

# the town crier

Volume 35 Number 4

**December 1, 2023** 

Ellis, Kansas

	Reminders Ellis Recycling Center2
	Holiday Trash Schedule2 Calendar of Events3 Vegetation Watering4
	City Clerk Mark Your Calendars1
	Stage 2 Water Warning in Relation to Your Utility Bill…1 UTV Renewal2
	Rabies Clinic3 Legal Beagle3 Revitalization Plan5
Advice	Committees Ellis Lakeside Campground Expansion Project Phase IT3
	Expansion Project Phase II3 New Zoning Regulations Update5
any and	Ellis Historic Downtown5 Time to Think Snow7 Governing Body
	And the Winners are5 Mission Statement5 Vision Statement7
	City Municipal Building Mural 8  Fire Department
	Winter Checklist2
O BUY	Police Department Meet Our New Police Officer …2 Winter Pedestrian &
2	Bicycle Safety 3 EPD Meat Raffle 5
	Public Works Meet Our New Public Works Employee2
	Drought Conditions4 Flushable Wipes6 Preparing for Snow6
	Why Get Building Inspections?6 Lead Copper Rule Survey
<b>M</b>	Walking Bridge Update7
	We will be
	CLOSED
<b>3</b>	Monday, December 25th & Tuesday, December 26th for
	Christmas 🕳



#### **Mark Your Calendars!**

Submitted by Verda Flinn, Assistant City Clerk

It is time to begin the annual sewer rate evaluation period starting with the December meter reading. City Code states each customer's sewer charge must be reviewed annually and adjusted, if necessary, with the April 1st billing. The Code states that **a monthly average of the** 

water used between the December meter reading and the March meter reading is computed. Then the average is applied to a sewer rate table. The resulting sewer charge will remain in effect for the next 12 months starting with the April 1st billing. Meters are read around the 10th of each month.

New customers will be charged the minimum rate as set by ordinance (currently \$26.42) until they have established usage during the entire three-month evaluation period. Once the evaluation period is completed, the average water usage during that time period will determine your sewer rate charge according to the sewer rate table.

To the right is a brief sampling of the current sewer charges.

thousands	
of gallons of water used	monthly sewer charge
1	\$26.84
2	\$27.26
3	\$27.68
4	\$40.58
5	\$55.77
10	\$88.92
15	\$120.17
20 25	\$151.42 \$173.17



## Stage 2 Water Warning in Relation to Your Utility Bill

Submitted by Verda Flinn, Assistant City Clerk

Recently, Council unanimously voted to move into Stage 2 Water Warning for the City of Ellis. With this decision, in the near future the utility billing for water usage will be affected by the water conservation rates as set by Resolution.

Each customer is assigned a Base Water Allowance calculated from the average gallons of water used between the December meter reading and March meter reading. This average will be rounded up to the next whole thousand gallons. The current Stage 2 conservation rate states customers will receive an additional 4,000 gallons added to their Base Water Allowance before the conservation rate is applied.

Water usage in excess of a customer's Base Water Allowance + 4,000 gallons will be billed at the Stage 2 conservation rate of \$10.06/1,000 gallons. Any water usage under the Base Water Allowance + 4,000 gallons will be billed at the normal rate of \$5.03/1,000 gallons.

If you are a new customer and have not established an average gallons of usage between the December and March meter readings, the Base Water Allowance usage will be assigned at 1,500 gallons per person in your household, with usage re-evaluated at three months and again at six months.

Please take this opportunity to practice water conservation. Your average water usage between the December meter reading and March meter reading will not only affect your sewer rate, but also your Base Water Allowance on the April 1st billing.



#### Winter Checklist

Submitted by Tim Kohlrus, Firefighter

With a noticeable dip in the temperatures lately, it can only mean that winter is on its way. Not only do you have to dig out the winter warmies from the closet, but you also have a whole new to-do list to prepare your home for the colder weather. Here's a few things to check to keep your family and home safe during the winter season.

Every year, have a qualified professional check and clean your heating system, chimney, and vents to prevent accidental carbon monoxide poisoning. When cleaning the fireplace, store

cold ashes in a tightly covered metal container at least 10' away from your home or any outbuildings.

Supplemental heating devices, like space heaters, should be plugged directly into an electrical outlet. Don't use extension cords or power strips, and make sure there is only one heat producing appliance plugged in to an electrical outlet at a time. Give the instruction manual/installation manual a good read to keep everyone safe.

If the power goes out and you are planning to use a portable generator, keep it as far away from the house as possible to lower the risk of carbon monoxide fumes coming back indoors. Use only grounded, three-prong extension cords and plug appliances directly into those cords. Don't overload the generator; this can lead to overheating and can create a fire hazard.

Check your carbon monoxide detectors monthly. Each year when we "fall back" and "spring forward," check and change batteries iust as vou do for smoke detectors.

With these simple tips, we can put the freeze on winter fires. From everyone at the Ellis Volunteer Fire Department, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



#### UTV Renewal

Submitted by Verda Flinn, Assistant City Clerk

It is time to renew your UTV tag with the City of Ellis. 2023 tags will expire December 31, 2023. To stay in compliance with UTV Ordinance No. 1450, schedule an appointment with the Ellis Police

Department to have your UTV inspected. Once inspection is completed, bring the inspection forms, proof of ownership, insurance and driver's license to the Ellis Clerk's office to renew your UTV tag. The yearly fee to register or renew a UTV is \$50.00.

To view the ordinance, visit our Ellis City Government website at https:// ellis.ks.us and go to City Office > City Government. Then scroll to the bottom of the

page and select Download UTV Ordinance No. 1450.

#### **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



Submitted by Nathan Cox, Public Works Employee

Hello Ellis! I was born in Oklahoma (Go Sooners!), but raised in Ellis. My wife, Alicia, and I have been married for four years and are expecting our first child in March.

The last two years we have lived in Tennessee, but the Lord Jesus has moved us back here to our hometown to be with family and friends.



My hobbies include coaching baseball with Brevin LaBarge and hunting.

## 🚓 Meet Our New **Police Officer!**

Submitted by Brevin LaBarge, Police Officer

Hello Ellis! My name is Brevin LaBarge. I joined the Ellis Police Department (EPD) September 18, 2023.

Prior to working with EPD. I was an Officer with the Havs Police Department from March of 2022 to September of 2023.



I am local to the City of Ellis, having graduated from Ellis High School in 2017. My family includes my beautiful wife, Tara, and three boys, Grayson, Wyatt and Parker.

For the past 5 years I have coached baseball through the Ellis Rec and most recently coached the K18 baseball team. I plan to coach for many years to come. I am excited to be a part of the Ellis Police Department and look forward to serving in my home town!



### HOLIDAY TRASH SCHEDULE

Monday, December 25 **Tuesday, December 26** Wednesday, December 27 Monday, January 1 Tuesday, January 2

NO trash pickup - City Closed for Holiday

NO trash pickup - City Closed for Holiday

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday trash routes will be run

NO trash pickup - City Closed for Holiday

Monday and Tuesday trash routes will be run





## Ellis Lakeside Campground Expansion Project Phase II

Submitted by Verda Flinn, Campground Committee Member



We have some exciting news! The City just received notification the Patterson Family Foundation awarded our campground project a \$40,000 Thriving Rural Grant. The City was also awarded \$1,000 each from the Community Foundation of Ellis and Midwest Energy Community Fund/Impact Grants. The total grant funds received thus far (\$428,275) will be applied towards the estimated project cost of \$477,451.

While the City has been applying for various grants to help reduce the City's cost, the CDBG Grant Administrator, engineer and employees have been busy completing the environmental review for CDBG funding and working on the bid packet. Once our CDBG funds are released, the project can be let out for bid.

The project is on schedule to be let out for bid this year, with construction to begin in early Spring 2024, if the weather cooperates. We plan to have the project completed by year-end 2024 for everyone to enjoy!



#### Rabies Clinic

Submitted by Toni Jensen, Clerk I



The City of Ellis will hold its 13th annual rabies clinic on Saturday, February 10, 2024 from 10:30 a.m. until Noon. Patrons can bring their dogs and cats to the back of the City building vaccinated. be

Brandon Weidenhaft, DVM, from Big Creek Veterinary Services graciously agreed to conduct the clinic along with the help of Mark Augustine.

City staff will be present throughout the event to collect the fees and also sell 2024 City dog tags.

Rabies - dog/cat \$20 Cat Leukemia Vaccine - \$20 Dog DA2PP/Cat FVRCP - \$25 Bordetella (kennel cough) - dog/cat \$17.50



### Legal Beagle

Submitted by Verda Flinn, Assistant City Clerk

Dog tags are due January 1st. To register your pet, bring proof of current rabies vaccinations, along with the applicable fee, to the City Clerk's Office. A dog tag will then be issued. Dog tags may be purchased through February 29, 2024 without penalty.

Tags for spayed or neutered dogs are \$5.00 each, and tags for intact dogs are \$10.00 each. After February 29, 2024, a penalty of \$2.00 per month will be assessed on each dog tag purchased late. In the event a current year tag is lost, a duplicate tag may be purchased for \$2.00.

Aside from complying with City code, having a current City dog tag ensures every effort will be made by the Police Department to locate the owner of an animal. If a pet has to go to doggie jail, the impound fees includes \$15.00 per calendar day, plus a one-time administration fee of \$10.00 to be paid before your pet is released to you. Proof of current rabies vaccination will also have to be presented to the police officer. If you have not already registered your pet, then that will have to be done too.

Give yourself and your pet peace of mind by making sure it is registered with the City. The Police Department wants to

keep pet families together!



## calendar

#### DECEMBER

- Municipal Court 8:00 am
- 4 City Council 6:30 pm (Elected Officials Sworn In)
- Municipal Court 8:00 am 15
- 18 City Council 6:30 pm
- 25 **Christmas Eve Observed** City offices closed
- **Christmas Day Observed** 26 City offices closed



#### JANUARY

- New Year's Observed
- City offices closed
- 2 City Council 6:30 pm
- 5 Municipal Court 8:00 am
- 15 City Council 6:30 pm
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day 19 Municipal Court 8:00 am
- 22 Planning Comm 7:00 pm

#### FEBRUARY

- Municipal Court 8:00 am
- 5 City Council 6:30 pm
- 10 Rabies Clinic 10:30 am-Noon
- 14 Valentine's Day
- Municipal Court 8:00 am 16
- 19 President's Day City Council 6:30 pm





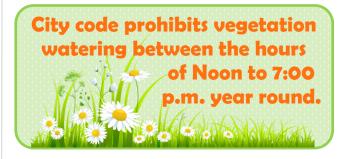
### **Drought Conditions**

Submitted by John Leiker, Public Works Director

As the drought continues to worsen in the City of Ellis, the Ellis City Council unanimously voted to enter into Stage 2 Water Warning. These regulation actions apply to City residents (including private domestic well users, if authority is delegated by the Chief Engineer under K.S.A. 82a-733(i)). Regulation actions include the following.

- The escape or loss of water through breaks or leaks within the water user's plumbing or distribution system for any substantial period of time shall be prohibited, it being presumed that a period of eight hours after the water user discovers or should have discovered such leak or break, is a substantial period of time.
- Outdoor water use, including lawn watering and car washing, but not limited to, the irrigation of lawns, shrubs, flowers, trees, gardens and other outdoor vegetation, shall be prohibited between the hours of noon and 7:00 p.m., year round.
- 3. No water user shall allow substantial amounts of water to escape or drain from private property onto public property, including, but not limited to, public sidewalks, right-of-way, streets, alleys, and highways, provided that substantial shall mean an amount sufficient to cause a discernible flow of water reaching the street, gutter or other drainage system. For purposes of this section, it shall be conclusively presumed that the resident(s) of property from which water escapes or drains knows of such escape or draining. However, the escape of water from private property due to washing of vehicles shall not be construed as substantial, provided the user of the water has not allowed water to flow from a hose or open tap when not directly being used to wash down the vehicle.
- 4. Excess water use charges for usage of water over the amount used in the winter will be imposed.
- 5. Waste of water will be prohibited.

As winter comes on we are all hoping and praying for snow and rain, and also for a very wet spring, so this warning can be lifted.





#### And the Winners are...

Submitted by Amy Burton, City Clerk

On November 7<sup>th</sup>, voters headed to the polls to elect individuals for our local government. The positions up for election included the Mayor, City Treasurer, and three Council seats. Those seats are currently held by Mayor David McDaniel, Treasurer Faith Scheck, and Council members Devin Henderson, Tricia Pritchett, and John Walz. All candidates sought re-election, with the exception of Council member Tricia Pritchett. The only races contested were for City Council, where four candidates ran for three seats. The County Election Officer has released the following official election results:

Mayor: David McDaniel - 264 Write-In Totals - 51 City Treasurer: Faith Scheck - 337 Write-In Totals - 3

Council members: Devin Henderson - 279 Terry Zerfas - 268 John Walz - 246 Brady Richards - 154 Write-In Totals - 16

All of the newly elected will be sworn into office at the December 4, 2023 Council meeting. Please join me in congratulating David, Faith, Devin, Terry and John in their election win!



## Winter Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety

Submitted by Avery Smith, Chief of Police



With winter fast approaching, and the sun going down sooner; I'd like to take some time to encourage bicyclists and pedestrians to be safe while exercising. In past years, we have had the unfortunate happenstance to have pedestrians struck by vehicles. Reflective vests, bright clothing, and keeping one ear open to the world around you can go a long way in furthering your safety. I know it's tempting to put both headphones in and listen to your favorite tunes to help with your motivation on your brisk morning or evening walk, but keeping one ear open to the world around you can enhance your situational awareness and keep you alert to what is happening near you.

Bicyclists also are required to adhere to all traffic laws that apply to a motor vehicle. When headlights are required to be illuminated on a vehicle, the same applies to a bicycle. The Standard

Traffic Ordinance for Kansas Cities, section 133 states that:

Sec. 133. Lamps and Other Equipment on Bicycles. (a) Every bicycle when in use between sunset and sunrise shall be equipped with a lamp on the front which shall emit a white light visible from a distance of at least 500 feet to the front and either: (1) A red reflector on the rear which shall be visible from all distances from 100 feet to 600 feet to the rear when directly in front of lawful lower beams of head lamps on a motor vehicle; (2) a lamp on the rear that shall emit a red light visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear; or (3) the operator of such bicycle shall be wearing a device that emits a red or amber light that shall be visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear.

Note that only a red reflector is required to the rear, but we strongly encourage a red blinking light to alert approaching motorists to your presence. It is also appropriate to ride bicycles on the sidewalks in Ellis, but bicyclists *MUST* yield right of way to foot traffic. Thank you and stay safe this winter!



#### **Revitalization Plan**

Submitted by Amy Burton, City Clerk

The City is in the process of implementing a Neighborhood Revitalization Plan (NRP). The plan is intended "to promote the revitalization and development of the City of Ellis." If eligible, participants will be provided tax rebates for new construction, or improvements to existing properties. The entire City of Ellis is included in the Plan.

- Improvements and new construction must conform to all applicable building/fire codes, rules and regulations in effect at the time improvements are made.
- Tax rebate will be based on the increase of appraised value on January 1, the year *after* completion of the project. That fixed dollar differential will be the incremental difference used for calculating the tax rebate for the entire 10 years.
- Applications MUST be submitted and approved prior to starting any project.

#### **Residential Rebate:**

- Minimum increase of \$10,000 in county-appraised value directly resulting from a qualified construction and improvement.
- 70% of increased taxes (based on assessed value after improvements) paid in the first year after completion of the project and each year thereafter for 10 years.

#### **Commercial Rebate:**

- Minimum increase of **\$5,000** in county-appraised value directly resulting from a qualified construction and improvement.
- 95% of increased taxes (based on assessed value after improvements) paid in the first year after completion of the project and each year thereafter for 10 years.

The City Council will hold a public hearing at 6:30 p.m. on December 18, 2023 at City Hall to hear and consider public comments on the proposed Neighborhood Revitalization Plan. A full copy of the proposed plan is available at City Hall.



## **New Zoning Regulations Update**

Submitted by Amy Burton, City Clerk

The City of Ellis Planning Commission continues to work with Marvin Planning Consultants to recodify the City's zoning codes. The zoning codes have not had a full review and recodification since 2004. Zoning codes dictate the layout of the City and includes regulations for setbacks, accessory building height and size, lot coverage restrictions, use regulations for each zoning district, yard regulations, sign regulations, and much more. Codes are in place to protect not only your property, but the property of your neighbor and the value of the neighborhood in general.

The Planning Commission hopes to finish their review with Mr. Marvin early next year, with Council approval and implementation mid -2024. Planning Commission members include Devin Henderson, Randy Honas, Glen Keller, Nick Keller, Jolene Niernberger, Linda Pfeifer, and Tim Stanton. Public Works Director John Leiker is the person in charge of enforcing the zoning codes.

Please contact Mr. Leiker at 785-726-1741 prior to starting your next project to ensure all zoning codes are being followed!



#### **EPD Meat Raffle**

Submitted by Avery Smith, Chief of Police

The Ellis Police Department is currently hosting a raffle for four (4) quarter sections of beef and two (2) half sections of pork. We are hoping to be able to fund the purchase of bulletproof vests for our three new officers, purchase necessary equipment, and send officers to training.

Tickets cost \$40 each and only 500 will be sold. The beef prize packages are valued at \$899 each. The pork prize packages are valued at approximately \$350 each. Winners will get preference of choice in order drawn.

The raffle winners are going to be drawn on December 15, 2023 in-between the Ellis High School girls and boys basketball games. You can contact any officer with the Ellis Police Department or come into City of Ellis' Municipal Offices to purchase your tickets!

Thank you in advance for making this fundraiser a success!





### Ellis Historic Downtown

Submitted by Amy Burton, City Clerk

Mayor David McDaniel recently named volunteers to serve on an ad-hoc committee to research State and Federal programs to help revitalize the downtown area. The "Grow Ellis Downtown" committee includes Amy Burton, Nickole Byers, Cory Eberle, Pauleen Edmonds, Travis Kohlrus and John Walz. The volunteers are currently researching the National Register Historic District process and the Kansas Main Street program. If you have experience with either of these programs, please share your thoughts with the committee!



#### 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.



## Flushable Wipes

Submitted by Steve Homburg, Sewer Plant Operator

These so-called "flushable" wipes do not break down in sewers and can cause sewage blockages and backups that overflow onto streets and homes. SSO's or Sanitary Sewer Overflows are required by law to be reported to KDHE. Overflows pose enormous environmental and public health hazards. Further, flushed wipes also cause major damage at wastewater treatment facilities that can cost hundreds of thousands of dollars to repair.



Disposable wipes, even those labeled "flushable", are a problem for all wastewater collection and treatment facilities. Significantly more maintenance work is required to remove wipes from sewer pipes, pumps, and treatment plant equipment.

The problems in the sewer system are caused by the flushing of products that don't properly break apart in the sewer system, products such as baby wipes, personal care wipes, paper

towels, and feminine care products. These products are sometimes disposed of in toilets because of how and where they are used. They then plug up the sewer main causing SSO's, which leads to sewage backup's into basements and houses. If they make it through the sewer mains to a pump, they can then plug up the pump causing the pump to fail causing the system to backup and enter basements and houses.

So please in the future try to remember to place the flushable wipes in the trash to reduce expenditures to your utility rate.



# Why Get Building Inspections?

Submitted by Joseph Kreutzer, Certified Building Inspector

First and foremost, building inspections are designed to look specifically for flaws in design or construction which can put the health and safety of others at risk. This includes looking closely at the types of construction materials being used to ensure there are no harmful substances being used in the building.

An inspection may also look at key components of the building itself (such as its ventilation system, stormwater drainage, electrical and plumbing) to ensure that it will be safe for people to live and/or work in upon completion. They can help identify potential issues with a property that may not be immediately obvious. For instance, having a porch awning with a low slope without an ice barrier could result in water damage to the sheeting and cause mold! It can also help people address any issues before any alterations or repairs get too costly.



Building inspections can uncover potentially lifethreatening problems like mold or faulty wiring that could cause a significant fire. If a ground wire was not properly placed or secured, there is the potential of burning up the wiring throughout your whole house, which could get very costly to replace!

These are just some of the many reasons to get inspections during the building or remodeling process.



#### **Preparing for Snow**

Submitted by Verda Flinn, Assistant City Clerk

Whether it's a sidewalk or the street, there are things you need to keep in mind when winter weather strikes.

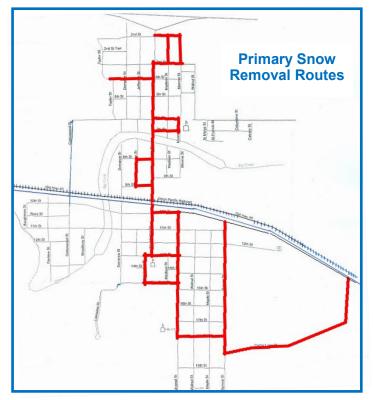
Property owners must see that the sidewalks around their property are clear of all snow and ice accumulations. If the compaction of snow or ice makes it practically impossible to remove the snow/ice, the property owner must sprinkle salt, ashes, sand or other similar materials to make the sidewalk reasonably safe for pedestrian travel. City Code states that the removal of ice or snow from the sidewalks should be completed within twelve hours after the end of the storm causing the accumulation. If the storm occurred during the nighttime, then the property owner must clear the sidewalks within twelve hours after sunrise.

When snowfall is predicted, please remove vehicles from the primary snow removal routes. It's important that the City crew be able to clean essential roadways as quickly as possible. If you cannot park your vehicles off the street or in a driveway, please park them on the NORTH or EAST side of the street. That way City crews will be able to quickly remove the snow from the main streets. Once the City crew has bladed the snow routes, the south and west side of the streets will provide clear parking.

The City crew will then begin removing snow from the side streets. City crews will blade each side street only once. AFTER the City snow plows have been past your house, please throw

any snow you scoop ONTO YOUR LAWN. Throwing it into the streets where vehicles must then drive over it creates large icy bumps which cannot be removed, even with the City's big equipment.

Also remember that letter carriers need clear access to mailboxes. Unsafe conditions such as unshoveled snow, icy sidewalks, or large amounts of snow blocking mailboxes can delay or even prevent mail delivery. Mail carriers are instructed to refrain from delivering to locations they deem too hazardous.





## Lead Copper Rule Survey

Submitted by Verda Flinn, Assistant City Clerk

The City of Ellis is seeking the community's assistance in meeting recent U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations requiring all public water supply systems to develop a Lead Service Line Inventory (LSLI) of publicowned and resident/business-owned water service lines. The City is **REQUIRED** to submit the water supply line inventory to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) by October 16, 2024.

Contaminants can enter tap water through the corrosion of service line piping and older household plumbing materials. The City is **REQUIRED** under drinking water regulations to obtain surveys from all of our customers.

First of all, thank you to those who have returned the survey! If your household/business received a survey in this mailing, please return the survey to the City of Ellis as soon as possible. This information is required to be entered into the Kansas Department of Health and Environment's database for our city.

#### Options for returning the survey:

Drop it off at City Hall in the Night Drop Box or Clerk's Office, 815 Jefferson, Ellis, KS Mail it back to

City of Ellis, 815 Jefferson, Ellis, KS 67637 Email it to ellisclerk3@eaglecom.net

Additional information on the Lead and Copper Rule and identifying lead pipes and plumbing can be found at:

KDHE website: <a href="www.kdhe.ks.gov/547">www.kdhe.ks.gov/547</a>
EPA website: <a href="www.epa.gov/dwreginfo/lead-and-copper-rule">www.epa.gov/dwreginfo/lead-and-copper-rule</a>

Every city and water system in the United States is tackling this issue. We thank you for your participation in this REQUIRED project.



## City-Wide Clean-up

Submitted by Verda Flinn, Assistant City Clerk

Taking advantage of the annual city-wide clean-up allows the opportunity to dispose of items at no charge to the resident and be hauled away. When utilized, this is a great opportunity to help keep our community safe and clean.

This year, the City completed the annual community wide clean-up the week of October 2, 2023. A total of 22.79 TONS of refuse was hauled off. There were 15 less tons collected this year than last year.

The City paid \$1,192.87 to Ellis County for the refuse collected during the clean-up, excluding the construction/demolition items.

## City of Ellis VISION SYATEMENT

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.



## **Walking Bridge Update**

Submitted by Verda Flinn, Assistant City Clerk

Earlier this year, the beloved walking bridge across Big Creek collapsed. The State of Kansas required the City to clean-up the debris so the river could flow freely. Council contracted with Hess Services with the initial intent of removing the entire bridge deck and leaving the pillars for possible new construction of a walking bridge.

Once Hess Services arrived on-site and began the clean-up, we quickly realized it was not going to be easy to access the debris. The process was put on hold briefly. An engineer was called in to evaluate the area, because the City has water and sewer lines running the length of the bridge under the river bed. These lines feed the entire southwest corner of town. The City did not want to risk damaging them by driving heavy equipment in the creek bed to access the debris and finishing tearing the bridge deck out. The engineer also pointed out the pillars under the collapsed portion of the walking bridge were damaged. The consensus of the Council was to remove only the collapsed portion and pillars from the east riverbank at this time.

Currently, City staff are researching options and cost efficiency to move sewer lines further away from the walking bridge pathway. If the lines were relocated, this would allow access into the riverbed to finish removing the remaining portion of the bridge safely.

Please remember the remaining portion is no longer safe, and everyone needs to stay off the bridge deck. Signs are posted for your safety!

## TIME TO THINK SNOW and plan ahead for winter.

Friends of the Ellis Senior Advisory Committee will be offering Snow Removal Service to individuals 65 and above or have a handicap.

If you would like help shoveling your driveway and/or sidewalks when Old Man Winter comes, call:

#### Leonard Schoenberger

Ellis Sr. Advisory Member

(785) 726-1278

to get on the list!
Please provide your name, address
and phone number.





## **City Municipal Building Mural**

Submitted by Verda Flinn, Assistant City Clerk

In the September 1, 2023 newsletter, Council asked community members for their input on a possible new mural for the south side of the City Municipal Building. They would take everything into consideration and put together a mural that represents the vision of our community.

Council encouraged anyone with an idea for the mural to let them know your thoughts. The City received a few comments and imagery for possible ideas for the mural. Below are a few of these suggestions.



Painting done by Paulette Harp



A sample created with some of the photos submitted below.



Someone suggested the name of Ellis with a sea/field of sunflowers. This was quickly put together to show the name in comparison to the size of the wall.



It was suggested incorporating this image in the design















If you have any more suggestions or like any of these ideas, please let the Council know. Council will need to approve moving forward with the project. Once they do, then we can finalize a design and get cost estimates to do the mural. The City would like to apply for grants to help reduce City's cost.