

# the town crier

Volume 31 Number 1

March 1, 2018

Ellis, Kansas



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## COMMUNITY BLOOD SCREENING

Tuesday March 6  
7:30---8:30 a.m.

Held in the  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Sponsored by *Ellis County Health Dept.*

Profile	\$30.00
PSA	\$20.00
HbA1c	\$15.00
Vit D	\$30.00

Payment is due  
at the time of the service

Fasting for 12 hours prior  
is recommended.



## 2018 WATERLINE PROJECT

Submitted by Amy Burton, City Clerk

In September 2017, the City applied for Community Development Block Grant funding to replace 4,635 feet of waterlines in the City. The total project cost was estimated at \$665,332, with the grant and the City each paying half. The areas to be improved included:

- ▶ Dorrance Street (11<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> Street)
- ▶ Monroe Street (10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> Street)
- ▶ 15<sup>th</sup> Street (Monroe Street to Washington Street)
- ▶ Baughman Street (10<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> Street) and 11<sup>th</sup> Street (Baughman Street to Cottonwood Street)

In January 2018, the City received notification from the Kansas Department of Commerce that we were not selected for grant funding through the CDBG program. Although disappointed, the City will continue to search for grants and other funding opportunities to continue to improve the City's infrastructure.

We appreciate the hard work performed by Buck Driggs, Driggs Design Group, and Justine Benoit, Northwest Kansas Planning & Development Corporation, for their work in preparing the grant documents. The City plans to apply for grant funding again in the fall of 2018. ◆◆◆



## The City of Ellis is accepting applications for SWIMMING POOL STAFF

We are looking for mature, responsible, reliable and energetic individuals to work as lifeguards and pool house attendants!

Applicants must be 16 years old as of June 1, 2018  
and have transportation available.

Application deadline is 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 30, 2018

Applications and a copy of the job descriptions  
are available at the City Clerk's office.



### DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

begins at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 11th.

Spring clocks forward one hour \* Check the batteries in Fire/Smoke/CO2 detectors



## iPOD GRANT

Submitted by Jolene Niernberger,  
Senior Advisory Committee member

Midwest Energy awarded a Community Fund grant in the amount of \$500 to the Ellis Senior Advisory Committee to purchase Apple iPod shuffles to be enjoyed as personal music systems for individuals who display symptoms of Alzheimer's disease or dementia.

Research has shown that music is a psychological and emotional stimulus, and often helps individuals who suffer from neurologic diseases, recall memories and emotions. Listening to favorite music selections will stimulate the recipients' brains to recall memories of favorite tunes from past years, which then stimulate memories of life experiences. The iPods will be programmed to provide music selections favored by the individuals.

The iPods will be made available to individuals from the community as well as residents of the Good Samaritan Center. Those who wish to participate in the program may contact Rose Tway at 785-726-3101.

Programs previously sponsored by the Committee include senior shopping assistance; the purchase of large print books for Ellis Public Library for the vision impaired; presentations which help to identify and avoid scams; a program sponsored by Ellis County Extension discussing the ten stages of Alzheimer's disease; senior self-defense class; and presentations on financial abuse and senior legal issues. The programs are specific to senior issues but are open to the community. ◆◆◆



State-wide

### EMERGENCY SIREN TEST

Tuesday  
**March 6**  
10:00 a.m.

**Tornado WATCH**  
means a tornado is *POSSIBLE* in our area

**Tornado WARNING**  
means a tornado has been *SIGHTED* in our area



## HAS IT CROSSED YOUR MIND?

Submitted by Alan Scheuerman,  
Public Works Director

This article, written by Stephanie Johnston, Editor in Chief, appeared in the November/December 2017 issue of the Public Works Magazine. As we look towards the public services recognition weeks in May, please take time to consider that all public works functions are equally vital.

### Dear Santa:

#### All We Want is a Little Respect

A 30-year-old City of Rockford, Ill., police officer was killed recently during an early-morning traffic stop. As authorities sorted out what happened, the public, the police department, and elected officials including Gov. Bruce Rauner mourned. Candles were lit and vigils held. Jaimie Cox was added to the city's Officer Down Memorial Page. Motorists were told to expect delays in areas around the funeral home and cemetery.

If that had happened to a public works crew member, as it all-too-often does, would the news make the local paper? Would the city council acknowledge the loss of an employee who contributed so much to the community's quality of life? Would anyone other than his or her immediate family and coworkers even know?

Is it too much to ask that public works be considered as important as police and fire? Public safety is a team effort. Dollar for dollar, in terms of services rendered, public works is more important.

Public works maintains the vehicles and equipment police and fire need to do their job. Public works provides adequate water pressure and flow to fight fires and arranges barricades to redirect traffic. Whether a disaster is natural or manmade, public works is the first out there assessing and reporting the damage. Public works crews and contractors clean up the mess and repair assets—stop signs, traffic signals—that maintain order. During the hurricanes this fall, skeleton crews in Florida, Texas, and all along the coast kept water and sewer service going as long as humanly possible despite worrying about their own families' safety.

No one reading this would denigrate the valuable service that police and fire provide. While you respect their work, I bet you'd like recognition for supporting them and the community overall. Public works professionals are humble people. You don't need top billing, just acknowledgement that you're an integral part of the team. If public works is the backbone of local government services, why does it so often take a back seat when it comes to funding and personnel?

It's not even Thanksgiving, but holiday decorations are up in all the communities I travel through during my daily commute. Their public works crews got the banners and bulbs and lights from storage, loaded them into trucks, drove downtown, and painstakingly wrapped them around streetlights and lampposts. The labor's not glamorous, but the results are uplifting. That's public works in a nutshell. ◆◆◆



To all persons decorating graves at  
**Mount Hope Cemetery**

The Cemetery maintenance personnel will begin trimming and mowing soon. If you wish to retain any decorations that are not permanently mounted,

**please remove those decorations by**

**MAY 11, 2018**

After that date, the maintenance personnel will discard them without any further notice as part of the spring cleanup process.

If you have any questions, please contact the

**Public Works Department**

785.726.4741 785.726.1741

ellispw@eaglecom.net

*Thank you for your cooperation.*



**Cemetery Decorating Regulations**

Toys, boxes, banners, balloons, alcoholic or non-alcoholic beverage containers meant as decorations, shells, objects made of glass, wood, tin, porcelain or clay, baskets, and unapproved containers will not be permitted as long-term grave decorations, and when used, will be removed without notice.

No permanent urns, decorations, ornaments, organizational emblems, or embellishments such as decorative statues, or decorative stones shall be permitted on or around a grave space, unless they are permanently anchored in a concrete foundation that is aligned with the monument foundation; provided that the total foundation, including monument and decorative item does not exceed the maximum foundation length allowed.

Flowers, wreaths, and other temporary decorations will be permitted during the grass-mowing season (April 1 until October 31) provided they must be placed in an approved permanent receptacle or hung from an approved shepherd's hook which shall not exceed forty-eight (48) inches in height on regular grave spaces.

Artificial and fresh flowers, wreaths, and other temporary decorations are permitted for Valentine's Day, Easter, Mother's Day, Memorial Day, Father's Day, Independence Day, Veteran's Day, and Christmas Day with seven (7) days allowed before the holiday for decorating and seven (7) days after for pickup of decorations. All decorations shall be placed within six (6) inches of the memorial marker and secured in a manner that they will not become dislodged or scattered by the winds. No holes may be dug in and around a grave to support flower vases or any other type of container. After the designated decoration time, all decorations not in approved permanent containers will be removed by the City. *[per Ordinance 1402]* ◆◆◆

**INCREASE IN SPECIAL SANITATION FEES**



Submitted by Amy Burton, City Clerk

On February 5<sup>th</sup>, the City Council approved Resolution No. 545 establishing the fee schedule for the City. This was in response to the City receiving notice that disposal fees for the Ellis County Landfill were increasing February 1<sup>st</sup>. Therefore, the City mirrored those increased fees in the approved fee schedule. The changes are as follows:

- **Special pickup charge** is \$10.00 minimum plus \$.05 for every pound over 200 pounds.
- **Appliances tagged as Freon-free** are \$12.00 each (in addition to special pickup charge)
- **Appliances NOT tagged as Freon-free** are \$30.00 each (in addition to special pickup charge)
- **Car Tires without rim** are \$4.00 per tire (in addition to special pickup charge)
- **Car Tires with rim** are \$8.00 per tire (in addition to special pickup charges)
- **Truck and Implement Tires** with or without rim are \$200/ton (in addition to special pickup charge) ◆◆◆



**MUTUAL AID DRILL**

Submitted by Chris Cline, Firefighter

The Ellis Fire Department participated in the annual Ellis County Mutual Aid Drill. Along with the City of Ellis, the city fire departments of Victoria and Hays, and Ellis County Fire Company #5 all participated in the drill.

Hosted by the City of Hays Fire Department, the drill was located at the old Kennedy Middle School building. It focused on interagency communication on a multilevel building with various areas of fire attack.

These annual drills helps promote cooperation within the County because these departments rely on each other for assistance and support. ◆◆◆



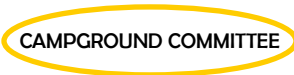
City of Ellis

**VISION STATEMENT**

A truly unique Kansas community, Ellis celebrates its rich heritage of friendly people that value family and strong work ethics while actively promoting quality education and public services.



**WATER ADVISORY BOARD**



**CAMPGROUND COMMITTEE**



**TRADES BOARD**



**TOURISM COMMITTEE**



**SENIOR CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE**



**PLANNING COMMISSION**



# VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

Submitted by Holly Aschenbrenner, Council member

Currently, the City of Ellis is working toward recognizing residents who serve on City committees. We appreciate their contributions of time and effort and the sharing of their diverse viewpoints based on experience and background. The members of these official groups are certainly valued assets in our community. Equally important are those who serve our community in an unofficial capacity.

Ellis has many non-city related organizations and individuals who contribute greatly to making Ellis a strong community. They offer valuable resources to the residents of Ellis, including providing food for the food bank, activities for our families, and fellowship for the ill or aged. Expecting nothing in return, these volunteers help their families, neighbors, and friends by coaching youth sports teams, volunteering to tutor a child, delivering food or lending a shoulder of support for a grieving family, or transporting a neighbor's child to school, to name a few. These thoughtful acts give our residents hope, encouragement, and sense of belonging in our community.

These acts and more are what make our community! We help our neighbors. We offer solutions. When we see a need, we step up. Thank you! ◆◆◆

## CONNECTING WITH THE FIRE DEPARTMENT



Submitted by Chris Cline, Firefighter

The Ellis Fire Department can now be found on Facebook. Check us out at

*City of Ellis, Kansas Fire Department*

We will be posting the latest happenings within the Department such as training and new members. We will also provide emergency updates such as severe weather and other such warnings that might affect the citizens of Ellis. ◆◆◆



## ANNUAL SEWER RE-EVALUATION

Submitted by Charlene Weber, Assistant City Clerk

Municipal utility customers may notice a change in the monthly sewer charge on their April 1<sup>st</sup> bills.

City code states each customer's sewer charge must be reviewed annually and adjusted as necessary. The code states that a monthly average of the water used between the December meter reading and the March meter reading is computed, and that average is then applied to a rate table. The resulting sewer charge will remain in effect for the next 12 months. (A brief sampling of the current sewer charges is listed at the right.)

If you have questions about your specific sewer charge, please contact the City Clerk's office at 726-4812. ◆◆◆

Average Water Usage	Monthly Sewer Charge
0	\$22.78
1,000	\$23.13
2,000	\$23.48
3,000	\$23.83
4,000	\$34.98
5,000	\$48.08
6,000	\$53.14
7,000	\$58.20
8,000	\$63.26



## Swimming Pool Admission Fees

**HOURS OF OPERATION**

Open Swimming Every Day 12:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

**DAILY ADMISSION**

5 & Under . . . . Free      6 – 12 . . . . . \$1.50      Over 12 . . . . . \$2.00

**DAILY SWIM PASSES**

Students 6-12	15-day pass	\$21.00
Students 6-12	30-day pass	\$40.00
Over 12	15-day pass	\$28.00
Over 12	30-day pass	\$54.00



# HOLIDAY TRASH SCHEDULE



**Monday, May 28**  
**Tuesday, May 29**

NO trash or grass pickup on **MEMORIAL DAY**  
Monday and Tuesday trash and grass routes will be run



## SERVICE AWARDS

Submitted by Charlene Weber, Assistant City Clerk

Loyal and dedicated employees form the foundation of every city with a strong, progressive government. In today's mobile society, where frequent job transitions are considered the norm, long-term employees are a rare and valuable asset. The pride and devotion shown by these men and women in their jobs is an important factor in making Kansas communities a better place to live.

In order to promote interest in good government and to command faithful and effective public service by the officers and employees of the City of Ellis, in 1964 the Governing Body began the practice of recognizing city employees for continuous public service. (See photo below.)

Fifty-three years later, the tradition of recognizing dedicated employees continues. Three service awards were presented at the October 16, 2017 City Council meeting by Mayor Dave McDaniel. (See photo at right.) ◆◆◆



**Chris Cline** 10 years Fire Department  
**Dustin Vine** 20 years Fire Department  
**Amy Burton** 5 years City Clerk's Office



**October 13, 1964**

Front row left to right:

Leo Gnad (23 years), Burgess Bieler (13 years), Floyd Henderson (16 years), Ed Wasinger (11 years), Richard Dreiling (14 years)

Back row left to right:

Martin Schoenthaler (15 years), Edwin Dorzweiler (12 years), Emmet J Fuller (19 years), Dale H Henderson (18 years), Richard Kinderknecht (10 years)



## CANDIDATE FILING

Submitted by Amy Burton, City Clerk

As mandated by the Kansas Legislature, all municipalities have moved local elections to the Tuesday succeeding the first Monday each November. What you need to know:

- ▶ The candidate filing deadline is June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- ▶ Candidates must file their *Declaration of Intent* with the County Clerk's office in Hays.
- ▶ The filing fee for candidates for city office is \$20. ◆◆◆



# calendar

### MARCH

- 2 Municipal Court 8:00 am
- 4-10 **WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK**
- 5 City Council 7:30 pm
- 6 Blood Draw 7:30-8:30 am
- 6 State-wide Siren Test 10 am
- 11 Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 16 Municipal Court 8:00 am
- 17 **ST PATRICK'S DAY**
- 19 City Council 7:30 pm
- 26 Planning Comm 7:00 pm
- 27 Storm Spotter Training 3:00 pm and 7:00 pm at 1105 E 22nd in Hays
- 30 **GOOD FRIDAY**  
City offices open

### APRIL

- 1 **EASTER**
- 2 Grass Pickup begins
- 2 City Council 7:30 pm
- 6 Municipal Court 8:00 am
- 16 City Council 7:30 pm
- 17 Income Tax Filing Deadline
- 20 Municipal Court 8:00 am
- 23 Planning Comm 7:00 pm



### MAY

- 4 Municipal Court 8:00 am
- 6-12 **MUNICIPAL CLERK'S WEEK**
- 7 City Council 7:30 pm
- 13-19 **NAT'L POLICE WEEK**
- 13 **MOTHER'S DAY**
- 14 Trades Board 7:00 pm
- 18 Municipal Court 8:00 am
- 20-26 **NAT'L PUBLIC WORKS WK**
- 21 City Council 7:30 pm
- 28 **MEMORIAL DAY**  
City offices closed
- 29 Swimming Pool opens
- 29 Planning Comm 7:00 pm
- 29 PW Summer Hours begin



## LOCAL GOVERNMENT DAY

Submitted by David McDaniel, Mayor

The League of Kansas Municipalities held the annual Local Government Day in Topeka on January 24, 2018. Approximately 250 City and County Officials from across the state gathered at the Topeka Capital Plaza to hear what the Senators and Representatives are working on at the Capital.

In the morning elected officials were urged to make appointments at the Capital with their representatives to let them know areas of concern. Mayor McDaniel and Governing Body member Jolene Niernberger met with Representative Ken Rahjes, Senator Rick Billinger and briefly spoke to Representative Eber Phelps.

In the afternoon, the Kansas Mayors' Association held a luncheon to assemble mayors from across the state and to honor the winners of the contest "If I Were Mayor". Awards for the 375 7<sup>th</sup>-graders participating were given out at the afternoon session. Six regional 7<sup>th</sup>-graders and one top student's work received awards. Mayor McDaniel spoke and introduced the Mayors' Association Board and introduced the speaker for the event.

The afternoon hours were consumed by reports from League and legislative officials telling about some of the issues coming before the Legislature this session. There are lots of important topics being addressed this session but a particularly "hot button" item for Ellis to keep watch on is the Amusement Rides & Agra-tourism bill SB307 which could adversely affect if not cripple our miniature train ride attraction in Ellis.

The afternoon ended with a reception where legislators, city, and county officials came together one-on-one and shared ideas on important issues. Legislators Billinger and Rahjes were very generous with their time and the concerns shared by your Ellis representatives.

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Beginning  
Tuesday, May 29  
Public Works Department  
will work

### SUMMER HOURS

7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The City Clerk's office will continue working regular hours  
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
during the summer.

## PAYMENT OPTIONS



Submitted by Charlene Weber,  
Assistant City Clerk

There are a variety of methods customers may use to pay their utility bills.

- Customers may come into the City Clerk's Office Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. [*normally open through the lunch hour*]
- Customers may place payments in the night drop located between the windows south of the main door.
- Customers may sign up for direct withdrawal of the bills from their bank accounts. [*Payments are withdrawn from customer bank accounts on the 10th of each month, or the first working day following the 10th should the 10th fall on a weekend.*]
- Customers may use the online bill pay service offered by their preferred bank. [*Just remember that the bank must MAIL the payment. Regardless of the date the bank pulls the money from your account, if they do not mail it in time to be post-marked by the 15th of the month, the payment will be considered to be late.*]
- Customers may use debit or credit cards to pay bills over the phone or in person. [*The processing company the City uses will charge the customer a \$3.95 processing fee for each transaction.*]

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## RABIES CLINIC

Submitted by  
Margie Mickelson, Clerk I

The City of Ellis held its 7th annual rabies clinic here in town on February 10th from 12:30 p.m. until 2 p.m., where patrons could bring their dogs and cats to be vaccinated. Brandon Weidenhaft, DVM, from Big Creek Veterinary Services graciously agreed to conduct the clinic along with the help of Mark Augustine.

Five individuals took advantage of this event and brought five of their pets to the back of the City Shop to be vaccinated. Margie Mickelson was also present throughout the event to collect the fees and also sell 2018 city dog tags.

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## WHERE AM I?

Submitted by Jake Schartz,  
Public Works Street Department

Have you ever caught yourself trying to read a street sign in Ellis and had trouble due to fading and poor visibility of the orange and white signs? Worry no more. The City has been working hard to replace those hard to read signs with a much brighter and easier to read green and white sign.

We have even added a few new signs. One is on the corner of West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Terrace and Dorrance. We also plan to add three more signs—at Lakeview Drive and Dorrance, East 20<sup>th</sup> and Maple, and West 14<sup>th</sup> and Woodbury. With the new signs it should provide the traveling public in Ellis a pleasant and easier to navigate experience.

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# SAFETY FIRST

Submitted by Taft Yates, Chief of Police

I hope all of you had a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year. The weather has been very kind to all of us so far. All of the officers at the Ellis Police Department would like to thank everyone for their attentive driving. Due to your attentiveness there were very few vehicle accidents in the City of Ellis.

The Police Department has purchased the upgraded radio system along with the Ellis County Sheriff's Department, Ellis County Emergency Management and FHSU Police Department.

Ellis Police Department officers are continuing with ongoing education in the areas of interviews, First Aid/CPR and active shooter programs. All of our training is to continue to keep our great community safe. We are also working with the Ellis High School media to provide informational videos to the school students and staff.

Spring is just a short time away. Please take care when driving in the rain. Remember when the rain first starts the roads again can be slick due to oils on the roadway. As the rain continues the oils dissipate with more rain. Please do not drive through high waters. In one foot of water and a three mile-per-hour current, your car can be swept away. If you are driving in the rain and the visibility gets so bad please find a SAFE place to pull over and stop. Turn on your emergency flashers and wait for the rain to subside. Call someone immediately to let them know where you are and you are okay. Do not drive in a hail storm. If there is a tornado, stop and get into the nearest low ground and wait for the tornado to pass.

Do not try to out drive the tornado.

Let's make 2018 an even better year.

*Adventures always and safety first. Always be a dreamer and set goals for yourself to accomplish. You only fail if you give up. Remember where there is a will there is a way to accomplish your goals in life. Through time comes change. So we must Adapt, Improve and Overcome to successfully reach our goals in life.*



# NOVEMBER ELECTIONS

Submitted by Amy Burton, City Clerk

On November 7, 2017, the City of Ellis held its second fall election. The positions up for election included three City Council seats, the Mayor, and the City Treasurer. A total of eight candidates filed by the June 1<sup>st</sup> deadline to be included on the ballot – five for City Council, two for Mayor, and one for City Treasurer. Those filing for City Council included incumbents Bret Andries, Holly Aschenbrenner, and Bob Redger, along with past Council members Martin LaBarge and Brian Raub. Incumbent David McDaniel and current Council member Dena Patee filed for the Mayor's position, and incumbent City Treasurer Faith Scheck ran unopposed. After the polls closed and the votes were tallied, the County Election Officer released the following vote counts:

<b>Mayor</b>	<b>Council members</b>	<b>City Treasurer</b>
David McDaniel — 294	Robert Redger – 367	Faith Scheck – 500
Dena Patee -- 236	Bret Andries – 337	
	Holly Aschenbrenner – 299	
	Martin LaBarge – 238	
	Brian Raub – 184	

The individuals in **bold** were sworn into office at the January 8, 2018 Council meeting. Normally, shortly after the newly elected are sworn in, the Governing Body takes part in an orientation work session. The work session provides an overview of their duties as council members and includes a short review of municipal law, how city government operates, the Kansas Open Meetings Act, ethics, and conflict of interest. Council members chose to forgo the annual Council orientation work session since all of the newly elected officials were incumbents. Many citizens do not realize that Council members only have authority to act in that capacity when seated as a council in open session. Even if they are serving on a City committee, they are simply a member of that committee and do not have authority to act as a Council member. The above example is just one of the many laws and policies that council members need to be aware of to effectively carry out their duties. The City is very fortunate to have candidates willing to serve our citizens in a leadership role. Please join me in congratulating David, Bob, Bret, Holly, and Faith in their election win!



## City of Ellis MISSION STATEMENT

*The City of Ellis efficiently promotes infrastructure and beautification programs, supporting community growth while preserving its intrinsic small town charm.*



# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Submitted by Chris Cline, Firefighter

The Ellis Fire Department is excited to introduce its three newest members: Brad Deines, Zach Dinicola, and Sydney Dinicola. Brad comes from the Wakeeney area and is employed by USIC as a locator. Zach is from the Wichita area and is an EMT/Paramedic for Ellis County EMS. Sydney is also from the Wichita area and is a graduate student at FHSU majoring in Speech Language Pathology.

All three bring enthusiasm and determination to the Fire Department and express excitement for the opportunity to assist the citizens of Ellis in emergency situations.



# GREAT PLACE TO PLAY, VISIT, AND STAY

Submitted by Cheryl Kinderknecht, Tourism Committee member



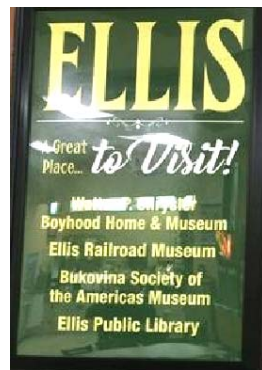
The message that Ellis is a *Great Place to Play, Visit, and Stay* is now going strong. Travelers along I-70 can now view Ellis billboards showing the three aspects of our community. Currently there are two billboards to the west of Ellis and three to the east of Ellis. Some repairs need to be made to a billboard frame to the west before the sixth wrap can be installed.



The *Play, Visit, and Stay* message will also be seen when travelers stop at the Love's Travel Plaza in Ellis.

The 11 padded panels in the Subway/Dairy Queen dining area now have information on the museums, playgrounds, library, campgrounds, medical facilities, and fairgrounds on display. There is also information on the location of the city offices, schools and sports venues. This tourism display was funded by a grant from the Community Foundation of Ellis. It is great to complete a project that has so many groups of the community working together – printing from the Ellis Alliance, funds from the Foundation, creation and installation from members of the Tourism Committee and Love's allowing the display.

As the message grows from the billboards, radio ads, TV ads and the display panels at Love's make sure to remember – *Ellis is a Great Place to Play, Visit and Stay.* ♦♦♦



## ON TRACK WITH RR MUSEUM AND DOLL DISPLAY



Submitted by Glen Keller, Ellis RR Museum President

The Ellis RR Museum is working on getting ready for our reopening in April. The museum received two Midwest Energy Grants at the end of the 2017. We received a grant to redo the museum sign in front of the building and a grant to purchase new tables and chairs for the community room in the basement of the museum.

Sam Pyle is currently working on a Scout Community Project by redoing the large room in the basement with new paint and redoing the floor. The room will be in great condition when he completes that project. We give Sam a great THANK YOU for doing this project.

The Museum is working on updating the BK & E Railroad Engine and Cars. We are planning a garage for the safe storage of the train and on the updating of the train track. Plans are also being worked on for an update to the outside of the depot, repainting of the caboose, and grounds work in the outside museum complex area. We are hoping to lay more brick on the south side of the depot and working on a seating area south of the museum.

Inside we are setting displays and revamping the Museum Gift Shop. The Doll Display and Model Train Display areas are also being updated in upcoming months.

Make sure and visit the Ellis RR Museum and check out the railroad history on display. ♦♦♦

## GRASS PICKUP RESUMES



Submitted by Charlene Weber, Assistant City Clerk

Starting April 2<sup>nd</sup>, the grass route will be run on Monday of each week, unless the Monday is a designated City holiday. (Consult the *Holiday Trash Schedule* in this newsletter for the alternate pick up day.)

Grass carts are available for \$2.06 per month per cart. We ask that you put only GRASS in the carts as it is fed to livestock.

We will not pick up leaves or branches in the green carts. There is an extra pick up charge if the City picks up branches. (Remember branches need to be bundled and cut into 4-foot lengths). Put leaves in the TRASH carts to be hauled to the landfill. We will not pick up bags or other items left on the ground without a special pick up order. ♦♦♦

the town crier, official newsletter of the City of Ellis, is distributed quarterly (March, June, September and December).

Questions, comments or suggestions about the newsletter may be directed to:

City Clerk's Office  
815 Jefferson • Ellis KS 67637  
(785) 726-4812 • ellisclerk@eaglecom.net