidan Hill	17th - Janice Hetland
2nd - Sarah Hemphill	19th - Janet Lindseth
3rd - Kristi Busch	20th - Mackenzie Henderson
8th - Nick VanLangen	20th - Jeremy Laube
10th - Marilyn Doyle	23rd - Dorothy Tribby
12th - Reggie Caudle	25th - Mark Hill
13th - Leah Mass	26th - Dugan Swenson
13th - Grant Larson	27th - Jon Rollefson
14th - Addie Uttecht	28th - Teresa Olson
14th - Tory Hetland	29th - Nancy Campbell
16th - William Angove	30th - Marcia Anderson

ANNIVERSARIES

9th - Lindsay & Steve Gelder
 10th - Jody & Todd Berg
 22nd - Brandi & Cory Nelson

Dates to Remember

September 12 - City Garage Sales
 November 8 - Annual Soup Supper

REMEMBERING THE PAST: Grocery Store Fire

The Heinen Grocery and Locker store was destroyed by fire Sunday morning, June 4, 1972 and two adjoining buildings, the Bank and Hardware Store, were damaged in the blaze which apparently broke out at about 6 a.m. Fire Chief Ernest Johnson of Ellsworth believed the fire started in the basement of the store, but the exact cause is not yet known. Among those who first discovered and reported seeing smoke pouring out of the basement windows of the store were Mrs. Ramon Sogard and Nancy Nelson, who were engaged in some cleanup work at a tavern across the street, and Mrs. Raymond Anderson, who was going to work at a cafe in Ellsworth. The Ellsworth fire department was joined by fire crews from Kamrar, Jewell, Radcliffe and Webster City, Fire Chief Jack Patterson, Dave Hanson and Larry Kennedy of Webster City and a tanker truck were among those joining in the cooperative battle to save the buildings. The fire was brought under control by late morning, but the Ellsworth department stayed on the scene the rest of the day and during the night as the store debris was still smouldering. Bernard Heinen, owner of the grocery, said he had no immediate plans for the future.



ELLSWORTH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Home Phone () _____ - _____

Cell Phone () _____ - _____

E Mail _____

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

	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>Month / Day</u>
<u>B</u>	<u>A</u>		/
<u>B</u>	<u>A</u>		/
<u>B</u>	<u>A</u>		/

Dear Ellsworth Community Association,
I am very honored to be one of
your scholarship recipients this year.
I had a great time volunteering with
you all the past few months. Your
generosity will help me to pay for
my education at Iowa State University
where I will study Agricultural Business.
Thank you again for your support!

Best, Charlie Hill

Dear Ellsworth Community Association,
Thank you for the scholarship
and supporting my education in
nursing. I appreciate your support in
my future.

Sincerely,
Sydy Gebler

MAY 26TH COUNCIL MEETING

The Ellsworth City Council met in regular session at 6:00 pm at City Hall on May 26, 2026, with Mayor Anksorus presiding, and the following council members present: Sogard, Jensen, Phipps, and Funk. Also in attendance were Katie Sterk with Bolten and Menk, Brian Zimmerman, Ashley Platte with the ECA and Brittany Williams with the ECA.

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 seconded by Funk to approve the following items listed on the consent agenda:

- a. Motion to approve May 11, 2026 council minutes.
- b. Motion to approve May 26, 2026 payment of claims.
- c. Motion to approve SRF Water Plant Loan Payment of \$101,062.50
- d. Motion to approve Dollar General Tobacco License 2026-2027.
- e. Motion to approve Maverik Class E Liquor License Renewal 20026-2027.
- f. Motion to approve Love's Truck Stop Special Class C Liquor License Renewal 2026-2027.
- g. Motion to approve Class C Retail Liquor License for "Bus Events" for the Ellsworth Extravaganza 2026. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried, and claims hereby made a portion of these minutes

PUBLIC FORUM: Brian Zimmerman was present to bring to the Council's attention an accessory building at 546 DesMoines Ave that doesn't meet the set back requirements in the city's Ordinance. Brian Zimmerman also lodged a complaint regarding several vehicles with no current registration, flat tires, and broken or missing windows in town.

PUBLIC HEARING - ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT CONCERNING ELEVATED WATER STORAGE TANK PROJECT: Mayor Anksorus opened the hearing at 6:13 pm. No public present for comment. Hearing closed at 6:14 pm.

PUBLIC HEARING - WATER RATE ORDINANCE #605 RATE CHANGES: Mayor Anksorus opened the public hearing at 6:15 pm. Clerk Eckers read an email from Randy Olson, owner of the Ellsworth Truckwash, requesting that the Council consider incentivizing larger water users by adopting a lower rate increase. Ashley Platte asked for clarification on how much a residential bill would be affected by the rate increase. Mayor Anksorus closed the public hearing at 6:21 pm.

FIRST READING OF PROPOSED WATER RATE ORDINANCE #605 RATE CHANGES: Councilman Funk read the proposed amended Ordinance #605.

RESOLUTION TO FIX A DATE FOR A PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSAL TO ENTER INTO A GENERAL OBLIGATION WATER IMPROVEMENT LOAN AND DISBURSEMENT AGREEMENT AND TO BORROW MONEY THEREUNDER IN A PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$1,000,000: Motion by Sogard and seconded by Jensen to set the date for June 8th at 6 pm. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

IAMU MUTUAL AID PROGRAM AGREEMENT: Motion by Phipps and seconded by Jensen to agree to the terms of the IAMU Mutual Aid Program Agreement. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

BUILDING PERMIT 1617 DELPHI STREET: Clerk Eckers presented the original building permit, correspondence from the property owner, and an updated drawing/photo, which changed the placement of the west-facing fence to allow access to city utilities present in the area. Permit approved by Supervisor Vanlangen.

BROWN BUILDS LLC QUOTE FOR CITY SHED INTERIOR WORK \$46,725: Tabled as Council requested two more local company bids for the same scope of work by the next Council meeting.

28E AGREEMENT HAMILTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT - PAYMENT OF \$7112 AT \$14 PER CAPITA RATE: Motion by Funk and seconded by Sogard to approve the FY26 28E agreement and invoice for \$7112 to the Hamilton County Sheriff's Department. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

Council minutes continued on page 6

BINGO SPONSORSHIP OF ELLSWORTH EXTRAVAGANZA: Motion by Sogard and seconded by Jensen to have Bingo fund donate \$1000 on July 1st to the Ellsworth Community Association to help with the costs involved in the group's efforts to put on the bi-annual town festival. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

LIBRARY: None present

FIRE DEPARTMENT- SEALED BIDS FIRE TRUCKS: Motion by Funk and seconded by Phipps to accept the bid of \$1500 for the 1952 Ford fire truck. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried. Motion by Jensen and seconded by Phipps to accept the bid of \$200 for the 1969 Chevy fire truck. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

ECA: Ashley Platte was present to request access to the Community Center as a rain location for Church in Park as well as Sunday brunch on June 28th as a part of the Ellsworth Extravaganza weekend. Motion by Sogard and seconded by Jensen to allow access to the Community Center as a rain location on June 28, 2026. Roll call votes 3-0. Motion carried.

PUBLIC WORKS: Katie Sterk, Engineer with Bolton and Menk was present to update the Council on recent testing and systems analysis at the City Water Treatment Facility.

CITY HALL: Clerk Eckers updated the Council on progress for the tree removal policy project and will post to social media upcoming training dates for Clerking/Financial Officer training when City Hall will be closed.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE EMPLOYEE MATTER: Supervisor Vanlangen was addressed and asked if he wished the following discussion to be in closed session. Vanlangen wished for all council and public discussions to be in an open, regular session. Personnel committee recommended immediate termination on the grounds of not complying with a signed agreement and 60-timeline to complete Vanlangen's water operator certification testing. Clerk Eckers made a conference call to City Attorney Heeren to ask if a member of the personnel committee could make the motion for termination. Motion by Funk and seconded by Phipps to pursue immediate termination of Supervisor Vanlangen. Roll call votes Jensen: nay Funk: aye Phipps: aye Sogard: abstain. Motion failed. Motion by Sogard and seconded by Jensen to allow Supervisor Vanlangen until the June 8 Council session to take and pass level 1 water certification test and then revisit termination if criteria hadn't been met. Roll call votes Sogard: aye Jensen: aye Funk called to amend the motion. Motion by Funk and seconded by Phipps to amend Sogard's motion and by June 8 Council session Supervisor Vanlangen must have taken level 1 water certification test as well as Lagoon/Wastewater test with passing results to avoid immediate termination on June 8. Roll call votes Jensen: aye Sogard: aye Funk: aye Phipps: aye. Motion carried.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE WATER AFFIDAVIT OPERATOR HIRE: Motion by Funk and seconded by Sogard to hire Danny Anderson as a part-time city employee on a month-by-month basis at \$1500 per month to act as the City Water Affidavit Operator. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Jensen and seconded by Funk to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 pm. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

/s/ Barry Anksorus, Mayor

/s/ Heidi Eckers, City Clerk

JUNE 8TH COUNCIL MEETING

The Ellsworth City Council met in regular session at 6:00 pm on June 8, 2026, at City Hall, with Mayor Anksorus presiding, and the following council members present: Olson, Jensen, Phipps, and Funk. Also in attendance were Katie Sterk with Bolten and Menk, Brian Zimmerman, Ashley Platte with the ECA, Brittany Williams with the ECA, Hope and Bobby Caudle, EJS Police Chief Kaleb Morton, Dale Graham, and Jordan Walbaum. call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

Council Minutes continued on page 7

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

- a. Motion to approve May 26, 2026 council minutes.
- b. b. Motion to approve June 8, 2026 payment of claims.
- c. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried, and claims hereby made a portion of these minutes

PUBLIC FORUM: Ashley Platte brought community concerns about the intersection of Hwy 175 and Ubben/Delphi with regard to a safe crossing point for pedestrians in the future, once Dollar General is open. The Council recommends Ashley start a petition for a flashing light crossing with community support to submit to the DOT. Bobby Caudle was present and raised concerns about severe water backup in the city's stormwater system at the intersection of Park Ave and Park Ave Circle whenever it rains. Bobby submitted a work order to the city in 2012, and to his knowledge, the issue has never been remedied.

PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSAL TO ENTER INTO A GENERAL OBLIGATION WATER IMPROVEMENT LOAN AND DISBURSEMENT AGREEMENT: Mayor Anksorus opened the public hearing at 6:22 pm. No public present. Hearing closed.

RESOLUTION TAKING ADDITIONAL ACTION ON PROPOSAL TO ENTER INTO A GENERAL OBLIGATION WATER IMPROVEMENT LOAN AND DISBURSEMENT AGREEMENT: Motion by Phipps and seconded by Funk to approve Resolution 06-08-2026. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION APPROVING CONTRACT AND PERFORMANCE AND/OR PAYMENT BONDS FOR THE 200,000 GALLON ELEVATED WATER STORAGE TANK PROJECT: Motion by Olson and seconded by Jensen to approve Resolution 06-08- 2026(2). Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

ACCESSORY BUILDING 546 DES MOINES AVE: Tabled until Clerk Eckers and Councilman Funk can deliberate with the city legal council.

E-BIKE/SCOOTERS/ELECTRIC VEHICLES: There was discussion about collaborating with the City of Jewell on a proposed ordinance to ensure consistent enforcement by local law enforcement. Clerk Eckers will reach out to Jewell City Clerk to arrange a work session with the two communities' Police Board members. Council will look over the packet examples from Humboldt and Ankeny and get back to Clerk Eckers individually within the next week. Officer Morton was present and mentioned he would like to see helmets included as a requirement and recommended safety classes.

ITC ELECTRIC LINE EASEMENTS: Motion by Jensen and seconded by Funk to grant the requested easement updates from ITC. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

SECOND READING PROPOSED WATER RATE ORDINANCE NO. 605: Tabled until the June 23rd meeting.

BUILDING PERMIT(S) 1026 DEWITT STREET: Nick Vanlangen confirmed no city utilities are present on the East side of the road that would interfere with the concrete driveway being extended. Clerk Eckers will follow through with collecting permit fees from the property owner.

TREE REMOVAL INVOICES 1721 DELPHI STREET: After discussion by Council Motion by Jensen and seconded by Olson to submit invoices of \$800 (per invoice) from Robb's Tree Service to both neighbors of the property who requested the City have four dead/diseased trees topped. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

CITIZEN COMMENT FORM – SIDEWALKS: Clerk Eckers received a citizen comment form concerning the sidewalk at 1725 Dewitt. Clerk Eckers presented the current city/state codes concerning maintenance of sidewalks. Sidewalk maintenance remains the responsibility of the property owner. The City will alert the property owner to the ordinance, the condition, and the timeline for required repairs. Motion by Olson and seconded by Jensen to have Clerk Eckers pursue abatement of the nuisance/dangerous sidewalk. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 06-08-2026(3) TO SET PUBLIC HEARING TO AMEND THE FY 27 BUDGET FOR JULY 13, 2026 6 PM: Motion by Phipps and seconded by Olson to set the public hearing to amend the FY 27 Budget for July 13, 2026, at 6 pm. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

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LIBRARY: Supervisor Vanlangen mentioned to the Council that he was called only 23 minutes prior to the library foam party, with a request for assistance at the park to hook up water and electricity for the vendor. He would appreciate more lead time and transparency of needs/assistance from the library in the future.

FIRE/EMS: None present

ECA: Ashley Platte and Brittany Williams were present to update the Council on the parameters for the beer garden for Ellsworth Extravaganza. There will be portable bathrooms within a fenced area, one entrance with ID's being checked, and no beverages allowed to leave the designated area. 21 plus only and wristbands will be placed after ID's are checked. The ladies also updated the Council on the timeframes for road closures during the event and asked if Clerk Eckers could send out a message the week prior to alert community members to the closures. Friday evening, the streets surrounding the city park will be closed from 6 – 6:30 pm to accommodate the kiddie parade. The 1500-1700 blocks of Dewitt will be closed on Saturday from 9am to 2pm. After 2 pm on Saturday, the four streets surrounding the City Park will be closed to allow for pedestrian safety.

PUBLIC WORKS: Katie Sterk, Engineer with Bolton and Menk was present to update the Council on recent testing and systems analysis at the City Water Treatment Facility. Newly hired affidavit operator Danny Anderson had compiled a list of equipment needed for purchase to update the anti-scalant system, at the recommendation of the engineering firm. Katie Sterk also earmarked work that needs to be done on the chlorine pre-treatment system at the water plant. By the next Council meeting, Katie will have a scope of work and a fee schedule for a full asset inventory of the water plant. Motion by Jensen and seconded by Olson to approve the purchase of the anti-scalant equipment totaling \$6661.85. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried. Public works employee Knickerbocker and Clerk Eckers presented the Council with an upcoming electric system training offered by the Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities. Knickerbocker would like to participate in the three-day course to learn more about maintaining the city's electric systems. Motion by Phipps and seconded by Jensen for Eckers to pursue signing Knickerbocker up for the training. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

CITY HALL: Clerk Eckers presented an estimate from Commercial Construction Products for replacing the rear door at City Hall, the company that just replaced all doors on the concession stand in the park and the two new public restrooms at the city park. Motion by Funk and seconded by Phipps to approve the purchase of the new door and painting/sealant of the new door for a total of \$3400. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried. Clerk Eckers presented the Council with a potential job description and duties for a part-time assistant in City Hall. The Personnel Committee will meet to discuss recommended salary ranges and speak with Clerk Eckers about the hiring process and timeline.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE EMPLOYEE MATTER: Supervisor Vanlangen was addressed and asked if he wished the following discussion to be in closed session. Vanlangen wished for all council and public discussions to be in an open, regular session. Vanlangen presented the Council with a packet of transcription emails from the previous two weeks showing all results and attempts for water level 1 testing and wastewater system testing. Discussion by Council, staff, and members of the community. Motion by Funk and seconded by Phipps that by the June 23rd Council session, Vanlangen must show proof of progress in attempts with written documentation of any passing or failed results of exams. On the July 13th, 2026 Council meeting, Vanlangen must show the passed/certification results of both Class 1 water affidavit operator and wastewater/lagoon tests. By the July 13th, 2026, Council session, Vanlangen must have the Class 2 water affidavit test either completed/passed/failed/ or scheduled status. Failure to meet these aforementioned requirements will result in immediate termination on July 13, 2026. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Jensen and seconded by Funk to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 pm. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

/s/ Barry Anksorus, Mayor

/s/ Heidi Eckers, City Clerk



JULY 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 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 NOT BE HELD IN JULY, 2026 but will be held August 6, 2026 at 5:30 pm.
- . SUMMER READING SCHEDULE IS AS FOLLOWS: Monday Movies all start at 2 pm: July 6, 2026 will be Paw Patrol & The Great Pirate,

July 13, 2026 will be Pets 1 & 2

July 20, 2026 will be Lion King & Mufasa

July 27, 2026 will be Muppets Movies

Free popcorn or Ice Pop – Children of all ages welcome!

- . SUMMER READING ENDS July 30, 2026 – Please make sure you turn in your reading logs by August 3, 2026 and prizes will be announced on August 8, 2026

. Please encourage your child or children to read everyday and participate in the Summer Reading Programs – these programs are fun for everyone and they help your child or children to enjoy and learn about different topics.

. The library also has special programming with “A Dinosaur is Loose in the library,” Program starts at 5:30 pm with children’s author Kelly Crull.

. BUCKY JONES WILL BE OFFERING A CARTONNIST PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN starting at 1 pm on July 15, 2026.

. JEFF QUINN MAGIC SHOW WILL BE AT 6:30 pm here at the library on July 21, 2026.

. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact the library at 515 – 836 - 4852

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

HOPE EVERYONE HAS A GREAT SUMMER!

HOMEWOOD CEMETERY IMPROVEMENT ASS'N continues to accept donations for flags and poles for the Avenue of Flags. A Flag, Pole, and Plaque engraved with a name or names costs \$125.00. The Flag can be dedicated to a family, parents, child or an individual, and it doesn't necessarily have to be a veteran. If you'd like a flag in your family's name, please contact Lisa Hovick at 515-290-6845. Following is a list of those flags that have been previously adopted:

Jess & Charlotte Romp
Rueben & Ruth Ellwood
Dean & Janice Hetland
Cliff Larson
Don & Holly Adix
Jeremy Thompson
Curtis & Carolyn Johnson
Lyle & Sue Thompson
Lawrence & Ruth Olson
Lloyd & Leoan Coates
Jim & Shel Toussaint
VanLangens
Carroll Arneson

Richard Adix
Wanda Adix
Aaron Hill
Ardian Jeanie Hetland
Rolen & Clara Hill
Kenneth & Kathryn Bottorff
Howard & Gwendolyn Adix
Stanley & Janet Adix
Orlin Hanson
Hubert & Daisy Hill
Delmar & Judy Hill
Gerald Hill
Pete & Geneva Hetland/

Howard Farr
Raymond Anderson
Elmer Olson
Merlyn Ostebee
Wayne Olson
Duane & Betsi Danielson
Ole & Mona Danielson
Bud Ahrens/Bayard Holt
Sigvald Holt
Inez Holt
Jon Danielson
Raymond Danielson

