

# the town crier

Volume 35 Number 3

September 1, 2023

Ellis, Kansas



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## Swim Pool

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We will be **CLOSED** Monday,  
 September 4th for



**The Public Works Department  
 will return to 8am to 5pm work hours  
 on September 5, 2023.**



## Preparing for Fall

Submitted by Tim Kohlrus, Firefighter

As the fall season brings cooler temperatures outside, inside things are warming up. During the fall and winter months, fire hazards in your home or business stem largely from heating the space. According to the American Red Cross there is even a drastic increase in the amount of US house fires during this time.

Here are few tips to help you stay safe during the during the coming months.

- 1. Replace the batteries in your smoke alarms & locate fire extinguishers.**
- 2. Develop a home fire safety and evacuation plan.**
- 3. Through proper training, develop a post-fire recovery plan.**
- 4. Check your heating system!** Here are a few things you can do to reduce the risk of **furnace fires**:
  - Regularly replace furnace filters.
  - Keep all areas around the furnace clean and unobstructed.
  - Keep the burner area clean and clear of debris.
  - Keep all combustible items at least 6" away from the vent pipe.
  - Never close off more than 20% of heat registers.
  - If there are any issues with your heating system, contact a professional immediately. For preventative care, have your central heating system cleaned and serviced by a certified HVAC contractor once annually.
- 5. Keep your fireplace clear of debris, and have it inspected each year.** A few things you can do to enhance fireplace safety:
  - Use a fireplace screen, guard, or glass doors to keep hot ash and sparks contained.
  - Store extra wood, and other types of combustible materials, at least five-feet away from your fireplace.
  - Never leave a fire unattended.
  - Burn seasoned hardwoods, such as oak, that have been split and stored in a safe and dry environment for at least six-months.
  - Keep fires small – Never overload your fireplace.
  - When building a fire, strategically place logs on a metal grate at the back end of your fireplace; always use kindling to ignite fire.



A little planning and preventative action will help keep everyone safe and ready in case of a real fire.



## Accessory Structures in the Floodplain

Submitted by Steve Homburg, Certified Floodplain Manager

When comparing aerial photos from year to year, one prominent trend is the abundance of sheds, barns, and other accessory structures that pop up like mushrooms after a spring rain. FEMA Technical Bulletin (TB) 7 explains that “Communities may allow wet floodproofing of low-cost and small accessory structures provided that they represent a minimal investment and are designed to have a low damage potential.” TB-7 further stipulates that “communities may allow wet floodproofing [of accessory structures] only through the issuance of a variance.” While accessory structures



may not need to be elevated as securely as a new home, it is important for floodplain administrators to ensure that these structures are permitted, tracked, and built properly if they are located in a Special Flood Hazard Area. Failure to do so could result in probation or suspension from the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

In Ellis, projects below a certain size threshold (120 square feet) are exempt from the requirement to obtain a building permit. **However, any improvement done in the floodplain requires a Floodplain Development Permit.** Additionally, many property owners with Letters of Map Amendment (LOMAs) may not realize that sections of floodplain can remain on their lot even after the principal structure has been removed.

The Building Permit fee here in the City of Ellis is based on the cost of improvement plus inspection fees. The Floodplain Development Permit is currently \$25.00.

One common question from property owners involves TB-7's wet floodproofing requirements. These state that an accessory structure “must be anchored to resist flotation, collapse, and lateral movement...be constructed of flood resistant materials...[and] be designed to allow for the automatic entry of flood waters.” The latter provision can be satisfied by installing openings below the BFE as described in TB-1. For a chart classifying building materials based on their resistance to flood damage, developers can turn to TB-2.

Another common question occurs when property owners ask whether or not an Elevation Certificate (EC) is required. This can become a point of contention, as the survey work necessary for an EC can sometimes cost more than the accessory structure itself. A structure with no mechanical or utility equipment that is not elevated or dry-floodproofed would not need an Elevation Certificate or Floodproofing Certificate. A shed with utilities will need an Elevation Certificate.

If you wish to get a copy of FEMA's TB-1, TB-2, TB-7, or have any questions please contact the Public Works Office at 785-726-4741.



While doing your yard work, please remember that the City's

### **BURN SITE**

accepts **ONLY** tree limbs, branches and brush.

The Site does **NOT** accept grass, leaves, lumber,  
or miscellaneous wooden items.

Take your grass, leaves and garden waste to the  
**COMPOST SITE.**



## Back to School Basics

Submitted by Avery Smith, Chief of Police

Welcome back to school, Railers! With the start of school, you may notice officers patrolling school zones frequently during active hours. Our goal is to enhance the safety for students and motorists that are walking and driving to and from school and ensure their safety. Please stop for persons in crosswalks and slow down to the appropriate speed in school zones. With the completion of summertime driver's education courses, it may be tempting to allow your young drivers to take themselves to school and other activities. The Ellis Police Department encourages parents to remind their young drivers of the restrictions that come with their shiny new driver's license or permit.

Please take the time to visit <https://www.ksrevenue.gov/dovgdl.html> to view a complete list of the “*Graduated Driver License Requirements for Teen Drivers*” conveniently located on the Kansas Department of Revenue's website. We also encourage parents to ask your children to not use mobile devices while driving. Conditions and hazards that are present on the road are constantly changing and drivers that have their heads buried in their phones aren't able to react to changes.

Be safe and have a great school year!



## That's a Wrap!

Submitted by Amy Burton, City Clerk

We hope everyone enjoyed this past pool season! A huge thanks to our pool staff for a fun and safe summer: Manager Ashley Kauten, Head Lifeguards Ava Reed and Madi Russell, Lifeguards Braelyn Born, Grace Brull, Toby Honas, Chance Jimenez, Logan Russell, Taylor Seibel, Taegan Shannon, Jadyn Starns, Maleah Vine, and Mason Younger, and Pool House Attendants Mason Rohleder and Alyssa Rome.

We had five Water Safety Instructors that led the two sessions of Red Cross swimming lessons – Grace Brull, Toby Honas, Ava Reed, Madi Russell, and Maleah Vine. They also held private swimming lessons before and after regular pool hours.

Mother Nature spoiled many of our pool days with cloudy skies and cooler weather. Those conditions also spoiled our attendance with 3,487 patrons visiting the pool this year, down from 3,687 last year. Water aerobics continued to be popular with 117 participants and we hosted 17 pool parties! Thank you all for making 2023 another successful year! We can't wait to see you next summer!





## Last Grass Pickup

Submitted by Verda Flinn,  
Assistant City Clerk

The **LAST GRASS PICKUP** of 2023 will be Monday, **October 30, 2023**.

After that date, the Sanitation Crew will **NOT** empty the green grass carts again until next April. You are welcome to store the grass cart at your residence until the next mowing season.

If you are still mowing grass after October 30th, you will need to put the **BAGGED** grass clippings in your trash cart or haul them to the compost pile.

During the winter season, grass carts may not be used as "extra" trash carts. If you have more trash than your regular trash cart can hold, please call 785-726-4812 for a special trash pickup.



## Trailers on the Street

Submitted by Avery Smith, Chief of Police

Greetings all, we hope your summer was full of fun and memorable activities for your whole family. With winter fast approaching, I'd like to take some time to remind you that per the Standard Traffic Ordinance for Kansas Cities, it is unlawful to store trailers on the street unless they are attached to a vehicle.

STO Section 93 states:

**"Sec. 93. Parking Disabled and Other Vehicles. (a) No person shall park or store any farm machinery, trailer or semitrailer of any kind, or parts of the same, or any dead, damaged or disabled motor vehicle or farm machinery, trailer or semitrailer of any kind, in the roadway of any highway, or between the property line or sidewalk and the curb line of any street."**



Our public works crew works hard to maintain our streets. When wintry conditions take a firm grip on our town, trailers that are stored on the street cause an unnecessary hazard for those who are trying their best to navigate our narrow streets. Some of these improperly stored trailers can be buried under snow drifts and contribute to accidents that wouldn't have normally happened if the trailer had been removed from the street.



## Utility Rate Changes (Comparison of Current to New)

Submitted by Verda Flinn, Assistant City Clerk

One of the items analyzed during the budget process is if the current utility rates can continue to cover the expenditures needed to maintain each utility. The City has three main utility funds – water, sewer, and sanitation (trash).

Under State Statute, municipal utility funds have to sustain themselves - meaning enough revenue has to be charged to pay that fund's expenses. In August 2016, Council adopted Ordinance No. 1407 providing for automatic utility rate increases of 2%, in hopes that regular, small inflationary increases will prevent larger "catch up" rate increases from being necessary. This percentage may be adjusted, if needed, by Resolution.

This Ordinance is then reviewed each year during preparation of the budget to determine if the 2% increase will be adequate for the next year. Upon analyzing the utility funds, Council chose to prepare the budget with the automatic 2% increase in the water utility, sewer utility and sanitation rates. The new utility rates will become effective with the **November 1, 2023** utility bills, for usage from September 10<sup>th</sup> – October 10<sup>th</sup>.

	CURRENT	Starting with November 1, 2023 billing	
	4,000	4,000	Gallons of water billed (Sample Usage Only - Actual usage unique to each household)
	\$12.86	\$13.12	3/4" Meter Monthly Rate
	\$4.93	\$5.03	Water Usage Rate (per 1,000 gallons)
	\$0.032	\$0.032	State Water Fee Rate (per 1,000 gallons)
<b>WT</b>	\$32.57	\$33.23	Total Water Charge (monthly meter charge PLUS charge for water usage)
<b>WF</b>	\$0.13	\$0.13	State Water Fee
<b>BD</b>	\$26.13	\$26.13	Monthly Water Bond Payment Fee
<b>SW</b>	\$39.76	\$40.56	Monthly Sewer Charge
<b>SN</b>	\$28.70	\$29.27	Monthly Sanitation Charge
<b>TR</b>	\$9.19	\$9.37	Monthly ADDITIONAL Trash Cart Charge (i.e.—second trash cart)
<b>GR</b>	\$2.28	\$2.33	Monthly Grass Cart Charge (for EACH grass cart*)
	<b>\$138.76</b>	<b>\$141.02</b>	<b>TOTAL RESIDENTIAL FAMILY UTILITY BILL</b>

1.6 % Increase in TOTAL utility bill \*Grass carts are only billed May-November.



## HOLIDAY TRASH SCHEDULE



- Monday, September 4.....NO trash pickup on **LABOR DAY**
- Tuesday, September 5.....The Monday grass/trash and Tuesday trash routes will be run
- Monday, October 2 .....The Monday grass route will not be ran due to the City Wide Cleanup
- Friday, November 10 .....NO trash pickup on **VETERANS DAY OBSERVED**
- Monday, November 13.....The Friday and Monday trash routes will be run
- Wednesday, November 22 ...The Wednesday and Thursday trash routes will be run
- Thursday, November 23 .....NO trash pickup on **THANKSGIVING DAY**
- Friday, November 24 .....NO trash pickup on **Thanksgiving observation**
- Monday, November 27 .....The Friday and Monday trash routes will be run





# Private Wells in Ellis

Submitted by John Leiker, Public Works Director

The City of Ellis has codes in place to regulate the drilling of water wells within the City limits and within the three mile extra territorial boundary of the City. They include, but are not limited to, the following:

### Article 6. Private Well Drilling

5-601. Act unlawful. (a) It shall be unlawful for any person or corporation to drill, or cause to be drilled a private water well within the corporate limits of the City unless it complies with the terms of this section. (b) Definition. A private water well system covered by this article shall include any cistern, tank or other means of collection and storing water.

(Ord. 1071, Secs. 1,4)

5-602 License required; fees. (a) Before any private water well is drilled in the City, an application for permit must be filed with the office of the City Clerk. The City Clerk shall then submit such application to the City Council for its approval. (b) The governing body shall examine the application; and if it is determined that none of the City water wells will be adversely affected, the governing body may issue a permit to the applicant, upon receipt of a \$25 permit fee.

There are also State of Kansas regulations that must be followed when drilling private water wells.

As far as private water well usage, the City of Ellis does not have the authority at this time to regulate when private water well owners can use water for lawn irrigation. If, or when, we start going into water restriction stages, the City can apply to the State for permission to enforce the restrictions on private wells. This was done several years ago when the City of Ellis was in stage three water restrictions.

Our hope and prayer is that we will continue to receive enough rain to keep us out of restrictions. We also hope people will be conservative with their water use as we remain in drought conditions.



**City code prohibits vegetation watering between the hours of Noon to 7:00 p.m. year round.**



## Full-time Employment Opportunity

The City of Ellis is accepting applications for a highly motivated individual to join our police force!

### Benefits Include:

- Competitive Wage
- Single/Family health, dental and vision insurance paid 100% by employer.
- Single life insurance policy paid 100% by employer.
- Sick leave, Vacation, Paid holidays, and KPERs
- Uniforms are provided. Boot reimbursement done on a yearly basis.
- Supportive City Council and community.

For an application packet and full list of employment benefits, please contact the Ellis City Clerk's Office, 815 Jefferson, Ellis, KS or visit our website at [www.ellis.ks.us](http://www.ellis.ks.us)

The City of Ellis is an Equal Opportunity Employer and reserves the right to reject any and all applications



# calendar



## SEPTEMBER

- 1 Municipal Court 8:00 am
- 4 **LABOR DAY**  
City offices closed
- 5 Public Works resumes  
8-5 work hours  
City Council 6:30 pm
- 15 Municipal Court 8:00 am
- 18 City Council 6:30 pm
- 25 Planning Comm 7:00 pm



## OCTOBER

- 2 City Council 6:30 pm  
CITY-WIDE CLEANUP
- 6 Municipal Court 8:00 am
- 16 City Council 6:30 pm
- 17 Voter Registration Books closed until after election
- 20 Municipal Court 8:00 am
- 23 Planning Comm 7:00 pm
- 30 **Last Grass Pickup**
- 31 **HALLOWEEN**

## NOVEMBER

- 3 Municipal Court 8:00 am
- 5 Daylight Saving Time Ends
- 6 City Council 6:30 pm
- 7 **ELECTION DAY**  
City-State-National offices
- 8 Voter Registration Books Re-open
- 10 **VETERANS DAY OBSERVED**  
City offices closed
- 17 Municipal Court 8:00 am
- 20 City Council 6:30 pm
- 23 **THANKSGIVING**  
City offices closed
- 24 **Thanksgiving Holiday**  
City offices closed
- 27 Planning Comm 7:00 pm



# 2024 Budget Preparation

Submitted by Amy Burton, City Clerk

On August 21<sup>st</sup>, along with the regular Council meeting, the City held its Revenue Neutral Rate (RNR) Hearing and Budget Hearing for the 2024 budget document. The RNR Hearing is required under K.S.A. 79-2988. The Act prohibits municipalities from levying a single dollar more of property tax than the prior year without a Revenue Neutral Rate hearing. If the City would not hold this hearing, and levy more tax dollars than the dollars levied last year, the City would be required to refund taxpayers every dollar received in excess of last year's levy.

The Revenue Neutral Rate is a calculation dividing the previous year's property tax raised in dollars by the current year's estimated assessed valuation. For the 2024 budget, the City's RNR was 69.553, compared to a 2023 final adjusted mill levy rate of 74.945.

The City's estimated valuation increased for the third year in a row, from \$13,534,633 to \$14,631,818. The value of one mill for the 2024 budget was \$14,632, which means that every mill assessed generates approximately \$14,632 in tax dollars to fund the 2024 budget.

The Governing Body participated in three budget work sessions, including one with the City's budget consultant from Adams Brown. The City prepared the budget maintaining the same mill levy rate as 2023. The City has not increased the mill levy for the last three years. Under the 2024 budget, the City will be able to maintain the same level of services to residents; however, many capital improvements and equipment purchases will have to be delayed.

The City Council appropriated 4.17 mills (\$61,000) in aid to the Ellis Railroad Museum, Walter P. Chrysler Boyhood Home & Museum, Ellis Alliance, Ellis Community Foundation, Options, Ellis Recreation Commission, Grow Hays, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and the Center for Life Experience. As required by Charter Ordinance, 4 mills were levied for the Ellis Public Library (\$60,986). In addition to the required 4 mills, the City appropriated another 0.82 mills (\$12,000) to the Library for capital improvements, personnel, and programming.

The City was able to fund operations of the utility funds within the automatic 2% rate increase as authorized by Ordinance No. 1407. This ordinance has allowed Council to make small inflationary increases rather than large rate jumps. The City has the authority to implement a higher rate increase by approving a resolution; however, the automatic 2% increase was sufficient to provide the same level of service.

The provisions of K.S.A. 79-2988 shortens an already intense and extensive process. Staff spend an incredible number of hours preparing the budget for consideration. Staff and Council have worked hard to make sure a fair budget is prepared. I applaud the Council in their effort to ensure public dollars are spent wisely!



## City Municipal Building Mural

Submitted by Verda Flinn, Assistant City Clerk

In 1997, the south wall of the City Municipal Building received a makeover with a mural painted by Blaine O'Dell. Twenty-six years later, the south wall needed some patching to repair cracks and rotted wood behind the wall. When the repairs were done, the existing mural was covered up with the patch work and sealed with paint.



City Council envisions a new mural on the wall and is asking for the community's input. In order to apply for grants to help offset the cost of the mural, a design concept and cost estimate will need to be completed. Therefore, Council would like to hear ideas from the community as to what they would like to see in the new mural. Things to consider include another landscape, significant people who helped establish the community, a historical timeline of photos, or the word "Ellis" with a collage of

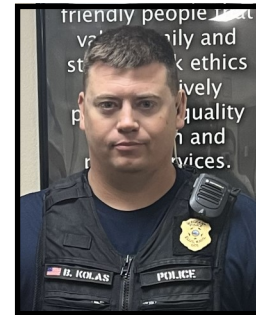
images representing the community. Would the community like to see a more realistic mural or an abstract design? The possibilities are endless!

Council encourages anyone with an idea for the mural to let them know your thoughts in the next two months. They will take everything into consideration and put together a mural that represents the vision of our community.



## Meet your Police Sergeant!

Submitted by Avery Smith, Chief of Police



Benjamin Kolas was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in August of 2023. Ben has been with the Ellis Police Department for over four-and-a-half years and has met all of the standards that have been set forth to be promoted

to the rank of Sergeant. Ben is the department's Taser Instructor and Field Training Officer. Ben is also a veteran and has previously served with the National Guard and has been deployed overseas numerous times. Ben possesses a wealth of knowledge and continues to be a mentor to our new officers. Next time you see Sergeant Kolas, please congratulate him!

### 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.*



# Flooding in Ellis

Submitted by Steve Homburg, Certified Floodplain Manager

Parts of the City of Ellis are in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). These areas are susceptible to flooding from Big Creek or the tributaries of Big Creek. If you live in the SFHA, flood insurance is a good investment. To see if your house is protected from flooding, contact your insurance agent. For renters and home owners, contents insurance is available for flooding. There is a 30 day waiting period for the policy to take effect, so waiting for a flood to occur, then buying a policy will not work.



If there is water running across a street or road. Turn around, don't drown is a message that could save your life.

It is a good idea to store any valuable records and possessions in a water tight container.

Always check at the Public Works Office before any building or improvements are started to see if you need a building permit and a floodplain permit.

Keeping trees and other brush cleared in the natural drainage of the town keeps the water flowing and stops it from backing up and causing a rise in the water level.



# Your Vote Counts!

Submitted by Amy Burton, City Clerk

On November 7<sup>th</sup> registered voters will head to the polls to elect individuals for our local government. This year, there are five positions up for election – Mayor, City Treasurer, and three Council member seats. Those positions are currently held by Mayor David McDaniel, City Treasurer Faith Scheck, and Council members John Walz, Devin Henderson, and Tricia Pritchett. All of the incumbents have filed for re-election, with the exception of Council member Tricia Pritchett. The positions of Mayor and Treasurer have no opposition; however, four candidates have filed for the three open council member seats. Those filing for Council member include incumbents Devin Henderson and John Walz, and residents Brady Richards and Terry Zervas.

The polls will be open from 7:00 a.m.

to 7:00 p.m. and everyone votes at the Ellis VFW located at 813 Jefferson, next to City Hall. Get out on November 7<sup>th</sup> and let your voice be heard!



# Ellis Lakeside Campground Expansion Project Phase II

Submitted by Verda Flinn, Campground Committee Member

When the City of Ellis developed the campground expansion area in 2020, the Campground Committee planned in the future to update the old, worn out playground equipment and add an ADA gender neutral restroom/shower facility out of the floodway/floodplain in the expansion area. The Council has been budgeting money each year since for this project. In September 2022, the State of Kansas announced an opportunity for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding. Since our community is qualified to apply for this low-to-moderate income (LMI) grant and our project fits into one of the categories, the Council voted to move forward with the project. The City contracted with Driggs Design Group in developing the first phase of the expansion area, and again to help develop this project in the expansion area.

The project consists of a prefabricated restroom/shower facility located in the expansion area that provides four individual ADA restroom/shower units, with each having their own entrance for privacy. A concrete, handicap accessible parking spot will be added by the new facility with a sidewalk leading to it. A sidewalk will be poured from the new facility to the existing sidewalk along the west side of the expansion to create easy access to the original campground.

A fun and safe ADA accessible playground area will be located near the new restroom/shower facility. The plan includes at least three significant pieces of playground equipment. A concrete border will be poured around the new playground equipment to help contain the fill material for safety. A sidewalk will be poured from the playground area to the new sidewalk along the parking area for the new restroom/shower facility. Lighting will be added for evening and nighttime safety. Trees and grass will be planted with benches placed around the playground area.

In late July 2023, the City of Ellis was notified that we were awarded CDBG funding in the amount of \$334,216.00. The City also received grants from the Dane G. Hansen Foundation in the amount of \$45,000.00 and the Heartland Community Foundation in the amount of \$7,059.00 to help with the required 30% matching funds for CDBG. The City has applied for the Community Foundation of Ellis Grant and Midwest Energy Community Fund/Impact Grant to help reduce the City's project costs, currently at \$91,176.00. We are awaiting notification as to whether the City will be awarded grant funds from

these organizations. We are also researching other grant opportunities to help offset the remaining matching funds needed to make the improvements to a vital community attraction within Ellis.

The City plans to bid the project out by the end of the year and begin construction in Spring 2024, before the camping season picks up. If the weather cooperates, and there are no delays in materials/construction, the project should be completed in 2024.

With the addition of a modern ADA accessible playground and an ADA restroom/shower facility, the City hopes more families will come together and enjoy the amenities the campground has to offer. Taking care of and improving the campground will entice more visitors to our community, which in turn, hopefully they will visit the museums, frequent the local businesses and maybe someday, make Ellis their home!







# CANDIDATE COMMENTS

On August 1, 2023 the candidates who filed for a position on the Governing Body were asked the following questions:

- ▶ *What position are you running for?*
  - ▶ *What do you think are your qualifications for this position?*
    - ▶ *What do you think are the most important issues facing the City during the next two years, and how should they be dealt with?*

The following responses have been printed exactly as the candidate submitted.

## ***What position are you running for?***

I'm Terry Zerfas, I have filed for a two year term on the City Council.

## **Terry Zerfas**

## ***What do you think are your qualifications for this position?***

I have spent most of my working years in education--teaching at the high school level. Over the years I've worked with the public, set goals, written objectives and participated in grants for State funding for departmental projects. While employed by a consulting engineering firm, I was introduced to areas of street design and layout, waste water updates, sanitary sewer improvements. All of these items and the ability to analyze and to reason out situations will help me to serve on the council.

## ***What do you think are the most important issues facing the City during the next two years, and how should they be dealt with?***

Important issues for the City during the next two years:

1. The completion of the water line project from rural areas to the city limits, to have it on line and fully operational. The only fly in the ointment is, the total cost, the City has to have solid numbers--no cost over runs, no run away spending!
2. Street maintenance and repairs. I don't believe the City will generate enough revenue to totally replace many streets, so the solution is to repair the streets. The City has the man power and the equipment to do this. What needs to be established is a plan of action by the council and then sticking to it.
3. Curb removal and replacement. This should be a year around project that should not be controlled by the season, starting with the curb joining brick streets that have the bricks of the street coming apart.
4. Reviewing of the City codes, updating codes, addressing the relevance of codes in relation to what is happening in the community, how they are being handled and enforced.
5. Every department of the City is important: police, fire, water, sanitation, waste water, streets, parks, office personnel and everything should be functioning as efficient as possible --the bottom line is, it makes the community a better place to live.

## ***What position are you running for?***

My name is John Walz and I am running for a position as Ellis City Council Member.

## **John Walz**

## ***What do you think are your qualifications for this position?***

I feel my qualifications for this position are my years of public service as a City Council Member, School Board Member, Ellis Recreation Commission Member and K-18 Baseball Commissioner.

I also have job experience from my years in Law Enforcement, Water Plant Operator and construction work.

## ***What do you think are the most important issues facing the City during the next two years, and how should they be dealt with?***

The most important issues facing Ellis, Kansas are the following:

1. Getting our new source of water to Ellis to blend with our existing water source to comply with water standards and to make sure we have an adequate water supply. The process is in place and underway.
2. Our streets are needing attention and we must come up with funding sources. Looking for grant dollars and the possibility of adding a sales tax to create street designated revenue.
3. Available housing must be addressed for our workforce and school district to survive. Presently a developer is starting on a TIF Project, Tax Increment Financing, which should add additional new housing. Programs must be looked at to help those wanting to renovate older housing.
4. Downtown Historical Buildings need renovating. There has been a committee formed who will be working toward a Historical District to help with finding funding and work through regulations.

I would appreciate your vote but no matter who you vote for please get out and exercise you right to vote!!!!

## ***What position are you running for?***

City Council

## **Brady Richards**

## ***What do you think are your qualifications for this position?***

My family, including extended family, have recently moved to Ellis, purchased and improved homes, and been involved in the school district. I would like to continue to find ways to give back to the community I have made home. I have worked for local, state, and federal government agencies. I have also served on the township board in a previous residence.

## ***What do you think are the most important issues facing the City during the next two years, and how should they be dealt with?***

I think the most important issues facing the city are increasing the population of the schools and the community to ensure growth and also providing an activity center for those in the community. Increasing availability of housing and utilization of existing buildings can help make these things possible. Collaboration between the city government, school district, and community at large can ensure the future of the community.



## CANDIDATE COMMENTS continued

### **What position are you running for?**

I am running for city council.

## **Devin Henderson**

### **What do you think are your qualifications for this position?**

For just over a decade, I have been at service in some form. My qualifications are, National Guard (2013-2019) city council (2020-present). Committees (Planning commission and board of zoning appeals, campground committee, and the Riverfest committee). I have not looked back on or doubted what I have been apart of. It brings me pride to serve my community. I hope that you put your trust in me and allow me to serve another two years.

### **What do you think are the most important issues facing the City during the next two years, and how should they be dealt with?**

Issues the next two years. To learn more, follow (Devin Henderson – Ellis City Council) on Facebook.

1. Infrastructure- Years of neglect have left some roads in shambles, and we need them fixed. The council has continued to put money aside for these roads, but with a small amount of money to work with each year, this will take time. This is why a fellow council member and I have proposed the city investigate a 1% sales tax increase to bring more money in strictly for the use of our road projects. This isn't a sure increase as this will have to go to the ballot, and we will have to pass it as a community. I don't like the idea of a tax increase, but we DO NOT want to increase property taxes to get these projects done.
2. Water- The council has a project in the works to run a 21-mile water line from wells in Trego County to Ellis. This will add cleaner drinking water to the supply and help dilute the cancer-causing chemicals such as Trihalomethanes. These levels are not bad now, but the council is being proactive to get ahead of it before it gets to be a problem. We feel that this is the best course of action.
3. Term limits- I believe that one way for a city to grow is a change in leadership, fresh ideas, and new generations to take over. It's time for a change in Ellis and I want to make this possible. I propose that we increase the years from two to four years and limit someone to two terms. That's eight for council and eight for Mayor. This will ensure that we get a new perspective on how to move the city forward. To walk the walk, I promise to only serve eight years on council with the possibility to run for mayor in the future.

### **What position are you running for?**

Hello. I am David McDaniel proudly serving as the current Mayor of Ellis and a candidate for re-election in the November election process.

## **David McDaniel**

### **What do you think are your qualifications for this position?**

I continue to prove my passion to serve the people of Ellis by participating in City, County, and State Organizations. I am actively involved in many civic, educational, and religious organizations in our city. I have been a business owner and leader in Ellis for 51 yrs. and remain TOTALLY determined to see the community of Ellis grow ONLY in a POSITIVE direction. I have many hours of face-to-face continuing education provided by the League of Kansas Municipalities which benefits our city. These programs are designed to build leadership skills, aid in conflict resolution and financial and human relations skills which help to enhance efficiency in the governmental process within our city.

As a member of the Kansas Mayors Association, I served as the President of that organization in 2020 and again in 2022. I was honored to be recognized as Kansas Mayor of the Year in 2020. I am the immediate Past President of The League of Kansas Municipalities which serves the 625 cities in the state.

### **What do you think are the most important issues facing the City during the next two years, and how should they be dealt with?**

The City Budget is set after careful deliberation and many work sessions of the governing body and staff. All efforts are made to trim, tighten and manage the dollars available without raising taxes or cutting services to the residents. City elected officials must continue responsible budgeting and spending when addressing areas that need attention in our city. All elected officials must work through all issues we are experiencing as a progressive and growing community.

New commercial and residential development is vital for both the continued growth of our community and to increase the tax base. We also need to encourage and support the businesses that we have. A recent committee was appointed to address downtown building revitalization.

The infrastructure must continue to be maintained and updated. We need to continue the aggressive path which we already have in place regarding water sources and our future water supply. We have made large strides in recent years on street maintenance. Updates and replacements will need to continue to move forward with increased momentum. A huge financial commitment will be needed to rehab the streets.

The citizens and all groups in Ellis must cooperate as a team to achieve goals and gain what is best for our city.

I am available downtown daily and will continue to interact with ALL citizens and welcome your continued visits and concerns about our city. My phone number is 785-769-4449. I will respond to all calls and continue to follow up on your concerns and suggestions. Thank you for your continued support! I ask for your vote in November.

No response was received from the candidate prior to printing.

## **Faith Scheck**







# Fall Clean-up

Submitted by Verda Flinn,  
Assistant City Clerk

It will not be long before the leaves start to fall and the gardens need cleaned off for the season. With this thought in mind, the City would like to remind the community that the compost site provides an option for homeowners to take their yard or garden waste to. Leaves raked up can also be hauled to the compost pile.

As a reminder, all leaves, yard or garden waste must be transported by the homeowner in such a manner that will restrict loss of blowing waste. Plastic bags are an acceptable means for transporting the waste, however, the leaves, yard or garden waste must be removed from the plastic bags or dumped from the containers at the site. Persons disposing of waste must collect and remove all bags and containers at the time of disposal. There will be a trash cart at the site to place your empty trash bags in.

If you don't want to haul your leaves, yard or garden waste to the compost site, the waste must be put in a trash bag and placed in a trash cart for pick-up on the trash route. Another option would be to call for a special pickup for your bagged leaves, yard or garden waste. The first 200 pounds are \$10.00 and then \$0.05 per pound after that. The sanitation truck is weighed at the Coop when we do special pickups.



### Acceptable items at the compost site are:

- Garden Waste ❖ Grass Clippings ❖ Mulch Leaves (not branches, shrubs or twigs)



# Occupancy Load Requirements

Submitted by Joe Kreutzer,  
Certified Building Inspector

There is a reason for occupancy load requirements in buildings. They play an important role in fire safety to help ensure people can safely get out of the building if a fire breaks out.

Remember, it's all about egress, and when it comes to compliance, blocked exits and improper or missing signage are two of the most common fire code violations. This is the reason why when you walk into a restaurant, museum, bar, courtroom, or almost any place you see a sign posted stating how many people are allowed in the building or on the premises at one time!

Overcrowding in a building can be dangerous if a fire breaks out, earthquakes or any other dangerous situation happens that require people to safely get out! Too many people in a building without proper exit doors could result in people getting trampled, burned, trapped or worse!



# Here comes the Building Inspector!

Submitted by Joe Kreutzer, Certified Building Inspector

Nobody likes someone looking over their shoulders, believe me I don't either, but there are good reasons to get a building permit! One reason is that it is illegal to build structures without one. Cities often apply daily penalties, such as fines, until you have a permit for your project. You may even be required to tear down the structure if you do not obtain a permit within a certain timeline. That sounds a little extreme in nature, but it can happen!

Having a building permit comes with a lot of benefits. Not only do you ensure the safety of the workers constructing your project, you also ensure your own safety, as well as that of your friends, family, and future owners. Building permits also prevent construction workers from cutting corners during the process, which lowers hazards and risks to your property that you are paying good money for!

Believe me when I say, I have missed screws, weld beads and several other things in my life, it's what makes us human, but by having someone check their work it helps to prevent this from happening and future damage to your property that could have been prevented!



# City of Ellis Water Fair

Submitted by Amy Burton, City Clerk



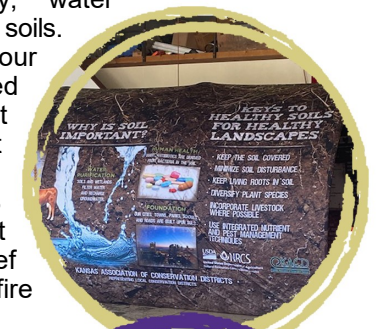
The City of Ellis held a water information fair on August 15<sup>th</sup> at the Ellis Fire Station. Although the crowd was small, the information presented was abundant!

The Fair was presented by 16 volunteers from the City of Ellis, KSU Big Creek Smoky Hill Watershed, City of Hays, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Kansas State University and Wilson & Company. Topics discussed included water quality, water conservation, and soils.

Participants had the ability to tour and ask questions of the City's certified operators at both the Water Treatment Plant and Wastewater Treatment Plant. The first plant tour went back to the "old days" riding in a USD 388 school bus; while the second plant tour was chauffeured by Fire Chief Dustin Vine in the 1928 LaFrance fire truck.

Brian Spano, Wilson & Company, was on hand to answer questions about the City's Water Supply System Improvement Project and the ladies from the Clerk's office served up a wonderful meal of pulled pork and sides brought in from Rich's Hometown Foods.

The City would like to thank everyone who came out to join us, and especially our volunteers that helped make the event a success!





# Community Clean-up OCTOBER 2nd

Submitted by John Leiker, Public Works Director

- You must have items out before 8:00 a.m. on October 2nd (but please do not begin making your pick-up piles before September 30th).
- Place items to be picked up where your normal trash is collected.
- All items should be placed approximately 3 feet away from all utilities.
- Separate your items by *type* (see categories below).
- We will be stopping at each residence for ONLY 15 minutes MAXIMUM
- We will NOT make any return trips.
- **To avoid wrongful pickup, please tag or remove your "treasures" from the collection area.**

If you have any questions concerning the Clean-Up, call the Ellis Public Works Department at 785-726-4741 or 785-726-1741.

## ELLIS RECYCLING CENTER



### ▶▶▶ HOURS ◀◀◀

**Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri &  
1st and 3rd Sat of Month**  
8:30 to 11:30 AM  
**Wednesday**  
3:00 to 7:00 PM



## Transparency

Submitted by Verda Flinn,  
Assistant City Clerk

In this day and age, it is more important than ever for the public to be aware of decisions that evolve in a community. With this thought in mind, in September 2020, City Council approved the installation of equipment in the Council room to allow for on-line streaming of the Council Meetings.

Council welcomes everyone to attend the Council Meetings in person, but they also recognize that schedules may not allow an individual to be able to attend in person. If there are any questions about what took place at a Council Meeting, the public can watch the recorded meeting for themselves by going to the City's website: [ellis.ks.us](http://ellis.ks.us) > City Office > City Government > scroll down to "Watch Live Council Meeting" and click on the purple bar. One will be directed to the recorded Council meetings on YouTube.

Keep in mind the meetings are being recorded live. The public is invited to watch the meeting from home while it is actually taking place. The Council Meetings are held the first and third Mondays of the month starting at 6:30 p.m. If the Monday falls on a holiday (such as Labor Day), the meeting will be on the Tuesday following the holiday at 6:30 p.m.

The agenda for the current meeting can also be found on the City's website by clicking the purple box "Agenda - Download PDF" on the same webpage as above. The agenda helps to follow along with the information being discussed at the meeting.

The Council implemented online streaming as another means for the community to stay informed and provide transparency. If the public wants to know exactly what happened at a Council Meeting, the opportunity to stay informed is available!

### Municipal Waste

Fabrics  
Lamps  
Furniture  
Upholstery &  
Plastic Chairs  
Couches  
Carpet & Pad  
Foam Products

### Trees

**NO LONGER THAN:  
4' in length & 6" in diameter**

Place in alley—will be removed as soon as possible at a later date

### Construction & Demolition

Bricks & Masonry Materials  
Any Wood Products  
(including Pallets)  
Wallcoverings  
Drywall  
Electric Wiring  
Non-Asbestos Insulation  
Roofing Materials  
Plumbing Fixtures  
(Stools, Sinks, Tubs)  
Wire Fencing or Wire

### Metals (White Goods)

Washers  
Dryers  
Metal Buildings  
Metal Doors  
Piping  
Lawn Chairs  
Swing Sets  
Bicycles  
Open Barrels  
Tin  
Wagons  
Refrigerators (only  
remove if tagged)  
Lawn Mowers  
(with Gas & Oil  
removed)  
Metal Containers  
Bed Frames &  
Springs  
Lawn Equipment

### Non-Collectable Items\*

Explosives  
Tires  
Thinners  
Drain Openers  
Flammable Materials  
Asbestos Materials  
Concrete or Rocks  
Batteries  
Paints/Coatings  
Strippers  
Medical Waste (Needles, Syringes, etc.)

\* **E-Waste** can be taken directly to the Ellis County Transfer Station.

\* **Household Hazardous Waste Station** is open  
Mon.-Fri. 8:00 am to 4:45 pm  
Sat. 9:00 am to 3:45 pm  
785-628-9460

### 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.