



ELLSWORTH COMMUNITY
ASSOCIATION
MARCH NEWSLETTER

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BENEFIT FOR MORIAH RASMUSSEN

Our community is coming together to support Moriah (35), a devoted mother of four, who recently suffered a heart attack and fought for her life. While we are incredibly grateful that she is still with us, she has a long road to recovery ahead.

We are hosting a benefit to help ease the financial burden on Moriah and her four daughters during this difficult time. Medical bills, Gas and everyday expenses add up quickly, and we want to show her that she is not fighting this alone.

Please join us in supporting this beautiful family. Whether you attend, donate, share the event, or simply keep them in your prayers – every bit of support makes a difference. This is what community is all about.

**MARCH 6TH
6 P.M - 8 P.M**

ELLSWORTH COMMUNITY CENTER
1726 DESOTA STREET
ELLSWORTH IOWA

DONATIONS CAN BE MADE OUT TO ECA FOR THE MORIAH RASMUSSEN BENEFIT AND DROPPED OFF WITH LORI OR ASHLEY, OR AT AVAILA BANK IN JEWELL.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Trinity  Lutheran Church 9:00	2 	3  Community Association 6:00 Community Center	4 	5 	6 for Benefit for Moriah Rasmussen 6:00-8:00	7  Bingo Community Center 5:00
8 Trinity  Lutheran Church 9:00	9 City  Council 6:00	10 	11 	12 	13 	14 Bingo  Community Center 5:00
15 Trinity  Lutheran Church 9:00	16 	17  Community Association 6:00 Community Center <small>St. Patrick's Day</small>	18  Firemen Meeting 7:00	19 	20  <small>spring Begins</small>	21  Bingo Community Center 5:00
22 Trinity  Lutheran Church 9:00	23 	24  City Council 6:00	25 	26 	27 	28  Bingo Community Center 5:00
29 Trinity  Lutheran Church 9:00 <small>Palm Sunday</small>	30 	31 	GUIDE TO BEST FISHING DAYS BEST  GOOD  FAIR  POOR 	FEBRUARY 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	APRIL 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	Full Moon: 3 Last Quarter: 11 New Moon: 18 First Quarter: 25

MARCH

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

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



Ellsworth Iowa Upcoming Events 2026
SAVE THE DATE!

APRIL 4	EASTER EGG HUNT & BRUNCH EGG HUNT STARTS @ 9 AM, BRUNCH @ 10:15 AM @ ELLSWORTH CITY PARK
APRIL 25	DUMP YOUR JUNK 8 AM TO 12 NOON
MAY 2	HWY 175 CLEANUP STARTS AT 8 AM @ THE ELLSWORTH WELCOME SIGN
JUNE 27	EXTRAVAGANZA STAY TUNED FOR MORE DETAILS TO COME
SEP 12	CITY WIDE GARAGE SALES 8 AM TO 2 PM
NOV 8	3RD ANNUAL SOUP SUPPER 5 PM TO 8 PM @ 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
ELLSWORTH, IOWA
EMAIL: ellsworthcommunityassn@gmail.com

REMEMBERING THE PAST: The Busy Bee Cafe

The Busy Bee Cafe, located at 1520 DeWitt on the east side of Main Street, was a beloved establishment owned and operated by Frank and Roxanna Dalbey. The Dalbey's had relocated to Ellsworth from a farm north of town and purchased the building in 1909.

Roxanna Dalbey was an exceptional cook, and her culinary skills were highly regarded. During the summer months, she cultivated a garden on the lots at the corner of Dayton and Brinton, where she grew an abundance of vegetables that were used in the restaurant's delicious meals. Many patrons traveled from far to savor their delectable dishes.

In addition to its culinary offerings, the Busy Bee Cafe served as a general store, providing a wide range of goods including yard supplies, shoes, overalls, dresses, and groceries. Frank Dalbey managed this aspect of the business.

The Dalbey's resided in quarters above the cafe and also had rooms available for transients.

Tragically, in 1917, the corner hardware store caught fire, destroying the hardware store, the adjacent garage, and the harness shop. The firemen had to use a large hose and run up the cafe stairs, to combat the blaze, which engulfed the cafe building in water. As a result, spectators flocked to the scene, taking advantage of the chaos and stealing candy, cigars, fruit, and other items they could carry away.

Following Frank's passing, in 1918, the cafe underwent several changes of ownership before becoming a Dry Goods and Furniture Store in the 1940s. Over the years, it has served various purposes, including a variety store, veterinarian's office, newspaper office, ceramics shop, real estate office, and apartments. Currently, it is owned by Stone Masonry Services.



Ellsworth Community Association (ECA)
Meeting Minutes
February 3rd, 2026

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

Roll call: Ashley Platte, Linda Clark, Brittany Williams, Lori Yager, Kayla Knipple and Marcy Olson.

Minutes and treasure report approval: Motion Brittany, seconded Linda. Roll call vote 4-0. Motion passed.

Public form: None Present

Trivia Night: Brittany will run the concession stand that night for Lori, we will have a special that night. We will have gift certificates for Bingo, Subway and Affordables.

Mother's Day Brunch: We discussed doing a Mother's Day Brunch this year. We will talk to council about using the community center. May 9th. Lori and Brittany will get together about the menu. We discussed a price per plate. Marcy brought up giving the moms a flower.

Extravaganza Friday-Sunday:

A: We updated everyone on everything we currently have booked.

B: Marcy is going to talk to Jeremy about doing a bags tournament on the Saturday of the Extravaganza.

C: Ashley is going to talk to Lee about doing a kickball tournament/game on the Saturday of the Extravaganza.

D: We discussed add Friday night and Sunday to the Extravaganza. Wanting to put together a kiddy parade, trivia night and movie night on Friday night. Also a brunch in the park and frisbee tournament on Sunday. Ashley will talk to council.

E: Brittany is going to reach out to the art department at the school to have the kids doing a shirt design.

F: Ashley has been in contact with the insurance people.

G: Brittany has made a list of possible donors. We will split up the list and start talking to people.

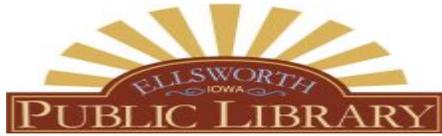
Easter: Nothing at this time

Dump YourJunk: Nothing at this time.

Benefit/fundraiser: We discussed having a benefit for Moriah. Ashley will talk to council about using the community center.

Comments: Concession stand for the volleyball tournament went great. We will be serving the whole menu for the basketball tournament.

Adjournment: Motion Brittany, seconded by Kayla. Roll Call votes 4-0. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:40.



MARCH 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 am 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 am –5 pm **Friday Closed**, Saturday 9 am – 12 pm
- LIBRARY BOARD MEETING WILL BE HELD MARCH 5, 2026 from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm. (open to the public).
- . We have many NEW **St. Patrick's Day** & **EASTER** BOOKS for children – New Adult Fiction and Non Fiction Books, Magazine's, DVDs, local newspapers, puzzles, Hot Spots & much more!
- . Check out our Ellsworth Library Facebook and Instagram Pages for Weekly Book Releases, Events, Activities, and much more!
- . **March 16 – 19, 2026 - The library will be celebrating St. Patrick's Day. Children are welcome to come into the library for a St. Patrick's Day Scavenger Hunt. If you find all the scavenger hunt item's you will win gold coins as your prize! Come test out your scavenger hunting skills.**

The library will be hosting an Easter Egg Themed Event on Saturday April 4, at 10:30 am till 11:30 am. Any questions please call the library at 515-836-4852.

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!

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

Here are some examples of our new releases –
Adult Fiction

- “The King’s Ransom – by Janet Evanovich
- “Smugglers Cove – Fern Michaels
- “The Devil’s Daughter – Danielle Steel
- “Woman Down” - Colleen Hoover
- “It’s Not Her” - Mary Kubica
- “Where He Left Me” - Nicole Baart
- “Never Flinch” - Stephen King
- “Rings of Fate” - Melissa De La Cruz
- “My Husband’s Wife” - Alice Feeney

“The Most Fun We Ever Had” - Claire Lombardo

Adult Non Fiction

“The Last Days of Marilyn Monroe” - James Patterson

Children’s

- “Bunny’s Big Easter Feast”
- “Peppa’s Easter Egg Hunt”
- “Easter Egg Hunt”
- “Tappy Easter”
- “How to Catch a Leprechaun”

JANUARY 27TH COUNCIL MEETING

The Ellsworth City Council met in regular session at 6:02 p.m. at City Hall on January 27, 2026, with Mayor Anksorus presiding, and the following council members present: Phipps, Olson, Jensen, and Funk. Also in attendance were Ashley Platte, Brittany Williams, and city staff Lee Knickerbocker and Public Works Supervisor Nick Vanlangen.

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

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

- a. Motion to approve January 12, 2026 council minutes.
- b. Motion to approve January 27, 2026 payment of claims.
- c. Motion to approve fire truck payment of \$11,349.00.
- d. Motion to name South Hamilton Record News as the official publication for the City of Ellsworth.
- e. Motion to reappoint Austin Heeren as City Attorney.

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

PUBLIC FORUM: None Present

FIRE/EMS: None Present

LIBRARY: None present

ECA: A. Bingo Certificates for Trivia Night: Motion by Olson and second by Funk to have Bingo donate four \$25 gift certificates for Bingo use to the ECA to use as prizes for the first place Trivia Night team. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried. B. Triva Night BYOB/Insurance: Ashley Platte, ECA Board President and Brittany Williams discussed not being able to hire an outside beer/liquor vendor with the short timeline for planning the event. They requested the Council consider allowing a BYOB for this one Trivia Night and are looking into any extra insurance required for the facility in such an instance. Council requested ECA readdress the possibility at the February 9th meeting once they have specific information on insurance.

HAMILTON COUNTY SOLID WASTE COMMISSION APPOINTMENT: TABLED

GIFT CARD DONATION: Clerk Eckers presented Council with a pre-loaded visa gift card in the amount of \$250 that was not utilized prior to the holidays as a bonus for a former EJS employee. This gift card cannot be returned. Clerk Eckers recommended the Council discuss a charity organization to gift this to. Motion by Funk and second by Phipps to give the gift card to the Friends Forever program of Webster City to use to help purchase a new TV for their facility. Roll call votes 3-0 with Councilwoman Olson abstaining.

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MIDAS LMI SURVEY UPDATE: Mayor Anksorus took a few surveys from some of the Council members to help expedite the completion of the survey work. Clerk Eckers recommended any Council members struggling to find community members at home at the listed addresses could come to city hall during the week and call these individuals to complete the required surveys to be eligible for the CDBG Grant which would be utilized for the new water tower.

COUNCIL/CITY COMMITTEE DISCUSSION: Mayor Anksorus requested the Council give feedback on which committees they wanted to be a part of moving forward. Police Board would be Olson and Anksorus, Personnel Committee – Funk and Anksorus, Streets/Alleys/Sidewalks – Phipps and Jensen, Electric Utility Committee – Jensen and Funk, Parks and Rec Committee, which includes Bingo – Olson and Sogard, and Water/Sewer Committee – Sogard and Phipps. The appointments and the inception of these committees will be on the agenda for the February 9th Council session.

PUBLIC WORKS: Supervisor Vanlangen updated the Council the street light repairs, present Council with a water tower cleaning quote from Viking Industrial Painting for \$1900, and tabled Budget FY27 discussion to the February 9th meeting.

CITY HALL UPDATES: Clerk Eckers updated Council on new email addresses for the Council and Mayor and staff, new cell phones for the public works employees, the submission of 2025 W2s and 1099s. Clerk Eckers presented Council with the liquor license application for “the Girls Catering” for the February 6th Wild Turkey Federation Banquet held at the Community Center. Motion by Phipps and second by Jensen to approve the liquor license on February 6th for The Girls Catering. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Anksorus called for adjournment at 7:02pm.

/s/ Barry Anksorus, Mayor

/s/ Heidi Eckers, City Clerk

FEBRUARY 9TH COUNCIL MEETING

The Ellsworth City Council met in regular session at 6:01 p.m. at City Hall on February 9, 2026, with Mayor Anksorus presiding, and the following council members present: Phipps, Olson, Sogard, Jensen. Also in attendance were Ashley Platte ECA President, Library board members Linda Bottorff, Beth Grove and Library director Roxann Boyce, as well as Fire Chief Jayson Evans.

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

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

- a. Motion to approve January 27, 2026 council minutes.
- b. Motion to approve February 9, 2026 payment of claims.

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

Council Minutes continued on page 8

	January Receipts	January Disbursements
General Fund	13983.26	24990.09
Road Use Fund	6699.41	2390.67
Employee Benefit Fund	86.72	918.78
Emergency Fund	0.00	0
Local Option Sales Tax Fund	6525.05	0.00
Tax Increment Finance Area 1	0.00	0.00
Tax Increment Finance 1 Amend	816.53	0.00
Bingo Fund	2989.31	2231.97
Debt Service Fund	53.32	11349.00
Capital Project-Strm Water	0.00	0.00
Capital Project-Water Tower	0.00	19855.00
Water Fund	25116.41	18509.83
Water Sinking Fund	0.00	0.00
Sewer Fund	8248.77	8173.92
Electric Fund	58654.33	65989.59
Electric Sinking Fund	0.00	0.00
Storm Water Fund	4500.91	0.00
Storm Water Sinking	0.00	5473.00
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$127674.02	\$159881.85

PUBLIC FORUM: None Present

LIBRARY – FY27 BUDGET: Board members Bottorff and Grove, along with Library Director Boyce presented the Ellsworth Library proposed FY 27 Budget with total expenses totaling \$45,850.

FIRE/EMS – FY27 BUDGET: Jayson Evans, Ellsworth Fire Chief, presented the proposed FY27 budgets for the fire departments and EMS departments. The fire department had an increase of 8% compared to expenditure in FY26 and the EMS department an increase of 5% over FY 26.

ECA: Ashley Platte, ECA Board President, represented the community group. A. BYOB trivia night insurance, the group is unable to pursue Dram shop coverage or licensing for alcohol to be present at the upcoming trivia night. B. Motion to approve community center use for a benefit dinner for a community family in need on March 6th by Jensen and seconded by Olson, roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried. C. Motion to approve ECA use of the community center on May 9th for a Mother’s Day brunch from 9am to noon by Sogard and seconded by Olson. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried. D. Motion to grant access/use of the community center on June 26th as a part of Ellsworth Extravaganza to the ECA to host a trivia night and kids movie night by Phipps and second by Olson, roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried. E. Motion by Jensen and second by Phipps to allow ECA usage of the park shelter house as a part of the Ellsworth Extravaganza on June 28th to host a community brunch in correspondence with the community church service in the park. Roll call votes. 4-0. Motion carried.

Council minutes continued on page 9

ELLSWORTH HISTORY MUSEUM DONATION FY27 – DIGITIZING NEWSPAPERS GRANT: Motion by Sogard and seconded by Olson to grant a \$1500 donation from Bingo to the Ellsworth History Museum to assist in the expenses of digitizing the most recent 13 years of the South Hamilton Record News to be hosted on the museum website and the Hamilton County websites. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried

MIDAS LMI SURVEY UPDATE: February 20 deadline for Council members to complete their community survey work.

RESOLUTION 02-09-2026 – SOLID WASTE COMMISSION APPOINTMENT: Motion by Sogard and seconded by Olson to approve Resolution 02-09-2026 to appoint Brian Zimmerman to the Hamilton County Solid Waste Commission. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 02-09-2026 (2) – SUBMISSION OF VENDOR INVOICES: Motion by Jensen and seconded by Olson to approve Resolution 02-09-2026 (2), Vendor Invoices must be turned in prior to 90 days from completion of work for the city. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 02-09-2026(3) COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS: Motion by Sogard and seconded by Olson to approve the following committee and board appointments: Police Board Marcy Olson and Mayor Barry Anksorus, Parks and Recreation Board Marcy Olson and Ladana Sogard, Water Utility Committee Ladana Sogard and Brian Phipps, Electric Utility Committee William Funk and Curtis Jensen, Personnel Committee William Funk, Brian Phipps, and Mayor Barry Anksorus Streets/ Sidewalks Committee Brian Phipps and Curtis Jensen.

CONSIDERATION OF FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 621 – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE NO 621 “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY CODE OF THE CITY OF ELLSWORTH, IOWA, 2026, PERTAINING TO THE ELECTRIC UTILITY”: Motion by Olson and seconded by Jensen to accept the first reading of Ordinance No. 621. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

CONSIDERATION OF MOTION TO WAIVE SECOND AND THIRD READINGS OF ORDINANCE NO. 621 – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO WAIVE THE SECOND AND THIRD READINGS OF ORDINANCE NO. 621 “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY CODE OF THE CITY OF ELLSWORTH, IOWA, 2026, PERTAINING TO THE ELECTRIC UTILITY”: Motion by Sogard and seconded by Phipps to accept waiving of second and third readings of Ordinance No. 621. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

CONSIDERATION OF FINAL PASSAGE AND ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 621 – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE THE FINAL PASSAGE AND ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 621 “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY CODE OF THE CITY OF ELLSWORTH, IOWA, 2026, PERTAINING TO THE ELECTRIC UTILITY”: Motion by Olson and seconded by Jensen to adopt Ordinance No. 621. Roll call votes 4-0. Motion carried.

Council Minuets continued on page 10

PUBLIC WORKS: Public Works Supervisor Nick Vanlangen was present to update council on progress with RO filters in the water plant concerning warranty issues and replacement, he also updated the council on projects Public Works employees were doing around town, presented the Council with a quote for cleaning the inside of the existing water tower, and mentioned several quotes he was looking into for public improvement projects including a potential asphalt pad installation for additional parking a the park shelter house.

CITY HALL: Clerk Eckers presented the Council with the current monthly treasurer’s report, quotes for additional tables and chair racks at the community center, quotes for new replacement chairs and racks at the park shelter house, Clerk Eckers presented the Council with a letter from the Hamilton County Sheriff Department with a year in review, a potential or proposed letter draft for nuisance abatement concerning dead or diseased trees posing risk to public and private property. The Council will revisit the nuisance abatement trees issue at the next session on February 24th. Clerk Eckers also updated the Council on a recent insurance audit she and Supervisor Vanlangen conducted for the city’s current equipment and property.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Anksorus called for adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 7:38 pm.

/s/ Barry Anksorus, Mayor

/s/ Heidi Eckers, City Clerk

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ELLSWORTH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM:

Mail to: Ellsworth Community Association,PO Box 272, Ellsworth, IA 70075

Name _____

Address _____

Home Phone () _____ - _____

Cell Phone () _____ - _____

E Mail _____

Dues: \$20.00 per family per year

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

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

B _____ **A** _____ / _____

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: _____

****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.

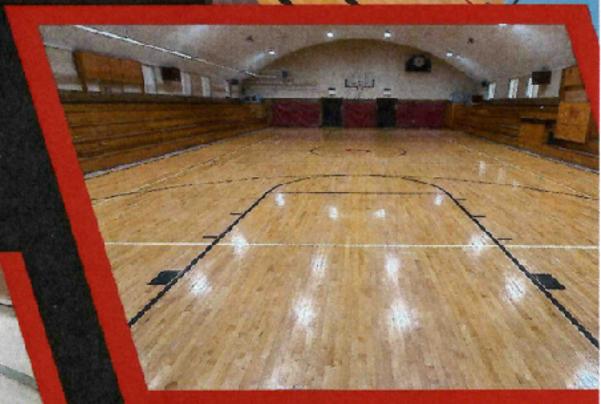
Please mail your entry to:
 Ellsworth Community Association
 PO Box 272
 Ellsworth, IA 50075

Ellsworth Community Center



EVENT SPACE RENTAL

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